

Port Council passes resolution opposing education tax levies

Port McNicoll council passed a resolution at its Tuesday night meeting voicing opposition to raising municipal education tax levies in Simcoe County.

The resolution, which will be sent to all municipalities in Simcoe County, Education Minister Thomas Wells, and Premier William Davis, criticizes the fact that municipalities in Simcoe County have no input into the manner in which the education tax burden is distributed.

The resolution reads, in part: "...the Municipal

Council of the Village of Port McNicoll goes on record as opposing the collection of taxes for the Simcoe County Board of Education without having any direct input or control over those monies allocated."

It goes on to request the striking of a special committee to study what it terms "the inadequacy of this situation."

Port McNicoll reeve, Robin Talbot, explained Wednesday that the basic objection council has towards existing education tax procedures is that "trustees can raise

the levy with no political responsibility."

Noting that in some municipalities like Port McNicoll, 60 per cent of municipal tax revenues go towards education levies, Mr. Talbot criticized the ability of trustees under the present system to make

independent decisions affecting municipal councils.

"The decisions they make have no repercussions on them whatsoever. The repercussions go back to the municipalities, and it's the councils that have to raise the tax base. It's

getting to be like the tithes during the Duplessis era in Quebec," Reeve Talbot said.

He said that council felt it was time for municipalities to question present educational systems, not only because trustees do not share the political consequences of

their decisions, but also, simply due to the fact that school taxes have risen sharply since the amalgamation of County School Boards.

Simcoe County taxpayers this year will pay \$32.85 million towards the school board's budget of \$74,734,260.



Family night

Tuesday night was family night for Midland Shriners and their children. About 60 people gathered at the Athenian Hall for a banquet, a talk on the YMCA fund raising drive, and film presentations. Pictured here

was the evening's head table. Seated left to right are: Reg Nicholson and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pettigrew and Bill McArthur.

Staff photo



Serious work

The young gentlemen who act as altar boys in local churches consider their duties a privilege and take their work during services seriously.

Staff photo

Being altar boy is a privilege

by Shirley Whittington

It is a privilege to be an altar boy. Last Tuesday night 32 boys gathered for a special mass said by Father Tony Vander Veche. Father Tony calls them "sanctuary boys" and he reminded them Tuesday night that they had a special calling to serve God.

Being an altar, or sanctuary-boy can also be a lot of fun. Following the Tuesday night evening mass, the boys were given a spaghetti supper followed by a program of films.

St. Margaret's Church is served by 40 altar boys. They apply when they are in Grade four, and after a training session, they assist the priest in the church sanctuary.

As well as weekend masses, there are two daily masses at St. Margaret's — one at 7:45 and 8 a.m. The boys who serve at these masses must set their alarm clocks early. If they are unable to attend, they must find a substitute.

At the church they don red soutanes with white cassocks (newly-purchased by the Catholic Women's League) and prepare the altar. When mass is over, they wash the cups used for water and wine and return the chalice to the tabernacle in the sacristy. Then they catch the school bus, which takes them to their classes.

The boys are serious

about their responsibilities and consider it a privilege to be an altar boy.

"I used to watch the big guys helping the priest when I was little," said James Quesnelle, and I wanted to be one too, when I got old enough. Next month I'm serving at my brother's wedding, and that's very special to me."

Some boys regard their duties as altar boy as a prelude to a future in the priesthood.

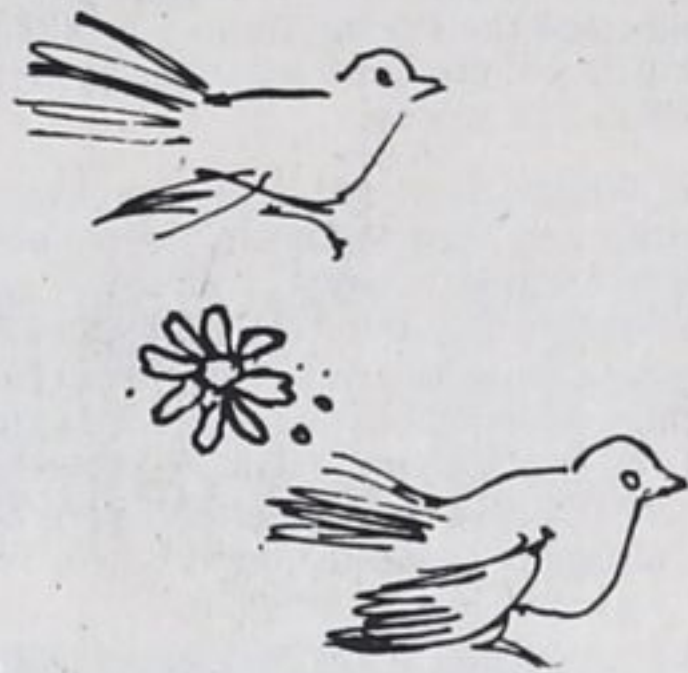
"I have an uncle who's a brother," said one boy proudly.

After explaining his duties as an altar boy to the press, Jim Baker reflected that "Being an altar boy makes religion a little more interesting. You get into it a little bit more if you are an altar boy."

Sally Baker (Ken's mother) and Andrea Desmasdon organized the Tuesday night party for the boys. Al Roach cooked the spaghetti, and judging from the cheers and applause, he's a good cook.

Mrs. Baker considers it an honour to think that her child is prepared to give his time to his church. When asked if being an altar boy was an exclusively male preserve, Mrs. Baker replied that no girl had ever applied.

"But if one did, I am sure she would receive consideration."



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