

COMMUNITY

Students live, breathe Claremont's history

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The past, not the present and not the future is on the minds of 31 students at Claremont Public School.

The senior students are living and breathing local history in readiness for a special day in June. A total of 15 houses and buildings will be featured in a historical walking tour in the four corner area of Claremont on June 13 from 1-4 p.m.

The tour is being coordinated by local history teacher Andrea Wanninkhof and the school's senior students.

As well as the walking tour, the day features a tea room and an historical display room, both located at the school.

The students, including Emily White, 14, and Marnie Honeyman, 13, are in the process of gathering historical information about the buildings and the houses in the downtown core.

Talking to seniors, trips to the library, consulting with the Ontario Historical Society and meeting with Lillian Gouslin, author of local historical book *From Paths to Plains*, have all helped provide the students with information about life in Claremont in days gone by.

The students are now reaching out to the general public in the hopes of finding out even more about the hamlet.

If anyone has historical information about any of the houses and buildings in the four corner area, he or she is asked to attend a planning meeting at Claremont Public School on May 13 at 7:30 p.m. The students are also hoping that old photographs will be brought in.

The past is proving to be both challenging and colourful. If you want to know about the Claremont General Store, Honeyman and White are quick to point out that the store, located at the corners, was built in 1851 by John C. Michel.

The store was sold to the McNabb brothers in 1875. In those days, shopping didn't always involve money.

"The women traded baking goods and homemade butter for grocery items," said White.

At one time, there were a lot of hotels in Claremont. "That was because of the railway," said White. "There was even a hotel where the garage

stands now."

Claremont has had four public schools since its beginning. Three were destroyed by fire.

The students also know that Claremont is known for its gingerbread trim. Many of the houses dating back to the 1860s still have the original gingerbread. "This element will be part of the walking tour," stressed Wanninkhof.

Not only does the historical walking tour offer excellent education value for both students and the public, it is a major fundraiser for the school. Those attending the walking tour will pay \$5 for the privilege. Next year is a very special year for Claremont. As this century wraps up, Claremont Public School will mark its 101st year. "It will not go unnoticed," said school principal Heather Stuart.



Emily White, 14, (left) and her Grade 8 classmate Marnie Honeyman, 13, both from Claremont Public School, get ready for the Claremont historical Tour of Homes by checking out this 1889 gingerbread home, and the Claremont General Store building dating from approx. 1847.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN



Marilyn Ferguson, CEO of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, children's librarian Melanie Dustow stack CD-Roms with the help of Mayor Wayne Emmerson Friday. The CD-Roms were purchased from the Mayor's Youth Fund, an \$800 value.

Mayor's fund buys library CDs

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There's no shortage of CDs at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

Friday, Mayor Wayne Emmerson paid a special trip to the library where he handed over \$800 to buy much needed CDs.

The money comes from the Mayor's Youth Fund. In the past three years, close to \$30,000 has been given to benefit the youth of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Founded in 1995, money for the Mayor's Youth Program has come from an annual golf tournament hosted by Emmerson.

The mayor points out that this year's golf tournament is on July 2nd at Sleepy Hollow and Maples of Ballantrae golf courses.

To date, about \$36,000 in total has been raised for youth clubs and organizations.

Grants have been given to 20 organizations. The largest cheque

was for \$10,000 for the second ice pad at the local recreation complex.

Other sport groups receiving money include soccer, minor hockey and softball associations.

A town youth centre received \$3,000, while all seven schools in Whitchurch-Stouffville got \$1,000 each for new programs.

Money has been donated to the Strawberry Festival youth program, Centre Stage Production youth theatres, Willowgrove and Glenbrook day camps, repairs to Stouffville's skateboard ramp and a donation was made to the St. James Student Music Scholarship concert.

"Some grant money has been matched by service clubs including the Lions and the Kinsmen," stressed Emmerson.

Applications for funding are received by a committee made up of Emmerson, Ward 5 Councillor Judy Scala, Bob McNeely, Wayne Jackson, Bruce Gibbon, Gary McDonnell and Jim Mason.



GET DOWN TO IT: Grade 8 student Andrew Everest gives explicit instructions to get down to it to a parent volunteer group for Whitchurch Highlands Public School. The painting of a computer keyboard on the pavement was one of many activities the parents do for the school. Friday was a professional development day for teachers.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Chamber welcomes MPP

Public purse watchers in Stouffville and Uxbridge are invited to attend a budget breakfast Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at Angie's.

Durham York MPP Julia Munro will be the guest speaker at the Stouffville breakfast.

Munro, who represents both communities will explain the impact of the provincial budget on the local area. The provincial budget is being released on Wednesday.

Tickets to the meeting, being

BUSINESS

sponsored by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, are \$10 each. For tickets call 642-4227.

Region to spend \$10M on roads

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also agreed to spend an extra \$10 million improving the road network.

Councillors complained the region was facing massive gridlock because new roads weren't keeping pace with development.

Regional taxpayers are taking over a number of provincial ser-

vices this year, particularly in the health and social services departments.

For example, the region will spend \$9.2 million on ambulances and \$34.8 million on social housing, expenses the province has paid in the past.

In return, the province is picking up half the education costs from

residential property taxes.

Council adopted the budget unanimously last Thursday.

"I'm certainly willing to go out and support a tax increase when we're adding 17 police officers and 15 civilians and new roads," said Markham Councillor Frank Scarpitti.