

# She's showing 'em how



Encouraging creativity through combining various art forms is the philosophy of Halton Region's sole female industrial arts teacher, Beth Perham. She has been teaching living arts at W. I. Dick senior public school since 1981, incorporating art, family studies and industrial arts courses in a semestered program.

Boys have been learning to use stoves and sewing machines and girls have been trying their hands at wood lathes and saws for a few years, but now that integration has filtered to their instructors.

Beth Perham is the only female industrial arts teacher in the region, an exception she simply takes in stride.

When she began teaching at W.I. Dick senior public school five years ago, her job covered art and family studies (formerly known as home economics).

As these courses and industrial arts were all co-ed and interrelated in subject matter, the teacher felt she would benefit from industrial arts training.

"At first there were more women involved," she said of her training program where she ended up being the only female graduate.

### Determined to finish

"I'm just determined. Once I start something I have to finish," Beth explained.

Currently 15 out of 19 senior public schools in the region which offer industrial arts and family studies, operate as co-ed. According to Oren Calver of the Halton Board of Education, a motion is before the board which would make such integration mandatory.

"These days it's hard to justify that boys should take only shop and girls take home economics. These skills are important for both sexes," Mr. Calver said.

He admits there are few women in the province who teach industrial arts, but knows of four or five who are high school technical directors.

"Beth is unique in the region and well qualified," he said.

One of his first encounters with Beth was in the form of a telephone message. When he read the name of the industrial arts teacher he was supposed to call back, he thought there was some mistake.

When he did get in touch with her and realized his contact was indeed a woman who had called, he asked if one of her sewing machines was giving her trouble.

He recalls Beth set him straight while he removed his foot from his mouth.

### Improved course

In 1981, when Beth began teaching the triple component course, she followed the basic industrial arts course spelled out during her training. She has gradually encouraged her students to utilize materials and other resources associated with the art and life skills programs.

The result of this artistic marriage has been more creative products which allow more room for individual expression.

Dave Young, W.I. Dick principal, defines the similarities as color, line and design, resulting in the integrated arts program.

"We've promoted these similarities," said Mr. Young.

He says of his unique staff member, "Beth has a lot of talent in relation to art, a flair for the creative. This (industrial arts) was a natural for her."

# Chant sees dump on public lands

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wastes, and only waste that meets the legislative definition of special would be accepted by the facility.

According to the provincial law which established OWMC, waste for which no local treatment is adequate is to be treated at the special facility.

"The kind of effluent we are talking about is basically salt in water," he said. "We will be very careful to ensure our effluent does not become your sewage problem."

OWMC is studying land within the Golden Horseshoe area for the site, because the bulk of chemical wastes are produced in this area.

A site outside the Golden Horseshoe would only be considered, he said, if efforts here met with total failure.

"Right now it seems inconceivable that we would go to other areas," Dr. Chant said. Once established, he said, the facility

would be only for waste generated in Ontario, unless a reciprocal arrangement could be made with other provinces or states.

Dr. Chant noted Ontario currently sends about 10 per cent of its industrial wastes to Arkansas for treatment, and Quebec has expressed interest in sharing the Ontario facility.

"I could accept an arrangement where we sent some waste to Quebec because they can treat it better than we can, and they sent waste here that we can treat better, but that's the only kind of arrangement I could accept," he said.

When the current phase of the study is completed, and a specific site is chosen, Dr. Chant said, a "massive and highly technical report" will be prepared for a public hearing to make a final decision.

If any of the sites to be taken to the hearing process are in Halton, he said, regional officials would be constantly involved in the decision making process.

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