



ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' Federation president Peter Gayfer presents a copy of the book *At What Cost?* to Acton Library head Isobel Watson Thursday. The book recommends 40 ways of improving education in the province.

## Competition statement disappointed trustees

Halton trustees seemed far from impressed with what many termed a fence sitting policy statement from the administration on competition in education.

The report presented to Halton Board of Education Thursday by Superintendent of Program Bruce Mather said competition is recognized as a very real factor in the outside world and so must be a part of school life, too.

Mather said it can—teach students to always do their best, how to work as a team and derive enjoyment from it, provide students with challenges to better their previous standards and achievements and is a good vehicle to teach pupils sportsmanship, concern and caring.

The report went on to warn when a child sees no chance of winning competition can prove to be demanding and destructive to self image.

Mather also said the Vince Lombardi type philosophy that winning is everything was demeaning.

He said competition in the early grades isn't good because it doesn't develop self-worth and added while for some students competition can be a great motivator it isn't beneficial for everyone.

Mather told trustees the administration has now been waiting over a month for its request of a policy statement on competition from the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent of Instruction John Boich said one fact must be faced, some people simply "crumble" under competition and for them it isn't very useful as motivator.

Trustee Tony Goodyear said that anyone looking at the report could draw the conclusion the board both supports and doesn't support competition and tailor it to their own thoughts on the subject.

"We shouldn't be giving both sides of the coin and leaving it open to individual

interpretation. We need a clear-cut policy statement so the public knows exactly where we stand.

Director of Education Em Lavender said competition is a valuable tool the schools use and the knack teachers must have is to know when to use it.

"What we say is it is valuable when used properly," Lavender declared.

Trustee Fred Armitage said he was "disappointed" with the report since it didn't answer the question of competition in schools, yes or no, which had been what the board wanted.

"You don't have to lose enjoyment and personal satisfaction with stiff competition. I just wonder with this kind of thinking (as reflected in the report) if we are properly preparing our young people to cope in the outside world," Armitage declared.

He said pupils must compete in the outside world for employment and noted universities are continually saying high school graduates don't know how to handle

competition.

Trustee Dick Goodin, who had brought the whole matter to the board table, termed the report "very weak" and said without more emphasis on competition the schools would continue to turn out students who aren't prepared for the competition they face in the outside world.

Trustee Bill Priestner said the administration shouldn't be concerned with turning out good members of "the global village" but good Canadians, who can compete and fine members of family units. He suggested competition leads to lack of development of individuals who are selfish.

If competition isn't taught in the early years of life in the primary grades, when will its value ever be properly understood by students? Trustee Ernie Bodnar wondered.

While the board voted to accept the report several trustees vowed to come back with a motion which would bind the administration to answer yes or no and nothing in between on the subject of competition.

## OSSTF hopes new book will promote education

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation is hoping to stimulate examination and discussion of the state of education in the province's schools by giving to local libraries copies of its book—*At*

What Cost? Peter Gayfer, president of OSSTF District nine Halton, presented a copy of the book to Acton Library chief Isobel Watson Thursday.

Mr. Gayfer said that the 13-

chapter book would be of value to school trustees, parents, and teachers.

"The value for students is more of what could result from the book rather than what's in it," he said in an interview in the library.

Donat The OSSTF president has also donated copies of the book to Milton and Georgetown libraries. The presentations of books will be followed up next month with a series of meetings aimed at discussions on how to improve education in Ontario.

A decision hasn't been made as to where we'll go from the meetings, Mr. Gayfer said.

At *At What Cost?*, researched since 1974, makes 40 recommendations—none of which is OSSTF policy—on how to better educate students.

Ontario education minister Thomas Wells' recent return to core curriculum is credited, in part, by Mr. Gayfer, on the recommendations contained in *At What Cost?*

Mrs. Watson said that the book is too important to keep in the reserve section and has put it into general circulation. "I would hope it'd provoke discussions and action at the ministry and board level", Mr. Gayfer said. The OSSTF head also said that the book's presentation is timely because the election of school trustees is soon.

The book's recommendations are based on a analyses of surveys, briefs and forums accumulated during research.

Phys-ed The one recommendation that Mr. Gayfer thinks the education minister ought to have included with the new secondary school core is physical education.

At *At What Cost?* started as an internal report to the federation members. But Mr. Gayfer said that he felt that the book raised important questions that should be shared with the public.

"If we in education are going to respond to the public, we have to know what they think and not just the vocal public", he said.

Public meetings through November start on the 2nd at Orangeville, then the 3rd at Kitchener and the 17th at Hamilton.

Limited copies of *At What Cost?* are available for \$4.95 from the Halton Teachers' Federation.

## Graduates gather on October 22

On Friday, October 22, Acton District High School will be holding its 1975/76 graduation exercises. The program will begin at 6 p.m. with a banquet for graduates and staff in the new Legion hall.

At 8:00 p.m. the formal commencement will begin in the high school auditorium when 115 graduates will receive their diplomas. Forty-one of these earned the Secondary School Honor Graduation Diploma (Grade 13).

This year Acton High boasts 14 students who achieved 80 per cent or better in their final year. They will receive an Ontario Scholarship. Many other students will receive special Scholarships and awards.

Former vice-principal Ian Downie will be present and participate in the program. Andy Thompson has been selected by the graduating class to deliver the Valedictorian address. Congratulations, graduates!

## Robert Little news

By Sharon Bendicks

The school has been open for a month now, and the students have gotten used to their new teachers and vice versa. During this first month the parents were given a chance to meet the teachers on Oct. 4 which was a success.

Some activities and teams have been started. One of the activities, Inter-House Competition, is divided into three categories, athletic, academic and cultural. There are six teams. Each team has one boy and girl captain and co-captain. Each student receives one point for participation for his or her team.

In the athletic area European handball is being played. The winning team receives five extra points other than participation. Five games are played a week and each team plays another during the schedule.

In the academic area points were awarded for fall fair participation.

There will be an October Art Contest. Inter-House Teams will represent some theme of their own choosing.

In the Cultural area there is a grade 6, 7 and 8 choir called the "Robert Little Singers." The choir performed their first noon-hour concert on October 14 in the front foyer of the school. An appreciative audience soon filled the floor space to hear the talented singers and recorder soloists. The choir hopes to attract new members to prepare for future concerts. The "Singers" are performing this week at Kelly's Rest Home in Acton. The group welcomes this chance to perform and thereby serve the community.

The Robert Little Cross Country Team competed at Kelo Conservation Area on October 13 against 12 other schools. There were 48 contestants in each running or heat. Some of Robert Little's best scores are: Senior boys 6th place, Bantam boys 8th place, Bantam girls 8th and 10th place, Junior boys 10th place. Robert Little is very proud of the team's effort.

The Girls' Volleyball Team have challenged the Robert Little Teachers to a game soon. The game should prove

to be a very interesting one. The team hopes to get an exhibition game soon.

The Boys' Volleyball Team hopes to have several exhibition games during the year against different schools. On Tuesday, November 23 The North Halton Tournament will be held at E. C. Drury School, Milton.

The team practices during the week after school. According to the coaches both teams have shown great improvement because of their perseverance and hard work.

Money raising The organizational meeting for Hot Dog Days was held. The first Hot Dog Day will be held on Friday, October 29 and every Friday thereafter. The money raised will be used for field trips.

School pens are still available for 45 cents each. This concludes this week's report.

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