

School's garden club project is unique learning experience

By Bob Burt
To learn by doing seems to be a principle enjoying ever-increasing popularity in many Halton County schools. If the principle works as well as it should, Pineview School will have more than its fair share of students boasting "green thumbs" by the time the final school bell rings in June this year.

In February youngsters at the school got involved in a garden club. The club started out with just a few members but as the year progressed, observers reluctant to take part earlier were intrigued by the fun those in the club were having. Soon numbers increased and interest around the school became intense.

Now the club includes about 30 members, each member has his own plot of land on which he or she can grow vegetables. Four of the classes at Pineview have plots which they maintain jointly in addition to the individuals who have plots. In all there are 32 plots and about an acre of land. Each plot is about nine feet wide by 48 feet deep.

Do work themselves
The great bulk of the energy required to keep the land worked and productive comes from the students themselves. However several adults in the school and the community have contributed to the project in a variety of ways.

Principal Grant Hutchings and teacher Tom Hunter were fundamental in getting the project started. George Currie, former reeve of Esquesing and Warden of Halton County, made land available and numerous other people contributed in one way or the other.

The garden club is run by an executive of three John Dufour is

chairman, Wayne Best is secretary and Doug Hagensen is treasurer.

Each of the youngsters in the garden club contributed 25 cents to buy seed and other materials needed to get started.

During the past few weeks the field opposite the school has been a beehive of activity with youngsters working in the field during regular periods of the day as well as some time during lunch.

Goes on weekends
Wayne Best is among the several who spends much of their free time at his plot. On weekends he rides his bike over and makes sure everything is the way he wants it.

Bill Wilcox took advantage of his dad's early trips to work and arrived at the mini-farm before 8 a.m. on a couple of occasions to do the planting as he wanted. According to members of the club, everything from squash to pumpkins has been planted and the young gardeners are watching growth carefully and with eager anticipation.

Once the crops are harvested there'll be prizes for the biggest and best of each crop planted. Winners will be taken to a movie or out to dinner or receive some other suitable reward.

After discussing the matter, several of the youngsters felt they would show their appreciation for the use of the land by giving the prize winning samples to Mr. Currie. A presentation has already been made but the vegetables would be something more representative, youngsters felt.

Sell it later
Students plan to hold a special market or set up a roadside stand to sell their crops and use the money for a school trip.

John Dufour suggests the project has been a lot of fun and work. "We learn a lot too. Instead of just being told about what happens, we can do it and see it. Learning is more fun this way."

Teacher Tom Hunter looks on the project as a practical application of a classroom lesson and agrees with young Dufour's suggestion that it is more meaningful and more fun too.

Many of the youngsters live on farms near the school in rural Esquesing. Several of those who chatted with a Champion reporter explained why they favored country living over life in a town or city.

Open and free
Mike Baumler probably was the most articulate in his explanation. He denounced one chap's statement about making more money. "It has nothing to do with money. In the country you have more space and you're not blocked in by little fences. In the city there is too much fog, cars, people and violence. You are more free in the country. You can do what you want, it's free and open."

Besides, you can grow a grand garden in that rich Esquesing soil.



YOUNG FARMERS get their start at school. Members of the Garden Club at Pineview School have been working towards this year's crop since February. Last week they made a special presentation to George Currie, former Reeve of Esquesing and Warden of Halton County to show appreciation for the land he made available for them. Katherine Whaley made the presentation. Wayne Best and Doug Hagensen put the final touches on the mound for watermelon and Norma Wilson and Kim Peddie are also busy at work. (Photos by B. Burt)



GEORGE CURRIE visited young farmers and gardeners at Pineview School last week. Youngsters took Mr. Currie on a tour of the growth chamber and the garden the youngsters have outside. Mr. Currie made the land available to the children for the project. The field is opposite the school. (Photo by B. Burt)

Claim dogs menace township livestock

Esquesing council wrestled with canine problems Monday night before deciding to take the suggestion of Deputy Reeve Len Cox about printing and circulating posters explaining township dog regulations to residents.

Dogs in the township are bothering livestock. Some farmers have been forced to shoot them.

Reeve Tom Hill said he has been called about the dog menace and he has advised those bothered to call the Ontario Provincial Police to have them shot. "They are sure doing it at Speyside," he told council.

But the deputy reeve said it was a problem. One elderly lady he knows can either choose to

chase the dogs away or call the police. Ivariably she chooses the former because by the time police arrive the dogs have vanished. If they call police first then dogs can worry an animal to death.

Even one younger, able bodied farmer in Hornby has shot five dogs to protect his livestock. Dogs have raided his duck pond so there is only one duck left.

Coxe said the township had to make it clear to dogowning residents what was happening. "Where's our dog catcher?" asked Wilfrid Leslie.

"He goes when called," answered the deputy reeve, "but like the police when he is there the dogs aren't."

Special programs for "Conservation Week"

Conservation Week will be held across Ontario between June 25 and July 1. In the Halton Region Conservation Authority, a number of programs have been planned. These include canoe demonstrations and instruction, a demonstration of dogs working at Kelso, and dikes along the escarpment and through the Hilton Falls region.

Mr. Finlayson and Dr. McAndrews of the University of Toronto will give a talk on an

excavation presently being undertaken at Crawford Lake.

"We hope that all residents of the watershed will involve themselves in the Conservation Week program. They will thus become more aware of both the conservation work of the Authority and of the role of the individual in the preservation of our natural resources," said HRC's public relations manager Edith Murdock.

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Hot time at Manor laundry department

Employees working in the laundry at Centennial Manor may not have to put up with the intense heat there much longer. The laundry frequently reaches 100 degrees during the summer months, members of the Halton Manor Committee of

Management were told at a meeting Wednesday. The problem was aggravated when alterations in other parts of the building interfered with the cross-ventilation, making working conditions almost unbearable.

The committee will consider construction of a free standing building to serve as a laundry at a future meeting. Administrator Stan Allen told the committee the present laundry room could serve as a craft room if it were vacated. Currently the craft facilities are established in a number of areas in the building. Mr. Allen noted it would be good to bring the crafts together and the building could be kept comfortable enough for residents and their craft work. It was noted much of the heat came from the laundry machines.

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Notice to the residents of Ontario County, Durham, Peel, Halton, Wentworth, Oshawa, Hamilton and Wasaga Park.

We're counting on you in this early enumeration.

The Province will be making an enumeration of residents in certain areas east and west of Metropolitan Toronto during the two weeks starting June 18. The enumeration is designed to gather basic information for municipal purposes.

Should the proposed restructuring of local governments proceed, the normal information collected by an enumeration may be required in early fall for the Cities of Oshawa and Hamilton, the Counties of Ontario, Durham, Peel, Halton and Wentworth and the Municipality in the Wasaga Park community. To ensure that the required information is available, should it be needed, it is being gathered in June while most residents are at home before the beginning of the summer vacation period.



duce municipal tax bills; The provision of information for the preparation of jurors' lists; The tabulation of an accurate population count.

When the local enumerator knocks on your door, the procedure is simple. The enumeration notice is pre-printed by computer with the names of everyone currently on record in your household. If you agree the information is correct and complete, you simply sign that you have received your notice. If there are changes, such as an addition to the family, corrections are made on the notice, verified and signed by you or any other adult in your household. A revised notice will then be mailed to you.

If you are not at home, the notice is left together with simple instructions on how to check and revise it. You mail it, in the postage free envelope provided, only if there are changes.

This early enumeration will be carried out only within the area included in the proposed new regional municipalities of Durham, Peel, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth and the Town of Wasaga Beach.

The information collected will be used for: The identification of electors who will be eligible to vote for municipal councils; The division of education property taxes between the public and separate school systems; The distribution of provincial grants to local governments to help re-

The Municipal Enumeration starts June 18. Without you it won't be right.

Government of Ontario
Ministry of Revenue
Hon. Allan Grossman, Minister. Donald A. Crosbie, Deputy Minister.