

Education week:

# Knowledge is understanding

A statement from the trustees of the Simcoe County Board of Education representing Area Three: Roy Edwards, Alvin Gravelle, Gilbert Lesperance, Wendy MacKenzie, John McCullough.

Educators couldn't have selected a more appropriate slogan for Education Week than "Knowledge is Understanding" - for one of the greatest problems facing society today is a lack of 'understanding'. This lack of understanding leads to unnecessary concerns, unjustified criticisms and unwarranted reactions by the uninformed. We are all guilty of reacting without knowledge, and Education Week affords us the opportunity to develop our understanding and improve our knowledge in many spheres.

We are living in a time of change, and it is difficult for many of us to accept this rapid change. For this reason, all of us, teachers, pupils, trustees and the citizens of our communities must work together as a team to improve our educational system, to tailor it as best we can, to meet the needs of society, and to ensure that every student has the opportunity to develop as completely as possible in the direction of his or her talents and needs.

In 1969, the Simcoe County Board of Education developed a statement of Purpose. It may sound somewhat lofty, perhaps difficult to attain - but it is a goal toward which we should all aim.

The Simcoe County Board of Education will strive to make readily available to each pupil within its jurisdiction the best education that the people of this County can and will support, so that the full potential capacity of each individual may be realized. This entails the provision of flexible facilities and programs, curricular and co-curricular, that offer a broad background adapted to the requirements of pupils having varied interests, abilities and educational objectives, and designed to produce graduates who will be well-equipped to take their places as useful and happy, responsible citizens, leading full lives in this constantly changing world society."

We are all responsible for the development of a future generation - the new leaders of our society. The school cannot do the job alone. The home, the Church and the Community must play a most important role in this development. It is not enough to send a student off to school and expect the system to rectify all the ills of society. We must work as a team to this end, and it is time we all recognized our individual responsibilities toward our students. The students of today are the adults of tomorrow. It is upon their learning experiences, their values and their discipline that the future of our society rests.

It has been said that it is easier to be critical than correct - yet constructive criticism by those who take the time to become informed can add greatly to the development of a meaningful school program - a program that is useful to the majority of our students. Those directly involved in formal education welcome suggestions and participation.

### Most valuable resources

Parents, grandparents and friends of students are some of the most valuable resources available to the system - They not only provide skills in special areas of instruction...they also are invaluable in assisting teachers in getting to know students in a more personal way, and with this kind of intimate knowledge, understanding has to be improved.

For this reason, the Simcoe County Board of Education has developed an open door policy...welcoming input from society. We regard every week as Education Week, and encourage everyone in the community to adopt the same attitude.

### A two-way street

Understanding is a two-way street. If your concerns go unaired, or worse, if they are aired only at coffee parties or bridge games or at the curling club, it is difficult for educators to respond to your desires.

If you as a parent or a concerned citizen feel something is lacking in a program being offered in a school, or to a student, you are encouraged to have a chat with the teacher, the principal, the administration of the Board, (and there is a direct telephone line to the Board office listed in your telephone directory) or your trustee. Chances are that a chat could bring about a worthwhile addition to our program or a needed change. We are all anxious to improve dialogue - to share views - to ensure that our schools are truly meeting the needs of society. You elected trustees to make sure your feelings about education are known...don't neglect to inform your trustee.

So often we dwell on the negative aspects of our system. It's time we emphasized the positive. There are many exciting things happening in education today. You are encouraged to share in these experiences...for we should all consider that we are never too old to learn.

It is amazing what can happen when we improve...use resources available to us. So many resources and talents are doing untapped, and perhaps this is a good week to reverse the trend and resolve to become involved so that knowledge to understand is developed fully.

Teachers, parents, trustees and the public should provide consistent examples of individuals living by a clear set of values, and respecting the right of the individual to diverge from the majority opinion. In this way, it would be much easier to achieve the goal of the Simcoe County Board of Education, as stated earlier.

Trustees, we try our best to react to the needs of society. We must constantly listen to the requests or demands of society. But we must be certain that we act in the best interests of the majority, and not react to the requests or demands of a vocal minority. For this reason, we must hear from an interested and informed public.

We are all in this business of education, together. We must stress the positive and try to improve the system. Mutually, our ultimate goal must be to provide the best quality education we can afford to the children who trek off to school each morning. They are our future. Understanding their needs is our key to knowledge. We as trustees invite you to learn with us...not only during Education Week, but throughout the year. If we achieve this goal, we will, each in our own way, have made a useful contribution to society.

## Host of activities planned

# Education-partnership between schools and community

We're right in the middle of Education Week 1976.

"Knowledge is understanding, and learning is a partnership" - the theme of this week - and the theme of every week in Canadian schools.

It's a partnership of students, parents, administration, communities, teachers, trustees, schools and superintendents.

And on the inside pages of this week's

newspapers, we have attempted to focus on that partnership and on that learning and living going on in our community's schools.

The community is being brought into the schools this week and the schools are going out into the community this week. Area schools are participating cooperatively in a public speaking contest and spelling contests.

Students are demon-

strating their talents through science and physical education demonstrations.

An open house will be held at Huron Park school with the pupils' work displayed in individual classrooms. And Huron Park students will be participating in the spelling contest for the area at Regent School tomorrow night. Last night students participated in the public speaking contest at

Bayview School.

At Bayview school, teachers are being given the opportunity to exchange classes within the school and pupil exchanges will take place with another interested school. Science fair entries will be displayed on April 16. Parents are being invited to visit the school during this or another week. The theme at Bayview this week is "Knowledge is understanding the many

talents of elementary school students".

At Parkview public school, teachers are being encouraged to exchange internally for a period of one day. Science projects will be displayed in the halls of the school all week, and parents have been invited to observe classes during the day. In conjunction with education week, the Parkview music night is being held on April 22. On Monday night at

Regent School, students put on a demonstration of gymnastics skills. Students will be displaying science projects throughout the week, and will be hosting the spelling bee, sponsored by the IODE, on Thursday night.

Waubushene public school students will also be participating in the spelling contest and the public speaking. The Grade 7 class is preparing a radio program to be

aired on CKMP.

In Victoria Harbour, parents are invited to visit the classroom during the week and again on Wednesday night to view the presentation of science projects by students.

The Port McNicoll public school is running an activity program for all primary students one afternoon a week for the four weeks in April, beginning on April 7 to coincide with Education

Week. The program involves ten to 15 parents as well as the primary staff members. Parents are reminded of the open-door policy at the school and are encouraged to visit and discuss their children's progress. Science Fair projects will be on display in the school during the week.

Learning is a partnership. We are proud to be part of that partnership.



MAD MURRAY HIMSELF

# Mostyn's TRADE-IN SALE Continues

Your old clothes are worth money to Mad Murray. Check over these Trade-in Specials and Save! Limit one trade per item.

your old BLOUSES, SHIRTS and SWEATERS are worth \$2<sup>00</sup> on the purchase of a new one

your old DRESS PANTS DENIM SKIRT and DENIM JACKET are worth \$5<sup>00</sup> on the purchase of a new one

your old DRESS or EVENING GOWN is worth \$15<sup>00</sup> on the purchase of a new one

your old LEATHER COAT or JACKET is worth \$25 on the purchase of a new one

SPECIAL No Trade-ins LEE JEANS SPECIAL No Rubber Dollars \$12<sup>95</sup> 2/\$25 LEVIS ALSO PRICED LOW

your old BLUE JEANS are worth \$5<sup>00</sup> on the purchase of a pair of Levis, GWG, His, Carhartt, Roadrunner, Britannia and W.W. West

your old T-SHIRT HALTER TOP or BELT is worth \$1<sup>00</sup> on the purchase of a new one

Super Fitting T-SHIRTS for gals \$2<sup>99</sup> 2/\$5

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MIDLAND LIMITED

258 King St.

Midland

526-5871