



Walter Scott Grads' Class Of '63

At the Walter Scott School's recent graduation, approximately 22 of the grade 8 graduates pictured above began their education in grade 1 at the school now in its eighth year. Teachers of the three classes were (top) John Peace now at Forest Hill, John Wheeler (centre) and Mrs. Eleanor Robertson. Most students are now enrolled at Bayview Secondary School. Speaker at the graduation was David Porter, York Central District High School Board's attendance officer.

Education Minister Tells Trustees

Rural Schools Need Amalgamation

Minister of Education William G. Davis termed small school sections "unsatisfactory" and urged establishment of larger administration units to prepare elementary students for their second stage of education.

Addressing about 450 members of York County Elementary School Trustees' Association's ninth convention last Wednesday at King City, the minister said pupils coming from poor rural schools were under a tremendous handicap when entering high school.

"The simple crossroads school met the basic need when pioneer homes were isolated and roads undeveloped. If any education at all was provided it was through public effort and the schools had to be near the people."

"Local control is a philosophy dear to Ontarians. Since pioneer life was simple and close to the soil, it was thought education should consist chiefly of reading, writing and arithmetic and also believed any teacher possessing these skills sufficiently was fully qualified to teach."

Economy Changed
"It's natural the system which served so well should not be given up lightly even though the economy has changed from agriculture to industry, from hand production to automation and from rural to urban living as it has to a great extent in York County," Mr. Davis said.

The minister said it would seem desirable in York to establish larger units so centrally located graded schools could be built to bring to rural pupils the advantages urban pupils have enjoyed for years.

"It is interesting to note fewer than six out of each hundred elementary school pupils still attend one-room schools," Mr. Davis said.

The minister also said it was important teachers at the elementary school level be encouraged to increase their qualifications.

Principals of schools for 300 or more since September, 1961 have been required to hold a permanent first class certificate to a permanent elementary school teacher's certificate and a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent, he noted.

"This is a significant milestone towards improved academic qualification and has support of all interested in better education for Ontario school children," he said.

On a panel discussing the scope of educational opportunities in York, York Central High School Board Superintendent Sam Chapman urged close co-operation between both levels.

"It would be a mighty expensive proposition if secondary schools had to deal with every corner school. The answer may be intermediate schools and in larger high schools of 1,500 to 2,000 students with all under two or even one central board," he said.

Mr. Chapman said that in Ontario in 1947, only 35 per cent of the age group eligible attended school but in 1963, the figure was more like 74 per cent.

"We can't afford not to spend money on education," he said.

Markham T.S.A. No. 3 Trustee S.R. Patterson said York County should be prepared for the impulse of increased population and not wait until forced to build new schools. He said school boards were under an obligation to provide facilities.

"If we are to improve the scope of education here, we must find a way to provide adequate, lower cost financing. If you think we have problems today, we're just starting."

Sutton Reeve Marian Gillan was acting chairman in place of Woodbridge Reeve Norn Garriock called to Ottawa. Other panelists were B.M. McLean, technical advisor with the Department of Education and Mrs. D. Lingwood, of Waterford representing the Ontario Teachers Federation.

Markham School Grads Told Of U.N. Need

It was a night to remember, October 25, when graduates of Buttonville and No. 4 schools received diplomas and athletic awards at the graduation exercises held in the Victoria Square Community Centre.

Victoria Square and District Lions were hosts and more than 25 graduates and their parents were present, as well as TSA 3 board members and friends.

Dr. Hardy Hill of Richmond Hill, a former Canadian representative to UNESCO and presently head of the history department at Oakwood Collegiate, was guest speaker, showing slides of a visit he and other Canadian delegates made to refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip, as well as to headquarters in Europe.

Dr. Hill pointed out to his young listeners the great need the United Nations has for teachers, dictationists, agriculturists and urged them to consider such a career.

"Distance is being annihilated," he said, "and unless we have an organization like the U.N. which brings us together, we could fare badly." Dr. Hill noted that last week the distance from Japan to London was spanned in 8½ hours, while one hundred years ago it took 8½ months.

S.R. Patterson, former chairman of S. S. No. 5, and finance chairman for TSA 3, in presenting diplomas to the ten

students from Buttonville, said he envied the graduates today. "The world has many opportunities; there will be worries, perhaps tragedy, but the challenge makes up for them."

Diplomas were awarded to Bonnie Ross, Gordon Musselman, Barbara Harrison, Roxana Brewer, Gordon Ambrose, Margaret Selders, Donna Stephenson, Jeff Locke, Garry Lent and Mervin Pickering, and 17 students from No. 4 school. Valedictorian for Buttonville School was Barbara Harrison, who also won the Sr. Girls' athletic trophy, Keith Burton of No. 4 school also gave a valedictory address, and won the Peter Bowden Trophy for academic, sports and character.

Buttonville Public School won the plaque awarded by the Victoria Square and District Lions to the school winning most points at the field day, and junior athletic trophies were presented to Philip Johnson and Marilyn Musselman.

Rev. A. F. Binnington presided at the invocation; George Brands, president of the Lions Club chaired the meeting; athletic awards were made by Gerald Woods, chairman of the girls' and boys' committee, and Principals Howard Atkinson of No. 5 school and William Doods of No. 4 school spoke briefly. At the close of the evening refreshments were served by the wives of Lions Club members.

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