



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Richmond Hill Girl Best Creative Writer

The best creative writer among the 2,500 students of Roman Catholic Separate Schools in this area of York County was the distinction won recently by 13-year-old Edith Simitz, a grade 8 pupil at St. Mary Immaculate School, Trayborn Drive, Richmond Hill.

The \$50 prize was provided by the Knights of Columbus George P. Vanier Council 5937. This year only 15 entries from the 12 schools served by the council were permitted, and they were published by the knights in a booklet called "Creative Writing". "What exists in the minds of children are stories, fictional or fantasy, always imaginative and creative," is the theme of the publication and of the contest.

In the above picture, taken during the presentation of the award are (left to right) Grand Knight Norman Ravnagat, Edith Simitz and Principal Leon Kehoe of St. Mary Immaculate School.

Hodge Praises Don Head Program Students Freed From Frustrations

Of 439 senior students promoted or transferred from York County Roman Catholic Schools, 72 will be going to Roman Catholic High Schools in Metro in the fall.

At a meeting of the York County Roman Catholic School Board July 5 Superintendent Joe Hodge told trustees that 89 students had gone on to Roman Catholic High Schools a year ago.

Grade 9 and 10 students at these schools are subsidized by the province and bus transportation from main centres in York is provided by the board.

Markham Trustee Dr. William LaCroix asked if inadequate arrangements for transportation might be the cause for the drop. He was assured that every effort is made to minimize distances students have to travel on their own, and they are taken to points "within reasonable access" to the school of their choice in Metro.

Explaining the "transfers", Mr. Hodge said 12 students will be going from grade 6 to Don Head Secondary School in Richmond Hill or into occupations classes in other secondary schools.

The students in question, he said, are 13 or older and are making no progress in their present schools. It is very frustrating, he continued, for older students who cannot adapt to an academic program to have to remain in a class with much younger children, and often they are a disturbing influence.

"We have very flattering records of our children who go to Don Head," he told trustees. "They get out of their frustrations and learn a trade."

Extensive testing is done before the board recommends such a move, however, and it is always effected only with the written consent of the parent. Some parents are extremely reluctant to accept the fact that their child is not capable of making it to university, said Mr. Hodge.

The children, however, are much happier in the junior vocational courses where classes are smaller and they are on a level with their classmates.

"It is a very expensive type of education," observed Mr. Hodge.

The majority of those graduating from grade 8 will be going to secondary schools in York Region. Some will go on to private schools.

At an earlier meeting of the board, Mr. Hodge was asked if separate school children entering secondary schools are at any disadvantage, particularly those taking shop options. There are no shops in the Roman Catholic Schools, but the majority of children in public schools have an opportunity to take shop in the senior grades.

He reported to the board that he was informed by board of education officials that students coming from grade 8 without general shop options are not handicapped in taking shop options in secondary school.

Mr. Hodge reported also that because of the system of credits and options prevalent now in most secondary schools, a student should adapt more easily in the secondary school than formerly.

York County Master Teachers Ask No Pay For Summer Math Workshop

A number of York Region teachers will be cutting their holidays short in order to take part in summer courses and workshops planned by the York County Board of Education's division of planning and development.

Beginning August 23, there will be a week-long course in mathematics at Don Head Secondary School in Richmond Hill for intensive study of the primary and junior division mathematics program from the Department of Education.

At a meeting of the board on July 5, trustees were told that 46 teachers have registered for the course, and during the school year they will assist fellow teachers in implementing the teaching ideas set out in the new curriculum guideline for teachers from kindergarten to grade 6. Teachers taking the course will have their expenses paid by the board, but master teachers conducting the course will not be paid extra for the week. They consider it a part of their duties, said a staff report.

Most of the teaching staff for the week will be master teachers employed by the board — Joan Routledge, Lillian Markovitch, Irvine Dean and Stan Campbell teamed with Bob Sanderson of King City Secondary and Don Attridge of Thornhill Secondary in Thornhill.

"I am impressed by their attitude," observed Markham Trustee John Honsberger. "This is the start of a new development. The master teachers are becoming the nucleus of an elite group within our staff."

Another 20 teachers have enrolled in an intensive week-long workshop for members of open plan schools. The workshop at Meadowbrook open plan school in Newmarket will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from August 23 to 28.

Entitled "Working More Effectively as a School Staff", the course is designed to help teachers who are teaching in open space schools, or who are about to begin.

Since this is considered an important area of development, the expenses of participating teachers will be paid, said Education Director Sam Chapman. There are now four open plan schools in the county system, while several others have open space "pods" attached.

It is expected that two more schools with open pods and two new partially open plan schools will commence operation in the coming school year.

On August 26, there will be a day-long meeting of principals of all York County schools. The general theme will be integration.

In the period January to June of the school year just ended, 79 professional development courses were offered by the board with 2,955 teachers participating.

In some instances the courses were offered during school hours. Others took place outside of school hours. A staff report showed a total of 5,407 hours of board time given to professional development and 10,081 hours of after school time.

Markham Trustee Louise Aimore observed that it was gratifying to note that teachers had given almost twice as much of their own time to courses as they had given of board time.

Rape Charge Laid In King Township

A Toronto man in Richmond Hill Provincial Court on Friday morning last week was charged with raping a Scarborough woman in King Township the evening before.

Remanded on bail of \$1,000 cash or \$2,000 property until July 20 is Murdoch Theodore Brooks, 27, of Apartment 105 at 2370 Keele Street, Toronto 15.

The charge involves an alleged incident in a motor vehicle at 6:45 pm on Concession 7, north of the King Sideroad.

Brooks is alleged to have used threats and fear of bodily harm against Lynn Sandieson, a woman not his wife.

NEWMARKET — A 51-acre extension to Del Zotto Homes' Ladyfield Subdivision was revealed to York County School Board last week. Mayor Bob Forhan stated that the town has not been officially notified of these plans nor have any negotiations taken place. The proposal includes 107 single family homes and 238 semi-detached homes. The school board estimates it would have to spend \$891,000 to provide accommodation for the children from the 345 homes.

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