

Students Give \$2,600. To Charity And Honor Catholic Schools Plan Family Life Education

Former Graduate Bayview 10th Commencement

Graduates of Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill, were on the giving as well as receiving end at the school's tenth annual commencement Friday evening, October 23.

There were secondary school graduation diplomas for 101 graduates of the five year program, and honor graduation diplomas for another 67. Thirty received certificates of standing in two year business and commerce and two year technology and trades programs as well as diplomas for 23 graduates of the four year arts and science program.

There were 38 graduates of York County Board of Education's Superintendent of Planning and Development Stephen Baesalmasi, presented the H. L. Simms Award for excellence in office practice to Rosemary Dyke, and former principal Howard Eubank, now principal of Sir Robert L. Borden Secondary School, Scarborough, presented the Miss Annie Eubank Award to Maria Coppola, now a student at Toronto's Teachers' College.

Prizes and presentations included students' council awards and cash donations from the students' Korean Adoption Program Charities.

Three of the school's former vice-principals and former principal were on the platform.

Charles Seath, now principal of Don Head Secondary in Richmond Hill, presented the diplomas, and George Domina, principal of the Richmond Hill High presented student leadership awards to last year's Student Council President Bonnie Brickles, Head Boy Mark Dobbs and Head Girl Stephanie Blissett.

Another former vice-principal,

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Mr. MacDonald also presented students' council awards for general proficiency and citizenship of Kathryn Frise, Sara Graziani, Stephen Lismore and Karen Perry.

Staff-students' council awards for high course averages in grades 9 and 10 went to Georgina Luck and Nicholas Milicevic. Bayview's Vice-Principal George Cameron presented the Canadian Manufacturers' Association Award donated by Texas Instruments of Richmond Hill to John McConkey and John Robinson.

The Richmond Hill Chapter IODE History Prize was presented to Karen Perry by Mrs. M. B. Verrico, and the Richmond Rose Chapter IODE Prize for English also went to Karen Perry. It was presented by Mrs. Helen Foord.

Three grade 11 and 12 students were the first to receive the new Students' Council Hugo Schenk Memorial Award for excellence in computer science. They were Brian Gentles, Richard Bunny and Hilary Snow.

Principal Arthur Martin explained that Hugo, who graduated from the school last year, had himself excelled in computer science. He was killed last spring in a traffic accident during a student car rally in aid of the Korean Adoption Program. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schenk, were on hand for the presentation.

The Hugo Schenk Awards, said Mr. Martin, will be made annually. A plaque to honor Hugo, he pointed out, was on display in a showcase in the school's main corridor and is flanked by paintings of two of the Korean orphans by Student Sharon Corrigan.

NINE SCHOLARSHIPS
Nine students received Ontario Scholarships for achieving an average of 80 percent or better in their top seven grade 13 papers. These were presented by the county board's Association Director Gordon McIntyre to Stephanie Blissett, Richard Clow, Lois Gee, David Glanville, Sharon Hanns, Margaret Harmon, Barry McKillop, Lorn Ormerod and Carol Wallace.

Margaret Harmon also received the York County Board of Education general proficiency and book award presented by Area 4 Superintendent Murray Dobson and the Students' Council Award for general proficiency and citizenship from the boards' Superintendent of Plants and Sites, Ronald McKnight.

Staff - Students' Council awards for high subject averages were presented by Vaughan Township Trustee Morely Kinnee, chairman of the board's advisory vocational committee, to Lorne Ormerod, English and history; Margaret Harmon, two languages; and Lois Gee, two mathematics and two sciences.

The Mathematical Association of America and Society of Actuaries was represented by John Seymore who presented a mathematics award to Tony Paxman for his achievement in a provincial competition.

The Richmond Hill Kinette Award was presented by Mrs. Roy Swanson to Gheila Gee, now a student nurse.

Richmond Rose Chapter IODE Bursary for citizenship was awarded on the vote of the student body to Merle Hamby and presented by Mrs. Helen Foord.

MEMORIAL PRIZES
Barry McKillop, chairman of the KAP Committee, received the grade 13 Patrick Cillis Memorial Leadership Award from Patrick's sister, Colleen Cillis.

Another memorial award, the Richmond Hill Lions Club Dr. Cameron Cowan Award, was presented to Lorne Ormerod by Lion Bruce Smith.

In the last school year the Korean Adoption Program campaign for funds had raised about \$4,700, said Mr. Martin, far more than was needed to maintain seven Korean orphans adopted by the school, and surplus funds were being directed to local charities. He called on the KAP Chairman Barrie McKillop to present cheques to recipient organizations.

A cheque for \$1,100 for Blue Hills Academy for Emotionally Disturbed Children, was received by Chief Childcare Worker Norman Knapton.

Miss Janet Williams of the Victorian Order of Nurses accepted a cheque for \$500 on behalf of that organization, and Mrs. Helen Gray received a similar cheque on behalf of the Association for Children With Learning Disabilities.

Another \$500 was placed in the treasury of the student council's benevolent fund to be used in aiding needy students attending Bayview.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Martin described the new semester program at the school and the philosophy of individual progress. "It is a philosophy which says students have the right to make mistakes, this is as much a part of learning as the rest, a part of growing up. They can learn that things are as they think they are, or are not as they think they are."

With its excellent guidance facilities, library and resources, said Mr. Martin, the school has the facilities that make this new organization a justifiable approach to learning.

GREETINGS FROM BOARD
Richmond Hill Trustee Deena Simpson brought greetings from York County Board of Education, saying the board encourages such experimentation, that there is a place different types of schools in the country.

The school orchestra conducted by Ray Barton played a number of musical selections throughout the evening. Margaret Harmon was valedictorian. Children are born curious she said. Their thirst for knowledge is nurtured in public school, and further in high school. Now the graduating class was going on to higher education in other places, universities, colleges, the working world, and some into marriage, but learning continues every day whatever the situation of the individual.

She spoke of the atmosphere at Bayview which made it an ideal place for learning, of the numerous curricular and extra-curricular programs of the school and thanked Mr. Martin for his skill and courage in providing leadership. She also thanked the staff, and concluded, "The world is just beginning to open its doors to us. May we take advantage of what it has to offer."

There was a dinner for the graduating class before commencement and a brief reception after.

JUNIOR COMMENCEMENT
On Friday Afternoon Bayview had its Junior Commencement for grades 9 to 12. At this time 52 "Super 80" pins were presented to students who had achieved 80 percent or better standing in these grades.

Honor bars were presented to another 72, and 44 graduates of two year and four year courses received Bayview staff-student subject awards.

The E. Totton Mathematics Award went to Vervlene Gambrell and Mary Anne Van Aren. Five school letters were awarded, and 14 academic letters were awarded, and 14 academic letters.

Before introducing its family life program into the schools, York County Roman Catholic School Board intends to have a series of evening sessions in each school for the parents.

Early in the year the board agreed that such a course was needed, and during the summer 17 teachers and principals from York County took part in an extensive six-week course at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. The intention of the board was that these teachers should serve not only as instructors in their own classes, but that they should also take part in the in-service training of other teachers and continue as resource people in their respective schools.

Three of the participating teachers were present at a meeting of the board on October 20 to report on progress to date.

Before deciding to undertake the program, a number of trustees, board officials, principals and teachers had attended a "live-in" weekend session conducted by Father Leo Lafrenier, director of the Family Life Institute at Thunder Bay.

A committee was set up headed by three trustees, Dr. William LaCroix of Markham Township, Mrs. Noreen Lee of Woodbridge, and Peter Van Dyk of King Township.

The committee includes three members of the board's administrative staff, three pastors, three principals who took part in the family life course, three teachers who attended the family life course, and the boards' Religious Co-ordinator Robert Cooney.

CURRICULUM QUESTIONED
Three of those who took the course at Thunder Bay — Kenneth McClellon, principal of Notre Dame School, Newmarket, Randy LaMorre, a teacher at the same school, and Sister Theresa Doherty, principal of St. Margaret Mary School in Pine Grove were present to answer questions. Mr. McClellon's wife, Mary and Mr. LaMorre's wife, Barbara, both teachers with the county's Roman Catholic board, also took the family life course and will be helping with in-service training of other teachers.

The board's recommendation that the study guides prepared by the teachers' family life curriculum committee in co-operation with Father Lafrenier was approved, although there was some difference of opinion as to when certain subjects should be introduced.

Mrs. Lee argued that certain aspects of sex education were being introduced too soon, while Dr. LaCroix, a medical doctor, felt that these subjects should be phased.

Children mature at different rates, said Dr. LaCroix, and those children who are ready for certain knowledge will benefit while it will go "over the heads" of the rest. The same subjects should be introduced again with an increase in the intensity of emphasis as the children grew older, he said.

To delay would defeat the purpose, insisted Dr. LaCroix. When simple biological facts are introduced early, children accept them as a matter of fact, but later they are self-conscious and snickering.

Sister Theresa admitted there had not been time to fully develop curriculum, that certain aspects of the program had yet to be worked out from level to level.

EMPHASIS ON FAMILY
Mr. McClellon assured the trustees that "sex education" made up only about ten percent of the family life study, that emphasis was primarily on the psychological inter-relationships and responsibilities of the individual in the family.

Parents should be reassured, said Mr. McClellon that the trustees and staff have devoted so much time to preparing the program which will be introduced into the schools only as staff are ready and after the parents have had an opportunity to meet and thoroughly discuss it with staff.

It was pointed out that, in any case, the program could not be introduced into the school until it had received the approval of the regional curriculum branch and the department

of education. A suggested outline of six evening sessions for parents was presented. The order of presentation was developed by Mr. McClellon and Sister Theresa during the Thunder Bay Institute.

INVOLVE CLERGY
The purpose, said Mr. McClellon was to encourage parental involvement by giving parents an opportunity to discuss their mutual situation with other parents, staff trustees and clergy.

The idea, he said, is to include the family in the program, not to invade the privacy of the family but rather to strengthen Christian attitudes to family.

A family life committee has already been set up in the Newmarket Sharon area reported Mr. LaMorre, including members of the Catholic Women's League, St. Vincent de Paul Society, medical doctors, psychiatrist, psychologist, trustees, teachers and parents.

"In information sessions we become aware of the attitudes of the people in the community, and the committee could continue to act as liaison between the school and the home," declared Mr. LaMorre.

Such committees, Mr. McClellon told the trustees, could view the audio-visual aids that might be used in the family life program before they were presented in the schools.

Although six parent-involvement sessions have been planned, Mr. McClellon agreed that it might be possible to cover the ground in fewer sessions.

PARENTS MEET FIRST
The first session would be an orientation session with parents and educators discussion, "What is family life education?" "What is family life education?" "What is family life education?" "What is family life education?" "What is family life education?"

This would be followed by a session of physiology and anatomy, covering male and female anatomy and reproduction. Parents would learn the terms used in describing the various parts and functions of the body so they could comfortably discuss them with their children.

The dignity of the person — the person-parent, and the person-child, would also be covered.

"If you teach a child to accept his own sexuality as a gift from God, to respect himself and others, treat him with dignity, he will be a better person," said

Mr. McClellon. "Teach him that when a person destroys the dignity of another, he becomes less of a person himself."

Other sessions would cover the proposed York County curriculum from kindergarten to grade 5, and the curriculum from grade 6 to grade 8 — the aims and objectives, and how some specific aims are developed at each level.

The series of parent meetings would end with a session on parental involvement in the family life program at home and at school.

DEPARTMENT MUST APPROVE
"Six sessions are not too many," commented Mr. LaMorre. "They will open the door for more parental involvement in all school programs."

"It is an evolutionary process," agreed Board Chairman Eugene Jacobs, "it is a learning experience for all of us."

Dr. LaCroix told the trustees that all of them will be expected to serve on their local committees.

The tentative curriculum for family life education for the primary, junior and intermediate divisions was approved, and following final approval by the board and the department of education will be introduced into the schools, but only at levels where members of the school staff are fully qualified to undertake the program.

Meanwhile a schedule of meetings for parents will be drawn up, and in all areas, the parent meetings will precede the instruction of the program in the local school.

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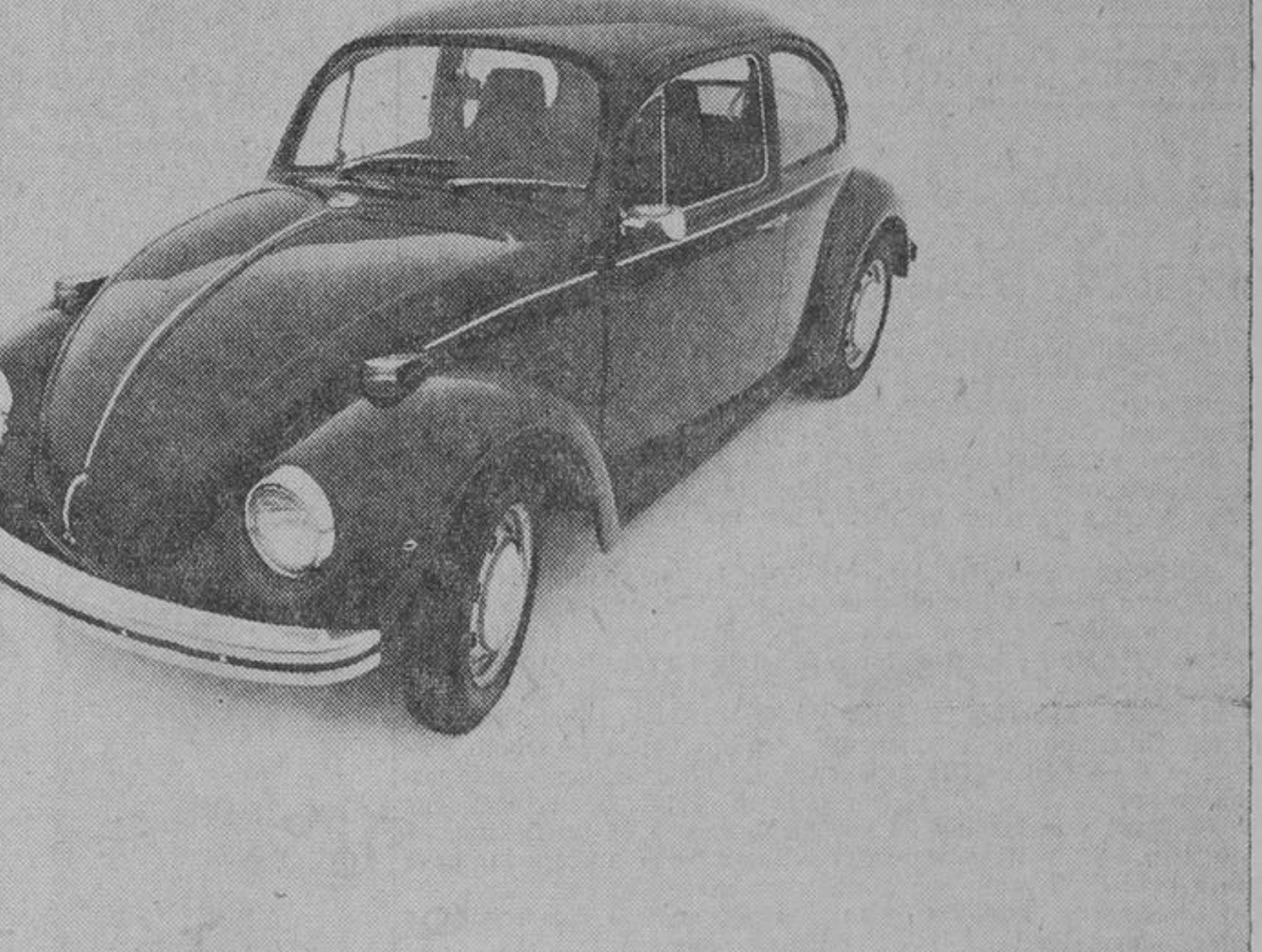
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