



## Area principals to spend 8 days in London

When David Duchesne, principal of Regency Acres Public School in Aurora, journeys to London, England, next month, he'll do his best to fill requests for mementoes and such for family and friends.

But there's one request he doesn't feel he's going to be able to carry out. And that's the one his youngest daughter handed to him when she found out where he was going.

It would be a fine thing, she told him, if he were to have tea with the queen. "I met the queen once when I was the lead altar

boy in Port Hope," Duchesne said, "and I thought of writing her a letter."

"But I don't think my chances are that good." Instead, Duchesne, along with 25 elementary school principals; Harry Gerber, principal of Bayview Secondary School in Richmond Hill; 15 principals from North York and two from Kingston, will explore the shops and settings of London and area during their spare moments for more practical gifts and reminders of their eight-day stay abroad.

A few of the travellers are also hoping to get to Paris. Duchesne's own preference is Wales, where he would like to go for the music festival. Prior to that time, however, the teachers will be spending more of their time seeing how the British system of education works.

10 SCHOOLS All told they will visit some 10 schools among themselves, with Duchesne especially interested in the open space system in operation there.

"I hope to find out how the kids learn in that kind of a setting," he says. He describes the program as "activity centred, with the emphasis away from the teacher as teacher, and more as a guide."

He said the program could feature more than one grade in a class. They'll spend some time at a teachers' college and participate in teacher evaluation talks, as well as sit in on special programs in math, art and reading.

The teachers will also take a special "York Region Pack" with them, each one containing articles, brochures, maps and other symbols of life and learning in the area. Among these will be a "typical" newspaper, in this case, a total of 40 copies of The Liberal's Oct. 26 edition.

But all school and no play makes Jack a dull

principal, so it won't be all work, according to Duchesne.

Lined up are a theatre night, pub night, medieval banquet, and even a reception at Ontario House with the Ontario commissioner, Ward Cornell.

That's right, the same Mr. Cornell who used to be the moderator on those CBC-TV hockey telecasts.

TEACHERS PAY The trip, which is paid for by the teachers, resulted from a similar visit to England more than a year ago by a group of teachers from Peel Region.

They came back "with great feelings" about the trip and the British education system, Duchesne said.

A York committee, with Dave Semple of Richmond Hill, and Art Boynton of Markham, the prime movers, was set up and plans soon took off. The teachers will leave

Nov. 4 and come back Nov. 13, and will make a slide presentation of their trip to York County Board of Education on their return.

Can we expect to see the English teachers visiting York Region the following year?

Duchesne said there were no plans at the moment, but adds, almost

at the same time, that another item to be included in the teachers' York Pack will be a supply of Toronto Blue Jays' baseball caps.

They may be just enough to make their English counterparts want to come over here, and study our systems and our major league baseball team.

Get out of a building when there's a fire warning. Don't wait around. So many common containers, including wrappers, garbage bags, cups, etc. are made of plastics that give off deadly gases when burnt. Even mouldings and trim in the walls of new building are plastic. Here Vaughan Fire Chief Jim Davidson demonstrates a collection of flammable plastic household items, including the burning cup in his hand.

### Fired-up

### Not the fire, but...

# It's the gas that kills you

If there's any piece of advice Vaughan Fire Chief Jim Davidson has for the public on fire prevention week it's this: When warned of fire, get out of the building you're in.

Nowadays there's so many plastic products that give off either phosgene, hydrochloric or hydrocyanic gas.

These gases can be deadly. Actually, for the Vaughan fire department, fire prevention starts Jan. 1 and runs all year. It's a 52-week-a-year effort.

One of the new things Vaughan fire fighters are doing on their house and building inspections is to show people how to install fuse socket inserts.

These make it impossible to screw in a fuse that is too heavy. Thus it is impossible to have a fire started by an overloaded electrical circuit.

This safety device is a simple color-coded plastic collar which screws into the fuse socket.

The various fuses have different size tips. The collar allows insertion of only fuses that have the maximum amperage of the circuit, or less.

Any new home now must have a smoke detector, a warning device set off by products of combustion in the air. "During our inspections we suggest people get them for older

homes," says Chief Davidson.

Householders are also advised to get a fire extinguisher for the kitchen.

If they have a kitchen extinguisher, the inspectors give a training explanation on its proper use.

The fire prevention inspection program is paying off, says Davidson. The department still has a lot of minor calls, but a few of any consequence nowadays.

People like to have the fire inspectors call. So far this year 129 calls resulted in no one being home when fire fighters called.

All but nine of them have called later and asked the inspectors to come again.

To the end of August, the department inspected 1,297 homes and 832 industrial-commercial buildings.

Fire fighters were refused admission at only two homes.

"Actually we have Utopia today in fire prevention," says the Vaughan chief.

He points to such devices as smoke detectors, sprinklers which bring early warning and fire suppression.

People can get out. There should be no loss of life and little damage if everything works right.

"I take umbrage with statistical people who always measure things in fire losses rather than in the amount saved.

That's negative thinking. I don't subscribe to it. It has always been one of my pet peeves.

"They should calculate cost per assessment and not per capita," says the Vaughan chief.

This calculation method is particularly important for the Vaughan department which works in a town with a very high industrial assessment but low population.

One way makes the department look bad in relation to most other departments, the other way truly reflects the Vaughan department's degree of work success.

### Dance class for children underway

Scottish country dancing classes for children aged 5 and up continue to Dec. 10 at the Thornhill Community Centre branch of Markham Public Libraries. Children may register with the children's librarian. The next session is Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m.

### BOY SCOUT APPLE DAY SATURDAY - OCTOBER 15th SUPPORT SCOUTING

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Town of Richmond Hill

### PROCLAMATION

By the authority vested in me by the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill, I hereby proclaim the MONTH OF OCTOBER as "BIG BROTHERS OF YORK MONTH" in and for the Town of Richmond Hill.

H. David Schiller, Mayor.



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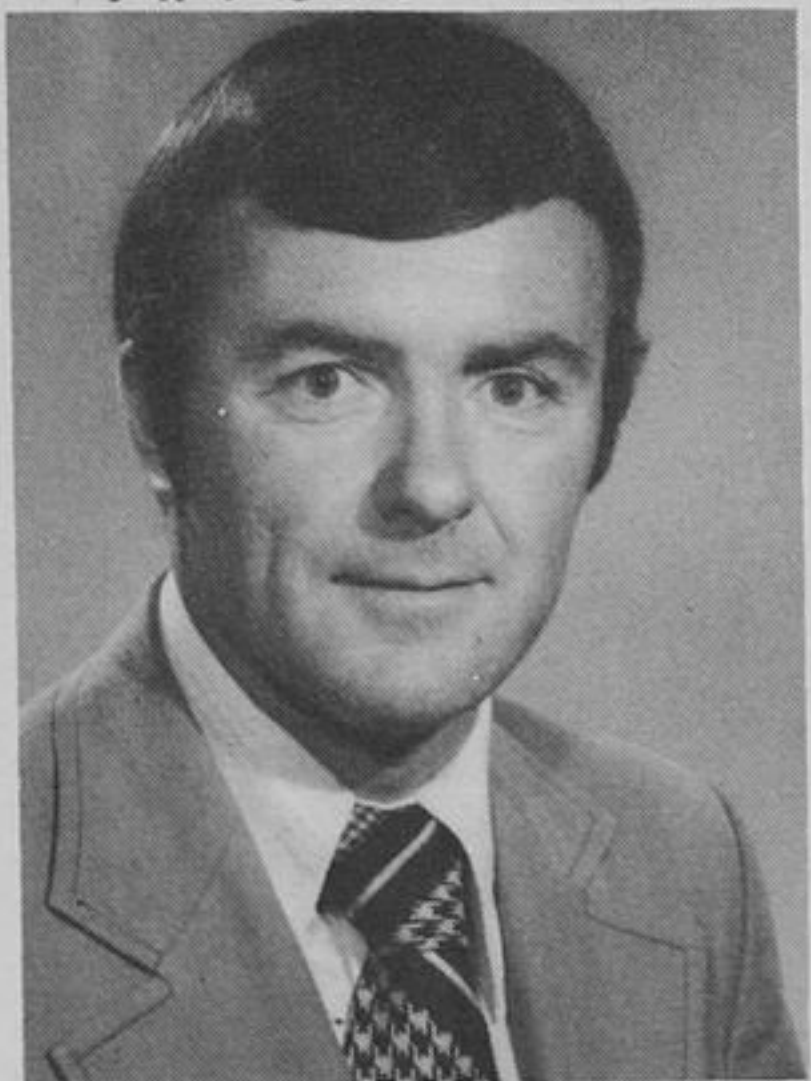
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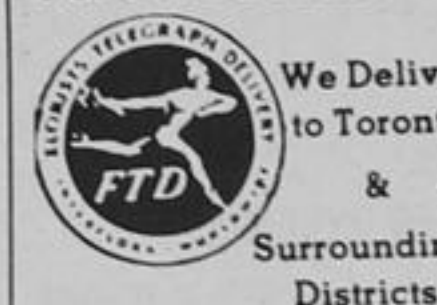


MR. J.S. SMITH

The Royal Bank of Canada announces the appointment of Mr. John Smith as Manager of its Richmond Hill Branch, Ontario. Mr. Smith is replacing Mr. J.P. Lawrence who has been transferred to our Woodstock Branch, Ontario. Mr. Smith joined the Bank in 1962 and has since held various positions throughout Metropolitan Toronto.

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