

Richmond Hill High School On Shifts - Don Head Still Far From Completion

Some major adjustments are in order for the teachers and students who will be flocking into Richmond Hill High School next Tuesday.

There will, in fact, be two separate schools occupying the building. From 9 am to 1 pm it will be a junior vocational school for students who were scheduled to move into the Don Head Secondary School on Maple Sideroad.

From 1 to 6 pm it will be, once again, Richmond Hill High School.

Strikes and lockouts have delayed construction at Don Head for so long that contractors are now talking about occupancy by the end of December.

Meanwhile it will be a cram schedule for the students of the two schools. Periods will be cut to 34 minutes instead of 45.

Pupils will be expected to eat lunch before or after school, depending on the school they belong to, but the "lunch period" will be included in timetables and the cafeteria will operate as a snack bar so that everyone will have a break.

Football practices will be in the morning, says Principal

Vaughan's Great Cheese Debate Is Still 'Whey, Whey' Up In Air

The great cheese controversy is continuing to "whey" (pun intended) on the backs of Vaughan Township Council and National Cheese Company Ltd., which operates in the Keele Street area.

Last week's council meeting saw councillors agreeing to withhold any attempts to obtain an injunction to prevent the cheese company from discharging effluent into the sanitary mains until further discussions are held between the two parties involved.

Proviso being the cheese company's decision to accept both the cost of trucking away the wash water — which the township has been paying for — and the whey until at least the end of September.

National Cheese had earlier complained to council that the cost of disposing of the whey was amounting to \$100 a day and was too much of a burden for the company to bear.

The remaining effluent, consisting chiefly of wash water which was still in the excess of the amount of effluent permitted by the township's bylaw, had been accepted at the treatment plant.

The township subsequently had agreed to pay the cost of trucking the wash water from the plant until further discussions could be arranged to work out a solution suitable to both parties.

Company spokesman Sam Lettler told council that his firm would be willing to spend some money if the township came up with a solution to the problem.

"My whole position is that the responsibility lies on both of us," he said at the time.

It was reported at last week's meeting that council had agreed

Volunteer Response To Telethon "Colossal": Dystrophy Official

The local response to the area firefighters' call for volunteers to man two telephone banks here and in Thornhill during the annual Jerry Lewis Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy this weekend has been "colossal", David Taylor, field representative for Metro MDAC, said this week.

He said he was confident that the 100 or more volunteers needed would be reached.

"It's tremendous for this Labor Day and on such short notice," he said.

This is the first time that the Canadian group has actively participated in the American based, fund raising television program. The object of the 20-hour variety show which stars comedian Jerry Lewis, chairman of the US Association and features a guest appearance by world ski champion Nancy Green, honorary chairman for Canada, is to get viewers to pledge money for the fight against muscular dystrophy.

Among the groups who have volunteered to man the switchboards which are set up at Keith Real Estate, Thornhill, and Don Little Ford Sales, Richmond Hill, are the York Central Hospital "Candy Strippers", the Boy Scouts, church groups and members of the newly formed St. John Ambulance Corps. Also participating will be area firefighters who have adopted muscular dystrophy as their project.

Offers to volunteer are still being accepted at 884-8101 during the day and 884-8102 during the evening.

Mr. Taylor said that businesses throughout the Toronto area had responded with offers

Domina's appointment to the school.)

Each school will have its own office and teaching staff, and in the mornings Principal Charles Seath of Don Head will be running the show.

Fortunately, said Mr. Domina, the old offices are still in the school — no structural changes were made when the addition that now houses the offices was put on (the area is used for a teachers' workshop) so each school will have its own office section and the office staff will be working normal office hours.

It will be hard for some students, Mr. Domina admits, and some juggling of timetables may be necessary to help students who have and need to keep part-time jobs, but he said, there is a limit to what is possible in this area.

Some pupils may have to postpone or make special arrangements for private interests, such as music and skating lessons, but the athletic program of the school will continue out of doors as much as possible.

Richmond Hill High School is the secondary school closest to Don Head, and it has a wood shop, metal shop, home economics room, sewing room and art room that can be used by the vocational students.

Completion date for both projects, he said, had been set for October 31.

Questioned on how this would affect the programs in the schools, Mr. Zupanic assured the trustees there would be no serious interference with the educational programs as the additions both consisted chiefly of library and resource centres and science rooms, not standard classrooms.

On the other hand, clubs that need school facilities will probably find it difficult to get organized this fall.

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obvious that Don Head could not open on schedule, Mr. Seath and Maynard Hallman, superintendent of special education and student services, visited Langstaff Jail Farm to see if it could be used, but they found that, since the buildings have been unoccupied for many years they are in a poor state of repair.

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Mr. Butler commented that at the beginning of negotiations the police association spokesman were asking for a 25 percent increase in salaries.

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Associate Director Gordon McIntyre assured her that, if necessary, a portable would be placed on the grounds of one of the schools. But, said Mr. McIntyre, the special class would not be housed in the portable. Such a class, he said, should be in the main body of the school so that the pupils could eventually be integrated into the program of the school. A regular class, he said, would be moved into the portable.

Although the location of the class has not yet been determined, the trustees were unanimous in their support of the project.

There were meetings with parents, and some, said Mr. Page, were so grateful they broke down and cried. "For the first time someone cares about my kid."

In the special class the role of the teacher was changed from taskmaster to resource person. The staff often arranged interviews for evenings or weekends when parents could not get to the school during the day.

When children do not make progress in special classes, he said, it is often because the parents offset what the teacher is trying to do.

Asked from the audience what type of teacher was best suited to teach a special class, Dr. Rosenberg said, "It is crucial that we spend much more time in teacher-education, teaching them how to relate as human beings. Teachers of special classes must be creative thinkers."

One of the biggest hurdles in preparing teachers to work with children with learning disabilities, he said, was convincing them that children should be allowed to choose what they will learn and whether or not they want to learn.

"When these children are taught in this way," he said, "they usually average two years' achievement gain in four or five months."

There are two types of teachers, Mr. Page told the audience, which was made up largely of school teachers and administrative personnel. There are those who are not satisfied with the type of teaching they are doing, and there are those who are satisfied. The latter will not adapt to a program for children with learning disabilities. They will not willingly accept innovations nor will they be interested in working out new approaches to teaching.

The teacher who is willing to change, to experiment, to take a chance, will find that the hardest thing to take is the resistance and criticism he will meet from the non-involved teachers who are his colleagues.

Another speaker at the conference, Mrs. Judith Gordon, a school social worker from Highland Park, New Jersey urged parents to get involved in the education process.

Parents have been brainwashed by neurologists, pediatricians, social workers and other professionals as they make the rounds in an attempt to help the child who cannot learn in the conventional way. They have been conditioned to believe that they should not interfere in the education of their child.

But Mrs. Gordon urged the professionals to listen to the parents. She advised the parents to make a fuss and to protest about what is happening to their handicapped children. If they are not satisfied, said Mrs. Gordon, they should say so.

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No Settlement Yet On Police Salaries

Richmond Hill Police Commission Chairman Judge James Butler reports no new developments in salary negotiations with the local force.

"The matter has been in arbitration since early June," he said. "Negotiations are continuing and no decision has been arrived at yet."

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It is a mistake to assume that all slow learners have a short attention span said Dr. Gordon. They may watch television or play cards for hours, but in school it is assumed they cannot concentrate.

He suggested a re-direction of the child's attention. When he has been repeatedly confronted with failure and frustration in the classroom he is afraid to try. He needs the experience of success.

Dr. Gordon advised teachers to send the child out with an aid to learn to bowl or to swim, to do something in which he could succeed. Humiliation and frustration, he said, simply add to the problems of the child.

If the teacher adopts the attitude that "nothing succeeds like success", and makes sure that the child does succeed in something, he will have overcome one of the greatest barriers to learning.

A child's progress, said Dr. Gordon, is determined not by his intellect but by his social adjustment. Learning something new is the best antidote to depression.

At a conference luncheon meeting Robert Shannon of Toronto, chairman of the Canadian Commission on Emotional and Learning Disorders, said the Department of Education is the largest single contributor to the budget of the commission, giving \$60,000 in two years.

However, said Mr. Shannon, the commission estimates there are between 800,000 and 1,200,000 children in Canada (excluding mentally retarded and physically crippled children) who have learning disabilities that interfere seriously with their progress in the established system of education.

Delay Separate School Additions

Additions to two Roman Catholic Separate Schools in York County will not be ready for school opening September 2.

At a meeting of the county school board on August 19, Assistant Superintendent John Zupanic reported that construction was well underway at St. Margaret Mary School in Pine Grove and at St. Mark School in Stouffville, but that work had been slowed down by strikes in the construction industry.

Completion date for both projects, he said, had been set for October 31.

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