

Thornhill Secondary Wins Drama Festival Preliminary

BY MARGARET I. McLEAN

"An excellent presentation of a complex and difficult play" and "solid team work" were some of the phrases used by adjudicator Howard Lacey in announcing that Thornhill Secondary School's presentation of "The Diary of Anne Frank" had won the third preliminary of Simpson's Collegiate Drama Festival on March 29th.

Mr. Lacey, who is classics master of Upper Canada College and has been on the executive of the Central Ontario Drama League, reminded his audience that this was a play which demanded realism, and that not only was the play based on real people and real happenings, but one of the people who had been involved in the original happenings now lives in Toronto. He felt that the necessary realism had been well achieved by the Thornhill group.

The other schools taking part in the preliminaries, held at Thornhill Secondary School, were Bayview Secondary School which presented Eugene Ionesco's "The Bald Soprano" and Richmond Hill High School which presented Act III of A. A. Milne's "The Dover Road."

Four young people were singled out as having the most promise, Robert Reoch, who played the part of Mr. Frank and Alita Wise who played Anne Frank in the Thornhill production, Patsy Higgs of Bayview who was the maid in "The Bald Soprano," and Craig Sully from Richmond Hill High School who played the part of Nicholas in "The Dover Road."

Robert Reoch's portrayal of Mr. Frank was "strong, dignified and mature" sta-

ted Mr. Lacey and added that he had some difficulty in realizing that the actor playing the part was actually a young man.

Alita Wise's portrayal of Anne was described as a "wonderful portrayal" and a "sensitive of life." She had lots of life stated Mr. Lacey and at one point when she accidentally knocked over a lamp, she recovered it like a professional.

A grade 9 student, Karen Jolliffe was also commended for her work and was told she had given a pleasant interpretation of Miep, the Dutch intermediary. Keith Corkill's part as Pieter was called "a good attack." Marilyn Thompson's Margot was noted as being "subdued and quiet but strong in her emotional portrayal." Jim Gibson as Mr. Dussel "got a good reaction and was quite professional."

Mr. Lacey found Thorn-

hill's set solid and substantial and the use of background music and sound effects good, but suggested that the costumes should be a little more worn and shabby and that the pace could be varied at times.

Miss Frances Halfpenny, editor of the University of Toronto Press and a member of the University Alumnae Dramatic Club, was the second adjudicator and she discussed the Ionesco play presented by Bayview. The theme of the play, said Miss Halfpenny, is the banality of people, their thoughts and conversations. It is, in effect, a satire on suburbia, and shows how little there often is in our conversations. One scene between a couple who explore at great length just where they have seen each other before and then discover that they are man and wife, is intended to show how people, even when mar-

ried to each other, can't recognize each other and fail to communicate.

Much of the play was like sitting in the subway and listening to a conversation taking place in the seat behind you, when you hear neither the beginning nor the end of the conversation.

Miss Halfpenny felt that the Bayview students had a good understanding of what the play was about (which was possibly more than the audience had) and that it was an ambitious effort. It was extremely difficult she said to sustain this series of non-sequiters and non-sensical conversation and to play it straight.

"I would like to congratulate the students for trying this play. It is very modern and a great challenge. They made a very good attempt at it," Miss Halfpenny concluded.

Richmond Hill's presentation of "The Dover Road" was discussed by the third adjudicator, Mr. Charles Jolliffe, a teacher of English and art at Northview Heights Collegiate. He felt the play showed evidence of good team work but advised the players to relax a little more and have more fun out of it. Lisa Jackson as Eustasia had "a wonderfully irritating quality" Mr. Jolliffe stated, and Craig Sully as Nicholas had a very good voice, as did George Neal as Dominic. Stephen Best as Leonard was "suitably unheroic and miserable" he said, and at very

well, something very difficult to do on the stage.

The directors of "The Diary of Anne Frank", Mrs. Audrey Taylor and Miss J. Eastedo were called to the stage by the festival director and master of ceremonies for the evening Mr. Ken Watts, and were warmly applauded.

In speaking to the press, Mrs. Taylor expressed the greatest appreciation for the wonderful help the players had received from both students and staff of the school. Almost 50 people were involved in last Friday's presentation, as the result of which the very substantial set was dismantled in something like five minutes.

She was also most appreciative of the mature and responsive audience which at several points during the Diary of Anne Frank, burst into spontaneous applause.

Winners will be chosen at seven preliminaries and six of these will be picked to compete in the finals to be held at Hart House Theatre on April 26 and 27. Trophies will be presented to winners of the finals, one for each evening and smaller trophy replicas will go to each preliminary winner. The six finalists will be awarded \$200 to divide among them to defray production and travelling costs. Special awards will be presented at Hart House to individual actors and actresses who give the best performances throughout the festival.

Eskimo Art Work At Local School

Charles Howitt Public School is the proud possessor of a 20 foot long mural depicting life in the Canadian arctic. The mural executed on heavy brown wrapping paper with colored chalk is the work of 11 Eskimo children who live on Ellesmere Island and who are being taught in the recently completed school by Peter Scott.

Peter's sister, Joyce Scott, who is on the teaching staff of Charles Howitt School received the mural from her brother who is on a two-year teaching assignment at the Northern Affairs Department school on Ellesmere Island. At this post he is recognized as being the most northerly situated teacher in Canada.

Mr. Scott who left on his assignment last August with his wife Barbara and two children Timothy 11 and Larry 9, reached their destination on board the Canadian government supply ship the C. D. Howe. The only other means of access to the remote settlement on Ellesmere Island is by air.

The mural as described by Mr. Scott depicts the whole life of the Eskimo children and contains illustrations of seal hunting, fishing, and the two most important events that occur on the island during the course of the year, the arrival of the C. D. Howe, which calls at the port once a year and the Christmas day air-drop when mail is parachuted to the settlement.

Prior to reaching Miss Scott the mural was on display in Ottawa by the Department of Northern Affairs.

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If you can answer "Yes" to all of these questions then it is your right and privilege to vote Socialist.

If your answer to any one of these questions is "No", you should vote for the one party which represents all parts of Canada - the Liberal Party - the only party which can gain a majority vote over the others, sufficient to govern. Vote ADDISON, John X

(Inserted by the York North Liberal Association)

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Drama Awards

Cast of "The Dover Road" pictured in the above photograph are back row (left to right): Producer Director N. Roy Clifton; (Leonard) Stephen Best; (Dominic) George Neal; (Latimer) Lawrence Brice; (Footmen) Douglas Jamieson and David Poilard; (Maid) Louise Monks and Sharon Cowan. Front row left to right: (Eustasia) Lisa Jackson; (Anne) Jane Clifton; (Nicholas) Craig Sully. Bottom picture shows Miss J. Bastido and Mrs. A. Taylor, directors of Thornhill's "Diary of Anne Frank" receiving top award presentation in the Drama Festival Preliminaries from Festival Director Kem Watts.

(Photo by Barbour)



New Ontario Foundation Tax Plan To Ease School Financial Burdens

In his report to the last meeting of the Richmond Hill Public School Board, Superintendent Gordon McIntyre referred to a statement made by the Premier of Ontario in the legislature on February 21, announcing an Ontario Foundation Tax Plan which will become effective in 1964.

The report pointed out that the plan will provide grants to school boards under the following sections.

Section 1 - Basic Tax Relief Grant: This will be a flat grant per pupil of average daily attendance, and will include the present Residential and Farm School Tax Assistance Grant.

Section 2: Special or Stimulation Grants: The general principle in this section is the continuation of the present policy of deliberate stimulation of school boards through financial as well as other means to experiment continuously in the ways and means whereby the school system may be progressively improved. Included in this section are special grants on such items as milk, textbooks, evening classes, auxiliary classes, and change of municipal status.

Of particular interest, the report points out, is the reference to the introduction of Oral French into the curriculum. There are now 113 public and separate school boards in the province teaching Oral French to English speaking pupils.

Section 3: Equalization Grants: This portion of the grant is to be divided into three categories —

(A) **Corporate Tax Adjustment Grant for All Elementary Schools:** The grant proposed will supplement the revenues of any elementary school board which is receiving a lesser proportion of school tax paid on corporation assessment within

(B) **Recognized Extraordinary Expenditure Grant:** A percentage of the total recognized extraordinary expenditures will be paid as a grant, graded according to growth-need and to assessment per classroom.

(C) **School Tax Equalization Grant:** This part comprises the basic equalization or "foundation" grant, to which the other grants will be added in order to obtain the total grant payable to the board. The principle of this basic equalization grant is that the government will guarantee to each school board in the province sufficient revenue from this provincial grant to enable it to meet a satisfactory level to recognize operating costs. The province will specify the ceiling or maximum up to which the government will guarantee a reasonable, proper, and sufficiently variable revenue from the provincial grants which, together with local taxation, will meet the requirements. By this method the province will ensure complete equalization of revenue for schools up to the levels specified for grant purposes.

The above outline is expressed in general terms, and it does not indicate in any way how the grants to an individual board will be effected in 1964, the report says.

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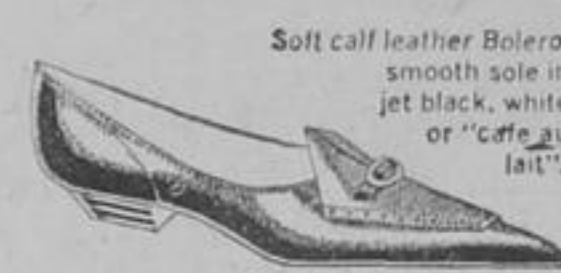
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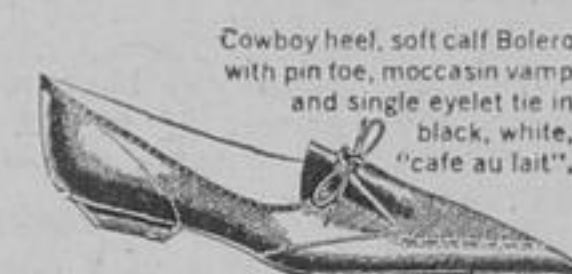
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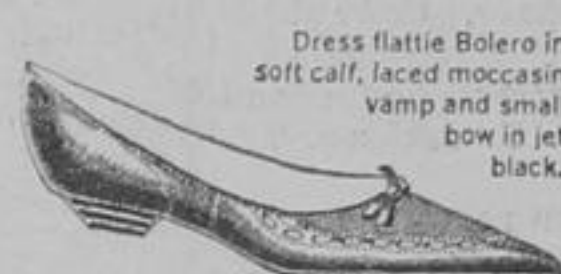
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Where our new gas mains and services have been installed, refilled trenches will likely settle. Any resulting damage to lawns, walks, roads and driveways will be adjusted as quickly as weather permits. Under these abnormal conditions the possibility of natural gas leakage is increased. The Gas Company therefore requests the assistance of all the citizens in the community in guarding against gas leaks that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Gas leak detecting crews constantly patrol the area, checking streets, utility manholes, sewers and buildings. In addition to this safeguard we ask your co-operation by reporting ANY UNFAMILIAR ODOUR to us promptly. In addition any of the following circumstances should be reported without delay:

1. Any noticeable bubbling in pools of water on the ground and streets.
2. Any odour which has no readily apparent cause, either in buildings or out of doors.
3. Any indication that your furnace, regardless of fuel, does not appear to be operating as it should.

Basement floor drains should be checked to ensure that they contain water. Sewer gases, natural gas and other combustible fumes can enter homes through basement drains if they are dry. Pour a pail of water into dry cellar floor drains to fill the water traps and prevent the entry of gases. Your participation in this safety program is appreciated. Please assist us to render the best possible service by reporting ANY STRANGE ODOUR to us quickly at any time of the day or night.

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Cancer Society Opens Campaign On April 1st.

The annual campaign of the Canadian Cancer Society's Richmond Hill Unit will open on April 1. The unit's objective this year will be \$19,500 and will contribute towards a provincial objective of \$2,000,000 and a total national aim of \$3,622,000.

In discussing the campaign Mrs. Gordon Purves, local campaign chairman said that it was difficult to make the point year after year that there was great need and a great urgency in the appeal in order that funds may be made available to carry on the fight against cancer both in research and treatment. She said that one need only visit a hospital and talk to patients, or to their loved ones, to realize that cancer is a terrible disease and that its cost in terms of lives and unhappiness can scarcely be imagined.

Mrs. Purves said "that the Canadian Cancer Society is doing all it can to bring about the final defeat of this human scourge. It is fighting cancer by means of research which will one day solve the riddle of cancer and show us how to prevent it or cure it. It is fighting cancer by means of education impressing upon all of us the importance of regular health check-ups and early treatment once cancer is diagnosed. The society is also fighting cancer by means of welfare services which gives to patients aid and comfort. To do all these things", Mrs. Purves said, "the Canadian Cancer Society needs money".

Mrs. Purves expressed the hope that the Richmond Hill community will once again do its part in this vital cause and see that the community's objective is attained.

It was pointed out that this year fully 86 per cent of all funds used by the National Cancer Institute of Canada for its research projects will be provided from the campaign of the Canadian Cancer Society, almost half of whose budget is earmarked for research purposes.

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