

Here and There in Brief

(Continued from page one)

concise summary of the ills of education emerged as one of the highlights of the Renaissance Committee's first mass rally in Milton late last month.

Invites criticisms
Campbell said he hoped all who are concerned for the improvement of the public educational system will participate in "this constructive quest for solutions to the most pressing problems in the system." He also urged citizens to give criticisms of the system in either written or oral form, which will be studied by a committee of consultants to be appointed by the Renaissance group.

The evangelist said he hoped the consultants' studies would bring forth "positive alternative proposals reflecting parental and taxpayer insight" to be presented to Halton Board of Education.

Meanwhile the local movement is attracting nationwide attention. On Monday of next week Campbell will appear on the CTV national program "Canada AM" for a discussion on the problems in public education, and on Wednesday, April 24 the Halton Committee will be featured on CBC's national radio show "Concern" at 8 p.m. Campbell participated in a Hamilton radio station talk show one morning last week.

Paper drive

Collect 4½ tons

Last month's waste newspaper collection netted the Milton Boy Scouts four and a half tons of paper, acting president of the Milton District Jim Strain reports.

He received a report from the paper company this week indicating the March collection brought in 9,000 pounds of old newspapers. Scouts will be collecting again this Saturday morning and urge homeowners to tie up their old papers and cardboard and leave them at the curb by 9 a.m. Saturday.

"Uncle Bill"

Now that's service

Complaints about the postal system are frequent but R. R. 2 Rockwood resident Bill Johnson (famously known as "Wicked Willie") is singing their praises.

Not long ago, Rockwood Postmistress Marg Cox received a letter addressed to: "Uncle Bill, R. R. 2, Rockwood, Ontario, Canada."

A postmistress' job is to know area residents but the term "Uncle Bill" could have meant a number of people. The letter might have ended up in the dead letter section. However, Mrs. Cox penned a note saying "Hi Bill. Is this you?" and popped the letter in the Johnson mail box.

With little delay, Bill was able to read a delightful letter from a niece in England. It was postmarked Hull, Yorkshire, March 26, taking only four days to reach its destination.

NOTICE TO PARENTS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for September, 1974 in North Halton Public Schools will take place on Friday, April 26, 1974 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon; 1:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Public school supporters may register their children who will have attained the age of 5 years on or before the last day of February, 1975. Proof of public school support will be accepted in the form of the 1974 tax bill or 1973 assessment notice, or a declaration from the Municipal Clerk's office. A birth certificate or baptismal certificate will be acceptable as proof of age. For further information, call the school principal or the North Education Centre (878-4154).

W. Priestner, R. G. Chapman, Chairman,
Chairman of the Board North Education Centre.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Dear Sir,

As president of Halton Elementary Teachers' Association, I represent approximately 1,300 elementary teachers in this county. I mention this fact, not because I claim to speak for every teacher, but to indicate that it is my responsibility to be aware of the attitudes, concerns and objectives of these teachers.

As further background to the comments I have to make about the present educational climate in the county, I should add that I have grown up with the system—received my elementary and secondary education here, taught in schools under local trustee boards, township board, the Burlington board and finally, the Halton Board of Education as it now exists. My two sons also attended elementary and secondary schools here.

As a parent and a teacher, I have always taken a deep interest in what goes on at all levels of the educational system. I have not always agreed with all the policies or all the changes which I have witnessed over the years and I have not been hesitant about voicing the concerns I've had. I must admit to my shame, that I have not been as vocally supportive of the tremendous number of "good" things that have happened and are still happening.

Whenever I, as an individual or as a representative of a teachers' or parents' organization, have asked for an audience to express a concern, I have always been a sympathetic hearing by the people who Mr. Campbell in his recent press conference says are ruthless, insensitive, cowardly and intimidating. That may be Mr. Campbell's perception of the situation and there are many reasons why his reaction might differ from mine. My intent is not to quarrel with his impression but rather with the implication that he represents all that is good and right, the administrators represent all that is bad and wrong, and that the teachers function somewhere in a man's land between, exercising no judgment,

existing in a moral vacuum, and having no personal concern for the well-being of the children assigned to their classes. Mr. Campbell, that is absolute nonsense!

The teachers I know are responsible, articulate citizens. They care about what happens to your children. They want your children to become literate, well-adjusted adults with a respect for themselves and the rights of others. They want your children to be concerned now about what is right and what is wrong. They want them to learn to work in co-operation with others to accomplish whatever each is capable of accomplishing. They want them to acquire the skills of communication that they will need to function efficiently, as well as the other skills which are necessary or desirable to the degree of which each is capable.

Do you, as parents, quarrel with those objectives? Or is the expression of disapproval by Mr. Campbell and the Renaissance Committee directed toward the methods by which we attempt to reach them? While the reason for establishing the committee has been stated as a "concern to see a return to the highest quality of education on our Ontario system", I have seen no comments indicating the faults which need to be corrected within the system, unless I am to understand that Mr. Campbell's frequent references to a meeting at which he was outnumbered, and to an incident at M. M. Robinson constitute such a statement.

It is good that parents are interested enough to give time and thought to improve the educational opportunities for their sons and daughters. It is sad to see a man with an obvious talent for uniting people in a cause, for arousing enthusiasm and a desire to effect positive change, doing so by setting up the various groups involved as combatants on a battlefield, when sincere legitimate concerns could best be dealt with in a spirit of co-operation by sitting down and reasoning together.

Yours sincerely,
Irma Coulson,
R.R. 2, Milton.



GRADE THREE students from Holy Rosary School rate swimming instruction as one of their most favorite courses. Youngsters are shown here splashing in the pool at Ontario School for the Deaf, practicing kicks and getting instruction from an instructor. According to a Holy Rosary staffer the youngsters were in their second session. It should have been their third but they apparently were held up 40 minutes waiting for a train to move and missed one entire session. (Photo by B. Burt)

Student from OSD killed

A good all-round student at the School for the Deaf, Thomas John Rae tragically lost his life when struck by a train near his home in Acton Wednesday.

He had had dinner with his family in the Maplehurst apartments, Churchill Rd. S., and was apparently walking alone to visit a friend Jim Jordan, another OSD student, when the accident occurred. There were no witnesses, according to police. He was hit by the westbound CNR express about 5:35 p.m. and taken to Guelph by ambulance.

Neighbors summoned assistance.

13 years old Tommy Rae was 13 and had transferred from Belleville last November to the Milton School for the Deaf. He was described as profoundly deaf. He was born in Toronto January 23, 1961.

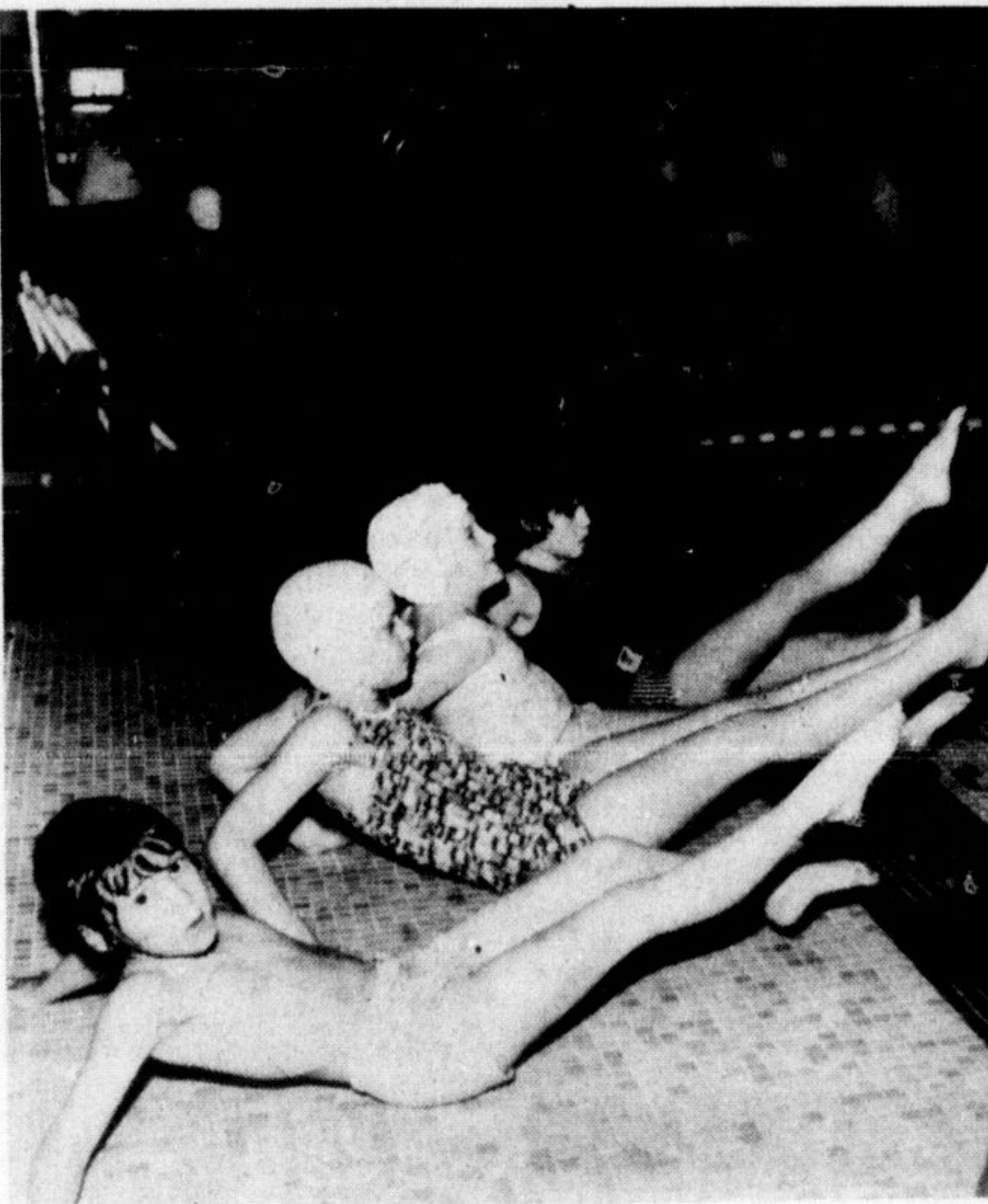
Roy Wollaston, the superintendent at OSD, recalls Tommy as a good student near the top of his class who enjoyed athletics. He got in his share of scraps but he was a good boy, he said.

His stepfather, mother, brothers Joe, Albert and Jack and baby sister Charlotte moved to Acton from Toronto five months ago. Mr. Amos works at Beaver Lumber in Milton.

Grandparents surviving are Mr. and Mrs. Lynwood Waller and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Amos.

Rev. Robert Rumball of the Evangelical Church for the Deaf in Toronto came to Acton to assist Tommy's parents, who are also deaf, and conducted the funeral service on Saturday at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home. He also repeated his words in sign language for the benefit of deaf family members and friends.

Pallbearers were brothers Albert and Jack Rae, friend Jim Jordan and an official from the School for the Deaf. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Acton.



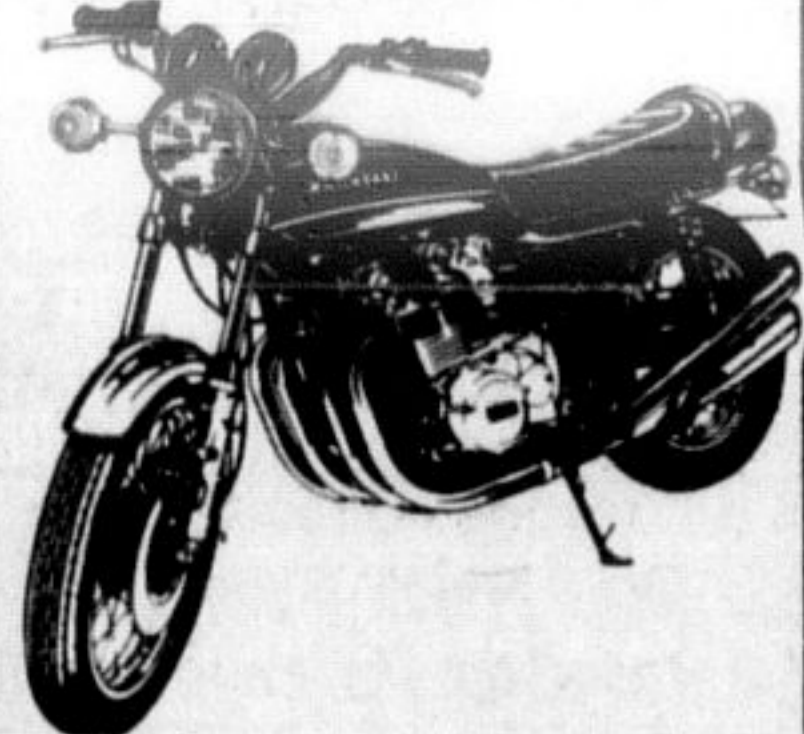
When a funeral procession passed a golf course where four men were preparing to tee off for their regular Saturday afternoon game, one of them turned toward the street, removed his cap and held it over his heart.
"Why did you do that?"

asked his partner.
"Well," replied the fellow, "I thought it was the least I could do for my wife."



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Car shown is the 1974 Gremlin "X".
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