

29 Schools, 11,900 Students Embraced by North Ed. Centre

By Bob Burr
Canadian Champion

When school doors swung open in September, approximately 11,900 students passed through them into the North Halton area's 25 elementary and three secondary schools, plus a school for retarded children.

According to educators the student's opportunity to learn has never been greater. There are 5,027 teachers working in the 29 North Halton schools as well as 20 administrative and consulting staff working out of the North Education Centre located at Milton Heights. It is one of three district centres under the Halton County Board of Education.

Three assistant superintendents, two primary consultants, one consultant for each subject including art, science and physical education work in the north. Others at the centre include a psychometrician, a psychologist, an attendance counsellor and 2 men involved in plant maintenance.

FRIGHTENING

The conglomeration of consultants and administrative personnel may frighten the average Joe Taxpayer who wonders just how far they'll be digging into his pocket for education taxes each year. However, North Education Chairman Jim Morrison insists the staff list is pared down as far as it can and still operate on an efficient level.

Contrary to what some people believe, the consultants and superintendents really do serve a meaningful purpose and provide a better education than the little red school style of education once did.

CAN DETECT PROBLEM

Take the psychometrician, for instance. Once a child who had trouble with reading and math was classed a slow learner and doomed to remain that way. However a child in the same position now would be tested and often the tests indicate the child suffers from visual perception. In other words he does not see the words in print the way others do, and takes longer to read them.

In this case the solution might be a pair of glasses or treatment by an optometrist. The problem is often picked up by a psychometrician. Together with the psychologist, perceptual or emotional problems can be discovered and often treated.

SEEK SOLUTION

At any rate the psychometrician files a report with the

chairman. Often co-operation between the psychologist and psychometrician or a community agency is needed to outline steps that should be taken.

Miss Mary Kirk and Miss Corol Bailey work in the north as psychometricians and the psychologist is Miss Isabel Davy. Heading the ranks at the centre are three assistant superintendents. The three take on the responsibilities similar to that of what was once known as an inspector but with a wider range. They now work with kindergarten to grade 13 while once elementary and secondary schools had their own administrative set-ups.

One of the advantages of the county system is the fact that the link between elementary and secondary schools has been welded. Where once each level of teachers held meetings separately they now meet together

allowing grade nine teachers to know better what is going on in grade eight, and vice versa. According to Chairman Morrison the county system has served as a link and provides the first step toward continuous education.

For purposes of the three assistant superintendents the north area is divided into three with each division centering around one of the three high schools. This way the assistant superintendents can follow the child's progress from kindergarten to grade 13.

NEW ADDITION

A relatively new addition to the staff in the north is Bill Coon who works as an attendance counsellor. The job carries with it a stigma from the days of the truant officer. Many people still look upon attendance counsellors as dogcatchers after delinquent kids.

Mr. Coon and others like him act on the referral of the school principal. He serves as a catalyst for community agencies including the Children's Aid Society, Health Unit, Police Department and others that might become involved.

AWKWARD HOURS

Because his work necessitates home visits the attendance officer works long and awkward hours. Each child he works with is treated on an individual basis. Sometimes the problem of his poor attendance at school is a health matter and can be treated. Other times the problem is linked with a child who has fallen into trouble with the law. Basically his job is in the rehabilitation line.

Sometimes the officer will handle the problem himself in discussion with the child and his parents. Other times he'll call for help from the psychologist.

OTHER CONSULTANTS

Miss Hilda Clark works as a physical education consultant.

with the north centre while John Battersby in art and Earl Phillips in science also work as consultants.

As consultants they work with teachers to improve programs, set up workshops and develop new and better programs. They are available to assist teachers in the field of their specialty.

Also working with the north education centre but stationed in the schools are five itinerant teachers, two for speech and three for reading. They provide special help in speech or reading.

While the argument about something being lost in modern education may have some merit,

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there can be little doubt that more can be done for individual today in our schools with today's special than in the little red schoolhouse of yesterday.

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NEW GROUP ROCKED WHILE DONORS DID THEIR THING

A new local group rocked, played and sang while donors at the Georgetown Red Cross blood clinic made their contributions Monday evening, December 7th. The Changing Thyme, has been organized for three months and includes Pat McAueley, Brian Markham, Phil Honsinger, Ken Majeury, and John Stevens.

HORNBY

Carols, Court Whist At St. Stephen's Party

The Christmas meeting of St. Stephen's Anglican Church Women's Guild was held at the home of Mrs. Cliff Hunter on Tuesday evening, December 8, with 20 ladies present. A delicious pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by all. Several Christmas carols were sung which included many of the old favourites and some of

the newer ones. The ladies were accompanied by Mrs. Ernest Price at the piano. The remainder of the evening was spent playing the improved Court Whist. The prizes were won by the following winners: Mrs. Ken Ella, Mrs. Craig Royce, Mrs. Cartwright and Mrs. Welland. The travelling prizes were won by Mrs. Mary Bradley and Mrs. John Bradley.

Friends of Mrs. Delbert Downs will be pleased to hear that she was able to return home on Wednesday from the Milton District Hospital.

The North Trafalgar Euchre Club held their weekly euchre party on Saturday night, December 12, regardless of the stormy weather. Winners of the prizes were Mrs. Frank Peacock, Mrs. Harold Reed, Mrs. Margaret Letty, Wilbert Nix, Frank Peacock and Frank Hadley. The lucky draws were won by Mrs. Harvey Dunn and Bud Letty. The next party will be held on Saturday night, December 19.

The North Trafalgar Community Club held a euchre party at the Percy Merry School on Friday night, December 4, with 15 tables of euchre in play. Prizes were awarded to Colin Beatty; Gordon Thompson; Robb Main; Mrs. Frank Peacock; Mrs. Harvey Dunn and Mrs. Gordon Thompson. The lucky draws were won by Mrs. Cameron Marshall, Mrs. Fred Near, Mrs. Wes Durie and Dave Dowling.

Friends in this district are pleased to hear that Leslie Peacock was able to return home on Thursday, from the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington.

Anniversary greetings are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dennis, who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on Friday, December 18.

Birthday greetings are extended to the following who are celebrating their birthdays: Stuart McMillan on December 17; Garnet Howden and Mrs. Bill Bailey on December 18; Ross Bridgen on December 19 and Jim Tallyn on December 23.

Get well wishes are extended to Darlene Wood who is a patient in the Milton District Hospital following an accident on the Mississauga Road where she was hit by a truck.

Get well wishes are also extended to Denise Wood who is also in Milton District Hospital for observation.

Anniversary greetings are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Mason, who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 19.

— Mrs. Jim Hamilton



The Government of Ontario's Tax Assistance Plan is helping the elderly. Cheques have already been sent to more than 230,000 people; and many will soon receive additional assistance.

Paying taxes is tough for everyone.

But some people have a particularly difficult time. Like the elderly. They are hard-pressed by rising property taxes.

To help lighten their load, the Government has introduced a new plan. It is called 1970 Tax Assistance for the Elderly.

The plan will pay out up to \$100 to help elderly people — those who receive the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement — to help pay their property taxes, or rent.

In all, more than 230,000 persons across Ontario will receive \$17 million in benefits.

1970 Tax Assistance for the elderly is an immediate step to relieve the pressure of property taxes. And an important one.



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Department of Municipal Affairs
W. Darcy McKeough, Minister

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