



FROSTY THE (INDOOR) SNOWMAN

The lack of snow didn't cancel a snowman-craft session at the Georgetown public library last Wednesday afternoon. About 20 children took part in a game of "Pin the carrot on the snowman" followed by a chance to

make their own snowman. Supplied with chewy marshmallows, gum drops, raisins and icing sugar glue, the children made do without the real white stuff. (Herald photo)

Toy Drive is 'fantastic' success

To the editor of The Herald:
The Kinettes Club of Georgetown has just completed our annual Christmas Toy Drive in conjunction with the Good Neighbor Service.

Once again response was fantastic, with the generous people of Georgetown donating enough new and used items to enable the Kinettes to provide toys for about 110 area children. In fact, this year we received more new toys than ever before, many of which were provided by the super students at Georgetown High School under the direction of teacher Dale Law.

The Kinettes would also like to thank everyone else who donated toys, and this includes a great number of churches, schools, Cub and Brownie packs, families and individuals. A special thank you must go the folks at

Arthur S. Johnson Real Estate for providing an excellent central drop off point for the second year in a row. As well, the Kinettes appreciate the complete coverage given the Toy Drive by the Herald again this year. One last vote of

thanks must go to Roma Timpson for her complete cooperation and guidance which ensured that the 1982 Kinettes Toy Drive was a complete success. Sincerely yours, Marny Malcolmson, Kinettes Club of Georgetown

More Letters to The Editor

Grateful for Yule concert coverage

To the editor of The Herald:
On behalf of the Cantante Singers, I wish to show our appreciation concerning the publicity you gave us in regard to our recent Christmas concert. We hope that you will continue to give us coverage for our future concerts, such as the spring concert, since this is very beneficial in obtaining a full house.

Thank you very much,
Sincerely,
Angela Tucker
secretary,
Cantante Singers

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How UNICEF funds help

To the editor of The Herald:

Once again it is time to say thank you to the many, many boys and girls in Georgetown and the surrounding district who went out with their UNICEF boxes collecting for children in underprivileged countries; to the organizations who sent cheques to us; to the staff of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the Georgetown Market for their understanding when we arrived with our many bags of coins.

The theme this year was water, which is essential to life, but development is more than just water. There are many other ways:

- helping people improve their farming methods; (\$2 buys two pounds of pea seeds for a

community vegetable garden.)

- setting up clinics and health centres; (\$1 can give seven children vaccinations to prevent measles.)

- teaching people how to read and write; (\$1.50 supplies twenty rulers for a classroom.)

- helping people fight for their own rights against oppression.

The overall goal of development is to help people everywhere to lead a healthier, fuller life, and to take part in bringing about this change.

Thank you for being a part of this work around the world.

Bud and Phyllis Livingstone,
Co-Chairmen,
UNICEF for Georgetown

Tribute to Edgar Beeney

To the editor of The Herald:
A life long resident of this community Edgar Beeney, passed away after New Year's.

A veteran of World War One where he met his wife

Marie. Through their life of devotion and happiness together they raised a large family and were highly respected for their contribution to God and his Country.

Sadly mourned by his wife and family for his honesty and affection through the years, humane to the last.

Yours sincerely,
George Graham

Pendulum swings

Continued from page A4
ry. Many people believe that competitiveness should be encouraged because life is competitive and students should not wait until they leave school to find out that they have to compete with others in the real world.

Before any changes could be made education minister Bette Stephenson set up a commission called the Secondary Education Review Project (SERP) in 1980. About 3,000 briefs, oral and written presentations were made to former Toronto Board of Education Director Duncan Green, the Commissioner for SERP. He made ninety-eight (98) recommendations.

The minister has instituted the first set of recommendations of SERP. In essence there is a reversal of earlier policies where experimentation and freedom in the classroom in the late sixties and seventies were the order of the day and these are now replaced by a more rigorous system demanding sixteen (16) obligatory courses instead of nine (9) and fourteen (14) optional courses. It is a more prescriptive system with tighter control over standards and evaluation.

The new system also calls for one graduation diploma (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) with the accumulation of thirty (30) credits in as few as four years. Formerly, there were two diplomas - a Grade 12 diploma of 27 credits and a Grade 13 diploma of 33 credits.

Now a student will be obligated to a solid curriculum of five English courses, two Mathematics courses, two Science courses and one course of French, physical education, history, geography, social science, arts and business or technology. All courses will be classified under the titles of Basic, General and Advanced.

The new system is to be implemented over a seven-year period starting in the next school year for some school boards and will be completed in 1990. Students entering Grade 9 in September 1983 could be studying for the new diploma (Ontario Secondary School Diploma).

One of the main complaints of universities

over the past few years has been the vastly different standards among high schools in the province.

The universities have found out that there is a great diversity among high schools. An English course at one high school could just be drama and acting while at another school it could be a tough literature course. Universities have found it difficult to compare applicants on an equal basis because of the differing standards in the schools of the province. Because of this situation many universities have developed a system of rating the performance of first year students from different high schools and have come up with a rating for that particular high school.

The advanced level standardized courses called Ontario Academic Courses will be compulsory for university bound students. The mandatory core curriculum of sixteen credits and the six Ontario Academic Courses will alleviate the fears of the university community.

The recommendations also call for all schools to have at least one set of final examinations, more concise discipline guidelines, guidance programmes for students entering secondary school and a standardized transcript for use by higher education institutions and employers.

Dr. Bette Stephenson has felt the pulse of the people (concerned parents, teachers, trustees and employers), and is presenting a more balanced offering of compulsory courses which will certainly serve the vast majority of students. Parents and their children will find that in the new policies the selection of courses will not be left to chance.

The pendulum has almost swung back where it should be. A new dawn in education has arrived. Each student will face reality: examinations, discipline, compulsory courses, competition and a determination to succeed.

I feel the minister should make it mandatory for students to take a course in British History. Students should study the foundations of our system. The real foundation of a person's education starts at the elementary level and the

minister should address the question of the basics, discipline, examinations, penmanship, grammar and the ability to compete at the elementary level. In my opinion the secondary level is not the place to start improving the system, but to continue to build on the foundations laid at the elementary level.

The minister has taken a forward step in education and should be congratulated. Because of her decision students, teachers, parents and society-at-large will be the ultimate benefactor. Our most valuable resource is our children. They deserve the best.

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