Greatest Progress In Special Programs Reports County Board's Education Director

(Continued from Page 1)

and the state of

7 and 8 students in senior schools and secondary schools, it has been possible to enrich programs by providing specialist teachers and enriched resource centres.

When the county board came into being library facilities were scanty in many schools, so a determined effort has been made to improve these. Library additions have been built on two Richmond Hill Schools.

As teachers have come to recognize the value of field trips, more money has been available for this part of the program.

"But," says Mr. Chapman, "it is probably in special education that the greatest progress has been made. Don Head Secondary School has accepted students from as far north as practical considerations of transportation have allowed. (Don Head provides vocational training for students who are not academically inclined.)

"One pilot class for children with specific learning disabilities was started in the Walter Scott School, Richmond Hill and the number of other special classes, mainly primary diagnostic and remedial, has been increased from 46 to 57 with new classes being established in Newmarket, Sutton, King, Stouffville and Vaughan."

Quality of programs has been improved through professional development of teachers, redistribution of staff - moving some of the best teachers to schools which they would not previously have chosen, seeking out and assigning teachers where they are most

needed, appointment of supervisory officers and improvement of facilities. For example, Elm Grove and Armitage Schools were remodelled after classes were moved to larger schools and are now used as schools for trainable retarded children. Vivian School was refurbished, and Lake Wilcox and Schomberg Schools are undergoing extensive repairs.

When the county board came into being there were just three open plan schools - two in Vaughan and one in Newmarket, Since then schools wholly or mainly open plan have been opened in Whitchurch, Unionville, King and the Town of Markham, and similar schools are on the drawing board for Markham Township, Aurora and Newmarket.

"The programs in these schools can be more individualized and students are encouraged to accept a greater responsibility for their own progress," Mr. Chapman explains. "Teachers work in teams and so are able to contribute to those areas where they have the greatest skill and depth of background. Moveover they learn from each other. The teacher's role is more demanding in these schools, and workshops for such teachers were conducted in June 1969 and August 1970.

At the secondary level, the most significant change in a decade has been the shift to individualized programs. Thornlea Secondary in Thornhill, which has been experimental since its opening in 1968, has always had subjects taught at varying degrees of difficulty, individual timetables, subject promotion and a system whereby graduation is earned by accumulating credits.

"As of September 1, 1970, the Department of Education authorized all secondary schools in the province to adopt this same approach," reports Mr. Chapman. "All of our schools have made large strides in this direction, with Bayview Secondary and Thornhill Secondary completely committed to it. With one exception the secondary schools are now on a plan which will see them completely converted within the next two or

three years." Many York County teachers were involved in curriculum development during 1969-70, and 66 area curriculum committees were established.

During the same school year, 22 research projects were carried out with the assistance of the board's research officer. These projects involved both board staff and outside staff - mainly from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and York University.

In the field of special education in the public schools the emphasis has been on special programs. In the last school year there were six primary educational diagnostic classes, five primary opportunity classes, 19 junior opportunity classes, 11 intermediate opportunity classes, three senior opportunity classes and one for emotionally disturbed children with a total enrolment of 541 - 1.8 percent of the total enrolment compared with a provincial special education

enrolment of 2.1 percent.

employed, and the number is likely to increase as the six speech teachers had excessive case loads last year. The emphasis is placed on speech therapy in the primary grades where this service is more

Don Head Secondary in Richmond Hill opened a year ago to serve the southern part of the county, providing vocational and academic training for 401 students who were not inclined toward the programs offered in other secondary schools. Occupations classes for grades 9 and 10 at Sutton, Huron Heights, Dr. G. W. Williams and King Secondary Schools served 128 students in the remainder of the county.

Several secondary school principals have expressed a need for a new arrangement for students whose abilities are below the average occupations students, but superior to the trainable retarded adolescent, and specific proposals for serving this group are being developed.

Special education consultants have been conducting surveys to determine need, organizing special classes, placing pupils in special classes, encouraging re-integration of pupils in special classes with "main stream education", providing in-service aid to principals and teachers, co-ordinating the work of remedial teachers and speech therapists, acting as resource persons to other staff, and performing a variety of other duties.

Guidance services and psychological services provide special testing and counselling for teachers and students and are shared with the York County Roman Catholic School Board.

The board's attendance counsellors differ from the old style "truant officer" in doing preventative work with pupils with problems. They are also involved with the homes, the courts, family allowances and other community agen-

Master teachers are the board's main development arm, teaching about 40 percent of the time and instructing on in-service courses. On the average, each master teacher made 295 visits to schools to consult with groups of teachers, a principal or a teacher, and each master teacher had an average of 37 visits to his classes, mostly by

An unusual feature of staff development was the introduction in September, 1969, of a three man organizational development team. During the year, the OD team worked with many groups, such as administrative committee, an area office team, business officers, etc. In addition they conducted two highly successful laboratories and programmed the principals' conference last August.

The audio-visual centre in Maple, staffed by a technical supervisor, three technicians and a secretary, serves all schools by means of a courier service. There are also 11 AV school aides to assist teachers, and a master teacher who helps teachers learn to use audio-visual materials and

methods more effectively. The center is equipped with tape television programs and radio programs which it circulates in addition to films and some film strips.

Slides, film strips and transparencies for use with an overhead projector are prepared in the centre, and teachers are encouraged to go to the centre to use materials and equipment there.

Audio-visual equipment in York County schools is valued at \$724,-000 and materials at \$338,000, but all requests for service could be met by the centre. Of 31,638 requests for media, materials and equipment, just 18,548 could be filled.

From the beginning, Mr. Chapman declares, the board has worked to establish two-way communications with the community, visiting municipal council and York County Council and submitting general and budget reports.

To make school facilities available to the public, an elaborate "Use of Schools" policy was drawn up, and in order to keep people informed, a communications officer was appointed.

Five public meetings were arranged, innumerable press releases prepared, and four issues of "Contact" were printed in over 40,000 copies and distributed through the schools reporting on developments in education in York County.

No request to appear before the board was refused, and 16 delegations were heard.

A summer study committee including students and parents as well as teachers and trustees was set up to consider the pros and cons of establishing a range of schools - conventional, open space, and in between. The board is waiting for a report from the committee.

Parents have been involved in

school councils and as volunteer workers in some schools. Whitchurch Highlands, Roselawn, Pleasantville and Schomberg Schools and Thornlea Secondary have all been very successful in involving

parents in the school program. The board is also cooperating with King Township Library Board, making books from school libraries available for summer loan to any local public library asking for such service.

The board has prepared briefs to be presented to provincial ministers. A brief pointing out the need for a dwelling unit fee to help finance school construction in new developments was presented to the Ministers of Education and Municipal Affairs. When this brief was circulated to other boards, it drew active support from about 30 of

A brief on taxation has been prepared, and a brief on the impact of the proposed change in the southern boundary of York County is to be submitted to the same

ministers. County taxpayers benefitted when provincial education grants were increased following a board protest in 1969.

Concluding his 27-page report, Mr. Chapman reports expenditures of \$30,660,735, for 1969, with 51.7 percent from local taxation, 46 percent from the province and 2.2 percent from "other sources". Of this 65.3 percent went for instruction, 10.2 percent for plant operation and maintenance, 11.7 percent for debt charges, and the remainder for business administration, educational services, transportation

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Handcrafted Christmas Gifts At St. Mary's Anglican

Young John Wynn, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wynn of Gentry Crescent, Richmond Hill found a friend at a preview of articles which will be on sale at the annual St. Mary's Anglican Church ACW Bazaar. The event will be open at 2 pm this Saturday in Wrixon Hall.

Featured will be Christmas Decorations and candles, hand made articles for the home, baking and preserves, hand knitted articles, aprons, children's clothing, dolls and toys - something for everyone on your gift list. You may also join your friends in chatting over a cup of tea and delicious refreshments in the tea room.

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Steel Owner Hit With Complaints Over Noise, He Wants To Get Out

angry residents including preg- in the town's new Official Plan. nant mothers complaining about The land contains the steel the noise on their nerves has structural plant which due to Bond Structural Steel owner the nature of its business creates Leornard Prusky at the end of a great deal of noise arousing area residents unable to sleep.

Mr. Prusky appeared before Mr. Prusky is proposing a Richmond Hill Planning Board high-rise apartment complex Tuesday night last week re-consisting of three 19-storey questing a rezoning change to buildings each containing 228 Mr. Prusky pointed to the Prusky's rezoning application to enable residential development dwelling units. The proposal Cedar Avenue apartment devon his land which is zoned would involve a development elopment stating a decision by ments and school boards for

> planning board termed it pre- the area. mature at the time. property located on the north side of Markham Road, west of

"I receive nothing but com- of the municipality to relocate Ltd. plaints," he said, "I've had three pregnant housewives call me up telling me that they're on the verge on a mental breakdown due to me. I try to tell them I can't do anything about the noise because its the nature of

my business." Mr. Prusky told the board he was at a stage where if he wasn't allowed to erect apartments he would have to stay with his present industry and expand which would compound the problem even more. He said he couldn't afford to relocate unless he could achieve some desirable use for his present

property. He stated his expansion would involve going into the warehousing business which would see at least two shifts and probably three operating around the

clock. "This will mean a steady run of trucks along Markham Road and further aggravation for

residents," he said. He warned the board

Continuous harrassment from strictly industrial both now and that if he was forced to ex- his business if his rezoning ap-Ward 2 Councillor David for the next 30 or 40 years Schiller said he had always felt

that it was "inconsistent having wouldn't be able to afford the industrial area coming down to Markham Road. It's not the to move. And I have to make this decision whether best place in the world for into expand almost immeddustry". It was decided to submit Mr.

the various municipal departphasing program divided into the board to rezone his property comment. It was indicated that three stages. He first proposed from industrial to residential the board will look on the apthe project over a year ago but would be more in keeping with plication with a degree of favor-

In other business, the mem-He stated he would be willing bers approved subject to a site He was back Tuesday night to go along with anything the plan agreement an application with a "have it one way or an- board wanted "within reason by Gulf Oil to establish a fully other" proposal regarding the but time is of the essence." automatic car wash on its prop-Mr. Prusky said he is cur- erty on Yonge Street, directly rently investigating other areas north of Wilson-Niblett Motors

Town of Richmond Hill



Applications will be received by the Fire Chief for the position of permanent fire fighters up to 5:00 p.m. November 27th, 1970.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from Chief A. Stong at 12 Wright Street, Richmond Hill or by telephoning 884-8101.

Applications must be clearly marked "Application for position of Fire Fighter".

A. Stong, Chief.



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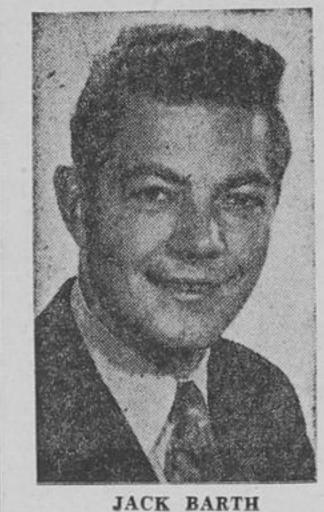


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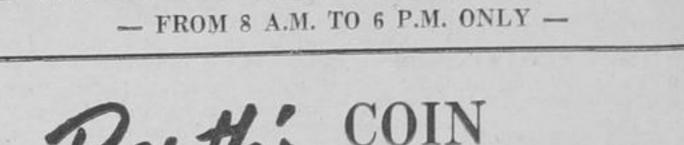


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