

Stouffville

Close-Up

SDSS students fly high with project

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Like Alec Guinness in the movie classic "Bridge On the River Kwai," Stouffville District Secondary School Woodworking Instructor Rod Brown stands over his charges as they work painstakingly on a project that is ultimately destined for destruction.

For Mr. Brown, the ex-cabinet making entrepreneur turned school teacher, the opportunity to build an authentic World War I German Fokker Dr. I Triplane was one he simply couldn't refuse.

Mr. Brown and SDSS Technical Department chief Wally Currie were one of seven York Region high school delegations which responded to an offer of a grant, plus all necessary materials and technical drawings, from Glen Warren Productions to build the reproductions for an upcoming television film.

The movie, "Courage of the Early Morning" is a depiction of the life of illustrious Canadian World War I flying ace Billy Bishop.

The production crew requires seven full scale authentic non-flying aircraft replicas for the two-hour Canadian feature. The film's technical advisor, Aurora's Bill Cole, is supervising the overall project. Mr. Cole is a World War I aviation historian, aircraft builder, parachutist, and pilot.

Mr. Brown assigned his Grade



Students at SDSS have been working hard on this World War I German Fokker Triplane replica for use in an upcoming television film. Long film crews plan to blow it up on the set.

12 Woodworking class to the task of building the Fokker aircraft made famous by the infamous Red Baron. The project got underway in mid-September, and will be completed by late May.

The "SDSS Bomber," as it has been dubbed by the students, will

enjoy a short life span, meeting a fiery demise after being set loose from 300 feet in the air, a make-believe victim of Bishop's combat skills.

"The front of the plane will be loaded with explosives," says Mr. Brown. "I am going to organize a

field trip to the Lindsay area, where they tell me it is to be filmed crashing to the ground. It will last about 30 seconds, apparently."

He says the boys hope they will be able to take souvenir pieces after the plane's brief moment of glory.

He claims the 12 students have become quite attached to the project, spending an hour and a quarter of class time every second day, as well as coming into the shop during spares and exam weeks.

"The class is broken up into groups, with each group in charge of a different part of the plane."

Mr. Brown maintains the students confer among themselves, study the 30 pages of drawings, and engage in creative problem solving as they tackle the project.

"There is much work involved, and there has been a lot of input from the students. We'll probably put it on display in the gym when it is finished. They are all very proud of it."

Technical Department head Mr. Currie says the class has responded favorably to Mr. Brown's direction. "The kids really work for him. He's been a motivating force for them."

The students feel the plane has been an enjoyable challenge. "It's a lot of fun, and we are accomplishing something," says Jason Pascoe.

"We're in here any spare time we have," enthuses Wes Morley. "I really want to see it completed."

Brad McPeck says it has been satisfying to see the endless calculations and measurements finally amount to something. "There is a lot of thinking involved. Everything has to be exact."

The sense of creation has also been a boost for Mike Minos. "I like the fact that we started with nothing, and now we've got a plane."

And while Mr. Brown and his students admit it will be somewhat painful to watch their handiwork go out in a blaze of glory, they say they will remember the experience forever.

"It's the first, and perhaps the last, plane ever built at SDSS," concludes Mr. Brown.

You too can learn how to spy potentially offensive material

Burn your book collection, wash your children's mouths out with soap and cover up the piano legs; shock, modesty and moral outrage are the correct emotions for our new, austere age.

The buzzword of the 1990s is "inappropriate," whether it's applied to John Crosbie's poetic outburst against Sheila Copps or Robert Munsch's highly subversive book, "Giant."

Socially aware people are eschewing attitudes which indicate unsuitable frivolity or a lack of high moral fibre.

Even food must be unappetizingly healthy: ice cream is out, oat bran is in.

If politicians seem less than witty, take pity on them; everything they say nowadays can be, and usually is, taken down and used against them.

Even a remark obviously made in jest and taken completely out of context will bring accusations of racism, sexism or any other kind of -ism that's presently in vogue.

I suspect most people feel it's a mistake to give in to this form of emotional blackmail, but as usual the silent majority is living up to its name, and doing nothing to fight the zealots.

Book banning, always a favorite weapon in the outraged moralist's armory, is enjoying a resurgence of popularity not seen since the early 60s.



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

Back then, the British trial of D.H. Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover" showed how attempts to censor a book which few of the general public had read, and which would normally be gathering dust on library shelves, ended up creating a best-seller out of an obscure literary classic.

During the publicity surrounding the case, a dog-eared copy of the offending paperback was passed around my convent high school class in a brown paper cover, bearing the legend "A Beginner's Guide to Geometry."

Several pure young minds were irrevocably sullied before the Principal pounced on it.

The thing I remember most clearly was how disappointed we were when we read it; the only reason a ban had been sought in the first place was the use, in one or two passages, of what has since become Hollywood's favorite and most endlessly repeated expletive.

It was an awful chore to plough through the whole book only to find that most of the good bits were on page 92, which fluttered out obligingly as soon as you picked it up.

I'd read racier stuff in the children's section at the local library; it was enough to put you off literature for life.

Sometimes the victims of discrimination don't appreciate the efforts of those who strive to protect them.

Take the well-known British jam manufacturer, who used to feature a golliwog logo, until some enlightened individual decided that such a symbol was demeaning to black people.

Rumor has it that the Jamaican government ordered a shipment of the jam, which was duly dispatched, minus the offending logo.

They returned every jar, pointing out the only reason they'd ordered it in the first place was because people wanted to collect the golliwog badges offered by the company to those who sent in the requisite number of logos.

So keep your eyes open and you too can unearth a potentially offensive book, speech or joke. Then you, like Queen Victoria, can join the mounting chorus righteously declaring, "we are not amused."



Class of '42

This class photo of students at Bloomington S.S. 10 may bring many residents back. Top row from left are Frank Burnett, Lillian Brown, Reta Wagg, Mildred Reesor, Helen Burrows. Second row: Earl Moore, John Wideman, Winfred Ham, Jean Hill, Norma Cowie, Betty Williams, Dorothy Wagg, Loreen Talbot, Jean Brown.

Third row, Alfred Fairles, Tom Pady, Bob Moore, Norman Francis, Marion Vaughan, Reta Rae, Gordon Pady, Maitland Burrows, Walter Nicolas, Charles Hill. Bottom row: Phyllis Claughton, Helen Vaughan, Jean Rae, Marion Brown, Betty Dadson, Audrey Brown, Joan Dadson, Edward Hill, Grant Ferrier, Jack Pollard.

Museum breakfast planned

Spring is being ushered in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum way April 8, with its annual pancake breakfast.

And an open invitation for the entire family is extended from the Friends of the Museum.

Following the meal, visitors are invited to view the museum's new

exhibition "The Age of Wood" which features objects, photos and information which illustrate the importance of wood to the area's settlers.

Cost for the breakfast is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children under age 10. It is being served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.