

# Christian school isn't private

The Georgetown District Christian School opened in September 1965 with eight classrooms, an audio-visual centre and a gymnasium.

The school's enrollment in June was 210 students in grades 1 to 8. The staff consists of eight teachers including principal, George Petrusma, a principal's relief teacher three full days a week, a remedial teacher two days a week and parent volunteers who man the library and help out in the classrooms as teacher aids. A speech therapist is also available.

All of the students are bussed to the school.

The school lists 115 families on its roll. Although

students pre-register in April a student moving into the area for another Christian School can enter the Georgetown school at any time. After graduation the students may attend the Toronto District Christian High School at Woodbridge.

The school is run by a school society made up of 12 members each elected for a four year term. Three new members are elected each year. Arie Van Helden is the society's chairman.

The Georgetown District Christian School is not a private school, Mr. Van Helden said. Being able to afford the fees won't ensure a student a place in the school. Parents must be screened

through a student admission committee.

"What's the point in sending children to a Christian school unless they are being taught Christian principals at home?" Mr. Petrusma said. We point out the need for a triangle between the home, the school and the church if we are to reinforce the Christian principles we teach and there's no sense sending a child to us to get a Christian education unless Christian teaching is important in his home. That only confuses him."

"Education must be such that it is considered to be acceptable to all children in the public school system," he said, "and there's not much

left to Christianity if there's a few atheists in the community. Since school is a crucial agent in maintaining Christian teaching we had no other choice but to set up our own school if we want the same teaching propagated for our children."

Although Christian teaching is part of the curriculum it is interdenominational and the *line points of doctrine* are left up to the churches to teach.

The school society prefers teachers who have been trained in Christian Teachers Colleges. The school must meet the educational standards laid down by the Ontario

Ministry of Education or it would be closed, Mr. Petrusma said.

Parents sending their children to the Georgetown

District Christian School pay the school fees in addition to their regular school tax. The fee is the same for one student or a whole family, Mr. Van Helden said.

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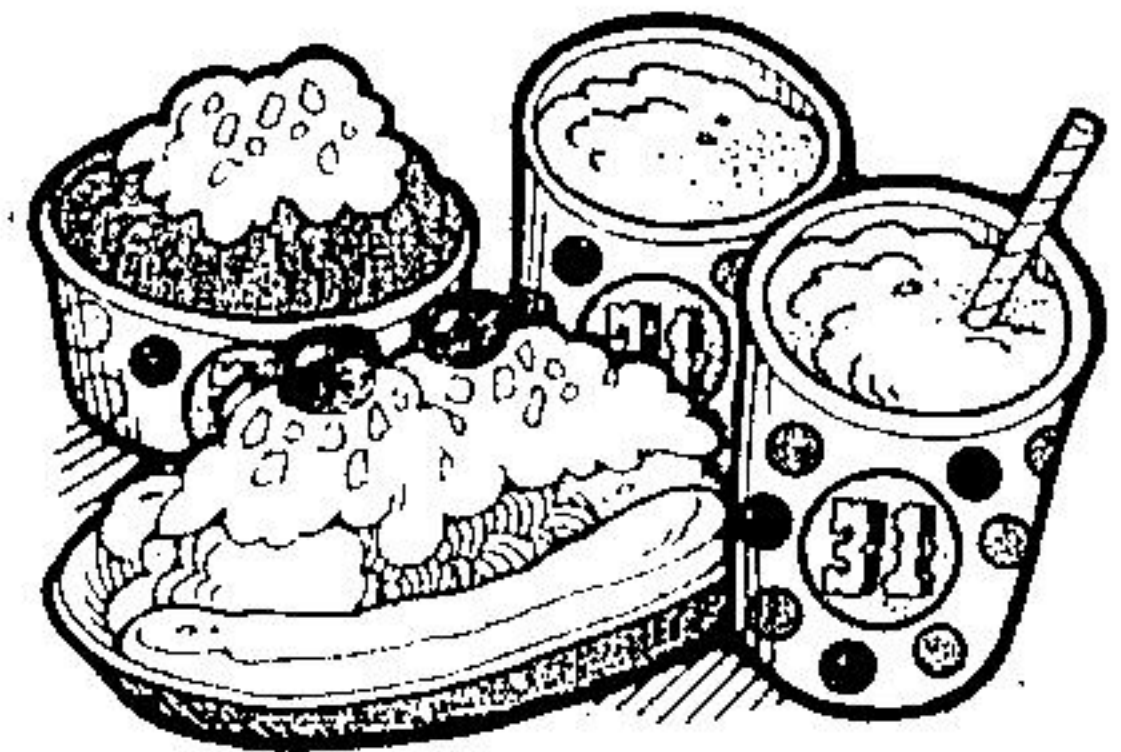
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