



**SURROUNDED BY FORMER STUDENTS**, who came back to Sunshine School for Mrs. Jeffares' retirement open house, is the school's principal Gwen Jeffares. Pictured in the front row are Rosie Pickering, Harold Johansson, Karen Bell

and Diane Rusk. Second row, Barry Crotter, Carl Bickers, Donna Cannon, Mary Anne Forca, Garry Elliot, Kenny Sterritt, Paul Elliot, Louise Wellwood and Bruce Armstrong. Several other grads also attended the afternoon event in the school.

## Sunshine says farewell to popular principal

An outstanding educator who has carried her heart to her job every day for the past 19 years, Gwen Jeffares was amply rewarded Sunday when close to 150 people turned out to an open house in honor of her retirement.

Former organizers, students and staffers flocked to Sunshine School for the Trainable Retarded at Hornby to reminisce with and say farewell to the school's popular principal who retires in June.

"It was beyond all dreams—a pretty wonderful day," Mrs. Jeffares said afterward. "It was great, just great."

Since 1957 Sunshine School was started in Milton by a few parents and volunteers in October of 1955 and Mrs. Jeffares was one of the early volunteers who dropped into the school to help out. In February of 1957 she was hired to assist the principal Mrs. Robertson and that fall when Mrs. Robertson transferred to public school teaching, Mrs. Jeffares took over as principal.

The years have been rewarding for her, and for the school. But the biggest reward came Sunday when many early associates, some of the first students and their parents came to show their respect for the beloved teach-

er and wish her a happy retirement.

There were gifts, cards and flowers but the presence of so many "old" friends was overwhelming. Mrs. Jeffares admits she took Monday morning off school and slept late—and it was her first "holiday" this year.

First students Among the earliest students who came back to Sunshine for the afternoon were Jerry Parnell, Carl Bickers, Diane Rusk, Kenny Sterritt and Louise Wellwood. They were five of the six attending Sunshine when Mrs. Jeffares started to work there.

When Sunshine first was launched in the fire department room at the rear of Milton's town hall in 1955, it was a private organization run by parents and volunteers who felt a need for special education for the retarded children. Later it was taken over by the board of education.

The school moved from the firehall to the basement of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Milton, then to a converted garage on Brown St. opposite Milton Arena from the fall of 1957 to the fall of 1962. That year the new Sunshine School

opened at Hornby.

Over the years more than 100 students have attended Sunshine. There are presently 31 enrolled. Some graduates have gone to ARC Workshop, some to the new adult residence, and some to General Brock High School or other secondary classes in the school.

Sunday's open house was organized by the Sunshine staff, who presented Mrs. Jeffares with a thick scrapbook of newspaper clippings and photos depicting the

school's growth and development over the years.

Mrs. Jeffares, who says she has always lived her life "one day at a time, and just loved every minute of it," says she has no special plans for her retirement. "I'm just going to sit back, wait and see what happens."

**Door is open**

She said she was "leaving the door open" for some form of community volunteer work—perhaps involving Sunshine School.

She and her husband Patrick, retired rector of St. John's and St. George's Anglican Churches, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on Monday of this week. Both are avid bridge players. Two of their three children were on hand for Sunday's farewell party.

## Supply teachers win battle trustees wipe out wage cut

Halton supply teachers won their two month old battle Thursday when Halton Board of Education decided to wipe out the teachers wage cut.

On March 18 trustees voted to cut supply teachers pay at the elementary school level by \$7.33 a day and high school supply teachers lost \$13.43 a day in wages.

With the restoration of their pay to its former level supply teachers at elementary schools will once again receive \$38.53 a day and those at high schools will get \$55.03 a day.

The board had cut the supply teachers wages in an effort to save \$102,000 between the time the cut took effect at the start of April and the end of 1976. Spread over an entire year the wage cut would save over \$150,000.

In April the board heard two presentations, one from the Halton Substitute Teacher's Association, and the other from a supply teachers husband, and Trustee Dr. Helen Howard-Lock then lead the move to reverse the board's previous decision.

Trustee Fred Armitage described the supply teacher's supply cut as "very unfair."

"It runs counter to board policy to try and treat all employees fairly in all categories. No other employees except the supply teachers were asked to take a pay cut," Armitage noted.

He suggested some trustees hold the supply teacher's service to the board in low regard and though the supply teachers would be a "soft touch" for a wage cut since they don't have a strong organization and don't deal

directly with the board very often.

Trustee Rev. Garry Morton said he thought it was wrong for the board to "change the rules in the middle of the game."

He suggested the board admit it had made a mistake, something Halton Renaissance Committee says the trustees never do, and restore the supply teachers pay to its previous level.

Morton said the only time pay levels should be lowered is either at the end of the school year or just before it starts, not in the middle of the year.

We keep giving excessive pay increases and it is becoming a horrendous burden on taxpayers. We must come to grips with these problems because we will either force the community into bankruptcy or else have to start printing money," Trustee Tony Goodyear declared.

Trustee Richard Goodin said the board has to start saving money and noted there are many volunteers working for the board for nothing and doing a good job. He added para professionals receive much less money than supply teachers and also do a good job.

Goodin suggested supply teachers are needed on Monday and Fridays when the regular teachers don't want to come in but Director of Education Emerson Laverdier said there was no evidence to support such a charge.

Trustee Len Auger said the board had treated the supply teachers unfairly by changing their pay in the middle of the

year the urged the board to restore their wages to the previous levels and then review the supply teachers pay this summer.

Trustee Bill Lawson countered the board had changed horses in mid-stream to give supply teachers raises in the past so why couldn't it cut wages half way through a year.

Trustee Edna Robinson said the board hadn't taken

into account the valuable service supply teachers provided the board and noted the supply teacher's job is a tough one.

"I think we got a little carried away with restraints in this case. I don't think anyone thought of the supply teacher's wage as a primary income but just one that added some of the nice things everyone likes to have. Our other cuts were things and

didn't effect people and in cutting the supply teacher's pay we attacked a group less able to defend itself compared to other employees," Trustee Ernie Bodnar said.

Both Bodnar and Trustee Irene Gobbie were concerned about where the board would find the money to pay the supply teachers at their old rate now that the budget had been completed.

North Halton Trustees Doug Wood and Bodnar voted to restore the old rate of pay while Lawson and Tom Watson rejected the idea.

The large crowd of Halton supply teachers on hand for the meeting heartily applauded the board's decision.

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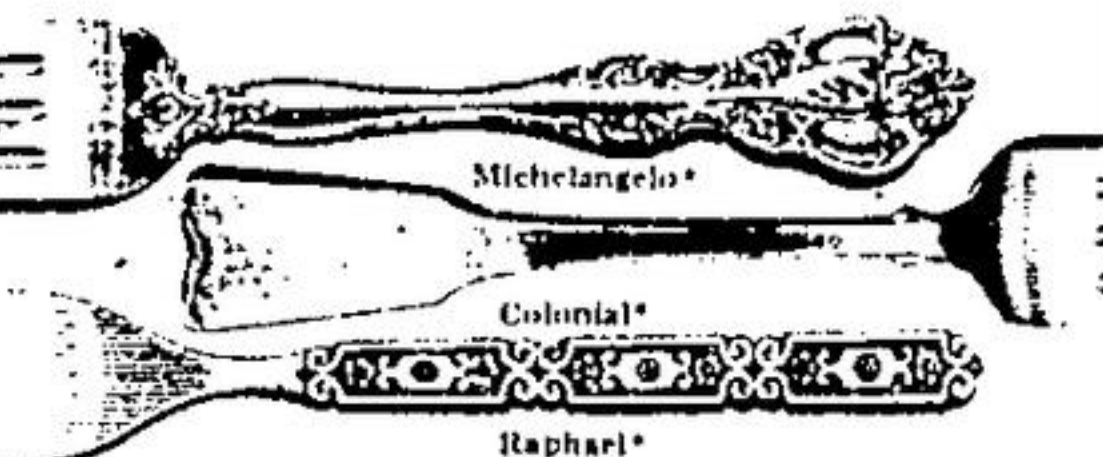
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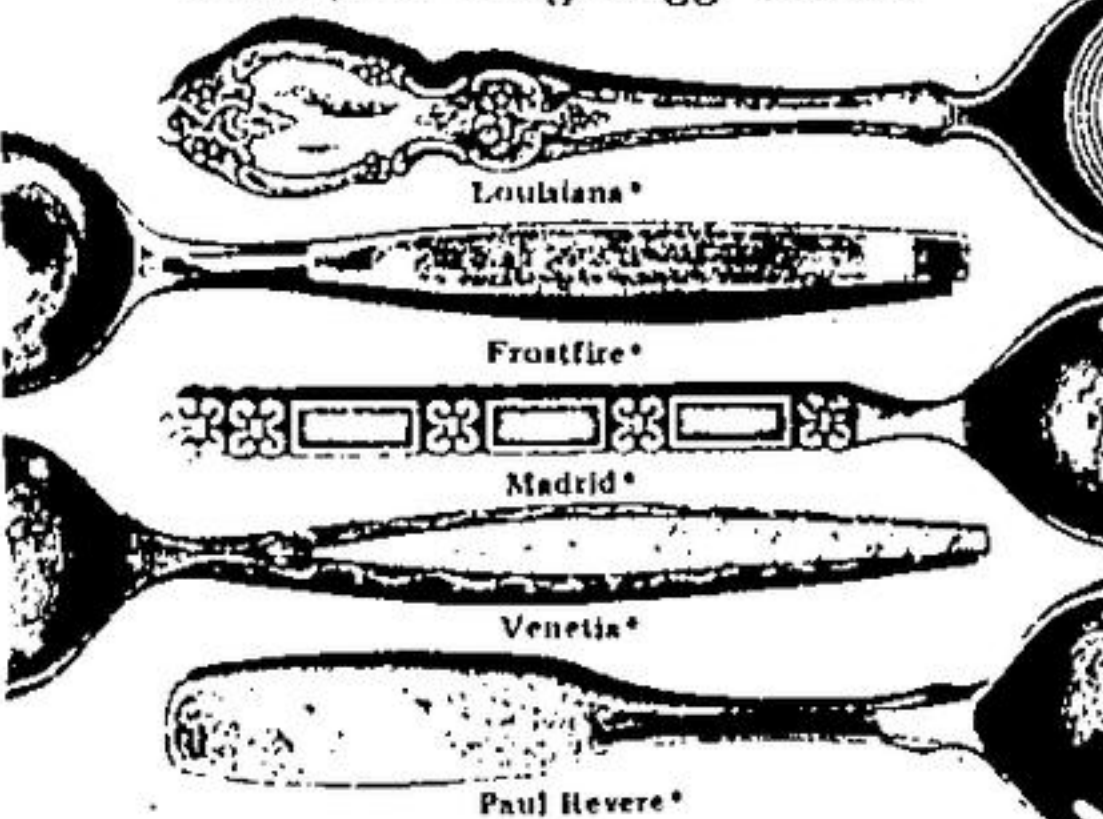
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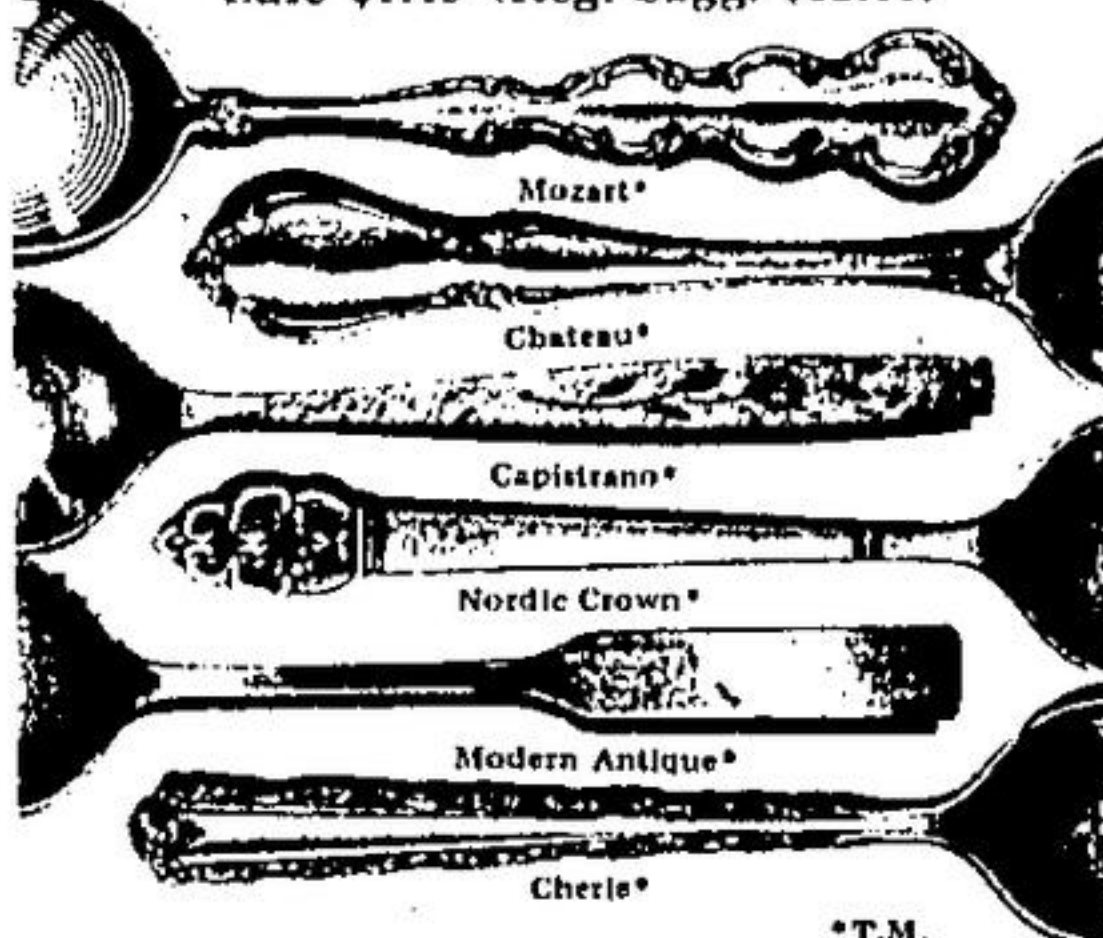
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