



Doug Fagg of RR 1, Mount Albert is a taxidermist of considerable skill. He conducted a night school class at Stouffville High and had some of his life-like 'models'

on display at a recent 'open house' held at the conclusion of instruction last month. —Jim Thomas.

Wildlife collection

They look alive

They looked alive—a menagerie of birds and animals on display at the recent Stouffville Night School 'open house'.

A full grown raccoon, a huge Canada goose, a fox, a pheasant, a duck, all samples of skills employed by Doug Fagg of R.R. 1, Mount Albert and his students at recently concluded classes at S.D.S.S.

Everyone attending the show was prompted to stop and admire the collection. Many returned a second time.

Doug works out of his basement, one of the few taxidermists in the district. He's been doing it sixteen years, two years on a full-time basis. Advertising, he says, has

been mainly word-of-mouth. His talents, however, are very much in evidence through completed products.

Considering the hours required, Doug's prices seem reasonable. He admits he gains a great deal of satisfaction from his accomplishments, whether from his own shop or in a class. Sixteen started the course last fall. He hopes to return in September.

The main challenge ahead is a personal trophy room where the skills of his trade can be fully appreciated. "Some day," he says,

Editor's Mail

Fear end of era

Dear Editor:

It is my understanding that within the next four weeks the Durham Board of Education will be deciding on the future of Webb Public School in Uxbridge Township. The Board contends that the declining enrolments suggest that the Webb School may have to be closed in order to keep the costs down. The parents having studied the area in depth, contend that the Board's projections are inaccurate. However, our enquiries are falling on deaf ears, as it appears that the Durham Board had decided to close Webb School some time ago, and that a token effort has been made by the Durham Board to appease the local residents.

At a public meeting held on March 11th, Mr. David Sims stated that no decision on the closing of Webb School had been made at this time. I find this hard to believe when a conversation in the spring of 1979, with Mr. K.D. Munroe, Director of Education for the Durham Board, indicated that it was a foregone conclusion that Webb School would be closed. He stated that the Board's policy was to consolidate both program and space.

It would appear that lower level Board officials set out to do their job, that is, put in motion the bureaucratic vehicles that would necessitate the closing of Webb School. Last fall the Board decided to remove Grades 1 & 2 from Webb Public School and to bus the students to Goodwood Public School. The possibility of these students now returning to Webb School to complete their primary education is virtually non-existent. The Board, having removed the Grades 1 & 2, has taken the lifeblood out of the Webb School system. The young students are necessary to rejuvenate and ensure a continual flow of students to the higher grades. The

Board now contends that the future enrolments at Webb are too low to keep the school open. They wouldn't be if we could get back the students that were originally ours.

Another factor which will lead to the eventual demise of a landmark and the last small school in this area is the fact that the Board does not enforce the boundaries of the Webb Public School area. The Board contends that both Goodwood and Webb Public Schools are on a shared system and that the parents are free to choose the school for their children to attend. However, some newcomers to the area, when enquiring about the available education facilities in the area, were informed that Goodwood Public School is available. No mention is made of the existence of Webb Public School, even though the children are within the Webb Public School boundaries. This is not what I would term freedom of choice, when no alternatives are offered.

At a past meeting held at the home of Pat Grist, Chairman of the Webb School Accommodation Committee, Mr. Ed Van Nieuwenhove, Trustee for the Uxbridge Scott area, was asked whether or not a cost benefit analysis had been done for the Webb School situation, and if so, could a copy of the study be received for review. Mr. Van Nieuwenhove stated that he would look into it and get us a copy. That was approximately one year ago—we are still waiting for that study.

At a meeting held on March 11th, the Board was requested to provide a copy of the assumptions which were the backbone of the Board's enrolment projections, as it was felt that the figures were inaccurate and had not considered future growth areas. We are still waiting for our copy of the assumptions.

At that meeting of March 11th, the Board verbally contended that their enrolment projections were based on a factor of 35 (35 students per 100 households), and stated that their figures were seldom wrong. It was suggested that the only way to dispute this figure would be a door-to-door survey of the area. We have at this time completed a survey of more than 26 miles of homes. Based on a sample size of 198 homes, it was concluded that the Board's projections are in error, for the available students for Grades K through 8 for the 1980-81 school year are 53 (53 students per 100 households). Moreover, I believe that the projected enrolments are based solely on existing homes which are now on the assessment rolls. No consideration has been given to the growth areas such as the proposed Goodwood or Coppin's Corners developments. Accurate projections cannot be made without having considered all the demographic factors.

The closing of a rural school has a minimal effect on the Region of Durham as a whole, but has a major impact on a local community such as ours. There are means and ways of keeping Webb Public School open, if the Board would be willing to listen to our proposals. To date, no one has really wanted to listen. Prior to the Board making its decision on the closing of Webb School, we would like to be assured that the Board has investigated and duly considered the means of keeping the school open, and not just the means of closing it.

WAYNE G. HUMPHREY, R.R. 1, Goodwood

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WAYNE G. HUMPHREY, R.R. 1, Goodwood

A swinger

A sixteen year old Orchard Park Boulevard youth turned monkey, early Saturday morning, attempting a few acrobatic swings on the sign post outside Dr. Jerome DeLaurier's office, Main Street West. The escapade was costly both to the local chiropractor and the culprit. The sign was damaged, and the teenager stands charged with mischief to private property and consuming liquor under the age of nineteen. He'll appear in court, April 22.

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