

Eliminate high school regimentation — principal

STOUFFVILLE — Regimentation in Ontario secondary schools is on the way out and as far as Stouffville principal William Duxbury is concerned, the change is long overdue. He made this point clear at a meeting of the Stouffville Home and School Association, Dec. 4. Mr. Duxbury formed part of a panel of four local educators. Others included: John McMurray, public school trustee; Lorne Boardway, principal of Summitview School and Mrs. Pat Byer, primary supervisor. The moderator was W. K. Sutherland, principal of Orchard Park.

The discussion was related to recommendations from the recent Hall-Dennis Report on education.

Principal Duxbury suggested that educational reform, to be practical, should be implemented through the entire system, from Kindergarten through University. He said that courses at the high school level were now available to meet the needs and abilities of individual students but additional guidance instruction is required to help students choose wisely.

While changes are needed, Mr. Duxbury feels that new methods should not be approved without careful consideration. He feels too, that the program should be uniform across the province. "If we have a set of ideas in one area and something entirely



William Duxbury different in another, it will be organized chaos."

He said that since the 'group study method' had advanced to Grade 4 in Stouffville's public schools it would be necessary for the high school to adopt a similar program to lessen the problems of changeover from Grade 8 to 9. He said that it would be the responsibility of the area superintendent to see that elementary and secondary schools are working closely together. Principal Duxbury observed that while the new County Board system would undoubtedly prove beneficial, he would miss the close co-operation of board members as presently constituted. "I'm sure we will all feel more like a 'number' under the new arrangement. The personal association will be gone."

Progress at own speed. Primary supervisor, Mrs. Pat Byer termed the Hall-Dennis Report 'the primary teachers' philosophy.' She said that every child should be treated as an individual and allowed to progress at his own speed. She said that while there was a certain stress on 'classroom freedom,' all teachers had guidelines. She said that the 'group study method,' pioneered in Stouffville was

now accepted in such areas as 'Whitchurch' and East Gwillimbury.

Principal Lorne Boardway agreed that competition between students should be reduced but felt that it could never be completely eliminated. He advocated a more relaxed policy on the use of school buildings as 'community centres,' particularly the facilities that could prove advantageous for adult learning and recreation.

Mr. McMurray contended that the high school was better suited for this purpose. He suggested that the library within the high school could become a resource centre for adults.

"They are expensive buildings and should be used as much as possible," agreed Mr. Duxbury.

On the question of starting children in school at the age of three, Mr. Boardway suggested that this recommendation had reference mainly to deprived

boys and girls in depressed areas.

"Who is going to pay for it?" asked Mr. Duxbury.

Mrs. Bver and Mr. McMurray both agreed that

the child's greatest need at that age was parental affection and not education. "The mother and father should use that time to get to know their children," said Mr. McMurray.

Plowmen to meet

By Elsie Dunkeld
ATHA — It seems a little early to think about plowing matches next fall but a meeting of the South Ontario Plowmen's Association will be held on Thursday afternoon (today) in the Atha Community Centre.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Don Maver in the passing of his grandfather, also to Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Melton in the passing of her stepmother, Mrs. Cooper of Oakville.

Mr. and Mrs. James Loree, Kelly and Christine, Toronto, Mrs. Murray Jones, Brian and Linda, Mount Zion were dinner guests Saturday evening with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Dunkeld, Mr.

and Mrs. Grant Jones and Sharyn of Brooklin, were evening callers.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Caruthers and Ruth Ann were recent visitors with her sister, Mrs. Graham Robinson of Willowdale.

Douglas Dunkeld helped to bring joy and happiness Saturday afternoon to 26 handicapped children, when he entertained on his accordion at a Christmas party held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Plitz, Pickering.

Remember to keep open Friday evening, Dec. 20 and attend the community's old-fashioned Christmas concert of music, numbers by the school children, also a forty minute play.



"Herman" clowns with majorette

"Herman" The Clown was a participant in the Santa Claus Parade Saturday. Here he talks with pretty 7 year old majorette, Janice Lown. —Staff Photo

Stores open With only eleven more shopping days until Christmas, stores in Stouffville will be open from Monday through Friday to 9 p.m. and on Saturday until 6. Stores will close Dec. 24, Christmas Eve at 6 p.m.

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