

# School poetry rates high

By PAUL DORSEY  
HALTON HILLS—In the whirlwind of controversy issues that constantly draw public attention to the Halton board of education, such noteworthy achievements as Halton Poetry, an annual collection of student-teacher writing now in its seventh year, generally goes unnoticed.

The most recent edition of Halton Poetry, the sixth, is no so remarkable as a \$1,400 anthology of poems from the region's schools, but as a distinctive and attractively bound collection of works by some truly-talented young authors.

Sadly, the edition's editor-in-chief, Clare Henderson of the Acton high school staff, resigned from the project's board of directors at the beginning of this year, although he has left Halton Poetry in the capable hands of artist and fellow teacher Doug Cockell.

Mr. Henderson in this past week described the origin and development of the collection, which currently takes the form of about 40 loose pages, each one multi-colored and illustrated, gathered together in an equally attractive box.

The 40 poems therein are carefully laid out on individual pages and aptly illustrated by teachers Cockell, Jane Coryell and Betty, Goodfriend and

students Wes Glocking and Kathi Cross.

The poets themselves are mostly students, aged six to 18, who penned their widely-varied compositions during English classes at their respective Halton schools, including two Acton public and high schools. Also contributing to last year's collection were four teachers.

**BOOKLET COLLECTION**  
Mr. Henderson joined the editorial committee in time to help with Halton poetry's fourth edition. Three years earlier, Jane Coryell, a teacher at Burlington central high, originated the concept in Halton with a booklet collection of the best poems from each school in the region.

Since then, the editors have given up asking the region's English teachers for their choices of the best and instead have all poems forwarded to them so that they themselves can make the selection.

"The basic criterion is quality," Mr. Henderson explained. "We're not trying to publish one poem from every school. We want everything we publish to have some value as poetry, while taking the authors' age into consideration."

This careful sifting of the literally thousands of poems submitted to the editors, he said, underlines the book's greatest benefit to the students whose work is chosen for publication.

Publication, Mr. Henderson said, required the "acceptance of the student's creative efforts by an objective, discriminating group."

Further encouragement for authors, he pointed out, is provided by the actual aesthetic beauty of the completed collection.

**FINANCED BY BOARD**  
The project is financed by the board of education from English departments budgets and in 1976, cost approximately \$1,400, Mr. Henderson said. The high

quality paper and printing, as well as duplication and distribution, and the recording of poems, as read by the authors, on a cassette, contribute greatly to the expenses. The recording equipment is furnished by Sheridan College.

Copies of Halton Poetry are sent to all schools and to each poet included, as well as many board administration workers. Another copy has been submitted to the editors of Pandora's Box, which annually offers the best student poetry from across Canada. Pandora's Box is published by the Canadian Council of Teachers of English.

Most teachers of English must agree that the poems found in Halton poetry, particularly those by the youngest students, are nothing short of astounding. The works vary as much in style and sentiment as they do in subject matter. Seven year old Ian Fallas, for example, combines humor and simplicity in his short poem, "February":

February, February  
Where did you go?  
My mother is worrying  
And I want to know.  
While Glen Sandler, 12, provides a traditional Japanese Haiku poem:

The ground cleaves slowly  
Through the tiny holes seeds  
bud

Scat leaves greet the world.  
Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the collection is the extent to which these student poems are both aware and concerned about such normally "adult" subjects as the decline of rail transportation, the killing of wild animals, violence in sports, man's depersonalization by computer technology and the spoiling of the North American Indians' way of life.

Some other fine examples: "VIOLENCES"  
Today I have bombed the movie  
Theatre, it's just  
not true enough  
to life. Instead

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## La femme nouveaux

By KAREN WARD  
Herald staff writer

Claire Taylor of Sheridan College, Oakville, has worked hard identifying the needs of French speaking women in the community, and her concentrated effort has resulted in "La Femme Nouveaux" a series of six lectures being presented at the Oakville campus.

A similar conference will be held for women in the Georgetown area at the Brampton campus in September.

Seminars will include discussions on the legal rights of women, the health of women, psychology of well being, and spirituality in communication and education. The federal secretary of state awarded a \$1,600 grant to develop the program.

Mrs. Taylor lived in an English dominated area of Montreal, but attended French schools and is now bilingual.

"Women need to take hold of their destiny, by learning to feel in control of themselves," she said.

Many francophones feel they have no opportunity to attend college, but she said these seminars prove they can attend college anytime. By talking to people the idea spread to the francophone clubs in Halton and Peel, and input from members outlined the course.

Admission to the seminars is restricted to French-speaking women, because all discussions are spoken in French. Mrs. Taylor expects 100 women at each conference.

The first conference held April 13 at the Oakville campus was a huge success. Before the conference 125 socialized together over punch, and enjoyed a dinner served in the cafeteria.

Guest speaker, Yvette Housseau, first vice-chairman of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women (ACSW) said. "The law is equal for both French and English-speaking people. Women are the minority in the work force and francophones and anglophones must advance together."

The three issues concerning Mrs. Housseau are marriage partnership, divorce and related problems, and family courts. The principles of equal rights and responsibilities during marriage, reflect both partners sharing in equal work-load within the family.

If the marriage is dissolved, assets acquired during the marriage should be shared on an equal basis; provisions made for the social security and pension coverage of the work contributed by the homemaker, and decisions relating to the children made in the child's best interest.

ACSW has recommended revision of the Divorce Act to reduce the three-year separation period to one year, and to include the concept of equal partnership in marriage. Reassessment of the "fault" concept should be included in the revision of divorce laws.

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