

# Director Claims School Lunchrooms Unnecessary

Trustees to the Lakehead Board of Education were told Thursday that school lunchrooms are not a necessity and that their expense cannot be justified.

Regional director of the Dept. of Education, R. R. Steele, speaking to members of the board's capital projects building committee, said, "there are only so many bucks to spend on schools and lunchrooms that are used only one hour a day cannot be considered a necessity."

Trustees were discussing additions and renovations to board schools in the area in accordance with their five-year building plan.

Trustees Sue Simonsen and Dorothy Adams argued that students need a place to eat their lunch other than their classroom desks as is the case in many schools.

Mr. Steele said if the lunchrooms were to serve as dual-purpose rooms—to be used throughout the day—the expense could be justified.

Progress reports were given trustees on several schools to be built or renovated.

Both Ogden and Sherbrooke schools will be completed and ready for occupancy by Sept. 1, 1973 and both will be of the open-concept, community-use design.

Trustee V. A. Kivi, in answer



R. R. STEELE

to his question on architectural barriers, was told all schools being built with community-use integrated, will feature ramps for wheelchairs and other aids designed to help disabled persons.

Board members also learned that 60-year-old Drew St. school poses a real fire danger in that its wiring "disintegrates at the touch."

The school is in for a total of \$75,000 in advanced renovations including wiring and general upgrading of facilities.

An additional \$14,700 will be spent on Francis St., Hyde Park and Green Acres schools as well.

Selkirk high school is in line for \$50,000 worth of work in its older section, built in 1931. A huge addition to that school is nearing completion now and Trustee Sue Simonsen had harsh words for it and other massive additions to city high schools.

"I regret voting for that addition," she said at Thursday's meeting.

"Many of our high schools are becoming immense factories where students get lost in the shuffle."

## TOO HUGE

"I don't care what the department (of Education) says about centralization and saving money, these places are getting too huge and impersonal," she said.

Sketch plans for the new addition to the Collegiate on Arthur St., have now been forwarded to the department in Toronto for approval and Director of Education G. P. Dalzell says there will be no problem in obtaining the land needed in Waverley Park from the Parks and Recreation department.

Concern was expressed by some trustees that the addition proposed for Vance Chapman

# New Church in Attractive Wooden Setting

By INEZ McCUAIG



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Grace Baptist Church, opened in December, 1971, on the new Bayview St., Schreiber, is in a most attractive wooded setting.

The building, 30 x 90 feet, has an exterior finish of white siding. The auditorium, 50 x 30 feet, is completely carpeted with light wood panelling on the walls and textured white finish on the ceiling. Additional space is given to the altar and choir loft.

The fellowship hall, where services are being held until the auditorium is completely finished, is 40 x 20 feet, with Sunday School rooms opening off it together with dressing room facilities.

The minister, Rev. Rex Dye and his family have their living quarters in the back of the building — living room, kitchen and one bedroom on the main floor; two bedrooms, minister's study and bath upstairs. The entire house is finished in painted plaster.

Mrs. Dye contributes much to the community as an arts and crafts instructor.

school will not be large enough to house students in the school area.

The department originally thought low-rental housing units, like those in the Vance Chapman area, would contain a higher density of school-age children than other areas of the city.

Regional education superintendent Steele admitted this theory was wrong after studies were made in the LaSalle area. Work will begin in mid-June.

A proposed swimming pool and change room facility for Hammaraskjold high school posed problems at the meeting.

Further studies will be necessary to decide if additions are warranted or if renovations to the existing structure will suffice.

The pool will be built in the area of the present partially enclosed tennis court and change rooms must be able to service both the pool area and the gymnasium.

The board will likely either renovate present change rooms and make better use of surrounding space inside the school for more change facilities or build additional change rooms on the school's east end.

Mr. Steele urged the board move in the direction of renovation and use of present space within the school because studies show enrollment in Hammaraskjold and other high schools will soon go down.

"When the enrollment goes down, the programs must naturally be given the scissors," he said referring to his suggestion that several specialized classroom areas in Hammaraskjold in the gym area could be converted to change room areas.