

McConaghy's final students

For the next few weeks, The Liberal will present, in this space, the final classes of students to attend McConaghy Public School.

Richmond Hill Public School March 5, 1915, will close its doors for good.

In 1957, the name was changed to M.L. McConaghy Public School.

And in 1979, the York County Board of

Education made its decision to close the school.

Therefore, we thought we'd like to record the names and photos of those children who were at McConaghy during its final year.

Let's pool resources for a decent hall

Nothing could provide a clearer indication of the emphasis placed on athletics compared with the fine arts than the staging of Thornlea's Best of Broadway last week.

Campaign already?

Councillor Ron Moran was accused last week of making his first campaign speech 18 months before the election.

And he probably did. But Councillor Moran claims Mayor Tony Roman has had a freelance photographer following him around snapping pictures of the mayor mingling with a happy populace at public functions.

He suspects the mayor is collecting pictures for an election flyer that will be printed sometime next year.

Come to think of it, Councillor Moran started the preparations first when he had "Moran for Mayor" stickers printed before the last election to be added to his signs just in case he needed them.

And Toronto Mayor John Sewell thinks that suburban politicians don't know much about planning for the future.

Several outstanding performances shone through despite the difficulty many members of the audience had in seeing and hearing what was going on stage.

The stage at Thornlea is at one end of the gymnasium, an arrangement common enough in modern high schools, but one that robs young musicians, singers and actors of a chance to practise and perform in the proper facilities.

The school boards will never be able to provide real auditoriums in York Region, but perhaps if several municipalities pooled their resources, they could.

The Thornhill B'Nai B'Rith and the Richmond Hill Rotary Club are both in the early stages of planning a facility for the performing arts, something that could be used not just by students, but by groups like the York Philharmonic Choir and the York Symphony Orchestra.

But the Region could not support two such facilities. Is it asking too much for the service clubs and southern municipalities to get together, to shoulder capital and operating costs.

Hockey prospects are not asked to play on outdoor rinks. Nor should talented young performers have to overcome second, third or fourth rate facilities.



The Grade 5 and 6 class in Room 10 at McConaghy is seen in the above picture. They are (front row left to right) Tonya Frederiks, Suzanne Shirlaw, Susan Shedlowich, Gina Xenidis, Sherry DiMatteo, Angela Ciaravella, Inez VanRavenwaaij, Hecla

Williamson, Pam McLarnon. Centre row — Nadina Morrison, Karen Barrett, Charles Park, Joey Marchant, Jason Hails, Martin Wingate, Harry Kyle, Jeff MacRae, Chris Monkman, Gary Kerrigan, Michael Matisko, Billy Park, Robinson Santos. Back row —

Tracey Haynes, Glenda Payne, Lara Pass, Jenny Reycraft, Stuart Creasor, Scott Culham, Cyndy Bott, Heather McKenzie, Nelson Robinson, Robby Jakma, Mike Leonard and John Jensen. David Simpanen was absent. The teacher is Mrs. I. Hary.

By BOB RICE

Memo to Lions in Oak Ridges: sorry, I'm busy

I received a letter in the Canada Post last week from Dennis Stevenson of the Lions Club of Oak Ridges.

It seems that the Club is holding a bash at Bond Lake Arena and Park this Saturday (June 16th) which will feature a whole bunch of neat things such as a Flea Market, an Auction Sale and a mini-carnival.

The track record of the Oak Ridges Lions community work has been quite impressive in the past and the gang is hoping to raise enough bucks at this get-together to be able to pave the parking lot at the arena.

One of the attractions at the mini-carnival will be one of those medieval torture devices known as a dunking machine.

The unlucky candidate sits on a little bitty seat above a tank of near freezing water and a whole lot of sadistic folk spend copious sums of money to have the opportunity to throw hard objects at a target that will, when hit properly, cause the seat to drop and the dunker falls into the wet stuff.

Dennis (and the other fellows in the club) thought it would be a really nice idea to invite me to be one of the people perched on the seat and let my enemies have a go at getting me soaked. Nice bunch of guys... eh?

Wee gang, I'm sorry to disappoint you but this kid is gonna stay dry this Saturday.

While I realize that the lineups caused by my appearance would probably bring in enough money to pave all of Oak Ridges (and part of Temperanceville to boot), I'm unfortunately committed to making a speech at the annual Hoe Handle Association of Canada convention in Uptergrove and I'm afraid that I just can't get out of this one.

How about Ron Wallace? How about Sinc Stevens? How about Pierre who?

MEANWHILE..... Speaking of getting wet... here's one guy who wouldn't... or I should

say... COULDN'T. Globetrotting Ron Wallace (Bahamas, Barrie and Philadelphia) has just returned from a top secret trip to, of all places, Wichita, Kansas.

I had a chance to talk with him prior to the trip when he was busy packing his suntan lotion, jammies and floss and I tried to tell him about this fabled city in the biblebelt of America.

"You won't like it, oh Great Grand Poobah... the whole place is dry." "Dry shmry," he replied "if things get too hot I can always lower my standards and partake of some watered down Yankee beer."

"That's just what I am trying to tell you, oh exalted Editor, there aren't any bars in Wichita."

"You gotta be kiddin'," he gasped... "why in heck would they go and do a rotten thing like that?"

"Because, oh marvellous man of words and wit, Kansas is middle America... stars and stripes and Mom's homemade apple pie. The only way you can get a drink is to join a private club thing and then they sell you your drinks in five dollar lots and a whole bunch of other dumb rules that they have!"

Well, despite this warning he went anyway and faced the hardships of Wichita like a true newspaperman.

FINAL ITEM Final item and then I'll go quietly. While some of you might think that this column has become a press release for McConaghy School of late, I promise this will be the last word.

Because of many requests by former students for one last look at the old building before it closes, arrangements have been made for all and sundry to visit the school on Thursday, June 21 from 7 to 9 in the evening and I bet there won't be a dry eye in the house.

The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said... 'a rose is a rose is a rose... and a skunk is a skunk is a skunk!'

Letters

Won't you come home

Our yearbook, titled "McConaghy's Last Students", has been a hit with the people of Richmond Hill.

To date (June 11) I have had requests for 116 books.

A lot of these people, ordering year books, have inquired as to whether or not we are going to do anything about having some kind of get together for the closing of the school.

People are very anxious to get back into the school to have a look around to recall some fond memories of their days spent at this school.

The feelings for McConaghy are running very high right now.

Some of their memories may be of standing in a corner, running down the many flights of stairs, or just sitting in the seats of the classrooms listening to the teacher.

I have been in touch with a number of former teachers and invited them to come and recall a memory or two with us that night.

I have had great response so far and the teachers coming are listed below:

From the 1930s: Mrs. Jean Rumble; Mrs. Sheila Beresford; and Mrs. Ruth Turk (nee Ruth Reaman).

From the 1940s: Miss Margaret Fockler; Mrs. Helen Prouse; and Mrs. C. Noland (nee Miss I. Williamson).

From the 50s: Mrs. B. Kidd; Mr. Joe Bilson and Mrs. J. Bilson (nee Miss Eleanor Huffman); Mrs. Jean Lee; Mrs. Jean Cottrill; Mr. Matt Kinari; Mr. James Orser; Mr. Richard Flynn; Mrs. Eleanor Irwin (nee Miss E. Shaver); Mrs. Bernice Crutcher; Mrs. M. Gilbert; and Mr. Gerald Orton.

We have only one teacher from the 60s so far, Mrs. Avonelle Monkman (nee Miss A. Knight).

From the 70s: Mrs. Brenda Grandinetti; Jill Schmitt; Mr. Scott Small; and Mrs. Judith Cowan are the ones we have so far.

Now that we have all these wonderful teachers to come back, we need former students, friends and interested people to come out and see them.

So please plan to come and tell other people about this, so that we can have a good turnout.

We will also be serving light refreshments in the new part of the school.

on display that night in each of the rooms.

If you have anything to add to our collection and would like to put it on display, please label it well with your name, address, phone number and year of the item, and bring it into the school office not later than Friday, June 15.

We really are in desperate need of more things, especially for the 60s and 70s.

I would like everyone who is coming to the school on June 21 to come to the auditorium first and sign in.

The people who have ordered yearbooks will be able to pick them up in the auditorium that night and then take them upstairs to get autographs from the teachers and others there, in the rooms. Also please look at our displays.

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We will also be serving light refreshments in the new part of the school.

The teachers presently at the school will also be with us that night.

If anyone is still in-

terested in buying a yearbook, I have ordered extra ones, of which I still have some.

The attendance at the Concord Soccer Dance on May 26 was a great encouragement to the organizers who wish to thank all Concord residents and their many friends who have supported it.

All enjoyed a variety of music by 'I Vulcani' orchestra, who provided plenty of sounds suited for the dancers.

A terrific strong voice of soloist Gabe Perisanti added the orchestra's personal and well-appreciated touch to the atmosphere.

The appearance of Regional Councillor Dario DiGiannantonio was well-received by Concord residents.

He addressed all by pointing out the importance of Concord soccer for the local boys and expressed his own interest in this sport. He thanked John Vergura, Bruno Colucci, Joe Marcelli, George and Julie Seemann for their work in the club.

The evening proceeded with draws for many door and raffle prizes which were donated by: Cantu Furniture, Fabric and Drapery Mill Outlet (Mrs. Joel), Fisher Sports, Hollywood Furniture, Italfina Products Ltd., Keele Printing, National Gym Warehouse, Parker Games, Sapco Foods Ltd., Sterling Industries and Unico Foods Ltd.

We thank all those for

around suffering, maybe taking avoidable diving. I give high respect to governments who consider people before power.

On April 15 I wrote Attorney General McMurtry, protesting publication of outrageous hate material authored by Irving Layton, prominently positioned and published by a Toronto daily newspaper on April 14.

I am a member of the ethnic group then viciously attacked with false, inflammatory statements.

I have received no acknowledgement or answer.

I therefore wrote the attorney general a reminder, on May 15, also advising him of an evil libel against the Globe & Mail of May 15.

One of my family is a member of that force. Since the Statute of Limitations may apply in these matters, I asked for a prompt reply. I sent a copy of my letter, with a covering letter, to Premier William Davis, and an Information Shop.

In featuring information from community organizations, Dini Petty, TV consumer reporter for City Pulse News, spoke on the day's topic, "Taking Charge of Your Life".

Thank you again for your co-operation in making information on these programs available to your readers.

One may be had by phoning me at 883-3901. The price is \$3.50 payable in advance. They

will also be on sale at the school, Thursday, June 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Joan Connolly, Richmond Hill.

Soccer Club Dance. There are two teams in the club at present. One is for the under 13 age group and is coached by Bruno Colucci. It holds a practice on Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Concord Community Centre.

The second team consists of boys 13-15. Practice is held on Tuesday nights at the same time and place as the other group.

This team is coached by Joe Marcelli.

Mrs. Julie Seemann, Concord

Getting answers from the province not easy, he finds

Mr. William Hodgson MPP for York North Queen's Park, Toronto

I wrote Health Minister Timblett on February 1 about the sometimes life or death situation created by the Ontario government's refusal to finance an adequate number of hospital beds for people gravely ill.

This callous policy has directly affected many families including my own.

Hospitals are in various states — some acute — of financial distress across the province.

I received no answer. If you are inclined to dismiss my comments as mere literary fireworks — don't. I place the highest priority on arrangements which may save people from sagging

election. Communication is a basic beginning.

Bill, you are good at assembling line political handshaking, platform appearances, and so on.

Would you now please try for me a little ministerial elbow-jogging? I will report progress (or otherwise) to the editors of the newspapers publishing this open letter.

Sid H. Britton, 84 Hillview Road, Aurora

Soccer dance is a success

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Thank you again for your co-operation in making information on these programs available to your readers.

Spring Break programming successful

Thank you for your excellent coverage of Women's Spring Break, a full day's programming for women, held at Seneca College King Campus in co-operation with the York Region Women's Committee.

More than 250 women from the York Region community attended for a series of morning and afternoon sessions, films, videos, demonstrations

Premier William Davis, and an Information Shop.

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Eileen Macrae, Community Education Services Co-ordinator