

Rural Schools Of Ontario Are Said To Be Poorly Equipped

In many parts of Ontario, farmers have provided better crops for their children, Fred Bodsworth writes in an article titled "The Shacks We Call Schools" in the current issue of Maclean's.

"Labor unions would howl and parents would refuse to work under conditions which exist in hundreds of Ontario schools," Bodsworth quotes Nora Hodgins, secretary of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. "But children are compelled by law to attend dark, dingy cold schools with limited teaching equipment and a low retarded level of education."

Many Ontario trustees, according to another official, have the idea that one desk for each pupil and one pail to catch the drips for each leak in the roof make a fully equipped school. Bodsworth quotes a provincial school inspector that "We can't expect anything but isms when children grow up in the depressing environment of obsolete schools, like so many in rural Ontario."

Facilities Lacking

Boasting by Canadians about their modern schools has completely obscured the fact that education still goes on in thousands of dilapidated, dungeon-like, ill-furnished and badly lit buildings which no progressive farmer would use to shelter a milk herd, says Bodsworth.

Although there are 1,500 new schools in Canada with glass block walls, air conditioning, acoustic ceilings, terrazo floors and suntrap windows, 10,000 others have no lights and must close early on dull afternoons because the pupils cannot see the blackboards.

Roughly 10,000 Canadian schools, says Bodsworth, have no indoor toilets.

An estimated 5,000 still use only a pail and dipper for drinking water, thereby spreading epidemics. There are a thousand or so whose only water supply is a nearby stream. In Ontario there are 31 log cabin schools, in Manitoba 42, and, says Bodsworth, "nobody has counted how many more in the rest of Canada."

Bodsworth quotes a reputable Canadian school architect as saying: "Many schools in towns, as well as rural areas, are nothing but grim and ugly fortresses, super fire traps with oily floors, poor lighting, Victorian sanitary facilities and little play space."

From education authorities across the Dominion, Bodsworth brings to the pages of Maclean's Magazine outspoken comments on deplorable school conditions.

One teacher in Eastern Ontario recently complained the average temperatures for November were 52 degrees at 9 a.m., 54 degrees at noon, and wrote: "I wear woolen underhose and heavy cotton over-

hose. My feet are still cold." Bodsworth gives evidence of children wearing coats, hats and even mittens in school and reports that "a thousand rural teachers have quit their jobs in Quebec because of poor heating."

About four years ago, Winnipeg called in a team of educationists from the University of Chicago to give unbiased comments on city schools. "The report left more red ears around Winnipeg than any Portage Avenue blizzard," says Bodsworth.

Should Use Grants

Bodsworth finds reason to believe that municipalities are not fully availing themselves of provincial grants toward education. "Grant systems vary province to province," he says, "but in most the grants to assist in school construction are determined by the area's total assessment. The poorer the area the more assistance it gets."

As an example, Bodsworth cites the tiny community of Benny, 40 miles north west of Sudbury, Ont., whose shabby, run-down frame school, in 1949, was valued at \$345. Benny needed a new school but with a total assessment of under \$5,000 did not know how to finance it. In 1950 Benny investigated the provincial grants in new school construction. Today it has a new school costing \$6,000. The province is paying all but ten percent of the cost.

British Columbia, says Bodsworth, affords the strongest proof that antiquated schools can be eliminated just as soon as citizens admit the need. The province now pays 70 per cent of new school costs as against the former 30 per cent. Rebuilding in B.C. is going on so fast the Minister of Education has time to do little more than run around the province officiating at opening ceremonies.

King Artist Winner Of Art Contest

Oscar Cahen, Fogwood Farm, King, is well known for his fine magazine covers, and advertising illustrations. At the third annual exhibition of the Art Directors' Club which was held at Eaton's Fine Art Galleries for the past two weeks, Mr. Cahen won two certificate awards for work done during the past year. One award was for a cover used by Maclean's Magazine and the other for a painting used by O'Keefe's in their "Canadian Achievements" program of advertising.

The Art Directors' Club choose only the best of advertising and editorial art from all of Canada and there were 182 entries in the show. Mr. Cahen was invited to show nine of his pictures.

John C. Belknap also of King was represented at the show with the entrants of which he was art director, and one of these an advertisement for shoes also won a certificate award.

Final Home & School Meeting On May 3rd

The Thornhill Home and School Association will hold its last meeting for this year on May 3. There will be a very interesting program that evening when Mrs. A. P. McLelland, President of York County Home & School Council will speak on "Parents are Educators". This is a subject of general interest which Mrs. McLelland can discuss with authority as she has been involved in Home and School work for 17 years and has three children of her own.

This will also be Election Night and the new executive for the year will be invested by Mrs. McLelland. Of special interest will be the presentation of a pennant and crest to the members of the Thornhill Girls' Hockey Team who played so brilliantly that they are now the area champions.

For further entertainment, Misses Elaine Burke and Marie Jones will sing, and Roger Hobbs will play the piano. There will be the usual social time when cookies and tea will be served.

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"Way Back When"

Excerpts from the files of The Liberal
Home paper of the Richmond Hill district since 1878

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 19, 1891
We learn from last week's Economist that the young ladies of Markham village have organized a Young Ladies Walking Club, one of the objects being the promotion of health. As a friendly feeling exists between Richmond Hill and our sister village, we may expect any day to see the fair damsels of Markham over here for one of their morning exercises. An excellent opportunity is awaiting our young men of the village who may be assured of a positive answer to their offers of 'a ride home' to those footsore walking enthusiasts.

The greatest spelling match on record is that offered by Our Publishing Company, in which the first prize awarded will be of the value of \$300 and the lowest \$1. These prizes will be awarded to the persons sending in the largest number of correctly spelled words found in the advertising pages of the February number of Our Homes. (Editor's Note - I wonder what they'd think of the Star's contest?)

Mr. Wye, Trench of Toronto, spent Sunday and Monday with his parents.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

October 24, 1901
Newmarket's tax rate this year is \$2.40 on the \$100, 48c on the \$100 higher than Aurora. We might add that the former rate is just \$1.00 on the \$100 higher than Richmond Hill.

Miss Bel Moodie, a nurse at the Emergency Hospital, is home this week attending her sister Maggie, who we are pleased to be able to say is recovering from an attack of fever.

Re-opening services will be held in the Methodist Church, Maple, on Sunday and Monday, the 27th and 28th. Rev. Dr. Chown will preach.

FORTY YEARS AGO

April 13, 1911
A committee has been formed to receive subscriptions from all the "Georges of the Empire" for the purpose of giving a Coronation gift to His Majesty King George.

Phones for the following have been issued this week: J. N. Boyle, Rev. E. C. Currie, H. A. Nicholls, D. C. Steele and Mr. Burnett, Elgin Mills.

At a meeting held in the council chamber last Thursday evening to re-organize the Newton Tanning Company, a subscription list was opened, and a large number of those present wrote their names for stock ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Messrs. D. Hill, W. D. Scott, W. H. Pugsley, Harry Legge and J. N. Boyle were appointed Provisional Directors.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

March 31, 1921
Mr. Ira D. Ramer has purchased a lot on Centre Street East from Mr. W. H. Graham on which he will erect a house in the near future.

Not many years ago council



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enforced a by-law forbidding charivaris in the village. Evidently the boys are growing bolder, feeling there is no danger of being molested in their mock serenades of discordant music with horns and tin pans. Many in the village are apt to feel that this ancient custom is harmless but, when boys ten or twelve years of age call names and make fun of the groom for not handing out as much money as they think they deserve for their entertainment, then we think it time council stopped such performances.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

April 2, 1931
Excavation work commenced this morning for the new Hydro sub-station which will be erected on Yonge Street just north of Brathwaite's Hardware.

Contracts have been awarded by Trustees of Richvale School Section for the work of erecting the new school. The excavation contract was let to W. J. Adams on Yonge Street and the brick work to W. J. Mahley, Mill Rd.

Miss Lenora Dewsbury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Dewsbury, Mill Street, entertained 12 of her young friends on Tuesday afternoon of this week on the occasion of her sixth birthday.

TEN YEARS AGO

April 24, 1941
Norman Chatterley was elected president of the Richmond Hill Bowling Club and James Grainger secretary at a meeting held in the Masonic Hall Monday evening.

Harry Sayers of Richmond Hill reported for duty with the RCAF at Manning Pool, Toronto, Wednesday. He will take a course for service as radio technician.

Notice To Creditors AND OTHERS

All persons having claims against the Estate of William John Moses, late of Elgin Mills, Ontario, who died on or about the 18th day of January, 1951, are required to file particulars of the same with the undersigned on or before the 17th day of May, 1951, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims of which the Administratrix shall have notice.

DATED at Toronto this 18th day of April, 1951. Sarah Elizabeth Moses, Administratrix, by WILLIAM COOK AND WALSH, 85 Richmond Street West, Toronto, her Solicitors herein.

FIX UP CLEAN UP

A driving bargain: Claw Hammer with hickory handle \$1.09
Sweep-it Lawn Rake 98c
Excelsior Garden Hoe \$1.29
Handyman's Special - Rex D-Hdle. R-mouth Shovel 2.95
English Crosscut Saw 26" 8 pt. \$1.95
SPECIAL

Special: Handy 3 pc. Garden Set: trowel, 10 lb. Lime and 7" Whitewash fork, weeder 59c
Brush 79c Long Hdle Weed Cutter 79c

SPARKLING SPECIAL

Combination Deal: 2 lb. Chan Wax and 4 oz. bottle Nonsuch Floor Cleaner \$1.33
Special: 012 Galv. Pail 79c Sponge Mops \$1.98 to \$4.25
1 Pt. Liquid Polish 45c

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WINDOW SCREENS, all sizes now in stock, from 85c to \$1.19
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LAWN MOWERS priced from \$9.95 to \$19.95
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Before sending in your 1950-51 insurance books, make note of the date to which stamps are affixed, so as to avoid duplication in the new books.

Renewal of books is important to you, to your employees and to the Commission. Please Act Promptly.

TO THE INSURED WORKER!—Have you an insurance book in your possession? If so, please take or send it to the nearest National Employment Office for renewal immediately. If you send your book, enclose your present address so that your new book may be sent to you promptly.

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