

York Region students prefer having summers off of school

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modified year, with 1,600 of those here in Ontario.

Task force co-chairperson and former education minister David Cooke said while year-round schooling isn't for everyone, a greater effort should be made to at least explore it further.

There are several variations, or "tracks" to a modified school year.

In one London high school, every student is on the same modified schedule.

Then there is the dual track system, whereby some students at a school are on year-round schooling, while others are on a traditional calendar.

Multi-track schools have yet to make their debut in Ontario. Conceived as a cost-saving move, groups of students would alternate between time off and time spent in the classroom to free up space at crowded schools and save on textbooks.

But there are, of course, the nay-sayers to year-round schooling.

Opposition to a modified school year is a rare example of students and administrators seeing eye-to-eye on an issue.

Reports suggest schools on a modified year are most common at the elementary level and, as Crowe confirmed, "Most of our elementary schools are not air conditioned. It was already too hot in a lot of our schools in June."

Crowe said air conditioning is a major expense. Without funding from the province, it's unrealistic to expect children to learn in classrooms under sweltering conditions such as last week's heat wave.

Crowe also said every school in the board would have to switch to year-round schooling, in order to avoid disrupting senior students as well as families.

"I can't see that ever happening," Crowe said. "A lot of students have summer jobs. They rely on that money to fund their education."

Year-round schooling could potentially break up family vacation time as well, Crowe said.

If one child were enrolled in a school on a modified schedule and another child's school operated on a regular calendar, co-ordinating time together could prove to be a tricky endeavour.

Tammy McQueen, a Grade 13 student at Cardinal Carter High School in Aurora, agrees.

"I like having summers off. I wouldn't



ELIZABETH CROWE: Lack of air conditioning in Catholic schools an issue, says chairperson of board.

have enough money for university if we didn't have the summer off," McQueen said.

"It looks better on a résumé to have a steady job for two months," said Sean McGillen, an OAC student at Newmarket High.

Fran McDougall has worked as a supply teacher for summer school and says she agrees with the students on this one.

"Have you tried teaching a class full of students when it's this hot and there's no air conditioning?"

Richmond Hill High School student Jessica Whitby doesn't think year-round schooling is a good idea either. She said the summer is an opportunity for students to do the activities they want to do. "It's their time to spend with family and friends."

The modified school year began in Ontario last week and Simcoe County's two elementary schools are set to open Aug. 27.

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A tradition was born.

Fifteen years later, Lobster Fest remains one of the biggest draws of the year at The Corner House. The busy restaurant hosts many events throughout the year, but Lobster Fest is the clear favourite. "People like the fact that lobsters are flown in fresh and cooked here," says chef Les Broadbent of The Corner House. "It's a lot of fun for our customers and our staff."

For one week each month, from April to September, The Corner House Restaurant features fresh Atlantic lobster as part of its daily menu. Succulent lobster tails, seafood pastas and vegetable combinations make this menu one to experience.

The next Lobster Fest weeks are **August 21-26** and **September 18-23**. This is a popular event, so book your table well ahead. Experienced chefs cook the lobster in several different ways, including steamed, broiled and Lobster Thermidor.

Special international events are regularly held at the restaurant. Regular wine tasting events are also part of the fun with special vintages chosen by a resident wine expert. The sum total of these events gives The Corner House a truly cosmopolitan dimension.

If you appreciate fine French, Cajun and Italian foods meticulously prepared to perfection, The Corner House is the place for you. A diverse menu of tasty entrees includes grilled or blackened fish, pepper steak, rack of lamb and gourmet pizzas. Be sure to try the house favourite, Brandy Snap Basket.

The right ambiance is an important component of any fine dining experience. At The Corner House, you'll enjoy a delightful blend of innovative cuisine and refined elegance. Posters of jazz musicians and various artworks complement the bright new décor. Friendly staff is committed to making your dining experience truly memorable.

The Corner House Restaurant also offers at-home catering services. Les Broadbent will help you personalize menu selections, as well as desserts and wines to complement the meal. Give them a call at (905) 640-8494, and let their friendly staff help you to plan a gourmet menu for your next dinner party.

To make reservations at The Corner House, call (905) 640-8494.

