## Tenminutes reading each night Mum's the word could be the difference

"Reading is the backbone of all learning," stated Tom Ramautarsingh, chairman of the Holy Cross Parents Association, in his opening remarks to the people in attendance at the recent Holy Cross parents meeting held to discuss children's reading problems.

Many children have difficulty coping with other subjects because they have not

School Board.

THERE'S ENJOYMENT in reading as these

four students at Holy Cross Separate School.

Robert Sales, Pat Stoyes, Jessie

occurs at different ages with should be able to learn to read differenent children-is the main prerequisite. A child's eyes must be developed well enough for him to clearly see small print; his hearing must be developed to enable him to distinguish between speech sounds. This lays the groundwork for cognitive skills.

Some neurologists claim that it is possible that a child's brain may not be ready to handle the reading process adequately mastered language until the age of eight, nine or even ten. It is necessary for the There are various schools of corpus colossum, the area of thought to explain why some the brain which allows the left children are slower readers (verbal) and right (nonthan others, pointed out Irene verbal) hemispheres of the Chalupka, Primary Consultant brain to be fully developed with the Halton Separate before a child is physically capable of reading, Chalupka maturity-which explained, adding that a child

at his own pace, not necessarily in step with his

Even prior to this point in by Holy Cross prinicpal Barry maturity, the child's environment plays a major part strip entitled "Learning to in his attitude towards Read". reading.

To describe what can happen habits, parents should talk to psychologically to a child their pre-schoolers normally. forced to learn to read before avoiding baby talk. It is also he is ready, Chalupka quoted Bond and Tinker: "Inability to cope with assignments produces frustration which lead to feelings of inadequacy. inferiority, insecurity, and perhaps even rebellion. Such a child is likely to develop an attitude of indifference to

the vocabulary. Word games are educational, in a fun way. at an early age. Bedtime stories give a toddier a positive reading. He may even come to impression of books, and a hate reading and all persons child's interest is aroused if he. sees a family member reading. Take a trip to the library and choose well-

illustrated books for your youngster. School-aged children should be encouraged to read to their parent, and to take care of books. A child feels less intimidated by the printed page if they are assured that mom or dad will help them with difficult words.

connected with reading ac-

There are ways parents can

gradually prepare a child for

the task of reading, as outlined

Gowan, who showed a film-

To exemplify proper speech

important that children are

given a chance to express

themselves, which enables

them to become familiar with

Books should be introduced

livitles."

One parent at the meeting suggested that spending 10 minutes each evening listening to a child read from his school reader would give his parents an indication of his progress while preparing him for the following class.

Of course, the more ex-periences a child of any age has had, the easier it is for him to conjure up images in his mind which give meanings to

In conclusion, the group felt the most effective method of preparing a child for reading is by exposing him to words, printed and verbal. Perhaps it won't be easy to interest your child in books in view of the competition: television. TV may help a youngster how to talk, but only books can teach him how to read.

Said Tom Ramautarsingh, "TV is dominating the lives of our children so much that the feel for language, the respect for things of the mind, the need for conversation and dialogue are sadly lacking and hence are creating illiterate human

planted in the constant 60

degree temperature

greentouse heated by a

furnace Van Ofwegen tries to

"create the same natural

conditions that they would

have outside," during different

To simulate sunshine, light

bulbs are turned on above the

plants to encourage growth.

When they attain a certain

size, they are shaded by

sheets of plantic to induce

budding, Before flowering,

unnecessary buds are

removed from the lower

stems, resulting in the

which is divided into separate

sections for each plants is

moved higher as they grow, to

Insecticides are aprayed to

At one time each of the

destroy the bugs which

stages in the development

process of a plant can be seen.

the mums are planned so that

a certain volume of flowers are

ine in bloom at certain times.

This prevents a wasteful ex-

Van Ofwegen plants extra

nums three months shead of

cess of stock.

keep the stems straight.

damage the blossoms.

round cluster of blossoms.

watering.

One type of local farmer chemical fertilizer, produces a commondity more Osmocote, consisting of delicate than eggs and more potash, nitrogen and phosporic changeable in wholesale value acid, is used also. than pork chops-that's the After the tiny sprouts are preenhouse owner.

Frank Van Ofwegen is one of the many private businessmen in Halton Hills who make their living growing plants. Some produce a variety; Van Ofwegen specializes. His four, 100-foot-long greenhouses, situtated at the rear of his Norval home, exclusively house chrysanthemums.

A native of Holland who has been working in greenhouses all his life, Van Ofwegen had a good background knowledge of horticulture which enabled him to sensibly choose the chrysanthemum family to rear when he established his own business 11 years ago.

Chrysanthemums are both durable and versatile.

Up to three weeks after the day they are cut, a vase full of mums will continue to brighten up a room. Compare that to the maximum life span of a bouquet of roses-Van Ofwegen estimated one weekand mums are a very practical

Becuase there are so many different varieties of mums, they can be used for a number because Van Ofwegen's 20 of purposes: for wedding units or rows of chrysannosegays, corsages, funeral arrangements, church decorations, or centrepieces.

Van Ofwegen grows about 20 types of mums-from pompoms to daisies to full flowers-in a rainbow of

The job of raising flowers seems to be as demanding as raising bables-both require 34-hour care.

Five little plants, rooted in Canada from cuttings imported from Florida, cost Van Ofwegen 40 cents.

Before he plants them, certain preparations are necessary. After rototilling the soil, he places air-tight plastic over the ground and inflates the space between with 180 degree steam for three hours to sterilize the soil.

"This makes everything fresh," explained Van Ofwegen, "It kills the bugs and diseases."

Again the soil is rototilled, with manure this time. A

medial occasions, such as Mother's Day, to prepare for the increase in demand.

Most of his three and a half crops annually produced are sold to wholesaler, although the public are welcome to come and choose bunches to tuy and he supplies some of the local florists. Area greenhouse farmers

gather with wholesale buyers bright and early at 6 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 7 a.m. Wednesday and Fridays at the Ontario Flower Growers' Co-Op at Dixie Road and Highway 401, to do business.

Samples of the flowers are displayed on a lock, abling the buyers to compare, and a highly competitive auctioing process follows.

development of a perfect. "Prices change a lot." said Van Ofwegen, adding that an Hoses with tiny holes six equivalent bunch of flowers inches apart are used for sold last week for \$1. was worth \$2.25 just before Because mums grow quite tall, the graph-like wire rack Mother's Day.

> "If you want top price, you have to grow top quality," said Van Ofwegen, who seems to be holding hs won despite the competition, long sorking hours and the rising cost of production-especially the fuel used for the greenhouse furnances, which increased in price from 15 cents a gallon to 36 to 40 cents a gallon in two years, he remembered.

family business. "I enjoy working with my husband and I love the flowers," said Rita Van Ofwegen, "It's our life."

his own boss" in his own

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PROUDLY DISPLAYING A BOUQUET of multi-coloured chrysanthemums is Frank Van Ofwegen, who specializes in this durable, versatile flower. His four greenhouses in Norval house 20 varieties in a rainbow of



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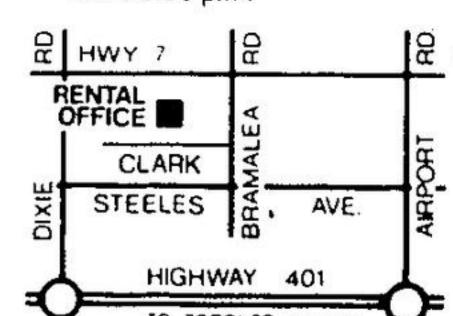
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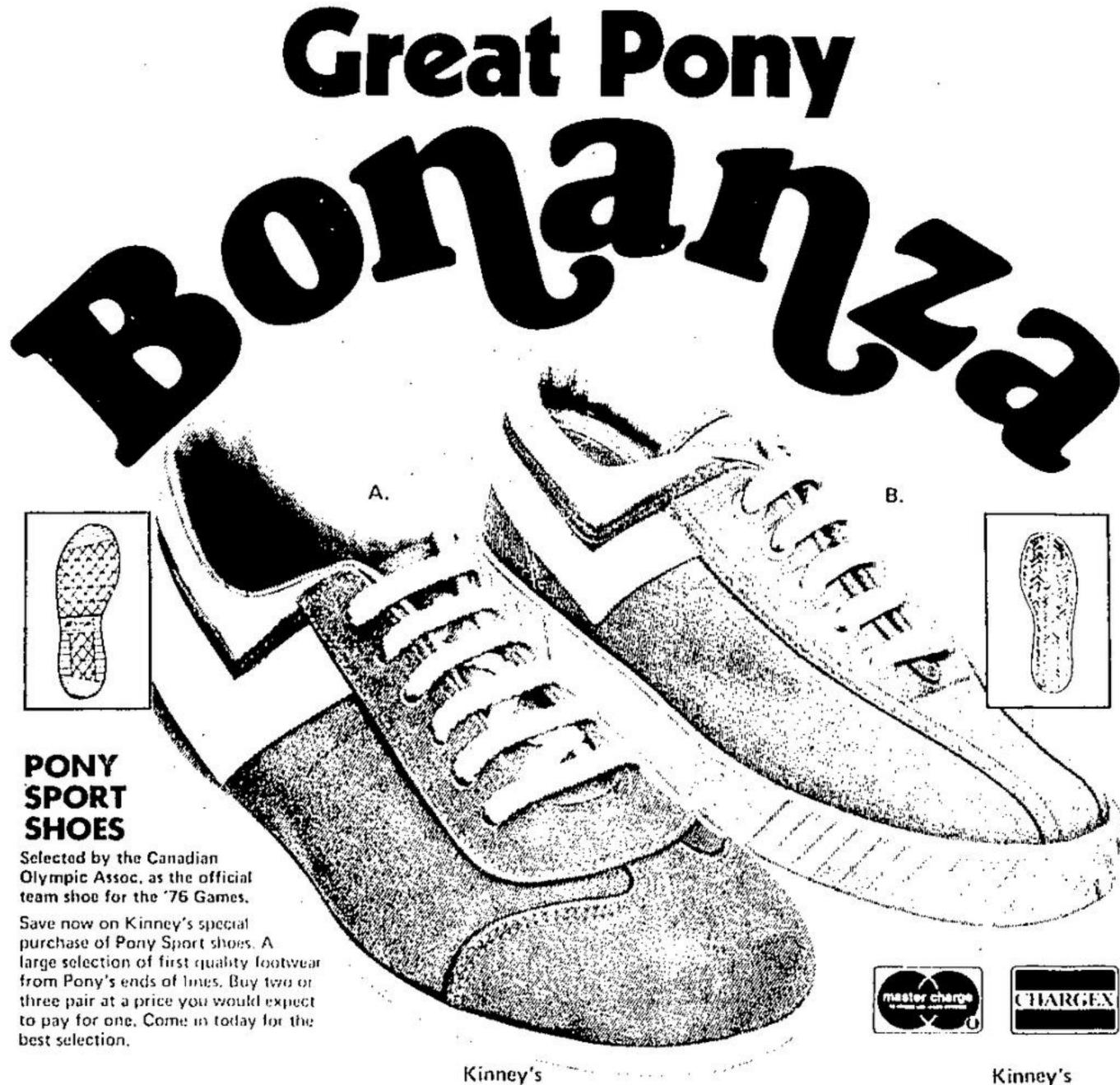
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Pony Bonanza

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illustrated).