

Students have problems but...

German trip successful

AURORA — In spite of some minor problems, the 52 York County students taking part in a four-month exchange program in Germany are finding the project worthwhile, according to a report made to the board, Nov. 25.

Sigfried Chownietz, teacher at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, stated in a detailed report that Canadian students are having difficulty following the curriculum in the German school because of insufficient understanding of the language.

Four students from SDSS made the trip. They are Dagmar Becker, Penny Ashbridge, Larry Ertl and Dorothy Haluszka. The students will return to Canada in time for Christmas.

A problem with counselling has also developed. Mr. Chownietz said that German schools do not have guidance counsellors and counselling has to be done by English teachers on their own time.

In other cases Canadian students have found their partners un congenial and it was agreed that more detailed profiles of students would have to be exchanged for future trips.

Mr. Chownietz said that Canadian students are spending so much time on their correspondence course to keep up their Canadian studies that they do not have enough time to absorb the German, culture.

The teachers who organized the trip visited

Germany in October and found that, in spite of the problems, 20 per cent of the students had dramatically improved their command of German, while 37 per cent were considerably improved, and 33 per cent were considered to have improved.

Suggestions from Mr. Chownietz and fellow organizer, Toby Van Dalen, included a requirement that students should complete their academic requirements before going to Germany and that a better selection committee be set up, including three German teachers and a person able to evaluate non-academic considerations.

A further suggestion was that financial aid be sought from the federal and provincial governments.

The board agreed to have staff investigate the possibility of a teacher exchange program with West Germany.

Ballantrae P.S.

Parents demand larger play area

BALLANTRAE — After prompting by a parent's group, York County Board of Education will see if it can enlarge the school yard at Ballantrae Public School.

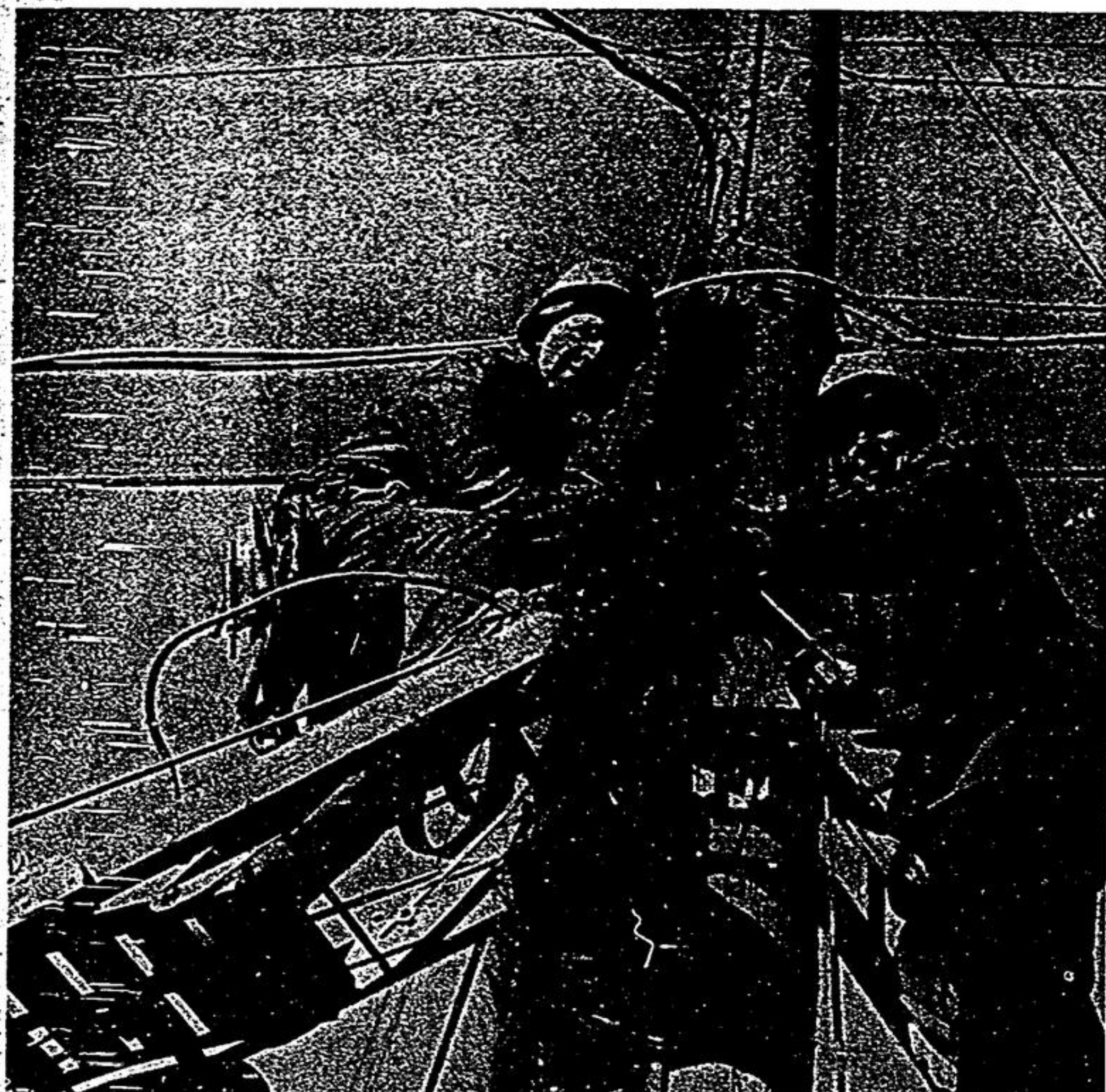
A letter from Ann Griffiths, president of the Ballantrae Home and School Association, asked the board to buy additional land for the school.

The school is on a 4.9 acre site which according to the letter is contrary to board policy. Policy 32 states that elementary schools will be built on sites of eight acres unless they are adjacent to public parks, when acreage may be reduced to six.

A staff report noted that land north and east of the school is heavily wooded and attempts to purchase that property failed in 1969 and again in 1971.

The land to the west of the school is a park owned by Whitchurch-Stouffville. In 1973 the community centre board agreed to remove the fence along the west side of the school so that 12 acres of land became available for school and community use.

The board decided that a committee of trustees and members of the home and school association would discuss the matter with representatives of Whitchurch-Stouffville to discuss purchase of parkland or safeguards that the land would be available for school use.



Stouffville PUC workmen were busy installing Christmas lights on Main St. last week. The lights are courtesy of the Main St. merchants, who this year have added lights east of Church St. and west of Market St. to those up last year. —John Montgomery

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff

Hope alive for centres

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff said last week he believes York Regional Council will subsidize the family life centres.

"The feeling I get is they'll support the Family Life Centres but meanwhile they're putting pressure on the government to provide 50 per cent subsidy," he said.

"I would vote in favor of the region 100 per cent supporting the centres but I would press for the subsidies. They are certainly doing good work and I am not in favor of phasing out their operation."

"They should be 100 per cent funded by the federal or provincial governments. I don't know how many social services we can ask the property owners to pay for. Our only access to funds is through the property owners and this type of thing puts an increasing burden on them," he concluded.

Question: Why did council pass a resolution asking the region to disregard their criteria

regarding the placing of stop signs and to erect these signs at the request of the municipality?

"Local municipalities are having problems getting stop signs at the region. I feel it should be up to the municipalities within the region. The criteria set by the region is hard to meet in a small town. It's impossible! I've seen it for two years and I'm getting fed up with it. We want to slow down traffic on the

side streets and keep people from speeding. The Regional Engineering Department says you can't use stop signs for traffic control and that it's up to the police but you couldn't hire enough men to do it."

Police building loan

NEWMARKET — York Region has received a loan for \$329,300 to complete the new police headquarters being built in Richmond Hill, Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson said last week.

The money comes from the Federal government as a Winter Projects Fund Loan. The loan will assist in the financing of the new

building which is to include a pistol range and training room.

The new building will improve protection by increasing manpower available to cover the three southern municipalities which will be policed from the new building, Mr. Danson said.

The project will create an estimated 175 jobs, he added.

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To all owners or tenants in Durham Region: TAKE NOTICE THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 40 OF THE ASSESSMENT ACT, CHAPTER 32, (AS AMENDED) RSO 1970, I HAVE ON THE 3RD DAY OF DEC. DELIVERED OR CAUSED TO BE DELIVERED ASSESSMENT NOTICES TO ALL OWNERS OR TENANTS IN THIS REGION.

The Last day for appealing the ASSESSMENT NOTICE IS JAN. 7th, 1975 and the Assessment Roll may be examined at the Municipal Office during regular Business hours commencing Dec. 18th, 1974.

W.H. PARNELL
REGION ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONER