

# Teachers become students as Midland area schools host 'development' day

Elementary and Secondary School teachers from north Simcoe County became students again last Thursday.

While local students got a welcome day off from classes the teachers were busy at several Midland schools upgrading their professional training.

As part of their Professional Development Day activities teachers participated in a number of seminars, workshops, and lectures designed to facilitate contact between teachers in various fields of instruction.

The areas covered by these activities ranged from teaching techniques in primary grade physical education to poetry and choral speaking.

Bayview School was the busiest centre in Midland during the day. Teachers from as far away as Collingwood and Bradford attended workshops at Bayview which acquainted primary grade instructors with methods of teaching subjects not normally included in public school curriculums, but which nonetheless are felt to have academic value.

Instructor Verla Hault conducted a seminar/workshop entitled "Using The Newspaper in Primary Grades". She pointed out that the newspaper, especially the local community newspaper, can be instrumental in stimulating an interest in reading for young students. She suggested that teachers give incentives to students who display a particular interest in some area of newspaper coverage, for instance sports or local personalities, by encouraging them to keep scrapbooks and make

presentations to classmates.

Directly across the hall from the newspaper seminar was a workshop being conducted by Brenda Vivien in aspects of poetry and choral speaking. Teachers attending the workshop read aloud a Negro poem, trying to capture the inflections of cadences of what they imagined to be Negro dialects.

Teachers interested in primary school environmental studies participated in a workshop on fur bearing animals, led by two teachers from North Bay, Alison Peden and Eila Rinaldo. In the seminar the two teachers explained techniques of instructing young students on the relation of animals to their environment, and the tenuous ecological position that many animals are presently in.

At Huron Park Public School, teachers cavorted around the gymnasium, experiencing for themselves the kinds of activities that can make a primary school physical education class both fun and body-building. Workshop leader Bob Armstrong led the teachers through their paces, constantly reminding them that "if you're not sweaty, something's wrong!"

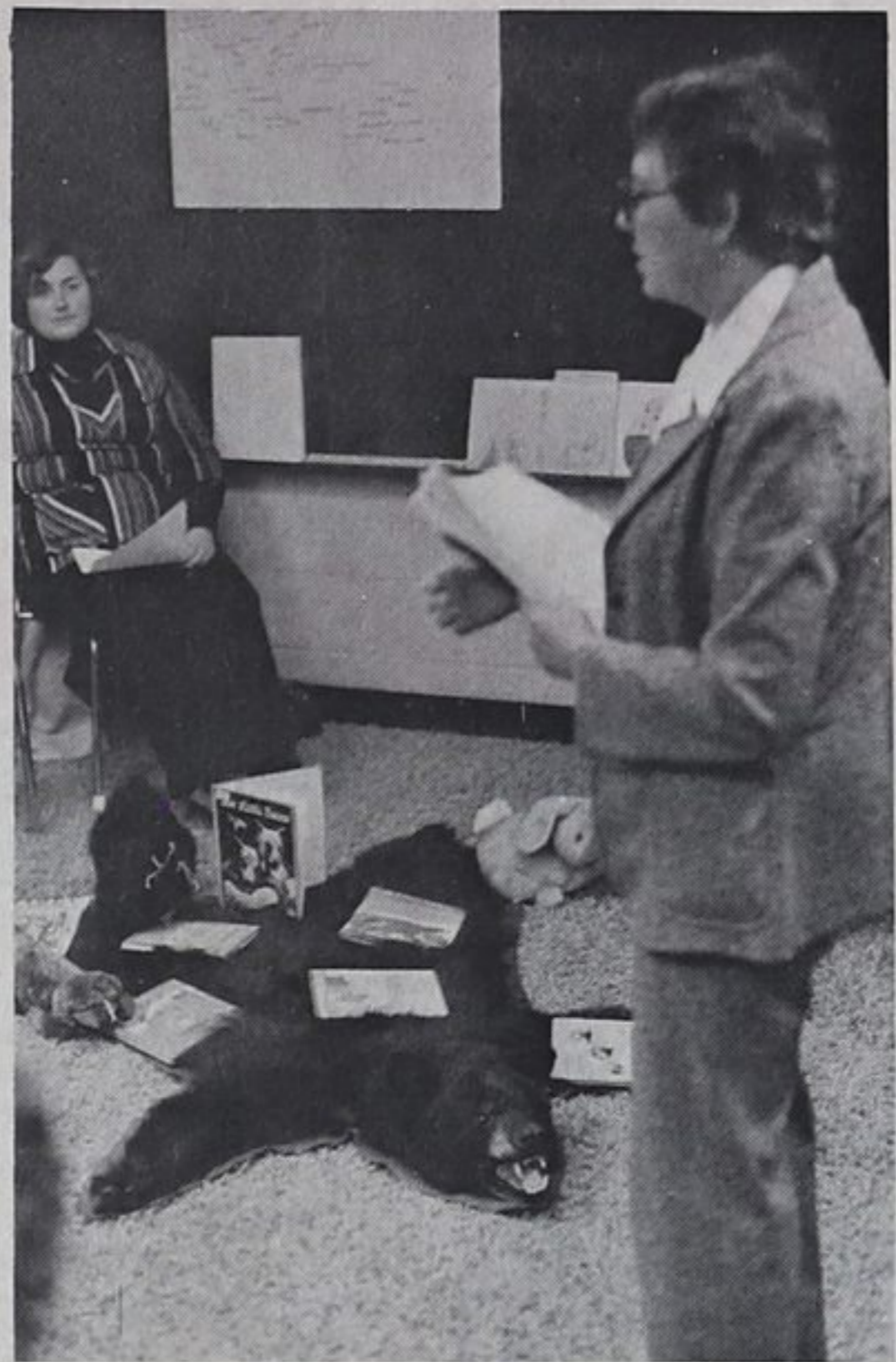
The two main Professional Development Day activities held at Midland Secondary School were an art workshop, held in the morning, and a geographers meeting that took place later on in the afternoon. At the art workshop, participants learned techniques of teaching figure drawing to students at a grade five or six level. They also discussed colour ap-

plication and aspects of illustrating stories and poems. The teachers, assuming the complete role of the student, were required to submit pieces of art work they had done during the workshop, on which they were graded.

The geographer's meeting discussed the possibility of incorporating environmentally oriented geography courses into high school curriculums, noting that certain budget

limitations must be taken into account.

Although there will be other Professional Development Days this school year, Thursday's workshops and seminars will be the only opportunity teachers from north Simcoe County will have had to meet directly with their colleagues of other schools in their respective fields of instruction to discuss programs and teaching techniques.



Grin and bear it

Throughout Midland several Professional Development Day workshops and seminars were held Thursday, at which teachers had an opportunity to upgrade their training. The seminar shown here took place at Bayview Public School and dealt with aspects of teaching primary students the relation of fur bearing animals to their environment. The speaker is Eila Rinaldo, who travelled from North Bay for the event. Staff photo

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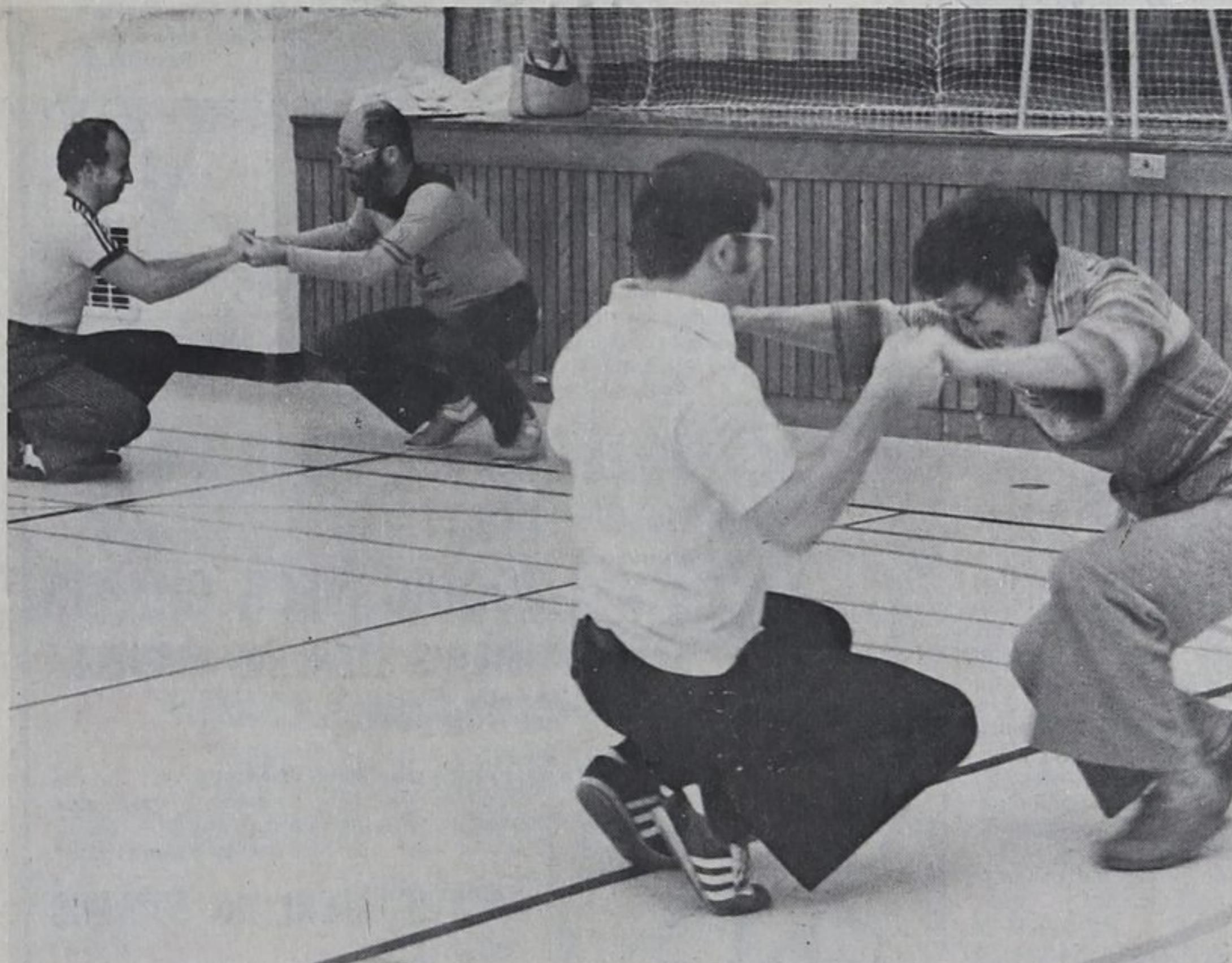
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An exotic dance perhaps?

"If you're not sweaty, there's something wrong!" belabored workshop leader Bob Armstrong during this Professional Development Day working seminar, held at Huron Park School. Public School teachers learned

that instructing primary students in physical education can be body building, fun, and a good way to meet your colleagues. Staff photo

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# Yukon Follies visit Midland to entertain Legionnaires

Like an old scrapbook whose leaves are shuffled out of order, the Yukon Follies Road Show had its problems at Friday's Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day dinner in Midland.

But, like any scrapbook there were some good pages even if more came unglued at the turning.

In a departure from their regular cloth bound production, the members of the group put on a special Friday performance for the members of Branch 80 of the Royal Canadian Legion. A collection of skits, song and dance, and "colourful tomfoolery", the production showed some of its growing pains but

was appreciated by all. Producer and director Jim Murdoch played more roles and did more outlines than any other member of the cast, most of which came off moderately successful.

His best of the night was the sourdough with a tale of the frozen north from Robert Service's works.

The crowd of Legionnaires, some of whom were already tired from that morning's parade to the cenotaph and an evening of dinner and drink, were polite in their response to the recitations and stand-up gags.

However, signs of life were stirred with a race

tempoed fiddle tune by Val Dean. At the climax of his number which was performed with the accompaniment of Greg Sumner on banjo, even the more senior veterans were tapping their toes and hooting. It proved to be a short lived revival though, as an intermission was called to correct sound troubles, that had tripped up a couple of the performers.

With the opening of the second half the promise of a nostalgic evening was fulfilled as the show's star Andrea Davidson, stepped out to grab the audience by their popped lapels.

Alternating from showboat river queen, to

chanteuse, Davidson gave the audience the kind of performance most of them had been hoping to hear—gutsy, naughty and saloon tough, with excursions into the memories of the veterans that couldn't fail.

Immediately after her opening number, Davidson climbed down from the stage and cajoled the heretofore passive watchers to enlivened participation and applause, and sat right in their laps to do it.

After the closing number—a 50's revival—appreciative members of the audience surrounded her and promised to return the following evening for the second show.