

Approve Research Projects

To Study Effect Of Open Schools

Two major research projects were approved by York County Board of Education at its regular meeting October 26.

One of these studies will assess the effect of the educational environment on students at Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill, and the other will involve elementary schools and the comparative achievements of students in open plan and conventional schools.

Both will be done in co-operation with staff of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, who will give their time without cost to the research. The board will pay only for materials, clerical work and transportation. Both studies will be carried out over a three year period.

In 1969, Dr. David Hunt, associate chairman of the department of applied psychology at OISE, carried out preliminary studies at Thornlea to determine the effects of the character of a school on its students.

From 1970 to 1973 he will study how different students benefit from different kinds of educational approach. The two major purposes of the study will be to better understand how Thornlea and its variety of educational approaches affects different kinds of students, and second to determine the most effective educational environment for different kinds of students in schools other than Thornlea.

THREE YEAR STUDY
The incoming grade 9 class at Thornlea, 200 students, will be studied for three years, ending June 1973. These students have already had several personality and aptitude tests. Variations in educational approach will be observed and effects will be measured by analyzing educational development and achievement of students of differing personalities.

The board approved a budget of \$10,440 for the study in 1971. Approval for additional financing for the 1972 portion, estimated at \$11,166, will be sought at a later date. OISE will finance the six-month portion in 1973. Actual cost of the project is estimated at about three times the amount requested from the county board.

"Decisions we are making now about organizational structure in our schools are subjective and not backed by adequate research," explained Education Director Sam Chapman. "This study will provide valuable information."

Four other members of the OISE staff will co-operate with York County staff in a three year study of elementary schools.

Dr. Ross Traub, director of the educational evaluation unit of the department of measurement and evaluation at OISE, will compare the achievement

OPEN SCHOOL

Curiosity, creativity, intelligence and openness in thinking of pupils in the two types of schools will be studied by Dr. Hymie Day, associate professor, department of applied psychology at OISE.

Dr. Day will follow students now in grade 1 in both open plan and conventional schools for up to three years in an attempt to determine whether curiosity, creativity or development of intelligence is affected by the "open" educational environment.

Cost to the board for this study is estimated at \$1,500 for this school year, with a total of \$1,500 for the next two years together.

MORAL EDUCATION

In addition a "Moral Education" project is to be directed by Dr. Clive Beck, chairman of the department of history and philosophy at OISE. Several grade 5 classes will be involved in an experimental program, "Man in Society, a Discussion of Ideas about Personal and Social Living," from November to March 1971 and 1972.

Main discussion themes will include such things as the need for self-control, the need to look ahead, the need for restraint toward each other, co-operating with others, differences in values around the world, etc.

Following the program both the control groups (including one in an open plan school) and the experimental group which has been participating in the discussion will be tested on forms of the Kohlberg Moral Reasoning Questionnaire both before and after the experimental course.

The results will be compared to see if the open plan system can improve moral development and the ability of children of this age to take part in worthwhile discussion of problems and ideas of personal and social living.

Dr. Jeremy Finn, visiting professor at OISE from the State University of New York at Buffalo, will conduct an "expectations" study.

With almost 1,300 junior division pupils and 39 teachers in 12 schools, Dr. Finn will explore how the expectations held by teachers and pupils themselves affect the learner's academic and social progress. This is considered important because an open plan school appears to hold different expectations of pupils than a conventional school.

A budget of \$1,000 was requested for this study.

While Aurora Trustee Keith Nisbet objected to approving the studies before the board knows what the budget picture will be for next year, other trustees were enthusiastic about the studies.

"We can't afford to take part in this," said Trustee Merna Colbourne of the Town of Markham. "Our responsibility does not end in just supplying classroom space. This is the only way we can find out if we are getting value for our education dollars."

Other trustees agreed. Trustee Deena Simpson of Richmond Hill termed it "a small investment in a worthwhile program."

Judy Finlay became the bride of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Finlay

of Palmer Ave. and the groom is set up in a gown made by her mother and featuring a bodice and edging on the floor-length veil of roses crocheted by her grandmother. The gown was fashioned of silk organza over peau de soie. Each rose was set off by a tiny pearl in the centre and the bride wore a pearl tear-drop pendant which had been her great grandmother's. Her bouquet was white with a hint of yellow and multi-hued green streamers.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Finlay of Palmer Ave. and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Thompson, originally from Bedford, England, now of Richmond Hill, Rev. Allan Hallett was the officiating minister and Hillary Balmer the soloist.

Attending the bride, who was given in marriage by her father, were Gayle Roberts as maid of honor, Kathy Costello as bridesmaid and Lisa Jane Campbell as flower girl. The groom was attended by David Southwell as best man and the bride's

brother Leigh Finlay and Robert McFarland as ushers.

The maids were gowned in multi-colored floral skirts in which purple, mauve and royal blue predominated with lilac blouses and large brimmed hats. They carried baskets of yellow shasta daisies.

The reception was held at the Heintzman House in North Thornhill.

Following a two week honeymoon in Miami Beach, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Thompson are now residing in London where both are continuing their education at the University of Western Ontario. Toni is an honor BA graduate of York University and is now studying for his MA at Western. Both Judy and Toni served as Cub leaders with 5th Richmond Hill Lobo Pack and Judy also served as Brown Owl with 3rd Richmond Hill Brownie Pack.



An honor guard of Cubs and Brownies greeted Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Thompson when they left Richmond Hill United Church following their wedding on August 29. Mr. Thompson and his bride, the former Judy Finlay, were both leaders of the 5th Richmond Hill Cub Pack, and Mrs. Thompson served as Brown Owl for the 3rd Richmond Hill Brownie Pack.

The newlyweds, pictured left signing the register, are now living in London and continuing their education at the University of Western Ontario.

Brownies And Cubs Form Honor Guard For Lovely Richmond Hill Wedding

Conservation Authority Move Into New Offices

The Metro Region Conservation Authority, which administers Black Creek Pioneer Village and several conservation parks in York County and neighboring municipalities, is moving its administrative offices from their present location on Highway 7.

The new office building at 5 Shoreman Drive, Downsview, in the Black Creek Conservation Area is directly south of the Pioneer Village at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue.

These offices will be in operation Monday, and the new telephone number will be 630-9780.

Dr. Ross Traub, director of the educational evaluation unit of the department of measurement and evaluation at OISE, will compare the achievement

of students in open plan schools and conventional schools. Skills in reading and mathematics in particular will be tested.

Cost to the board for this study is estimated at \$1,500 for this school year, with a total of \$1,500 for the next two years together.

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Kovachis Is Innocent Of Impaired Driving

Alexander Kovachis, 34, a Holland Marsh farmer and Willowdale resident out on bail after a manslaughter conviction, last week in Newmarket Provincial Court was acquitted on an impaired driving charge.

Kovachis was allowed out on bail recently after being convicted for the April 8 fatal shooting of John Redman at Dutch Settlement.

Provincial Judge Russell Pearce dismissed the impairment charge for lack of evidence.

OPP Constable Mike Connor of Oak Ridges Detachment told the court Kovachis was arrested May 2 when found sitting in a car in the ditch beside Highway 11 in East Gwillimbury.

Kovachis testified that the car had two flat tires and couldn't be moved.

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