

# Modern trend in History

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The History Program at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School is now fully 'process related'.

It's based entirely on Ministry Guidelines (OSIS) and York Region Board of Education Thinking Skills Guidelines.

Parents and the public will experience considerable difficulty understanding what 'History and History teaching' is up to these days, given this new direction and emphasis.

The Ministry guidelines emphasize the skills necessary for the student to become an independent learner.

It is with this plan in mind that our first goal in the History Program is to provide all students with the skills necessary to be independent learners.

This means the process skills of thinking, problem-solving, researching and communicating, both oral and written, must be identified, taught, practiced and learned.

History is no longer the retelling and memorization of details from 'The Textbook', and what the teacher 'says' or writes on the board. The student must now learn to identify what the issues or problems are, which is the most important of the issues or problems, and then proceed to analyse them through reason and research.

History is not taking the 'facts' that have been selected by the historian, the journalist, the essayist or the politician for his or her purpose and bias, but rather now selected by the student to deal with his or her issue.

Since prejudice is a natural part of our existence, the process endeavors to have the student identify and deal with both sides of the issue or problem.

In the jargon of thinking skills, finding different sides of the issue or problem, finding different solutions to the issue and finding ways to resolve the conflicts in the problem, is known as divergent thinking.

Like all skills, it can be taught and learned, but it sure looks different from the 'History' we used to take when we went to school.

Once the problem has been identified; the different sides of the problem identified and researched, communication of that material must be made.

There are two ways of doing this; either orally, or in written form. This means the process of writing must be taught and learned. How to get started, how to introduce the situation and focus the readers' attention on the problem and the writers' position on the problem; how to develop the argument and draw it to a conclusion are now all part of History teaching.

The basic skills of presenting in written form can be and are related to oral presentation and communication. Process in History now means learning the essential skills of identifying, thinking, analysing and communicating. The process now comes under the general heading of 'problem solving'.

The process of problem solving is the same we encounter in our every-day world of work and leisure. We have to make decisions on all manner of things every day of our lives. It is certainly the hope of the Ministry and this History Department that students will be better equipped to handle these decisions; having been given the skills to work their way through many situations of an historical or issue-related nature.

The content is still History, Government, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology and so on, but the emphasis is on the process skills. The content is the means to the end and not the end in itself.

Students will learn far more content and remember it under these guidelines than ever before. They will make many of the decisions that govern their lives as they grow and take part in their community and country.

# Lots of action at auction



The sale of property belonging to the late Myrtle Watson of Uxbridge, Saturday, attracted a crowd of over 500. A Heintzman piano remained in the family. It was purchased by Claude Watson of Pefferlaw for his daughter, Mrs. Pat Catherwood (above), of Uxbridge. The price was \$1,600.



An oil lamp, held here by sale attendant John Leppard, sold for \$95. A set of dishes brought \$1200 and an oak dresser with mirror attracted a bid of \$450. The sale, held at the Wilson Auction Arena, Beaver Road, Uxbridge, began at 10 a.m. and concluded at four. — Jim Thomas

# Honor Christian School speakers

STOUFFVILLE — Public speaking students have been front and centre at Stouffville Christian School in recent weeks.

Winners from each grade, later spoke in the gym. Placements (Grades 1-6), follow:

GRADE 1, (Poem), Amanda Pullan, 1st; Rachel Bowler, 2nd; Justin Blow, 3rd.

GRADE 2, (Poem), Douglas Richardson, 1st; Joshua Clubine, 2nd; Alex Rea, 3rd.

GRADE 3, (Poem), Carolyn Noakes, 1st; Luke Fawns, 1st; Elizabeth Simmonds, 2nd.

GRADE 4, (Poem), Brianne Lake, 1st; Sarah Wood, 2nd; Rhonda Gooding, 3rd.

GRADE 4, (Scripture Passage), Rebecca Harvie, 1st.

GRADE 5, (Poem), Catherine Evans, 1st; Steven Wood, 2nd; Chante Gillespie, 3rd.

GRADE 5, (Scripture Passage), Jennifer Baker, 1st; Owen Norris,

2nd. GRADE 6, (Poem), Sarah Chmara, 1st.

GRADE 6, (Scripture Reading), Rachel Lewis, 1st.

The following students advanced to the ACSI Speech Festival at The People's Church — Amanda Pullan, Doug Richardson, Joshua Clubine, Carolyn Noakes, Luke Fawns, Brianne Lake, Sarah Wood, Rebecca Harvie, Catherine Evans, Steven Wood,

Jennifer Baker and Owen Norris. Several Grade 6 students wrote original speeches. Placements follow:

Jennifer Michell, 1st; Jenny Grigg, 2nd; Rebecca Dent, 2nd; Heather Fitton, 3rd.

Jennifer Michell was a participant in the Stouffville Lions Club Effective Speaking Contest.

The Speech Festival Coordinator was Mrs. Helen Ellis.

# Children have a slip-slidin' good time



Nathan Cook, 4, of Highcrest Road, R.R. 2, Stouffville, makes his way around the rink, assisted by a chair. Nathan attended the Presbyterian Church free skate on Friday morning.



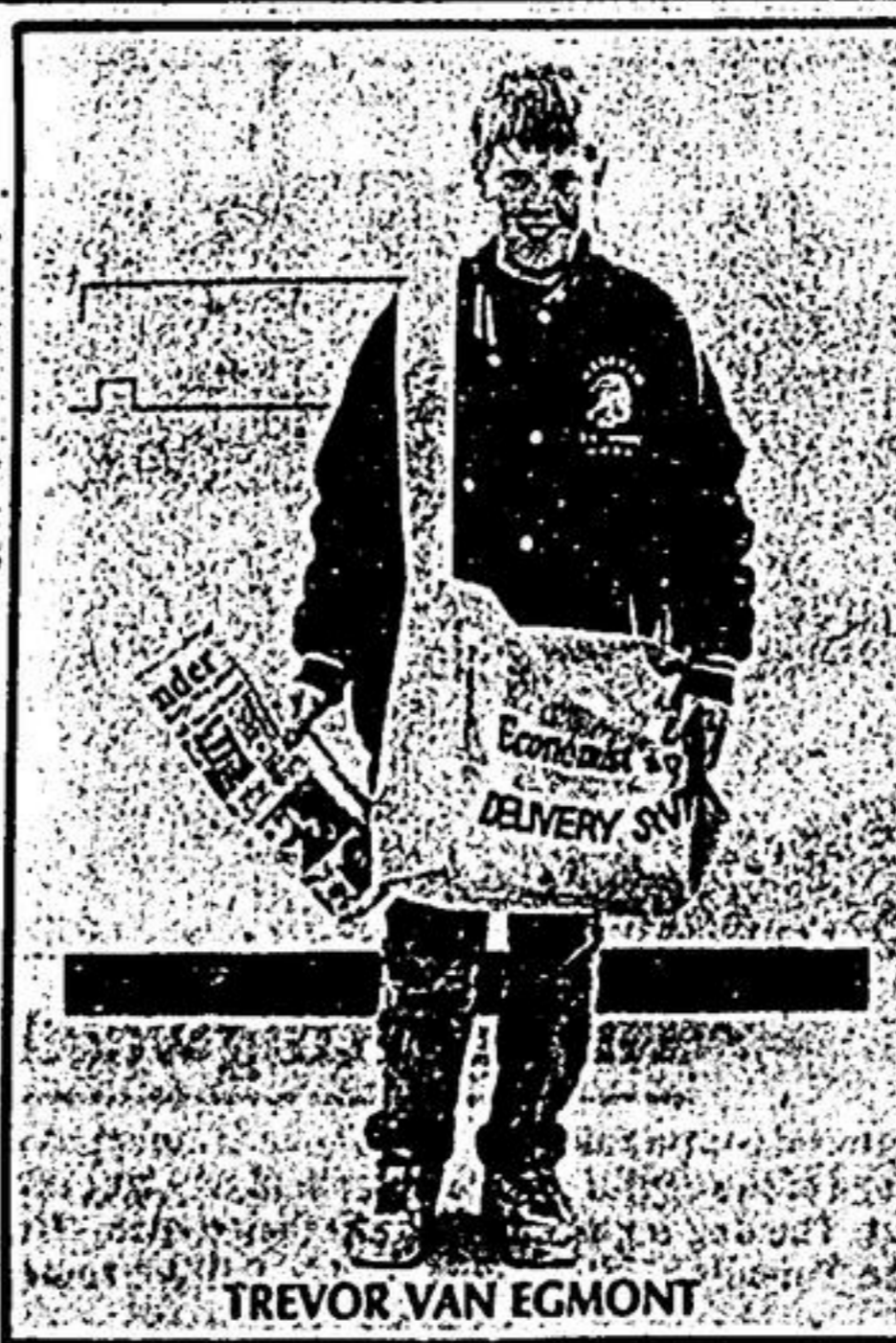
Susan Fowler, of Lloyd Avenue, Stouffville, caters to her daughter, Laura, 2, as they glide across the slippery surface. Hot chocolate and donuts provided extra energy.



All five-year-old Melissa Forcum, of Greenwood Road, Stouffville, requires little encouragement. Thanks provided by Heather Kerwill, of Alderwood Street.



The White Church, Stouffville Rec Centre, echoed to laughter of children Friday as James Bigby, of the Presbyterian Church, hosted free skate in the morning and the Christian School held activities in the afternoon. Showman is Sandy Urbinato and son, Alex, of Maple Grove, MacAdam, 3, is also present. — Jim Thomas



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