

Sharing of school attacked on legal and social grounds

by Murray Moore
Simcoe County Board of Education was strongly criticised Wednesday evening by a Midland resident with a child attending Penetanguishene's St. Joseph School for sharing the school with

the county separate school board. William Ogilvie, reading from a prepared speech, made references to the social climate in the American South before the civil rights movement gained

momentum in the 1960's, and to Belfast and Dublin. Ogilvie questioned the legality of the situation under which Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board shares the St. Joseph School annex with the

Simcoe County Board of Education. He told the board he understood the agreement to share the school has not been "finalized". He cited a section of the provincial Education Act to prove

that alterations in the school without the approval of the ministry of education are illegal.

Segregated

The creation of a segregated and separate school within a public school is, he said, inappropriate and indefensible.

He described the separate school pupils as pawns in a religious numbers game and, further, that a religious ghetto is being created.

Ogilvie charged discrimination was present in a comparison of pupil-teacher ratios, stating that the pupil-teacher ratio for the public section of the annex was 22.7 and that

the ratio in the separate school section of the annex was 9.

Despite attempts, he claimed, to play down the information, every separate school, whether Catholic or Protestant, requires provincial subsidization. The result, he said, is that the quality of education is suffering.

Some building

The existence of the two schools in the same building is, he said, "a ludicrous duplication of services."

He asked taxpayers unhappy with the financial millstone of supporting two boards of education to call for a

referendum on having two educational systems.

If the parents committee was happy to accept a few crumbs thrown them by the board, he, for his part, was not satisfied by a few cosmetic concessions, he said.

Board chairman Roy Edwards thanked Ogilvie for his presentation, and added unless the trustees had questions, the board would take Ogilvie's submission under advisement. (Ogilvie, seated near the press table, replied in a low voice, "I'm sure you will.")

None of the trustees had any questions.

Combined training session termed worthwhile

Midland and Tay Township firefighters joined forces Wednesday night at RCA, not to fight a raging inferno, but to take part in a joint training program spear-headed by Old Fort Road Fire Department's Bill Beck and Midland Fire Department's Hal Belfry.

Both deputy chiefs put close to 30 firefighters through their paces using a pumper from both municipalities as well as a tanker from Tay Township.

Since both departments are often called upon to fight local fires under the county's mutual fire aid agreement, organizers of this

week's training program set the session up so as to use Tay's porta-tank to relay water from one pumper to another.

Deputy Chief Belfry called the session "worthwhile" and indicated there were plans afoot to hold similar ones in the future.

A dozen Tay firefighters and 17 from Midland took part in the training session.

District happenings

Lions Club makes key donation

Elmvale branch of the Lions Club, led by director, Fred Harpell, first Vice-president Jack Dyer and third Vice-president Morley Marchant, presented a cheque for over \$7,000 to the Penetanguishene General Hospital on Monday in Penetanguishene.

The money which was collected during a walk and bike-a-thon held last May was accepted on behalf of the Hospital by Administrator Sister Joan Whalen and will pay for the Hospital's new portable monitor defibrillator.

The defibrillator is a machine that allows for constant monitoring of a patient's vital signs as well as providing life support functions.

Fred Harpell said the \$7,592 raised was "an expression of thanks by participants and sponsors (in the walk and bike-a-thon), for the fine work the (Penetanguishene) Hospital does."

Limited vacancies at Georgian College

Following a week of heavy enrolment at Georgian College a review of individual programs shows there are still some openings at the Barrie Campus.

Although many of the more than 40 post secondary programs available at Georgian are filled and some were over subscribed, openings still exist in Fashion Merchandising, Design Arts, General Secretarial, Civil and Resources Engineering Technology, Survey Technician and Mechanical Engineering.

Applications for these programs will be accepted for the next two weeks at the Barrie Campus, One Georgian Drive, Telephone 705-728-1951.

Youth club plans up to parents

Parents in Waubaushene interested in forming a Youth Club for young people between the ages of six and 18 are being invited to attend a public meeting, Monday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. in the basement of St. John's Church, Waubaushene.

The session is to be a "formation meeting," and organizers hope a good turnout of parents will take place.



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