

Drury serving community

For several years the E. C. Drury School has opened its facilities for the use of countless local clubs and organizations.

Milton Recreation Department, Milton schools, Sheridan College, the Scouts and Guides, the Rotary, the Children's Aid Society and the Minor Soccer Association are but a few of the groups which used the facilities of the school the past year.

The school, located on Ontario St., was originally built as a residential school for the hearing handicapped. In the '60s it was the only school for the deaf in south-western Ontario. However, with the opening of another school in London in 1973 and with the concurrent trend towards day student status the school's facilities became available for community use.

According to Roy Wollaston, superintendent of the school, the policy of the ministry of education has always been to use government buildings for community activities, providing the school's program was not affected.

Use of the facilities is limited to voluntary non-profit organizations. Mr. Wollaston said. There is a minimal charge for rental to cover the cost of servicing the facility. "We charge the difference between the cost of someone using it and not using it," he said. "Unless we charged some rentals we would be losing money."

The rental money goes to cover the cost of services, such as hydro, which would not be needed to the same extent if the facility remained unused. The pool charge, for example, is \$10 per hour.

The school's facilities include a 25 metre pool, two gymnasiums, an auditorium seating 400 and an auditorium seating 200, playing fields, track and classrooms.

The school, which is private property, is protected by a 24-hour security service. Mr. Wollaston said. However, the school welcomes people who respect the grounds and don't abuse them, he said. "People walking on the grounds may, from time to time, be questioned by security personnel in the performance of their duties," he commented.

"We've been very pleased to date by the absence of vandalism, in spite of increasing use of facilities," Mr. Wollaston added.

The school, which services hearing handicapped pupils in a 30 mile radius has a day population of 220. Only five to seven of these come from Milton. There are also 160 students in residence during the school term.



SUPERINTENDENT of E. C. Drury School Roy Wollaston said the trend toward day school status opened the school's facilities for community use.

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