

# Wendy MacKenzie: School Board Chairman

by KATY AUSTIN  
Simcoe County Board of Education is responsible for 14 secondary and 80 elementary schools.

Forty thousand students are taught by 2,200 teachers, making it the fifth largest board in the province. The 20 trustees who are elected to the board for three-year terms meet every two weeks, as well as in various committees. Overseeing this large organization is the chairman of the board, who lives in Elmvale, Wendy MacKenzie.

Since 1974, she has served as the Simcoe County Board of Education trustee for the Elmvale area. Prior to that, MacKenzie was on the old Flos-Elmvale School Board from 1966 to 1969. During those years, she served on every major committee within the board. In 1982 and 1983 she was the vice-chairman. In January of 1984 her fellow trustees elected her chairman.

MacKenzie grew up in South Porcupine, near Timmins, Ont. She graduated as a nurse from Toronto General Hospital, and married John MacKenzie while he was still in medical school. The couple moved to Elmvale in 1961, and Dr. MacKenzie set up medical practice.



## SCBE chairman from Elmvale

Wendy MacKenzie, who is nearing the completion of her first year as chairman of the Simcoe County Board of Education, has a long involvement with education, dating to 1966 when she became a

While raising her two sons, Gordon and Ian, MacKenzie was active in the home and school organization, at one time serving as its president. She also worked as a volunteer in the school library. Friends approached her in 1966 to run for the old, local school board. Again, in 1974, she was approached by the retiring trustee, Ray Spring, to run for the new county

board. Chairman MacKenzie has thoroughly enjoyed her role, finding the work "extremely worthwhile."

"I don't think anything," she stresses, "is more important than the education of our children."

Being chairman is very much a full-time job. MacKenzie spends every Tuesday at the board offices in Barrie,

trustee on the Flos-Elmvale School Board. The Simcoe County Board of Education is the fifth largest board in the province.

keeping up with paper work. She attends meetings three or four nights every week. For each of these, there are papers to review in preparation at home. MacKenzie is responsible for chairing every board meeting, and, as an ex-officio member of all major board committees, she is required to attend most of their meetings.

In the chairman's

opinion, Ontario should be proud of its teachers and its educational system, one of the best in the world. She would love to see the general public become more aware of what is going on in our schools. After all, education has a great impact on more than just our children, but on the whole of society as well. The children of today will be the workers and the leaders of tomorrow.

## Light in the story speaker's theme

Dr. Stanley Walters of Knox College, University of Toronto, is the speaker this weekend at the fall conference of Midland's Knox Presbyterian Church. The light in the story will be Dr. Walter's theme.

Since 1976, Dr. Walters has been a professor at the University in both theology and religious studies. He received the theological training at Ashbury and Princeton Seminaries with graduate studies at Yale.

Prior to coming to Knox College, Toronto, he fulfilled special appointment at Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant), a university of about 16,000 students. He was called to the university to develop a department of religious studies.

He has conducted researches at Yale and Oxford Universities and lectured at theological schools and universities in Singapore, Taiwan,

Japan and Korea. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada and for the past several summers has led seminars on the Bible and worship at a location in the Thousand Islands on the Canada-U.S.A. border.

He is also the author of a book, Water for Larsa, a study of 150 clay tablets in the Yale collection. He has written numerous articles for scholarly and popular journals.

The theme of his four studies, The light in the story, will be under the sub-title, How biblical stories reveal God and His will.

The four studies are Friday, 7:30 p.m., A little "Babble-onian" History (Genesis 11); Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Ten Days and Three Years (Daniel); Sunday, 11 a.m., The Crippled, Wrestler (Genesis 32); and Sunday, 7:30 p.m., The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (Joshua 2).

## Long list narrowed to six

A total of 17 letters were received by Huronia Airport Commission for the position of airport manager, a post left vacant several weeks ago after Steve Quaife resigned.

So said Peter Kramp yesterday. The airport commission chairman also confirmed, the list of 17 names had been short-listed and commission members planned to interview six this evening.

Although Quaife's letter of resignation didn't spell out why he was resigning it is believed wages were at issue.

Quaife had managed the airport for one year.

# Co-operative education more popular each year

by MARGARET BABINOK

In June of 1981, the Simcoe County Board of Education launched its first co-operative education program. Now in its fourth year, the success of co-op throughout the area has risen at a rate of 50 percent per annum.

Joan Ellis, one of six co-ordinators appointed within the county, sees co-op as an ideal opportunity open to all high school students. "The objectives of this program: to clarify career plans by offering the student a chance to spend consistent time in work situations," Ellis explained.

It is the co-ordinators' responsibility to guide the applicants through the formal procedures necessary to acquire a position in the field of the applicants' choice. The students are required to compile and present a resume, and also arrange an interview with their prospective employers. It is understood that the student is not to receive a monetary payment for employment. The purpose of the work term is to enable the student to earn a school credit after 120 hours of

time spent at their location.

One student, Sandy Trew, in Grade 12 at Elmvale District High School, works at Dr. Brian Cole's office for approximately three hours a day. When asked what triggered her interest in co-op, Trew said, "I wanted to gain experience and hopefully some insight into the dental hygienist profession."

Trew has found such an opportunity to be very helpful in making

her decision for a future career, and would recommend it to all.

Ellis explains, "Co-op is just as important for the students who learn that their placements weren't what was expected."

At the moment there are about 120-130 people working in co-op positions in Simcoe County. Elmvale has seen a rise in interest of 15 percent each year.

Many past participants have gone further to pursue the

career their co-op involved. Heather Guthrie is but one example who, after a successful work term in

a dental office, continued her education by enrolling in a dental assistant program at Georgian College.

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