

Trustees review policy on professional days

A move is afoot by some members of the Halton board of education to reduce the number of professional activity days for Halton teachers.

Trustee Jim Clelland gave notice that he intends to make a motion at the board's next meeting to reduce the number of professional activity days from nine to seven.

The move has arisen from the concern of several trustees as to whether the professional activity days are well-spent with teachers away from the classroom.

This concern was brought to the fore last March, when the board requested superintendent of instruction John Boich to prepare a report on the present number of professional activity days "for the purpose of establishing an improved educational cost-benefit ratio".

At this time Mr. Boich said no such report could be drawn up because there is no research available on the question. Instead, in an attempt to do "a modest study of time analysis of all of the teacher activities that relate to professional activity days".

The report, which was presented at Thursday's meeting, concluded that much of the teacher's time on professional activity days, both for elementary and secondary teachers, was spent on administrative duties. These include pupil evaluation, preparing for reporting to parents and administrative meetings. Elementary teachers spend 34 per cent of their professional activity days on administrative work, and secondary teachers 72 per cent.

Most trustees who commented on the report we said that they were disturbed to learn that so much of the time supposedly related allotted to activities which would improve the teachers' professional skills was being taken up by administrative work.

The major concern of most board members, however, remained the question of whether students were benefiting from the professional activity days, or whether they would benefit more by having the teacher in the classroom teaching.

Mr. Boich pointed out to the trustees that the teachers are paid, regardless of whether they spend the day in the classroom on programs related to professional activity days, so there would be no saving in salaries by cancelling any professional activity days, or reducing their number.



SQUIRES WIN AWARD

Eddy Kaspricki, area chairman for the Knights of Columbus presents Columbian Squires Chief Squire Joe Domingos with an award of merit, the highest honor for a Squires Circle. Georgetown was one of nine Circles in Ontario to achieve all its goals during the past year and to be awarded the honor.

Only 160 awards were made in North America. There are about 2,000 Circles across the continent. The Columbian Squires is the junior organization to the Knights of Columbus for boys 12 to 18 years of age.

Town reunion

Mount Forest's Centennial committee is looking for former residents and those who had friends or relatives living in the town and urging them to remember the town's centennial celebrations during the week of June 29 to July 2 next year. A monster centennial parade is scheduled for July 2, 1979. Anyone wishing to be on the list of invitation can notify Mrs. Annabelle Langdon, Mount Forest, Ontario NoG 2L0.

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IODE meeting report

The September meeting of the Countess of Strathmore Chapter, I.O.D.E. was held at the home of Miss Ruth Evans.

The Vice-Regent, Mrs. June Ross took the chair in the absence of Mrs. Joan Meers.

The minutes were read by Mrs. Ruth Forgrave on behalf of the Secretary, Mrs. Mabel Sanderson. Miss Ruth Evans reported for the Treasurer, Miss Helen McDonald who was on vacation.

Mrs. Hazel McMillan sent a report on Services at Home and Abroad, reporting that the toys collected had been forwarded to headquarters and asked that the Chapter consider supplying a layette for the I.O.D.E.'s Arelle work.

It was decided that the Chapter would provide a layette.

Miss Ruth Evans reported on the presentation in June of three books to Grade Eight pupils for excellent work. The books had been well received and the winners were Gail Doucette of Holy Cross School, Shawn LeFevre of Centennial School and Kevin Gillespie of Stewarttown School.

A letter of thanks was read, as received from the Red Cross for the donation given in the interests of publicity for the Blood Donor clinics.

The Bridge Committee reported that arrangements for the Round-Robin Bridge were going forward.

Mrs. June Ross then introduced as our Guest speaker, Mrs. Davis who was a Nurse with the Dionne Quintuplets for three years. She was called at the end of the first day of their birth and carried on for three days alone until further help was brought in. She worked in both the original home and the newly built clinic. Mrs. Davis told us of the day by day care and showed us quite handsome pictures of the babies, herself and Dr. Dafoe taken by her husband Fred Davis, who was the official photographer of the Quintuplets.

Margery Mackenzie thanked the guest speaker Mrs. Davis for her interesting talk to us and also our Hostess Miss Ruth Evans for her hospitality.

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