

Close Norval Public School? 70 Residents Voice Opposition



Crowd at meeting last Tuesday gave a resounding "no" in answer to school board proposal to close Norval school.

The 70 people packed into a classroom of Norval school, February 2nd, gave a resounding "No" in answer to a school board proposal to close Norval school.

They, in turn countered with a proposal of their own, suggesting the expansion of the school at its present site, since the land is already owned by the Board, and the enrolling of children from a larger surrounding area to bring the number of students up to an economical level.

The highly charged audience, but at all times polite and controlled, heard Don Thomas, assistant superintendent of the North Education Area, term the Norval school "a mighty midget". He praised the teachers highly for their efficiency and hard work, despite the difficulties of the small school.

HARD TO CATER
Thomas claimed it was difficult for the teachers to cater to individual differences when so many types of children, varying in abilities, are in one room. He pointed out that the collection of books in the hall was the library, that the hall is also the play area, and the gymnasium on wall is the gymnasium.

Run Chapman, assistant superintendent of the north Education Area, asked "Why settle for good when you can have better." He cited Glen Williams and Pineview schools, where the students would presumably be going, as having libraries, audio-visual equipment, gymnasiums, and auditoria. He pointed out the extra curricular activities possible under these circumstances.

He emphasized that Pineview could give more flexibility in pupil placement, and offer advantages such as special remedial reading, listening devices, where tapes can be heard, physical, sports and drama clubs.

E. M. Lavender, Assistant Director of Education, thanked the parents for their obvious interest, and particularly thanked five parents, whose names he did not know, who work voluntarily in Norval school.

"There are 827 parents in the county who give 2,000 hours a week freely," said Lavender, "which I think is a great contribution."

He listed some of the considerations taken into account when a proposal such as closing a school is discussed. He listed the trend in population, at this time, he said the birth rate is falling. He claimed there could be 1,500 children if the area across Hungry Hollow, owned by McLaughlin is opened up.

THE REASON
Jim Morrison, assistant superintendent and chairman of the North Education Area, stressed there was only one reason for the proposal, and that was the chance to give every child an equal opportunity.

At this point the meeting chaired by Peter Hughes was thrown open for questions.

The questions ranged over the time young children are and would be on buses, to the supposedly mechanical difficulties of the sewage problem at Norval school. One lady pointed out the school had been designed for expansion, and the septic bed had been built to accommodate the expansion.

"Some small Norval children spend 1 hour and 15 minutes on the bus now, and I think they should be going to the school in the village," said a lady in the audience.

Another man questioned the validity of the Board's position in saying they need a site of 55 acres. "We have 425 here," he stated, "and you've never tried to buy any more here anyway."

AIDS FOR TEACHER?
Julian Reed questioned the board's opinion of equal opportunity of education. He said he is not satisfied that overhead projectors, gyms, and all the trappings are more than assists to the high quality of teacher.

Reed then introduced a Statement of Purpose drawn up by the ratepayers and had it distributed throughout the audience.

Referring to the supposed lack of physical education facilities the brief noted that Norval ranked among the top in interschool competition. The brief stated that the facilities were originally constructed to accommodate expansion, and the basic plant and lands are already there at no individual cost.

"It is a real commentary of the state of facilities when Norval as a school has stood up very well compared to the larger gill-edged schools." He wondered if the facilities are placed there for the benefit of the teacher or student.

He said all the people at the meeting had voiced a common opposition of the plan. "We value our community before money, before efficiency, before equipment, and before organization. In Norval people come first," he added.

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COMMUNITY IDENTITY
In urging the maintenance of the school in Norval, the document stressed the importance of a truly Canadian identity, which they felt had its beginning in the identity of their own community. "The need for quality in life transcends every material consideration," said the statement.

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Assistant Director Lavender stressed there was no decision made, and that the purpose of the meeting had been to get the opinions of the residents.

GET THE MESSAGE

Doug Fishburn, acting as secretary for the meeting, challenged that statement. "You say there has been no decision made, yet not one point in favour of keeping Norval school open was mentioned by you or the other speakers," he retorted.

Everyone in the room stood up when chairman Peter Hughes asked how many are opposed to the closing of the school.

After many other questions, the Assistant Director of Education said they didn't need any further expression of opinion. "We get the message," he commented.

Gift to St. George's Is Mother's Memorial

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hayward of Guelph have made a gift to St. George's Anglican Church in memory of her mother, Mrs. C. E. Stacey, a faithful member of that church until she moved to Guelph to live with the Haywards.

It is a eulogium which will be used by the rector in commemorating the sick and shut-ins of the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayward attended a service at St. George's on a recent Sunday when the Rev'd Eric Mills dedicated their gift.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS

	1969	1970	Dec. 70
Admissions	2,405	2,510	231
Births	359	350	36
Deaths	48	46	4
Mat. Opera.	210	263	22
Min. Opera.	424	588	35
Tonsils			
Adenoids	259	177	22
Minor. Visits	6,212	7,549	649
Daily average No. of Patients	62	66	62
Percentage of beds Occupied	81	88	81

(The 1970 percentage of occupancy was pulled down to 88 by the low occupancy in maternity which was 47 percent. Occupancy was 105 per cent in the overcrowded medical and surgical wards and 71 per cent in the children's ward.)

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<p>SUPER BUYS QUALITY PRODUCE JUST ARRIVED FROM ISRAELI NEW CROPS SWEET & JUICY!</p> <p>JAFFA ORANGES DOZEN 89c 69c</p> <p>FROM CALIFORNIA NO. 1 GRADE TENDER GREEN NEW CABBAGE 23c</p> <p>FROM CALIFORNIA NO. 1 GRADE CAULIFLOWER LARGE SIZE 12 EACH 49c 2 for 29c</p> <p>FROM MEXICO NO. 1 GRADE CUCUMBERS 2 for 29c</p> <p>WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES TO REASONABLE FAMILY REQUIREMENTS</p>			
<p>SUPER BUY GOLDEN ACRES FROZEN DINNERS 11 OZ. PKG. 49c</p>	<p>SUPER BUY KRAFT PARMAY SOFT MARGARINE 1 LB. TIN 39c</p>	<p>SUPER BUY SWISS CHOCOLATE CHIP ASSORTED CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE, BILLY BEE, BILLY BEE CAKE 1 LB. PKG. 49c</p> <p>Peek Freez Biscuits 1 LB. PKG. 49c</p>	<p>MAXI-SAVE LOBLAWS KITCHEN PRIDE APPLE PIE 24 OZ. 39c</p>

SUPER BUYS QUALITY MEATS

FRESH LEAN **PORK ROASTS**

PORK SHOULDER **38c** LB.
PORK BUTT **48c** LB.

QUARTER PORK LOIN IN CHOPS **65c** LB.

CHOICE FROZEN MEATY PORK **SIDE SPARE RIBS** **57c** LB.

FRESH FROZEN PRESSED **CAPONS** CANADA A GRADE OVER 5 LBS. **46c** LB.

BURNS RINDLESS **SIDE BACON** 1 LB. PKG. VAC PAC **59c**

CHOICE FRESH FROZEN **PORK TENDERLOIN** **98c** LB.

3 LITTLE PIG SKINLESS **PORK SAUSAGE** 1 LB. PKG. **59c**

SWIFT'S PRESSED DEEP BASTED **BUTTERBALL TURKEYS** CANADA A GRADE 6 TO 12 LBS. **51c** LB.

FRESH LEAN **BUTT PORK CHOPS** **58c** LB.

CHOICE FROZEN **PORK LIVER** SLICED **38c** LB.

VANCOUVER BRAND SHOKED **FARMER SAUSAGE** 10 OZ. RINGS EACH **89c**

MAPLE LEAF BRAND SLICED **COOKED HAM** 6 OZ. PKG. VAC PAC EACH **57c**

MAPLE LEAF BRAND **WIENERS** 1 LB. PKG. VAC PAC **58c**

OCEAN HAID BRAND **SOLE FILLETS** 20 OZ. POLY BAG **99c**

RUPERT BRAND COOKED **GOLDEN BATTERED PERCH** 1 LB. PKG. **62c**



"Norval school has stood up well compared to larger gill-edged schools"



Pro Norval school audience suggested expansion as an alternative to closing