

David Chambers — Changes in education

by MURRAY MOORE

Changes in the structure of this province's secondary school system, and Grade 13, which has been a feature of Ontario secondary school education since 1936, when the fifth-school year was designated as Grade 13, will not result in major changes at Midland Secondary School, school principal David Chambers says.

"We're already there (where the revised secondary school policy is leading). I think that you will find that many schools in Simcoe County are already where that book (of new policy) is." Whether Midland Secondary School is a leader, or a school that has been going against a liberal tide, Chambers couldn't say.

Simcoe County schools are conservative, the principal said, inasmuch as certain expectations are held of students both as citizens of the school and as scholars.

This shift to a revised system will begin in September of 1984. By 1990, according to the Ministry of Education's schedule, all graduates of Ontario secondary schools will receive an Ontario Secondary School diploma. The number of courses required by the Ministry of Education will be expanded. For example, Chambers said, two mathematics courses, one French course, one physical education course, and one business or technical course,

will be required. French and physical education are not compulsory courses now at Midland Secondary School.

Chambers is "thrilled" at the prospect that all of the province's secondary schools will have set examinations: MSS has always had three sets of examinations, including final examinations. The principal does regret that schools will have three fewer days in which to hold examinations, 15 instead of 18 days.

Under the revised system, high school students can earn their graduation diploma in four years, and they will need 30 credits. Because full timetables have always been the order at MSS, most students now earn 30 to 32 credits, and Grade 13 students, with six extra credits, earn 35 to 38 credits as a matter of course.

Secondary school students who earn the 16 compulsory credits, by successfully completing the compulsory core programs, will be eligible for a provincial certificate. This certificate would be

useful to students who, after two years of high school, for example, go on to apprenticeships. A similar certificate was available until the late 1960s, Chambers said.

Secondary school students will be in one of three course levels: basic, general, and advanced.

Bill 82, the provincial special education bill, includes provision for the needs of gifted students. Midland Secondary School has had a program very close to what will be required, starting in 1984, for the past four years, Chambers said.

Ontario currently provides two diplomas, the Secondary

School Graduation Diploma, for 27 credits, nine of which are compulsory, and the Secondary School Honour Graduation diploma, for students who earn honourable standing in six Grade 13 courses.

The Ministry of Education states that graduates of high school in 1986 could leave school with the new Ontario Secondary School diploma, with 30 credits drawn from the revised curriculum with its larger number of compulsory courses.

"Midland Secondary School has nothing to fear from this (change) at all," its principal said this week.

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Rt. Wor. Bro. J. J. Robins, a long-time member of Caledonian Masonic Lodge, Midland, recently received his 50-year Past Master's Lapel Pin.

"J. J." was Master of the local Lodge in 1932. At present he's confined to HDH where he has been for some time in rather poor health.

Arena committee will review draft

The next meeting of the ad hoc committee working to reorganize the finances of the Flos Elmvalle Arena will meet Jan. 18, and the first draft of an agreement including the concerned municipalities will be reviewed.

Flos Township, Elmvalle, Tiny Township, and Vespra Township were represented at the first ad hoc committee meeting last week.

The committee's purpose is to produce an

agreement agreeable to each municipality through which each municipality would contribute a portion of the arena's operating cost.

Medonte residents also use the Flos-Elmvalle arena, but Medonte Township was not represented at last week's meeting. Another invitation to participate is being sent to the township.



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