

Expanded apprenticeship program?

# Skilled labor courses may join schools

Encouraged by the province's apparent attempt to curb the acute shortage of homegrown skilled and technical labor, the Board of Education's program committee is awaiting a report on an address given to the Ontario Technical Director's Association last summer.

Allan McDermott, technical director at Thornhill Secondary School and former president of the association, represented the York Board at the "Skills for Jobs" conference called by Premier William Davis last June 8 and 9.

Mr. Davis attended the conference, whose theme was to promote both government and private efforts to improve the match between skills and jobs available in the labor market.

Mr. McDermott had received a personal letter from the premier, asking him to attend the meeting at Seneca College.

He stated one of the Appointment a formality

Clarence Cheung, senior planner in Richmond Hill's planning department, was appointed by council last week as acting commissioner of planning.

Commissioner of planning, Bill Power was rushed to hospital September 27 and although he is now home from the hospital he is not expected to be in his office for another month.

Marylou Graham, chairman of the planning committee said Mr. Cheung has been doing Mr. Power's job since he was taken ill and the appointment is just a formality.

more perplexing aspects of the present employment situation is the co-existence of skill shortages and high levels of unemployment.

He also suggested improvement is needed in relating labor supply activities, both public and private.

In September, 1977, the government held the first of its seminars to deal with the shortage of technically trained workers for Ontario's industries.

It was called "Focus on Apprenticeship" and was attended by 500 labor and business people from all over the western world.

Last March the government gave high priority to a training program especially geared to satisfying the needs of industry.

Many labor critics believe what is really needed is an expanded apprenticeship program.

Since World War 11, industry has relied heavily on skilled immigrants from Europe to meet its needs.

But the source is drying up — a recent study of 15,000 tradesmen in Toronto, Hamilton and Guelph showed that 87 per cent were more than 40 years old and only 2.6 per cent were between 30 and 35. Seventy-three per cent are foreign born and foreign trained.

Compounding the problem, the emphasis of education in Canada has been on the academic

courses and training for the so-called white-collar jobs.

This was the focal point of a brief presented by Richmond Hill resident Tony Voutsinos to the York School Board last May.

Mr. Voutsinos, a veteran mechanic, advocated a change in basic education philosophy.

In his brief he says: "... a child whose aptitude may lean towards a technical rather than a professional skill, regardless of intelligence quotient, should be encouraged in the direction of his choice. I was appalled to discover recently that senior elementary school students, with certain aptitudes and personal preferences to enter a school of technical training, were actually being dissuaded from doing so if their IQ was considered to be above a

pre-established level."

Mr. Voutsinos, also active in the Hillcrest Residents Association (HRA), believes we are discouraging too many students from entering schools of technical training when just the opposite should be done.

And though he feels York County schools are equipped to teach basic academic skills, they fall far short of the mark in providing adequate facilities for the teaching of technical skills.

According to an editorial in a Toronto newspaper last March, Ontario needs an educational campaign to convince young people that "blue-collar" work can provide a fully satisfying, well-paid and dignified career.

It claimed, too many teenagers are now plodding through high school academic courses

aimed at university entrance when they would be happier and more successful studying for skilled trades.

"The government is really upset over the lack of skilled labor and wants to improve and increase the teaching of technical courses across the province," said Mr. McDermott.

He said as an example the province means business is the recent \$4 million grant given to the North York Board of Education for technical

education. When he met with the program committee on October 11, he suggested a report on the two conferences he attended (as related to technical education in York County schools) be drawn up and submitted.

He assured it would reflect a consensus of all the technical directors in the region's schools and their reaction to Mr. Voutsinos' brief.

The program committee should have the report within a month.



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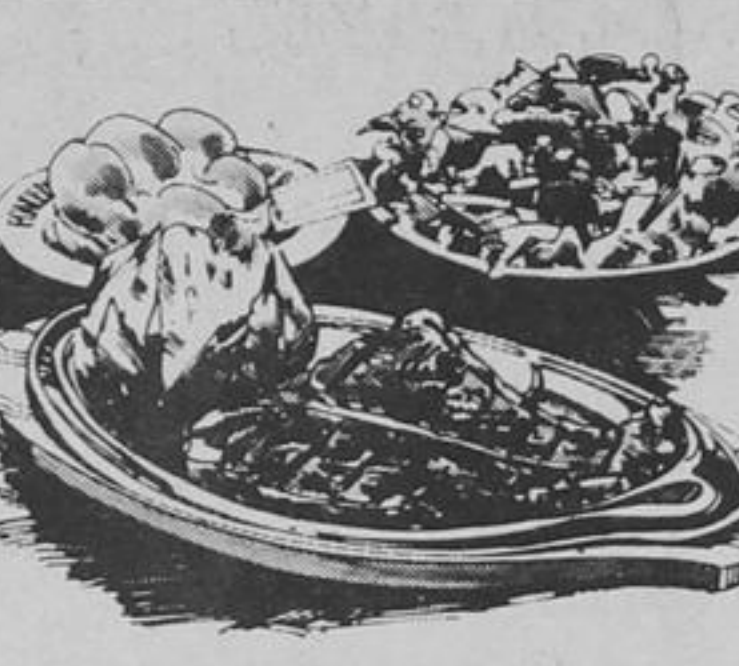
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## Great Menu

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Strip Loin Steak Dinner.....	\$2.69	Shrimp Platter.....	\$3.09	Superburger Cooked from 5 ounces of chopped steak includes lettuce, tomato, dill pickle chips and french fries With all-you-can-eat salad bar.....	\$2.04	Choice of jello or pudding.....	1.29	Junior Burger Chopped steak patty on		Chopped Steak.....	only \$2.04
Extra Cut Rib-Eye Steak Dinner.....	\$3.04	Super Cut Strip Loin Steak Dinner.....	\$3.54	All dinners include potato, fresh baked roll, all-you-can-eat salad bar.....	\$2.04	Extra Cut Rib-Eye.....	only \$2.44	Lunch Specials 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weekdays		Includes fresh baked roll and all-you-can-eat salad bar	
Chopped Steak Dinner.....	\$2.54	T-Bone Steak Dinner.....	\$3.84					Superburger.....	only \$1.79	With all-you-can-eat salad bar	
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