

# Vandals Constant Source Of Expense And Worry

By JIM IRVING  
**VANDALISM**, a pastime that probably as much as anything, depicts one of the various forms of insanity afflicting society these days, has nowhere been more prevalent the past year than in Richmond Hill public schools.

As a result, the school board has had to add another \$3,000 to its budget the past couple of years, and even consider the extreme

sort of precautions usually only associated with top secret nuclear plants, and/or owners of big estates.

The latter came about last December after vandals had made a shambles of Beverley Acres Public School, running riot through 22 rooms, leaving them a mess of broken ink bottles and turned-out drawers. They also decorated the blackboard with obscenities and took a quantity of cash and several children's wristwatches.

Meeting shortly afterwards, the board considered the idea of installing a few German Shepherd police dogs throughout the various schools to help nip any prospective vandals in the bud, or ankle, or anywhere else they might catch them.

HOWEVER, THE BOARD abandoned that idea and decided to let the police handle it. A few weeks later police

arrested two youths in connection with the break-in at the school, and one of the youths was later convicted in magistrate's court of several counts of breaking, entering and theft, and one of malicious damage, while the other appeared in juvenile court.

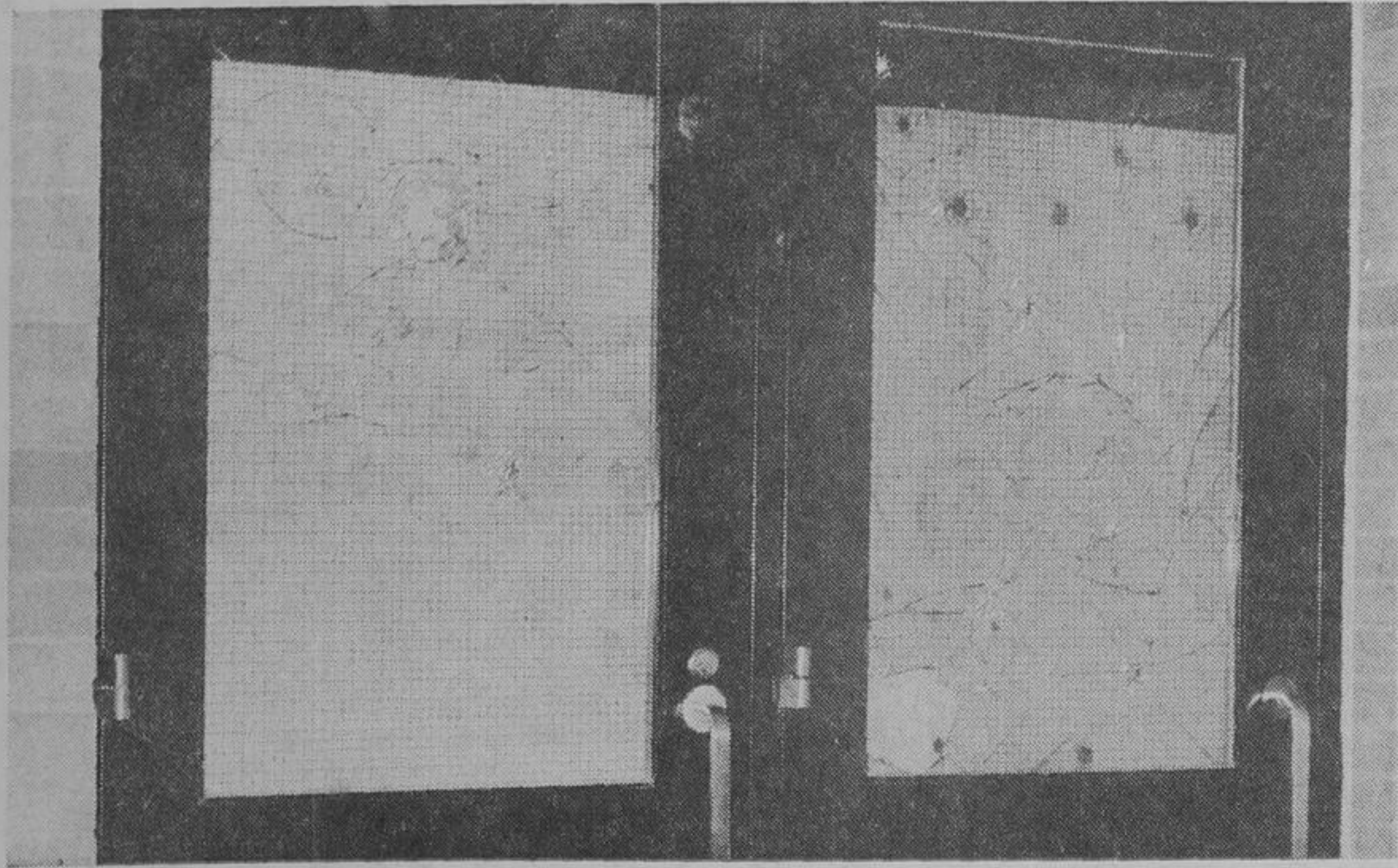
Beverley Acres seemed to be the favorite spot of vandals this year with several assaults made on the main school and the portables and the new addition as well.

At one portable, 17 windows were knocked out, while the north doors of the addition, which contained quarter-inch wired glass, were smashed.

Rocks were then thrown in at the inner doors — "twenty-eight fair-size rocks", according to Business Administrator Kenneth Turton. The rock tossers also tried to light a fire in the hallway, pushing in paper through the broken glass and flinging in matches or lighted tapers after it.

Mr. Turton said there was also the "usual problem" on the roof. "Once up there, you don't know what damage they'll do."

See Editorial  
 On Page — 2



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Typical of some of the off-hours treatment being handed out to town schools by vandals are these broken panes of glass in some doors at MacKillop Public School.

Although reinforced with wire, the thick glass had several large holes punctured in it, and attempts were made to break in as a result. School officials finally boarded the glass up, both to discourage prowlers and also to prevent any further damage.

## Separate School Board Provide Yard Keys For Police Report Vandalism Costs Down

Richmond Hill Separate School Board members agreed at their August 16 meeting to provide keys to all schoolyards to the Richmond Hill Police, giving access to their properties when making regular checks.

The suggestion came from Vice-Chairman John Pennyfather, who was presiding over the meeting in the absence of Chairman John Taylor. He felt that if the police patrolled inside the schoolyards, potential vandals might be discouraged. A cheering note was struck when it was reported that the cost of repairing damage from vandalism is somewhat lower this summer than in previous years.

Business Administrator Jack Matthews reported, three panes of glass broken recently at St. Mary Immaculate School on a Trayborn Drive and six windows and one screen at Our Lady Help of Christians School on Bayview Avenue. In the latter case, he told the board, the stones had been thrown from outside the fence, from behind the restaurant in the Bayview Plaza.

**Centennial Plans**  
 The board went on record as definitely supporting plans of the local Centennial committee for next year and expressed a desire to play its part in these plans. It was agreed that representatives of the board will attend the public meeting called by Mayor Thomas Broadhurst on September 22 to discuss plans for the Centennial year in Richmond Hill. The trustees will present concrete suggestions as to how the separate schools can participate.

**Auditorium Use.**  
 We want these auditoriums used", commented Trustee John LeClaire as the board dealt with three requests.

It was the unanimous decision that a letter be sent to Rev. Father C. J. Schwalm stating that the auditorium at St. Mary Immaculate School will be available for masses on Sundays and Holy Days while the new St. Mary Immaculate Church is under construction. The school's custodial staff will take care of

setting up and clearing away and no charge will be made, it was agreed.

It was also agreed that use of the auditorium, kitchen and five classrooms in Our Lady Help of Christians School on Sunday evenings from 7 to 10:30 be granted Father Edward Arbour, Centre. The six-week period will begin September 18 and continue to the end of October. During that time classes will be held to instruct lay persons from all parishes in this area to teach catechism classes for Roman Catholic children attending public schools.

Permission was also granted to the town recreation committee to use the gymnasium at Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Joseph's Schools for a winter recreational program. This program will be similar to one introduced last year and will be carried on two nights a week. Permission was granted on the same conditions as last year, with particular emphasis on the fact that everyone must wear soft soled shoes.

A letter of thanks was received from St. Gabriel Anglican Church thanking the board for their prompt and generous response to an appeal for the use of Our Lady Help of Christians Auditorium earlier this year. The Anglican congregation used the facilities for several weeks while its church was undergoing structural repairs. The letter especially praised the caretaking staff, which had been very co-operative.

**Public School Supporters**  
 Mr. Matthews reported that a search of Markham Township assessment rolls had turned up 28 Roman Catholic ratepayers listed as public school supporters. All will be requested to change their assessment to the support of separate schools.

**WILLOWDALE:** Motorists are finding Bayview Avenue between Finch and Steele's Avenue, somewhat of an obstacle course as the road is being torn up for watermain installation and a resurfacing program.

## First Sentence "Very Important" Magistrate Says Remanding Youth

Magistrate O. S. Hollinrake, deliberating between a fine and a jail sentence for a youth convicted of robbery, remanded him in custody for a week until a pre-sentence report can be obtained.

He told Charles Nuovo, 16, of 228 Alsace Road, in magistrate's court last week, that he always felt the sentence for a first offender was "very important". He was usually told what would be best for him; and under certain circumstances a nominal fine only brought contempt from the accused.

"He (Nuovo) is at the turning point," Mr. Hollinrake said. "What happens today, shapes his future. I think our futures were shaped by being punished for doing wrong, otherwise we never

learn anything." Mr. Hollinrake said he also thought that a short prison term "has a very salutary effect."

Nuovo admitted to taking an \$8 motor from a slot racing kit at The Playpen, 12 Leventdale Road, June 30.

Defence counsel John Lawlor said that his client, who has only been in Canada four years since leaving his native Italy, had been having some trouble at home, but had straightened that out and planned to go back to school in the fall.

Sheena McLernon, the 16-year-old Oak Ridges girl who drove a borrowed motorcycle through the front window of a restaurant in Richmond Heights Centre July 19, was remanded until October 13 on a charge of careless driving.

**AURORA:** Town council told bidders for the old arena site on Yonge Street at a special meeting that it wants a motel-hotel type of development for that piece of real estate. Three firms have indicated an interest in the midtown location.

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