



## Richmond Hill Symphony Season Drawing To A Close

With a membership close to 50 musicians, Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra have plans for at least two more concerts during the current season. The next one is scheduled to be held in Aurora early in May, and later that month a second one will be held in Richmond Hill. Shown above is the string section playing at Greenacres Home under the clever baton of Arthur Burgin.

## RICHVALE NEWS

Correspondent  
Mrs. Anne Hewitt 78, 16th Ave.  
TU. 4-7645

### Talent Program

On April 11, Charles Howitt School held a "Talent Program", in which three schools participated. The program opened with the senior boys' tumbling team. This was represented by the grades 7 and 8 P.I. class. Susan Clark played the piano while Wendy Paul sang "Lightly Row". Ann McBain played a solo entitled "The Sandman" on the piano. Danny Twidale sang a song about "Lions and Crocodiles". "The Knight and the Lady" was played on the piano by Elizabeth Young. Pupils from room 7, the dancers, presented "A Hunting We Will Go". The first duet of the evening was sung by Debbie Spiers and Debbie West and it was called "Snowmen". Susan Barker played a tune on the piano called "A Little Waltz". Ronnie Clark played "Grandfather's Clock" on his trumpet and this was appreciated very much as Ronnie was the only trumpeter.

Linda Pearson played "Dancing Marionette" on the piano. "Orion" was sung by Brian Walters. To represent the grades 7 and 8 girls P.T. class, the senior or girls did a dance. To close the programme, an orchestra called "The Diamonds" from 16th Ave. School played. The programme was enjoyed by all. The pupils who participated in the Talent Show deserve a great ovation for their hard work. Wilson Ross a student of Charles Howitt was master of ceremonies.

Wanted: Home and School Club of 16th Ave. School are interested in purchasing a good used refrigerator. Anyone who may have one please phone Mrs. Hewitt at TU. 4-7645.

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## Slight Reduction In School Mill Rate - Budget Up \$47,000

(Continued From Page 4) the boys and gym suit for the girls; a testing program in which each pupil would compete against his own earlier record; a teacher rotation so that teachers best able to carry out the physical education program would be given the responsibility for this work; an extension of the intermural program, especially for girls; a greater "selling of the product" by means of athletic displays etc.

Mr. Moorby felt that within the next few years, the results of the new type of programme in the lower grades would be seen in the upper grades. Trustee Stone's report also included the information that after numerous representations to the various authorities, the signal lights had finally been installed at the Green Lane railway crossing. He noted also that the girls' and boys' softball schedule was ready and would commence after Easter. Supervising principal E. Sand in his report announced that a book display had been held at 16th Avenue School on April 8th, 9th, and 10th and that many teachers had taken advantage of it. The York County forest tour will take place on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd and on Mr. Sand's recommendation, the same procedure will be followed as in former years, with one pupil from each school attending.

Mr. Sand reported that prospective teachers had been interviewed on March 6th and some good prospects had been found. The board was to interview prospective new principals at Henderson Avenue School on April 13th. Mr. Stan Myers presently principal at 16th Avenue School will be transferred next fall to Bayview Glen School.

Mr. Sand reported that enrolment in the area schools was up six over last month, to a total of 1,228 pupils. Average daily attendance for March was 91.45 percent, as the schools have been plagued with illness among both children and staff.

The board was asked what its policy was on "January babies". Mr. Sand replied that in their survey and enrolment for kindergarten classes they had ascertained the number of these children but so far, no further information had been received from the Department of Education on the setting up of special kindergarten classes for these children. Mr. Hallman advised that in his most recent contact with the department, he was told that the bill in this connection had not yet received Royal Assent. Mr. Hallman expressed the opinion that for the average child, admission in January would be of little help and that a gifted child could be accelerated. He felt that the January classes would be of some help for the slow child.

In reply to a query about senior schools, Vice-Chairman Parker advised that the board has been studying this question but had not yet reached any conclusions and would continue to look into the matter. A mother with children at Thornlea School expressed concern that this school was continuing with multiple grade classrooms. She was assured that the board was doing its best to resolve the problems but that there are negative grants associated with the closing of this school. The board has a standing committee on this and has discussed it with the province. They are trying to resolve the problem but it involves finance as well as children.

## Vaughan Residents Express Mixed Feelings

# Oral French Despite Opposition

Approval from the Superintendent of Elementary Education for the introduction of an Oral French program in Vaughan Township for the school year 1963-64 was reported by Superintendent Joseph Gibson to the April meeting of the Vaughan Township School Area Board. This permission is granted for those English-speaking pupils whose parents desire it, on the condition that the teachers in charge of the instruction in this subject are qualified, and that they can speak French fluently and with good accent and pronunciation. At the end of the school year a confidential report on the success of the classes must be submitted to the department, and application must be made for the next school year if the classes are to be continued.

The appointment of Mr. Elie J. Souche as supervising teacher of Oral French was also reported. The superintendent stated that Mr. Souche meets all requirements of the department regarding qualifications and with considerable experience in this field.

is added to the curriculum. She claimed that approximately one-third of the township children now in grade 1 were deprived of kindergarten training because of distance from the nearest provision for this age group and the cost of transportation which must be borne by the individual parent.

Chairman Sam Kaiser replied that the board is not obliged to supply kindergartens, and a ratepayer retorted, "You are also not obliged to provide Oral French."

Mrs. Margaret MacLean of Concord, said "If we want the best of education for our children, this is not going to be done in a one-room school."

Mrs. Campbell Snider agreed with the former speaker, and went on to emphasize that this was the feeling of the committee presenting the brief and petition, that "until such time as we have urban schools, Oral French is not feasible. The department says this is the first rural school board to ask permission to introduce the subject. We feel we can't stand it financially," she said.

Mr. Maccaffie of Old Pine Grove stated that he would regret very much any reversal of the decision of the board. The speaker said he had two children who would be entering grade 5 in September and Oral French will mean much more to them in the future than many things now on the curriculum. Mrs. Rowntree from the same area disagreed, expressing her preference for the replacement of the "dirty old toilets and wash basin" at the Old Pine Grove School.

Inherits Bad Conditions  
Chairman Kaiser replied that the board had inherited these conditions, and the fate of the area had been kicked about by the two councils during annexation talks. He announced a meeting of the board at the school next week to look into conditions there.

George Snider returned to the questions he asked the board the week before about why the meeting of March 7 was held and on what basis this board based its decision. Chairman Kaiser repeated that the meeting had been called to acquaint the new members of the board with all possible information on the subject.

Parents To Meeting  
The chairman denied a charge by Mr. Snider that a teacher had been hired on a verbal contract by the board prior to the March 14 meeting at which its decision was announced.

A father of five from Nashville said this was not a matter of trying to deprive children of anything in the way of education - but it's not something added, it's a substitution. "I feel" he said "that every subject in the public school curriculum should be one that is going to be used by every pupil."

Several speakers stated that they and many of the people who signed the petition presented were not opposed to the teaching of Oral French - but they felt it should not be introduced in Vaughan Township, where more than 50 percent of the schools are one or two-rooms, at the present time.

Terry Goodwin, former trustee, suggested that the board send a letter home inviting parents to come out to the May meeting of the school board at which the budget for 1963 will be set. He stressed the fact that no parent who is for Oral French does not want these other things done first - and emphatically suggested that the board should introduce senior public schools in September where grades 7 and 8 could receive the intensive type of training they need to prepare them for high school.

Chairman Kaiser assured the meeting that the board would consider the petition and let the committee know what its decision is.

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