

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

An Interview With Mr. H. J. Waite, B.A.

By Lloyd Gayman
Mr. Waite was born at Napanee, Ont. and studied at schools in Belleville, Oshawa, Toronto and St. John.
On completion of grade 12, he joined the R.C.A.F. where he served for 1 1/2 years. He later continued his education by taking grade 13 in a five month course offered at a rehabilitation school in Toronto.



Mr. H. J. Waite

On completion of high school he took a four-year Honour Geography Course at the University of Toronto and spent one year at Teacher's College. He started his teaching career in Northern Ontario where he remained for two years; 1 year in London, England and a short time in Montreal before joining the staff at Stouffville. He is now in his 11th year here. Mr. Waite is now head of the History and Geography Department.

Mr. Waite has done much travelling in Europe and across North America. On many occasions, he has told of his experiences as a young man, thus adding colourful points of interest to class lessons that cannot be found in the text books.

In addition to being highly proficient in the field of history and geography, Mr. Waite has also done a wonderful job of leading the school band which serves to make each assembly meeting of the student body a little more lively. I might also add that Mr. Waite and several other musically-inclined members of our staff have added a good deal of humour and enjoyment to Stouffville High's annual Christmas Party.

When asked for his views on England's own Beatles who are now sweeping North America, he replied: "Music is meant to be enjoyed and I think that the Beatles give pleasure to a certain section of the population. After all, everyone doesn't like Beethoven."

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Our School Band

by John Nolan, Gr. 12A
Something new was added to the life at Stouffville District H.S. when, at the Christmas Concert in 1953, the School Band played for the first time. There were just three members, Allen Stouffer, Marlene Cake, and her brother, Bruce. Allen played trumpet, Marlene trombone, and Bruce baritone. From that small beginning 11 years ago the band has now grown to a membership of 35. The Stouffville Youth For Christ Band has contributed many of our band members and has also aided greatly in the training of many of its members.

Any success the band has had has been due to the fine efforts of Mr. Waite. He formed the band and is still the popular leader.

The first year the band played at Commencements only. The following year piano, drums, and two more trumpets were added. The band was on its way up. Now came a few functions outside of school life, such as the Santa Claus Parade, Remembrance Day Services, and Youth Centre guest appearances. But the main functions were still school ones. Programs were arranged for Commencement Open Nights, Basket Ball games and of course the band was always on hand for Assemblies. One of the newest engagements taken on by the band has been operettas. It played for the H.M.S. Pinafore production two years ago and is presently working hard to prepare for "Pirates of Penzance", to be presented at the end of this month. The operetta music is a real CHALLENGE for the members.

An instrumental class was begun by Mr. Waite two years ago to help beginners in the band. Students, of their own span, usually two a week, to practice with their instrument and be instructed by Mr. Waite. There were eleven students in the class this year who joined the senior band around Christmas.

And what lies ahead for our band? — In my interview with Mr. Waite he was confident that it would continue to grow and improve. He stated "Band uniforms will be acquired in the future and a full-time musical instructor will be needed before long." Mr. Waite also said that the musical program in the school would be expanded to take in more grades and some day the band would be divided into Junior and Senior groups.

A former member of the band, Norman Hendricks, was one of the two drummers in the Fort Henry Guard which won so much praise at the Royal Tournament in London, England this past summer. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend one of these performances and watch our Canadian boys perform in front of people from all parts of the world. I was proud to think that Norm started his drumming in Stouffville High. Likewise, I am proud to be a member of this worthwhile organization.

the marshy ground of Runnymede and it took only five days to force John to sign the document because if he waited any longer he'd sink through the mud.
John had no intentions of keeping his promise and he decided to take action. He took action alright. He crammed himself full of peaches and cider. We are not sure that John died from an overdose of peaches and cider, although poison helps too.
Naturally, you won't find history books written like this (?) and since the above is ridiculous, I'll give it a ridiculous ending.

Joan Foote Scores 24 Points for Senior Girls

Stiff competition proved almost fatal for the Stouffville senior girls' basketball team when they dropped their opener to Woodbridge but rallied to win the second.
In the do-or-die return tilt, Joan Foote scored a total of 24 points. Marion Byer collected 21. A new forward, Elizabeth Stover, playing this position for a first time, connected for 5 points. The guards performed well and allowed only 11 points to go through their basket.
The final score in the second game was 50 to 11 in favour of Stouffville.

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Operetta Interviews

Alan Lee, Gr. 10B
Interviewed Mr. Mercer —

Mr. Mercer has the difficult task of training the Boys' Choir. Because this is an "operetta" the vocal part is the most important and therefore must be well done. Other than this, Mr. Mercer offers general assistance to the other teachers.

Mr. Mercer started training the boys' choir in October for the Commencement. This was a bit earlier than usual but every practice helps. During rehearsals he keeps everything going in order. He makes sure we are paying attention and doing the right things at the right times. In short Mr. Mercer is a "keeper of the peace" and as most students know, he does a good job.

Mr. Mercer says, "The tenor part for teenagers is the most difficult and constant practice is necessary. The basic harmony, however, is not too difficult." He feels the music was not written for famous opera stars but more for less experienced groups. "G. & S. operettas are very suitable for High School performances." "A lot of conscientious work must come yet, but the music, actions and scenery seem to be progressing favourably. Because of the work involved our school is not able to put on an operetta every year. The responsibilities of performing in the operetta fall heavily on everyone involved."

Mr. Mercer feels that during these concentrated weeks of practice, it is difficult for students as well as teachers to keep up with their regular work. However, the time used it not wasted.
Participation in the operetta is in itself a very valuable experience. It combines musical training and acting in the same performance, he concluded.

Bill Lennox, Gr. 10B
Interview: Jane Terwoords, 9B.

In the up and coming "Pirates of Penzance" Jane Terwoords plays "Ruth", a befuddled nurse maid.

Jane has had no previous experience in singing or acting with the exception of membership in school choirs. But when she thought over the part of "Ruth" she became interested and decided to try it out.

"Ruth" because of her hearing ailment, gets Fred into a pirate band instead of the honourable profession of a pilot. This seemed to appeal to Jane. As she says, "It suits my own character and I don't have to be terribly ladylike."
Although Jane likes her part very much she finds it's a mixture of drama and comedy and rather difficult to play.
Jane looks forward to opening night with apprehension and

Father: And did they teach you at school to say "Yes sir," and "No sir," "Yes, ma'am," and "No, ma'am"?
Little boy: Yep.

a few more than normal butterflies. But she feels the operetta is coming along very well. She also thinks that Mrs. Gresham, Mr. Mercer, Mr. Smith and Mr. Waite are doing a terrific job, handling the seventy or more students, who are participating in the "Pirates of Penzance." "The operetta will be a big success," she says.

By Nancy Stover, Gr. 10B
Interviewed: Donna Ratcliff 11A

Donna, who is our leading lady in this year's "Pirates of Penzance" has had experience before in both singing, which she has been studying for six years, and acting. "When two years ago she had a lead part in "H.M.S. Pinafore." Donna, who participates in church choirs also, enjoys working with others, as is evident from her interest in the operetta.

Playing the part of "Mabel", the eldest of the Major General's many daughters, she must act like all eighteenth century ladies, prim and proper, lady-like and very modest and shy. Mabel has a mind of her own and, unlike her sisters, she befriends the "Poor Wandering One", "Frederick".
Her part is quite difficult to sing and much work is involved but Donna feels that all the parts are progressing well, thanks to the patience of the teachers involved.

Donna feels it will be a great success and an evening of fine entertainment.

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Sr. Basketball Team Upset 37-31

The senior basketball team walked into Woodbridge last week, confident of wrapping up the league title. Instead, they were set back on their heels by the "Redmen".

After a fine 1st quarter, Stouffville had run up an 8-point lead with Jim Hill hitting for 7 points out of the first 13. Then Woodbridge caught fire and looked like a different club. They ran Stouffville ragged in the last 3-quarters, climbing from an 8 point deficit to a 13 point edge. The Stouffville crew fought to recover but could do no better than come out of the contest on the short end of a 37-31 score. Paul Grose hit for 9 points and played a good game. The loss left Stouffville in a first place tie and could possibly force a playoff if Woodbridge is successful in their next pair of games.

Buckland Counts 27 Points Against Bradford

Although the Junior boys have lost the championship to Woodbridge, it failed to dampen their spirits when they travelled to Bradford on Feb. 10th. It was a see-saw battle all the way and at half-time, the score was tied 17-17. Stouffville then grabbed a 3-point edge but the homesters rallied to even the count once more. The final score ended 33-32 in Stouffville's favour. Laurie Buckland was the top scorer for the winners with 27 points.

Midgets Only One Game Away from District Title

by Raymond Rioux, Gr. 10B
Dave Ferguson, new to the Stouffville Midget basketball team this year, collected a total of 21 points against Bradford on Wednesday to lead our club to a 33 to 7 victory. He looked great in both offense and defense. Pete Turner counted a couple of long baskets with Randy Mole and David Boyd contributing fine efforts.

It wasn't a close game but it meant much to the team. One more victory in their next two games will give the locals the District Championship. Our hopes go with this club in their quest of a Georgian Bay Title so another flag can be added to the auditorium of Stouffville High.

Editorial . . .

For Body, Mind and Soul
Herbert Otto, Grade 11

Many of us are spending our lives not noticing what we are missing. Some indulge in too much passivity waiting to be entertained by some outside source and others behave as if they had nine lives doing second and third rate things first. And yet, we could use our time properly because opportunities present themselves every day, and they are there for us to take. To make myself clear, I will give a few examples out of our school life.

Basically, beside the regular school work, there are three types of extra curricular activities offered: sports, social activities and, let us say, cultural entertainment. In assessing the three fields, I find it very difficult to say which is most important. It does, after all, depend upon the abilities of the individual and his or her attitude. However, I would just like to compare the degree of participation of the student body as a whole in each of the three areas and perhaps point out the values of each activity.

First we will briefly look at sports. Your enthusiasm for this field may of course be limited by your physical ability. Nevertheless, many of us who are simply disinterested and neglect to take part in sports should give themselves a mental push. Is it not said that "a healthy body contains a healthy mind"? I think more need not be said in favour of sports. It is clear, also, that besides the pure practical reason there is another asset; you meet people, get to know them and learn to co-operate.

The position of social activity is quite an important one and a larger number of us take part in it. We must realize that school parties and dances are there for our enjoyment and relaxation and not just for the student council to make money. If you are not taking part in these activities you are missing some opportunities — like meeting people — which I mentioned before. To be together with friends purely for pleasure has also its place in life and constitutes the healthy balance of work and play which we so easily forget when getting older and burdened down with work and problems.

Thirdly there is the cultural entertainment. Most students have no interest in this field. What is the matter? I think the reason lies in the fact that they have never come in contact with or were never inspired to take part in this sort of activity. By cultural entertainment I mean going to plays or to the Toronto Symphony Concerts, playing an instrument, singing in a choir or taking part in a school play or operetta. A person who never goes to a dance or party does not know about the enjoyment this offers. Similarly a person who never goes to a play or concert will never learn to appreciate the value and enjoyment which the theatre and music can give.

I therefore encourage one and all to engage in a large variety of our extra curricular activities to achieve full satisfaction, joy and enrichment out of life.

Our School System

Stephen Barker, Grade 11A
Why do we persist in using a school system that is so out-dated, it went out with the Middle Ages? Why do we, in the midst of all our scientific progress still revert back to the system of education used by the ancient Egyptians, Romans and Greeks? Any person who has had to sit through a dull class must realize that memorization is not the way to educate a person. In order for a person to learn something, the subject matter must be both interesting and stimulating. Only to the most ardent student does the present system apply.

How many students enjoy going home each night slaving over math, sweating over geography or straining over history? Not too many I can assure you!
The whole school system is in need of over-hauling and rejuvenation if we want our future generations to continue along the paths of progress set up by our ancestors.

More student participation, more courses that will allow each student to be an individualist and generally overall modernization of every course is vitally needed and required by today's ever-changing society.
Something must be done and done soon to make school a proposition that will attract rather than repel prospective customers. It is up to the present generation to pull us out of this deplorable dilemma and raise our standard of education up to the level of modern-day science and industry.

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