

Christian School Urges Keep Religious Teaching

A comparatively small group of parents is seeking new support in its five year struggle with the Dept. of Education.

Georgetown and District Christian School's board of directors will present a brief to the Halton Board of Education's ad hoc committee on religious education urging the retention of religious education in the public school system.

Georgetown and District Christian School on the 7th Line of Esquesing, operates without the benefit of a per-pupil grant from the province, such as is given the public school system and Roman Catholic school system.

SUPPORT

The school is completely supported by tuition fees and gifts, but parents must still pay public school taxes, although their children do not attend the public schools.

Several Christian Schools have presented several briefs on the subject to Education Minister William Davis, but invariably the members receive negative replies, George Petrusma, the school's principal said. Attempts to get provincial aid were begun when the school was built five years ago.

NOT ALONE

They're not alone in the fight. The Georgetown school is one of 45 in Ontario that come under jurisdiction of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools. All have sought government support at one time or another.

The parents of most children in the school attend the Christian Reformed Church, whose members are largely of Dutch origin. These parents want their children to attend schools which give a more basic Christian non-humanist approach to life.

The Georgetown school has seven teachers who provided instruction for 200 students in Grades 1 to 8. Teachers are mainly from Reformed Church backgrounds.

Of 8,102 pupils attending Christian schools in Ontario, 14 denominational groups are represented, but 92 per cent come from various Reformed Church backgrounds. In 1969, Canada and United States had 293 Christian schools with a teaching staff of 2,700 and 63,000 students.

Petrusma says that although most of the children are from Reformed Church backgrounds, the Georgetown school is non-denominational and is not organically related to any church.

The school, he said, is open to children of all denominations but is suggested for Evangelicals.

The philosophy of the school is that an educational statement of principle and not church creed pervades the curriculum.

Six Injuries Week's Auto Accident Toll

Six people were hurt in automobile accidents in the Georgetown area during the past week.

James Goodlet Sr. of R. R. 3, Georgetown, suffered a bump on his head, and sore chest, and Joan Baker, of R. R. 2 Hornby received a cut on her head in a truck-car accident last Thursday morning on the Base Line near the Esquesing-Chinguacousy Town Line.

HARDWARE TRUCK

OPP estimated damage to the Goodlet's Hardware truck, and Baker car at \$1,200 each. Goodlet was taken to Georgetown hospital and Mrs. Baker to Milton hospital.

Sandra Lima of Georgetown suffered back and neck injuries and multiple bruises; Jeanne Bourque suffered whiplash and injured left leg, and Marie Ball received a cut chin in a three car mishap Saturday night on Highway 7 at Norval.

Cars involved were driven by Sandra Lima, Harold Darchuk of Brampton, and Thomas Ball, of R. R. 1 Bolton. OPP placed total property damage at \$1,450.

TREATED, RELEASED

Edward Lanik of R. R. 5, Georgetown was treated in hospital and released after suffering a neck injury in a two car collision near Silvercreek, Friday. He was one of the drivers. The other was Lawrence Knight of Brampton. Damage in this one was \$500.

A collision Friday on Highway 7 near the Georgetown eastern limits resulted in \$1,200 damage to cars operated by John Black of Brampton and Rosaire Routhier of Georgetown, but no one was hurt.

Petrusma says religion is an integral part of the curriculum. "It is God-centred education."

"We believe the Bible has guidelines for life... religion is not practised just in the church on Sunday but through all the days of the week."

"We try to guide pupils in history and science, but with Biblical principles applied."

He said the school follows the department of education course of study, with the addition of a bible course. However, he added, the school gives its own interpretation to the studies and uses some 'Christian texts.'

There are devotions, prayers and Bible reading for the junior and senior grades and a detailed study of religion for senior grades.

STUDIES

Students are able to continue studies in Christian high schools in Canada, but must go to United States for university courses.

However, limited instruction in Canada is available on the university level through lectures given the Association for the advancement of Christian Studies, Petrusma said.

Many people of Reformed Church backgrounds do not agree with evolution theories, and oppose it being taught to their children.

Petrusma said, "We do not protect our children from evolution, but just prepare them for a pluralistic society, and point out to the children what we believe as Christians, as opposed to the views of evolution."

"In teaching science, we believe in creation... we do not consider man an animal, but the crown of creation, and set in authority of creation. But he is still subject to God."

As one leader in the Alliance said, the school "is not a place where our children are separated and protected... not an institution for conversion of children — not the extension of the church used to indoctrinate children with dogmas of an ecclesiastical body."

PERSPECTIVE

"The Christian perspective makes us look at history as the development of life over centuries, which was a mixture of obedient and disobedient response to God's law word — language was the gift of God. Christian education teaches us to see life as a precious gift."

The Georgetown brief will also "implore the board of education to keep religion in the schools," Petrusma said. The Lord's Prayer and scripture reading should be retained in public schools, he said.

"If religion is taken out, there will be nothing left." He said teaching religion can't be left just to the home and church. The child spends much of his time in school, so there must be 'harmony in teaching from the home,

Guide Pennies Will Help World Friendship Activity

When Canadian Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers give their pennies to the World Friendship Fund usually on Thinking Day, February 22 birthday of their founders, Lord Baden Powell and his wife Olive Lady Baden Powell, World Chief Guide, they are helping Canadian Guiding around the world.

Birthday naturally makes one think of presents. In 1932 an idea came from a Belgium Guide that each member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts contribute a penny to develop world friendship. A penny to put our thoughts of world friendship into action. This money helps send trainees to establish the Guide program in new, or associate countries, assist in refugee camps and aid Guides in disaster areas.

A successful Thinking Day, Brownies and Mothers Banquet was held on Monday at Holy Cross Church on Maple Ave. with an attendance of 240, including special guests, Rev. and Mrs. Johnson, Pastor and Mrs. Kiffner.

Canadian Guides have a commitment and a duty to support the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in their objectives to put Guiding within the reach of every girl who wants it, and to promote friendship among girls of all nationalities.

The Guide Law, 'A Guide is a friend to all' is well known. The Canadian World Friendship Fund enables international application of this law.

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church and school or the child will become confused."

The public schools are trying not to offend anyone by eliminating Christian teachings, he said. "It is hard not to offend anyone. I feel education can't be neutral."

No Relief in Sight Hospital Bed Shortage

Beds in the corridor is a problem Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital board staff and patients will have to live with for some time.

A recent letter from the Ontario hospital services commission states the 31 bed addition to Georgetown hospital approved in 1967 can't be considered until a survey of the needs of hospitals throughout the province is completed.

"The limited amount of money available for hospital construction and renovation really means that we must know what is required through the entire province before we can get any further priorities before construction starts," W. F. Lumden, director of hospital programs said in replying to a letter from local hospital administrator F. Whittaker in January.

Mr. Whittaker in his letter to OHSC urged the proposed addition be increased from 31 beds to 60 beds.

"It is felt that with the changed circumstances and population increase in our area — an increase of 60 beds would be more realistic," he wrote.

He emphasized the urge needed here for service facilities including lab, X-ray, physiotherapy and particularly the emergency department "which has been badly overtaxed for some time."

"With the greatly increased volume in emergency and outpatient visits it is becoming increasingly difficult for the medical nursing, and technical staff to cope in our over-crowded and limited space," Mr. Whittaker said in his letter.

He said the public are constantly complaining of long waits at the hospital and the waiting area being so small, and asked for an interview with the local hospital board and medical staff "with a view to ascertaining if something could be done this year towards getting the project underway and thereby alleviating the situation at our hospital."

The OHSC reply rejected the suggestion that 60 additional beds are needed here.

ling 31 additional beds should meet the needs of your hospital for the next five years at least.

It urged postponement of the meeting until the priority studies have been completed.

Mr. Whittaker told The Herald there have been days when there has been as many as 100 beds in the corridors. Occupancy of the medical and surgical ward in January average 109 per cent.


37 Pass Their Swimming Tests at The Alpine Club

Thirty-seven beginners stroked their way to successful swimming examinations at Alpine Health Club pool on Wesleyan Street, Sunday. The Sunday class was tested by Ian Gosling who with assistant Bill Barelay, has been instructing the class for the past 15 weeks.

The successful beginners ranged in age from five to 12. They are:

BEGINNERS
Jane Beckett; Cathy Beckett; Julie Freestone; Sherry Smeaton; Scott Mooney; Rory McIntosh; Bruce Moorehead; Kim Palmason; Janet Greenstade;

Sharon Greenstade; Ron Sgulgna; David Hooker; Danny Iles Given; Martin Young; Hel-Hooker; Amanda Wakfer; Char-en Young; Paul Monaghan; Arlene Mair; Charmaine McDonald; Gillian Kerr; Julie Kerr; Lisa Abbott; Cheryl McNeilly; Kevin McNeilly; Heather McNeilly; Allan Law; Susan Shaff; Sean Wakfer; Lesle Pritchard; John Pritchard; Kristy Shillington; Nancy Rice; Darwin Rice; Tammy Enman; Doug Ballentine; and Steve Snyder.



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To The People Of Georgetown & District

We have been in business in Georgetown since November 1, just three and one-half months. Already we have met and done business with many of you. We hope you are pleased and happy with our service and our products.

When we decided to extend our flower business from Brampton we gave it a great deal of thought before we did and we intend to be a part of his growing town for a long time. With this in mind we have made further expansion in our business.

We would like to announce that we have now purchased the retail florist business of Rosedale Floral of 32 Albert Street, from Mr. Ernie Pearce. We intend to meld these two floral businesses, Rosedale Floral and Harris Floral, together into one business, Fendley Florists of Georgetown and this will be backed up by our shop and 10,000 square feet of greenhouses at 20 Murray St., Brampton. Through this merger we bring you many years of floral experience and we offer this to you as a most complete floral service.

As many of you are aware the late Mrs. E. Pearce 'Amy' was a Fendley and now her brother and his family have come to carry on business in her place and bring you beautiful, artistic floral arrangements and designs.

The slogan "Fendley's For Flowers, fresh from the greenhouse to you" is well known and popular in Brampton and district and we wish to build that same confidence here in Georgetown.

We wish to extend a very special invitation to the customers of Rosedale Floral and the Harris Floral to call us for your future flower and plant needs. We know our best advertisement is a satisfied customer so come in and be one soon.

The telephone numbers remain the same as before. Harris Floral: 877-3582 or 877-9313 and Rosedale Floral: 877-2952. If you need to call us after hours: Brampton 451-0234, no toll charge.

We are equipped to service all your flower orders, whether local or out of town. We send flowers around the corner or around the world through our affiliation with United Flower Service, Flowers Canada and Florists' Transworld Delivery Association.

Ab. Fendley & Gord Fendley

53 Mill Street, Georgetown, Ontario.