

That's My Line



Deenie Stewart

Last spring the Simcoe County Board of Education approved an idea new to this area: the holding of a nursery school in a high school.

The point of the project is to give family studies students a chance to supplement classroom instruction about parenting with experience.

Deenie Stewart is the head of the family studies department at Midland Secondary School, she has a large part to play in the nursery school, as do family studies teacher Debbie Bonthron, and nursery school teacher Kathy Stewart.

Eighteen boys and girls aged three and four are brought by their parents three mornings a week to a classroom given to the project by the family studies department.

The children are supervised each day by, in addition to Kathy Stewart, a mother, and three or four family studies students. By school year's end at least 70 family studies students, all girls, will have spent time in the nursery, Deenie Stewart said.

"We'd love to have boys," she said, pointing out that boys will be parents too, "but there's still a bit of a stigma attached." The curriculum is co-educational, and boys have taken family studies courses in other years, but not this year.

"If you are preparing students for family living, parenting, why not fathers? But you can only teach what you get."

The nursery is co-operative. Mothers of the children take turns spending a morning at the nursery, and sit on a committee to raise funds. The only period during which the students will not be helping in the nursery will be during examination week, and the week before examinations.

"Parenting education is so important," Stewart said. Students spending part of their school hours in the nursery find out what young children are like, what their needs are, and what constitutes normal development, she said.

Nursery duty isn't simply playtime for the students as well as the children. The students are required to write a paper based on their classroom experience.

To be fair, the nursery isn't all playtime for the children either. "It's not just a big pile of toys," Stewart explained. Different areas of the room are filled with toys and books and other educational material that is designed to stimulate different areas of the child's mind.

In one corner of the nursery there is a creative centre, in another a dramatic centre, where children can dress up and play feed the baby, and in another area, a library.

The nursery doesn't cost the taxpayer any money and is "a tremendous learning situation for the students," Stewart said.

All young people are parents in some way, if not the obvious way, through having children of their own, she said. They have nieces or nephews. They are in a parent's position when they are babysitting, or when they are swimming instructors or camp counsellors. The information that they take away from the class is not something that they "stow away and keep for 10 years," Stewart said. "You don't have to bear your own children to be a parent."

...hydrologists

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around the site is "toward the southwest, roughly parallel to the concession road." They add "among the advantages recommending this site for waste disposal is the virtual absence of any development (residential or otherwise) immediately downgradient of the operation."

Additional Investigations

In order to determine the extent of current environmental impairment and predictions of future impairment further study involving the "installation of about 15 additional observation wells and a more comprehensive water sampling and analyses program" has been undertaken. This Phase II study is expected to be ready within three months.

Minimizing Impact

Morrison Beatty recommends that "the property abutting the west side of the landfill site should be acquired to serve as a buffer zone.

Phase II will determine whether a "system of leachate interceptor wells can be used to control the spreading of a contaminate plume."

Conclusion

The report concludes "The results of the first phase show that, while there is likely migration of contaminants beyond the western boundary, there is no evidence of contamination in any nearby private water wells.

There is no indication of any immediate hazard or threat to water supplies. Further hydrogeologic study is needed to define the extent of the contaminant plume."



Congratulations

Jeanette Leroux, left, past chairman of the Quota Club, presents Nel Peever with a small present in recognition of Peever being chosen as the Citizen of the Year by the Midland Civitan Club.



CNIB donation

Kevin Purssell, left, secretary of the Midland and District Rotary Club, passes a cheque on behalf of the club to Dean Nicholls, local Canadian National Institute for the Blind chairman.

Fourteen teachers interested in post

Fourteen teachers under contract to the Simcoe County Board of Education have successfully applied to the board to be considered as potential employees of the Department of National Defence in Europe.

The Department of National Defence will make its own choices. A maximum of one public school teacher and one high school teacher would be allowed to take a leave of absence by the SCBE.

A teacher whose

application is accepted by the Department of National Defence would be in Europe for two years. The board would expect that teacher to stay with the board for at least two years when the teacher's two years in Europe was completed.

A teacher posted to Europe would retain benefits such as his pension and seniority while away, but would not necessarily be placed in the same school or at the same level of responsibility on his return.

Huronian Players present

Neil Simon's

THE ODD COUPLE

Directed by Janet French

Midland
Secondary
School

October
30,31
at 8 p.m.

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Students \$4.25
Phone Joan Hanna 526-5655 or Ray Knight 534-7162.

Tickets at Mac's Milk,
Huronian Office Services,
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