

Residence counsellors care for students outside school

"The residence counsellor is just as important as anyone else in our school, including teachers," according to Wayne Fox, Dean of Residence and Director of Guidance at Ontario School for the Deaf.

"They have to be really exceptional people to do the job we require," Mr. Fox asserts. O.S.D. presently has 57 residence counsellors including a building in the swimming pool three, one assisting Mr. Fox with office work, and four on night duty.

A residence counsellor is a father or mother to the children while they are residing in the school — but often they act as a big sister or brother to the child. Counsellors' ages range from 18 to 60, and several young counsellors will work with some of the more mature counsellors in the same dormitory.

To be a counsellor you must have a Grade 12 education and some past experience in handling children in a group — such as Sunday school teachers, playground instructors, or Scout or Guide leaders. Mr. Fox reports there are still a few openings for new counsellors beginning next fall.

All counsellors take a five-week summer course in the basic theory of handling hearing impaired children and psychology. They serve a two-year in-service training period under a supervisor's responsibility. Refresher courses are held when necessary and frequent staff meetings are held where they can discuss problems.

They work a basic 48-hour week plus eight hours of overtime each week to compensate for Christmas and Easter and summer holidays.

A counsellor is responsible for the students whenever they are not in class. The day begins when they wake the children at 7 a.m., get them washed and dressed for school, supervise bed making and a dormitory clean-up. Then it's off to breakfast (juniors at 8, seniors 8.15 a.m.) where the counsellors eat with the children. After breakfast they take the children back to residence to clean their teeth and get ready for the first classes at 9 a.m.

Between 9.30 and 11.30 counsellors are off duty. They meet the children for the noon meal at 12, then supervise a half hour of play outside or in the residences. Students return to classes at 1, giving counsellors another two-hour break until

the juniors quit classes at 3.20 and seniors at 4 p.m.

While the junior students get a 10-minute milk and cookie snack just before leaving the class, the counsellors have a chance to discuss any problems of the day with the teachers.

From then until suppertime, the counsellors are busy once more, supervising in the case of the seniors and planning in the case of juniors, their playtime until the supper hour. Counsellors assist in the physical education program at the gym and pool and on the outdoor playing fields.

At suppertime the adults again take the students in their charge to the dining hall, then supervise more playtime, TV watching or studying until bedtime. Juniors are bedded down from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m., depending on their age, and all receive a bath or shower each night before bed. (If you mothers think you have problems with your own brood, you ought to try herding 15 boisterous, lively seven-year-olds through a bath in half an hour.

The seniors retire between 9.30 and 10 p.m., unless they receive special permission to stay up for a special TV show or watch important sports events like the N.H.L. playoffs until a later hour.

And once the students are all in bed for the night, most counsellors are finished their work with the exception of one per dormitory, who stays "on call" in a nearby room. Night counsellors who constantly patrol the dormitories assist with any emergency, report students who cannot get to sleep, administer any medications needed, and assist anyone with a trip to the bathroom where required.

Other chores the counsellors handle include keeping a close check on children's health. Any illnesses are immediately reported and the children are checked by a doctor or hospitalized in O.S.D.'s own hospital building. Counsellors also despatch laundry to the laundry room and distribute it to the owners when it comes back clean — all clothing is labelled with all student's name. If children need new clothing, requisitions go to the parents asking them to provide what is needed.

Mr. Fox relies heavily on the assistance of his residence supervisors and is particularly proud of his counselling staff. "They HAVE to be exceptional people," he emphasizes.



ONTARIO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, Ontario's new residential school serving half of the province's deaf and hearing-impaired students aged five to 21, will be officially opened and dedicated on Friday afternoon, May 12. Ontario's Minister of Education William G. Davis and Minister of Public Works T. Ray Connell will jointly officiate at the ceremony, beginning at 2 p.m. in the new Milton school's senior school auditorium. About 400 invited guests are expected to be present. The school, which has been developed over the past six years, cost approximately \$11,250,000 to build, equip and furnish. (Photo courtesy Marani, Rounthwaite and Dick, architects)

Ont. Department of Public Works supervisor recalls construction

Of all the people who watched O.S.D. grow, probably Jack Pearce of Brantford knows more of the headaches connected with constructing such a facility than anyone else.

Mr. Pearce, as Superintendent of Construction for the Ontario Department of Public Works, has supervised the construction of the Stage Two project since shortly after the first sod was turned in October of 1964.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for constructing provincial schools such as O.S.D. Upon completion, the buildings are turned over to the Department of Education. O.S.D. Milton is a "feather in the cap" for both departments, and so both Minister of Education William G. Davis and Minister of Public Works T. Ray Connell will share the limelight this Friday when the school is officially opened at a ceremony in the senior school auditorium.

After over two years on the Stage Two job, Jack Pearce knows the buildings inside out and from the ground level up. He has personally watched O.S.D. grow, day by day, brick by brick, and piece by piece, while workmen for dozens of construction companies, subcontractors and suppliers transformed a vacant field into a \$11,250,000 residential school for half of Ontario's deaf children.

Mr. Pearce reports he received "excellent co-operation" from everyone concerned, especially from the general contractors Frid Construction of Hamilton, and from the staff of the school. Peter Rice of Hamilton was general superintendent for Frid — the man in charge of the operation and faced with the giant-sized responsibility of tying all the loose ends together. "They bent over backwards to assist us," Mr. Pearce said.

Most of the time that Stage Two was under construction, about 200 men were on the site. At the peak of construction this figure climbed to over 250.

"We had no serious tie-ups through strikes or shortages of material," Mr. Pearce notes. He recalls two small strikes that each halted work for about half a day were all that marred an otherwise peaceful job. As for materials, "everything seemed to arrive just when it should, there were no hold-ups whatsoever."

One strike even speeded up the progress at O.S.D., he smiled. A bricklayers' strike broke out in Toronto which closed down many jobs in the city. The workmen who couldn't proceed with city jobs due to that strike headed for O.S.D. and gave the construction progress a big boost for several weeks.

The building work at O.S.D. despite some precarious jobs and such a large number of workmen on the site at the same time, nevertheless had an excellent safety record. Just one man was seriously injured — Carman Webster of Horning's Mills, who fell nine feet from a scaffold, landed on his head in a trench in December of 1964. He suffered brain damage requiring a serious operation and was not expected to live. However after six months off work recuperating, Mr. Webster returned to his job. Because his hard hat — a necessity on any construction job — helped save his life the Construction Safety Association of Ontario presented Mr. Webster with a new white hat signifying his membership in the exclusive "Gladhatter's Club".

Emmerson Bigelow, Construction Safety Officer of the Department of Public Works, visited the site for the presentation ceremony and praised the officials in charge for their "no hat — no job" policy. He said the work on the job was conducted "well in the line of safety."

Except for the one major injury, accidents on the job were kept to a minimum. Cuts, scratches, scrapes, burns and sprains were the only others reported.

The most interesting period of construction at the school (from a bystander's point of view, at least) was the installation of the massive roof beams in the swimming pool building. That was in December of 1965. The 80-foot T-shaped beams arrived on special trucks and were hoisted to the roof with large cranes, causing a field day for "sidewalk superintendents" — especially students who had a view of the exciting

proceedings from their classrooms or dormitories.

Although the official opening will be held as planned on Friday, the school isn't quite complete yet. "The buildings are all complete and now in use," Mr. Pearce said, "but there are still some furnishings and equipment yet to be received before we can call it fully completed." Missing equipment is mainly items that were ordered months ago, which suppliers have not been able to provide on the date required.

The three staff residences were the first part of the Stage Two program to be turned over to the school. That was in June of 1965. Last fall school opened in not-quite-finished classrooms and the senior students invaded the new staff residences. The gymnasiums were in use before Christmas last year, the pool in February, and the vehicle storage building situated near the power house was the last to be completed.

The project also renewed some fencing on the campus and provided new catch basins to drain low-lying areas around the Junior School buildings.

WELFARE FUND

Needy students at O.S.D. who need eyeglasses, hearing aids and other essentials can be assisted by a special welfare fund, supported by many service clubs, organizations and individuals.

—The first Canadian school offering specialized education for deaf children opened in Toronto in 1863.



WITH A SMILE and a salute, Sharon Cook joins the O.S.D. Guide group. All the Guides have fun at their regular meetings and special outings. (Staff Photo)

Large maintenance staff performs varied duties

Probably the "unsung heroes" around O.S.D. are those people who work behind the scenes to ensure that all is in order. — such as the power house engineers, maintenance staff, plumbers, electricians, watchmen, gardeners and carpenters. The staff is large and the tasks are many.

The maintenance and caretaking staff is faced with scrubbing and polishing over 500,000 square feet of floors, not to mention a large new auditorium, 40 new classrooms and shops, sleeping quarters for 250 more people and a 150,000 gallon swimming pool, two gymnasiums and a multitude of auxiliary rooms that were not there a year ago.

During the course of a day the O.S.D. maintenance gang goes through 25 gallons of liquid soap, an equal amount of disinfectants and 75 gallons of floor wax.

These same people are there to keep the sidewalk and road complex free of snow when the winter winds blow.

A battery-powered washer-polisher aids the cleanup staff in their work. Teachers and counsellor training programs, sports events and increased after-school activities have added to the already huge task that the workers must meet.

An estimated four thousand tons of coal (or ten tons per pupil) were burned in an effort to keep the students warm and comfortable throughout the last winter.

Over 24 million gallons of water will be used this year and 125 tons of salt will be used to soften the water.

A painter and decorator makes the rounds in the school and residences, repainting damaged areas.

Three dedicated watchmen tour the grounds and buildings, each trip taking three hours. There are 35 watchmen's stations and hundreds of doors and windows to check. The occasional unauthorized who have mistaken the grounds for lov-

er's lane are escorted from the premises and all this adds time to the trip.

Care for forty acres of gardens, shrubs, trees and grass were added to the two gardeners' chores along with a water fountain, a large nature pond, a quarter mile field track and two large skating rinks.

Seventeen tons of assorted fertilizers have been used for spring landscaping.

The school carpenter too, has a wide variety of tasks to perform. Everything from repairs to broken furniture to stage props and classroom equipment fall under his realm.

"The plumber's lot is not always a happy one", at O.S.D. They have 200 washrooms to care for.

The electrician is responsible for lighting equivalent to a small town. There are over 200 electric motors of all shapes and sizes that must be cared for regularly, as well as ventilating fans and a complex bell system.

The laundry looks like a large department store with all the goods piled neatly, but this is not how it was when the laundry was initiated. Pockets have to be searched, especially in boys' trousers, for lost or strayed items. All mothers can appreciate the necessity of this chore.

ANNUAL COST

The annual cost of educating a child in one of Ontario's two schools for hearing-impaired children, at Belleville or Milton, is approximately \$3,500.

The Province of Ontario provides the education, residential and sports facilities for these children from the time they become of school age until they graduate. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the school, clothing, and spending money for their children.

ONTARIO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF MILTON

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Dills:

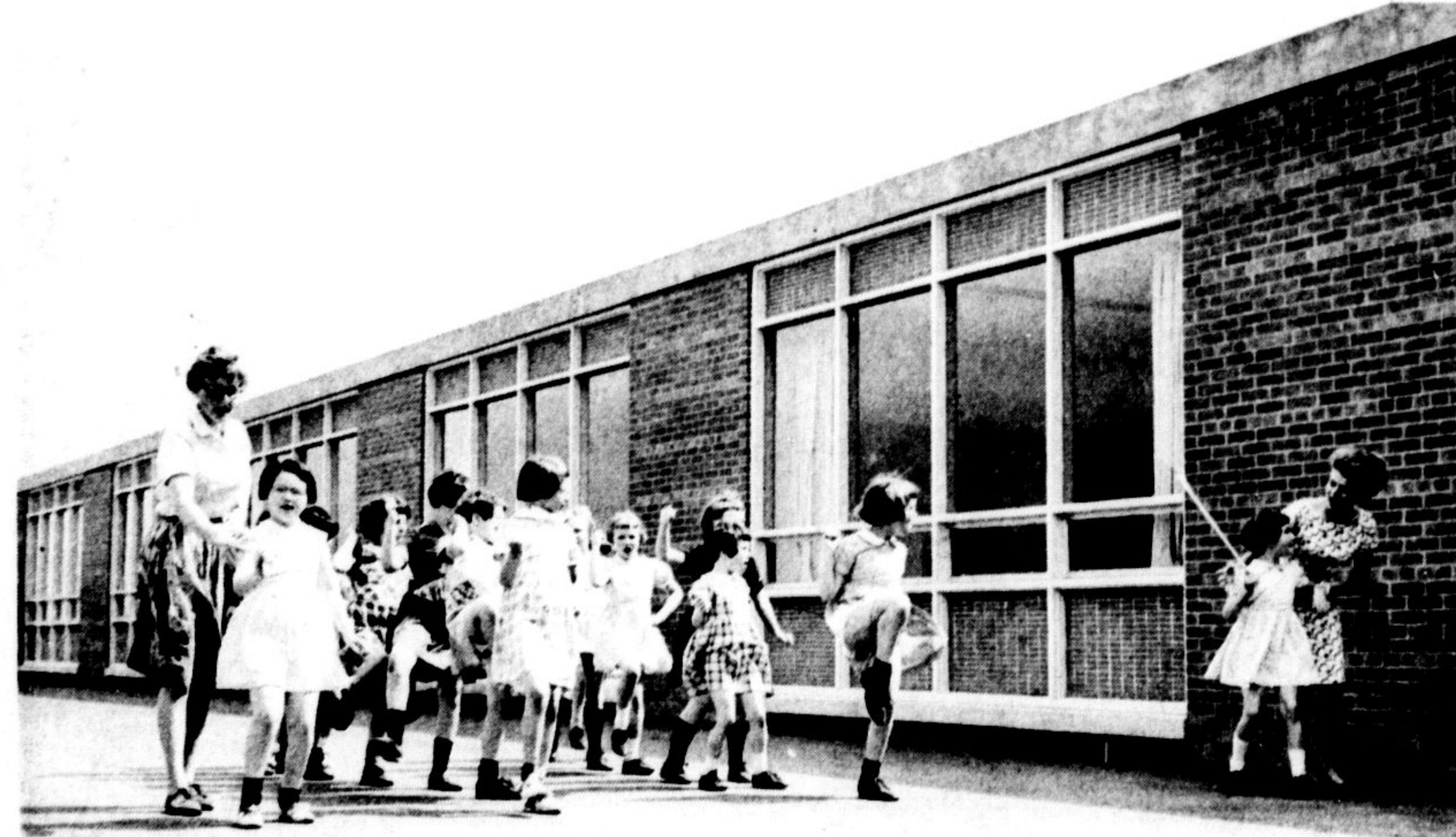
I was very pleased to learn from your letter of April 17 that The Canadian Champion is planning a special section describing the construction and operation of this Department's new residential school for the deaf at Milton.

Needless to say, we are very proud of the school, its students, and the staff who have worked so hard over the past four years to create this excel-

lent educational facility.

Your kind invitation affording me the opportunity to include a message in the special report is much appreciated. Mr. Kennedy has frequently informed us of the excellent support and co-operation given by you and your staff, and for this I am deeply grateful.

Yours sincerely,
William G. Davis,
Minister of Education.



HI NEIGHBOR!

WE'RE JUST A HOP, STEP AND JUMP AWAY FROM O.S.D. MILTON AND WE EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME ON YOUR OFFICIAL OPENING FROM ALL THE STORES THAT MAKE UP MILTON PLAZA



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ARE PROUD TO HAVE OUR IMPRINT ON PRINTING FOR THE ONTARIO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. WE'RE PLEASED TOO, WITH THE IMPRINT THE ONTARIO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF HAS MADE ON THE COMMUNITY. A WHOLE NEW DIMENSION HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE WIDENING CIRCLE OF ACTIVITIES THAT MAKE UP THE MILTON COMMUNITY. IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE PUPILS AND TEACHERS, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS TAKING PART IN LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

WELCOME O.S.D. MILTON