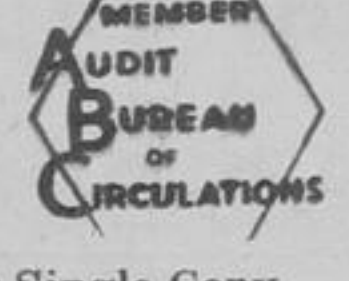


The Liberal

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A Sound Investment

The Richmond Hill Arena Association this week launched a campaign to raise \$50,000. To promote the campaign the members of the Arena Association are rendering a commendable public service and we wish them every success.

For many years this community has suffered the loss of healthful winter recreation because the arena is not equipped to provide artificial ice. The success of the current campaign will correct this deficiency in our recreational accommodation.

In the years following World War II many communities throughout Ontario got busy and acquired artificial ice. This was accomplished in Unionville, Stouffville, Nobleton, Woodbridge, Aurora, Newmarket, Sutton and other York County centres. There was some talk of a project here but it failed to materialize, and as far as artificial ice is concerned Richmond Hill missed the boat. Everyone recognized the desirability of such a project, but any plans which were suggested failed to materialize.

Now the Arena Association has presented a plan which is sound, feasible, and well within the means of the community. It is proposed to form a non-profit corporation, raise \$50,000 by the sale of \$10. debentures, lease the arena from the municipality and install artificial ice. The arena will be operated by the Association and the debenture holders repaid as operating profits permit.

The experience of recent years is proof that natural ice arenas in this area do not fill the need for providing ice sport facilities for our people. If we want our young folks to have the advantages of ice sports here, we must provide artificial ice. We think it is important that this be done.

We trust the canvassers for this project will meet with a ready and generous reception. Those who purchase the debentures offered by the Richmond Hill Arena Association are really making an investment in good citizenship. The investment we are sure will pay a rich dividend — a healthier and happier community.

Mrs. J. Boron Elected President Concord Home & School Assoc.

The election of officers of the Concord Home and School Association for 1954-55 term was held The following were elected:

President, Mrs. J. Boron; vice-president, Warren Ballie; recording secretary, Mrs. J. Whaley; corresponding secretary, Mrs. R. Mills; treasurer, Bert Witty; executive members, Mrs. H. Clapp, Stan Keffer, Mrs. J. Sissons, Wm. Baker, Mrs. M. Gilbert.

These officers were inducted by Mrs. Morris, representing the York-Simcoe Council of Home and Schools.

The retiring president, Mrs. R. M. McLean was presented with a corsage and pen in appreciation of the service she has rendered the Home and School Association in the past two years and her efforts in the formation of the Association.

Congratulations are in order for Warren Ballie who is the new vice president for the West Area in the York-Simcoe Council.

The reports of the various committees indicated the Home and School had successfully performed its function, to foster better understanding between the home and the school and to aid the school in its functions in various positive ways, one way being the presentation of \$100 worth of new books for the school library. There were received from the association by L. T. Redman, who represented the school board. The banner for the best parent attendance was won by the Intermediate room.

Inspector Reports Overcrowding Is Deplored in Report

"When a 10-room school has had its capacity increased to a 15-room school by the creation of five temporary classrooms within the original structure, it follows that many conditions far short of ideal are bound to exist," stated Inspector George Noble in part of his report which was read at last Thursday's meeting of Richmond Hill Public School Board. Inspector Noble pointed out, however, that solutions to some of the problems raised in his memorandum would be extremely difficult as long as overcrowding exists. Sections of Mr. Noble's report were read at the meeting upon requests of ratepayers present, these sections referring to pupils' work and accommodation. Reports on personnel were withheld because of their confidential nature. Lighting, ventilation, heating, cleanliness, seating problems, limited blackboard space as well as jump-promotion and too large classes were noted, in some cases, as unsatisfactory factors.

Continuing, in regards to accommodation in the main building, Mr. Noble's report stated the regular classrooms in the older part of the building were spacious, and those with the cloakrooms at the front have a greatly reduced front blackboard area. Artificial lighting in the older classrooms, he said, is not designed to give the duller side of the rooms or the blackboards required intensity of illumination. No light-meter tests were taken, but the general impression gained was one of inadequacy. A number of the fluorescent tubes in various fixtures were not operating when inspected. Ventilation in these classrooms could be greatly improved by the provision of glass deflectors on at least two of the windows in each classroom. Storage space is generally inadequate.

The regular classrooms in the newer parts of the building, the report said, were generously proportioned and well-lighted. Ventilation is possible by direct admission of outside air, but there did not appear to be any provision for preventing drafts. The mechanical ventilation system does not appear to be operating.

The three temporary classrooms in the auditorium (rooms 17, 18, and 19) have just fair artificial lighting and very inadequate ventilation, the report read. The access to rooms 18 and 19 is directly through room 17. This was a very distracting condition. Of the three rooms, room 18 was the only one which began to meet minimum accommodation standards.

The two temporary basement classrooms have reasonably adequate natural light. Room 7, Mr. Noble reported, appeared difficult to heat, but could be ventilated during non-teaching periods by using the exhaust fan. In acts practice the fan, said the inspector, did not appear to be used extensively. Room 7 is ventilated by the direct admission of outside air, with no draft control.

The building appeared none too clean during the period of inspection. Mr. Noble pointed out in his report. "The conditions of the grounds was a contributing factor, but lack of organization in the caretaking service appeared to be a factor also. Mud tracked into the entries was not removed following assembly, and was carried to all parts of the building as the day wore on. Each new assembly added to the accumulation. The kindergarten floor was especially dirty. This floor should receive some attention between morning and afternoon sessions. If the caretaking staff were encouraged to paint unfinished additions and alterations in the classrooms, the appearance of the building would be considerably enhanced.

The rapid influx of young children has created some seating problems. In room 14 especially, it was noted many seats were too large for the pupils, this situation creating postural and writing problems. The smaller children cannot reach the fountains in the basement without dangerous gymnastics.

The cleanliness and general efficiency of the kindergarten room could be improved if wardrobes or rod coat hanger arrangements and overhead shelves were provided for the use of these children in the front entry hall of the building.

In referring to the accommodation in the Municipal Hall, the report stated Room 12 had adequate light, rather limited blackboard space, and appears hard to heat. Room 13 is not well lighted and also appears difficult to heat. The fact that water and toilet facilities are limited and semi-public creates problems, but the teachers appeared to have adequate organizational procedures to care for these problems. The playground facilities are an asset. Pupils are well supervised at all times.

At the Orange Home, Mr. Noble's report continued that in Room 11 the artificial lighting is poor and temperature control is sometimes difficult. The temporary front blackboard and the unavoidable intrusion of the sound of activities beyond the partition separating the two classrooms cause some inconvenience. Room 9 was stated as small, hard to ventilate and maintain at a comfortable temperature and poorly lighted. Room 8 was said to be reasonably well lighted naturally. The artificial lighting was said inadequate for blackboard use on a dull day. There does not appear to be undue intrusion of sound from the adjoining classroom. Emergency exit is via a wooden ladder up the wall to a ground level window. An air-conditioning unit has been installed. Access is through Room 3 only.

Room 3 has adequate natural light, the report said. The blackboard lighting is inadequate. The room is less adapted to classroom use than Room 8. The continuous operation of the refrigeration unit makes concentration difficult. Emergency exit is via a wooden ladder up to the wall to a ground level window.

Water and toilet facilities are adequate but inconveniently located. Good organization has in large part overcome this problem. A drinking fountain accessible to rooms 3 and 8 would be a definite asset.

In referring to pupils' work, the Inspector's report stated that because of the limited opportunity for participation in so large a group the kindergarten children have not developed self-reliance to any marked extent, and have had to be manipulated through many of the activities. Language and speech growth was reported as encouraging as was intellectual readiness for reading and number experiences.

Three of the four Grade 1 classes revealed a disturbing degree of immaturity in behaviour and work habits. Achievement has coincided generally with ability. Independence in reading is relatively undeveloped.

Progress in the Grade 2 classes has been generally satisfactory. Mr. Noble stated in his report. Greater emphasis upon language aspects of reading was recommended. The Grade 3 classes are making good progress on the whole. The Grade 4 pupils are making fair to well above average progress. Some of the Grade 5 pupils who were "jump promoted" from Grade 3 to Grade 5 are experiencing difficulty with the Grade 5 program. So, too, are some of the Grade 6 pupils who were "jump-promoted" two years ago. Generally speaking, the report said, Grades

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