

Students, teachers like semester system

by Laura Grabinski
Midway through the year Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School (ESPSS) is getting a new facelift. On January 30 a turnaround day will mark the end of the first semester. The second semester begins on Feb. 2.

The 1986/87 school year was the first time that the Penetanguishene high school experienced the semester system. Like many other secondary schools in Ontario the change is for the better. Semesters allow a senior student to 'pick up' a few credits to graduate in

January rather than in June. It also cuts down on a student's work load; four subjects to concentrate on is easier than eight. This major change in the routine at ESPSS has received a favoured response from many students and teachers. Shawn Sickingler, a

grade 11 student at ESPSS enjoys semesters saying that, "My marks have gone up. It's easier. You only have to put up with a teacher you hate for half a year." Sickingler attended a Stratford school for two years that had a semester system. She noted that her other school was, "a bit more organized, but it'll (ESPSS) be better next year."

Grade 12 student, Mike Patenaude likes the idea of a fresh start in January. He said, "It's good because you only have four subjects and only four exams. When you're done in January you can start fresh."

Shawn Fisher, another grade 12 student fancies the idea about having four credits behind you at the end of January. He points out, "The only bad thing about it is that you get the same class every day."

Principal of ESPSS, Gilles Cinq-Mars is "very happy" with the organization of semesters, adding that it is "very beneficial" for a student. Cinq-Mars pointed out that the seasonal 'February blahs' are interrupted by more enthusiasm from new classes and teachers at the start of a second semester.

Cinq-Mars also noted an increase in new students this year, partly because ESPSS is the first public

high school in the area to offer a semester system.

Margaret Rowe, an adult student likes this new system for the same reasons as other students; because of less exams. Rowe says, "The only thing I don't like is that there's not as much time spent with my family because I'm going every day".

Grade 12, part-time student, Natasha Chapman wasn't completely satisfied with the new system this year because in the first semester she only had two classes, but in the second semester Chapman will tackle a full schedule of four classes. But she still agrees that the change was for the better, saying that, "With the semester system I have more time to catch

up on work." Graduating and grade 13 students definitely benefit from semesters. Susan ResRochers, a grade 13 student says, "Semesters are better for grade 13. I couldn't have handled six subjects."

This time of the year when the beginning of second semester is approaching, Head of Guidance Department, Dave Paille says, "It's made me busier." In a sense Paille is arranging timetables and helping students choose classes twice a year now. Paille is having a lot of individual counselling with grades nine to eleven and he says, "I'm also busy signing up a number of students not attending who wish to start

in February." John Bayfield, head of the Geography department, unlike others, is in favour of the day to day continuity of classes and believes that it improves the quality of education. When asked what he thought of the school's changeover, Bayfield replied, "I'm very much in favour of it."

Brian Quealey is also very enthusiastic about semesters, jokingly he said, "It's fantastic. Only way to fly."

So it seems as though every one at ESPSS is enjoying a trial year with the semester system and it's definite by the number of positive responses that ESPSS will continue with semesters.



New vice-principal

Nancy DeVillers became the Vice-principal of Midland's Regent Public School on Jan. 1. She came to Regent School from Corpus Christi School,

Penetanguishene, where she taught for 18 months. Previous to Corpus Christi she was a teacher for five years at Victoria Harbour Public School.

Show booth attracts attention

Midland and its harbour are represented through this week at the annual boat show in Toronto.

A booth staffed by Harbourmaster Rick Leaney, and volunteers including members of the Town Council, is attracting a great deal of interest, Midland Harbour Committee Secretary Bryan MacKell said yesterday.

The Harbour Committee and the Board of Park Management are sharing the booth.

Boat show browsers are seeing a slide show of Midland and the harbour, large photographs of the harbour, a nautical chart of Georgian Bay with routes to Midland marked, and a very large map of downtown Midland with services of interest to boaters indicated.

Among the people taking turns manning the booth with the harbourmaster are Harbour Committee members Sheila Carpenter and Gail White, former

Committee member Tony Osler, Committee Chairman Wayne Cowdery, Council members Robert Brush, Gale Niblock, and Gail Barrie, and, representing the Chamber of Commerce, Brian Downer.

Last year was the first time for a local presence at the boat show. The Harbour Committee was joined by the Chamber of Commerce, the BIA, and Midland Boatworks Restaurant a year ago.

ATTENTION LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND NON-PROFIT HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS

Help create rental units for people with special housing needs.

Special provincial funding for 3,000 units.

The Government of Ontario has made a special commitment to fund 3,000 new, non-profit housing units primarily dedicated to disadvantaged people.*

Who will this program help? Mainly people who are physically, developmentally or psychiatrically handicapped, battered women, homeless people and other socially disadvantaged persons.

The Ministries of Housing, Health, and Community and Social Services are working together to help people throughout Ontario who require a combination of support-care services and housing.

Projects that house low-income families and senior citizens as well as disadvantaged groups will be considered. Innovative housing projects for disadvan-

tagged, low-income, single people will also be considered on a demonstration basis.

Attend our briefing sessions this February.

Interested community groups and non-profit organizations are invited to attend orientation sessions on the development of housing with support services. Meetings will be held in February at each Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing.

Representatives from the Ministries involved will be on hand to speak and to answer questions.

Local community organizations wishing to sponsor non-profit housing projects can apply for government grants to cover the costs of establishing non-profit housing corporations.

Call now for complete details.

Preliminary applications indicating an intent to develop a housing project with support services are to be submitted by March 31, 1987. Eligibility depends on the degree and nature of care provided.

The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will provide mortgage loan insurance for all projects funded by this program.

For more information and meeting times, contact your nearest Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing listed below.

*Up to 1,000 units will be selected from applications for supportive housing previously submitted to the Ministry of Housing.



Ministry
of
Housing
Ontario Hon. Alvin Curling, Minister

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