



Need your car fixed? One of the fringe benefits of working as a teacher at General Wolfe is the free work you can get done. Mike Spiteri of Georgetown concentrates on a body job he is doing on one of his teacher's cars.

General Wolfe will be offering everyone an opportunity to see what goes on behind its doors tonight (Wednesday). The school has organized an open house for all parents and interested citizens. It will run from 6.30 to 10 o'clock.

To get to General Wolfe follow Trafalgar Road to one stop light south of Highway 5. Turn right and follow that road to the first street at which you will turn left. Follow that street one block down and turn left again. General Wolfe is located on the north side of McCraney Street.

General Wolfe lives!



A good secretary in the wings. Kim Sorran, RR2 Georgetown, is one of the students in the General Wolfe secretarial course.



THE metal shops at General Wolfe are busy places. Here Mark Fendley, Sargeant Road, Georgetown, uses the torch to cut through a sheet of steel.

the HERALD



What kind of style would you prefer? Learning the art of hair styling has drawn four students from Georgetown to General Wolfe. Getting some semi-professional advice on her style is Laurie Wallace, Main Street. Offering the advice are (from left) Barb Jeffrey, Hall Drive, Bonnie Ford, Market Street, and Cathy Miedzinski, Terra Cotta.

A school with a difference

It's unlikely you will ever run into a lawyer or a doctor who is a graduate of General Wolfe High School. But the next time you happen to go into a store in Georgetown and meet a particularly attentive clerk or manager you might have just met your first General Wolfe grad.

The next time you sit down in a restaurant for dinner and the waiter or wine steward happens to be especially helpful you might have met your second Wolfe graduate.

And that competent and friendly hairdresser? Your third General Wolfe High School graduate, perhaps.

That draftsman, carpenter, welder, painter, even that janitor who provides you with a clean office, well they could all be GWHS grads. And they could be a young neighbor from just down the street.

General Wolfe High School is a special sort of high school with a special sort of attitude among and between teachers

and students. If you wanted to put a name on that special something it might be "involvement" or perhaps "caring."

The school, which is located in Oakville, was set up four years ago to handle students from throughout east Halton who either had academic problems or minor physical handicaps which made it hard for them to fit into the mould of the regular high school curriculum.

Of the 900 or so students attending General Wolfe a little over 200 come from Georgetown and Acton.

The students are largely the kids who had to struggle through public school, running into problems all down the line. Today, more and more we're realizing that those early problems were not entirely the fault of the student of the school but rather of outside social problems the effects of which seeped into the classroom.

Many of those students were

destined to end up being put on a shelf by teachers, who through the sheer necessity of their jobs, had to spend more time on the majority of students who were providing no problems at all.

That forgotten shelf was just one step away from totally dropping out of the educational system. For a lot of young students, General Wolfe offered an important alternative to an unlikely future.

On the other hand many students at GWHS are merely looking for an attainable trade. They had no problems at all outside of wanting a job upon completion of their high school education. General Wolfe was the answer to their problem too.

Bill Maxwell, a Georgetown student at GWHS, combines a bit of both reasons for attending school there. Sitting at a drafting board with a large, complicated looking drawing of a house in front of him Bill admitted that he had "some trouble comprehending

things" in school prior to coming to General Wolfe. Since then, he said, those difficulties have not been a problem at all.

Bill's about to graduate after four years with the equivalent of a Grade 12 diploma. He is specializing in drafting and notes that he has already four jobs lined up, including one in Toronto. All he needs to do now is pick the best offer and even that, he added is not an immediate decision.

According to Bill he has learned enough about various trades in his four years at General Wolfe he can work at any one until the job he wants comes along.

Proof of the success of the program at General Wolfe is that between 85 and 90 percent of the students who graduate find jobs almost immediately.

In fact according to Dave Stuart, a teacher at General Wolfe since its beginnings four years ago, many times industry gets in touch with him

about prospective employees before they have even graduated. Now that's success.

Dave is an extremely straightforward teacher who rated a "great" from a lot of the students in his wood-working courses. It's that type of involvement by the teachers at GWHS that provides for a lot of the success of the system.

"Because of a lot of bad publicity years ago schools like this got a bad reputation as schools for no-brains, black jackets and that whole thing," Dave commented.

"But we're proud now that we are really feeding the work force with, we feel, a better product than has been available before."

The courses combine 50 percent academic training and 50 percent practical experience. That practical training is providing through 20 workshops ranging from a full kitchen to a small store to a beauty parlor to a metal shop, to a paint shop to an auto

body shop.

If each of the shops are professional instructors who, like Dave Stuart, decided to pass up the higher paying professional field to instruct possibly future professionals.

"Our method is to try to provide an employee-employer relationship with the teachers playing the role of understanding employers," Dave explained.

Judging from the close interplay between teachers and students, the methods work. It all becomes worthwhile, noted Dave, when another student who had been judged to be beyond hope as far as the regular education system was concerned, went through GWHS, graduated and easily found a good job. He returned recently to see Dave, complete with a young family in town.

The technical training is actually only a small part of what the courses at GWHS are really aiming at. "We're not just trying to teach a skill," Dave pointed out. "We don't intend to make the student the best plumber or the best welder. We want the student to know how to get along with the people he will be working beside."

"If you're socially acceptable the other people will take it upon themselves to help you learn all you need to know about the job."

"We want them to be socially acceptable to industry, to society, to their peers and to themselves."

What it all boils down to, as Dave explained and the school's success points out, is to simply "prepare our students to join the work force."

The training of doctors and lawyers they leave to other high schools. General Wolfe is training the workers.



Keeping careful track of your stock is a lesson that students in the small business course at General Wolfe learn quite early. Cindy Washbourne (left), McKenzie Drive, Georgetown, and Cindy Saunders Mountainview Rd. are busily engaged counting ear rings which they will put on sale in the small store set up in the school.



Will that be all? Future waiters Stanley Hancock (left) and Rick Davis, both of Georgetown, provide some fast and friendly service for two General Wolfe teachers, Tom Patience and Diana Saunders.