

School Accommodation Cause Of Concern To Augusta Board

The Augusta township school area board met on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in the Algonquin school.

A motion was passed transferring the title of the land forming the roadway to the new Maitland school from the board to the township council in order that they may obtain grants on account of the costs of building the road. The school area appreciates the township council assuming the responsibility for this roadway, and the road superintendent, Mr. Weir, is to be congratulated on the very excellent driveway which has been constructed which will add greatly to the finished appearance of the new school. The work on the school is progressing favourably, and it is hoped that it may be ready for use at the new year.

On motion, the name is the "Maitland Public School", and this name will be placed on the school in foot high, cast aluminum letters as part of the contract.

In the meantime, the Maitland children are attending school in the old school, the St. James' hall and the Institute hall, with the Grade 4 children being transported to the Blue Church school on the Johnston bus.

Serious overcrowding is existing at Algonquin and Brundiges schools and the Inspector, C. A. Holmes, is working with the board in an attempt to find some means of relieving this condition. Several other schools in the area have their maximum number of pupils in attendance, and any new families moving into these areas will create a problem.

Routine business was conducted with minutes and accounts being approved as read. Two problems of discipline involving area children were discussed at length, with the people concerned being present, and solutions were arrived at which it is hoped will be satisfactory to all. Several transportation and caretaker contracts were approved. G. B. Bennett acted as chairman and trustees Mrs. F. Keys, W. S. Shannon and N. Mackey were in attendance. W. L. Mathie was unavoidably absent.

A detailed and interesting report was submitted by Miss Helen Colton, P.H.N., on behalf of the Health Committee, showing that 125,000 vitamin capsules had been purchased from a local drug store for distribution to the schools of Prescott and Augusta Township. The distribution was as follows: Blue Church 6000, Haley's 3000, Stones Corners 3000, Reade's 4000, Maynard 3000, Brundige 4000, Maitland 17000, Charlieville 5000, Domville 3000, Lords Mills 4000, Union Grove 3000, McKinley's 2000, Algonquin 4000, Herron's Corners 2000, North Augusta 4000, Throoptown 2000, Roebuck 4000, South Branch 2000, Garretton 2000, McLeaville 2000, and Prescott Schools on demand.

First New School

The Maitland School is the first school to be built by the Area Board, and is the first in the township in the past quarter century.

Location of the new school in the village of Maitland is ideal, on high land, with the four-acre site midway between Highway No. 2 and the CNR right-of-way, and a block and a half west of the Maitland-Merrickville highway. The Augusta Township Council co-operated well by purchasing the right-of-way to the new site and by running a new road past the school.

Built at a cost of approximately \$78,000, fully equipped, the new four-room school is modern in every detail. Construction is of brick with natural lighting on one side of each classroom, and recessed artificial lighting for each room. Floors of the class rooms are Vinyl tile, and terazzo in the hallways and washrooms, where walls are protected with kalyston plastic.

The color scheme is one of the finest in district schools, and each class room has chalkboards of high grade slate, with tackboards across the top and at one end. Bookshelves are open and adjustable, and each room has a project area and sink with running water. Heating is by oil-fired hot water.

There is also a combined principal's office and nurses' room, and each teacher has a cupboard in her classroom. Cloakroom space in each room has a ventilator at the top to assist in the drying of clothes as pupils attend classes.

The school has been designed by H. H. Roberts, Westport, so that additional class rooms may be added as the demand for more space presents itself. The general contractor was J. B. Hughson of Brockville. Opening had been planned for November, but unforeseen delays set the date back by four months.

Two Classes Moved Monday Morning; Remainder March 28th

Pupils and teachers occupied the rooms of the new Maitland Public School this week, and by the first of the coming week it is expected all four classrooms will have the quota of pupils.

Opening of the first two classrooms was rushed to take care of the overcrowding of the Algonquin Blue Church and Brundiges Schools, and with the arrival of desks for the next two rooms it is expected a full registration of 100 pupils will be in attendance Monday.

Mrs. I. Roseberry, Principal, a teacher of Grades 7 and 8, and Mrs. Marjorie Morris, with Grades 1 and 3, opened their classes Monday morning, in the new, modern school this week as pupils were transported to their new classes.

Teachers of the other classrooms will be Mrs. Bertha Wilson, Grades 5 and 6, and Mrs. Peter Brundage, Grades 3 and 4.

To help overcome overcrowding in the schools of the area, temporary class rooms have been in operation in the Women's Institute Hall and St. James' Parish Hall at Maitland since September. Enrolment in the schools under the jurisdiction of the Township of Augusta School Area stands at 700, an increase of 200 in the past two years reflect the population growth since industry moved into the township and Prescott areas.

Beginning Sept. 1954 200 capsules were made available free of charge to these schools by the Prescott branch of the Red Cross Society. I recall boys putting the capsule in rubber boots if they weren't monitored. (A.D.)

Amalgamation: Its Effect On Costs And Teachers

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(This is the fourth in a series of articles dealing with the new educational system which comes into being January 1, 1969).

by SHEILA McCOOK

Education Minister Davis has been heard to say "I only wish that some educators were aware, as we are, of the eventual limit of spending."

But, despite the financial worries of one of Canada's most powerful politicians in the area of direct control of money, Mr. Davis has introduced a measure (Bill 44) which few deny will increase costs. Many, however, are in sympathy with his expensive aims.

Clarence Marshall, of the Brockville high school board, says that he is not looking to the new law "to produce greater economy." He warns that there is too much publicizing about costs of education—"the important thing is the education itself, its quality and opportunity for equality".

BURNS BOTH WAYS

Public school trustee George Franklin admits that "the long term trend of costs will be higher, but it will be accompanied by increased benefits".

"We mustn't confuse education with vocational training: preparation for the work preparation for the work. Education is expensive but we must recognize the value of its goals — equipping the student for personal integration into society in the face of the vast operations of that society, thus equipping the student for work demands in the face of the alteration of work demands by the larger boards will be cheap-

er, and the negotiation of salaries by a more representative board will prevent inordinantly high pay to individual teachers who successfully pit their arguments against trustees of amateur standards.

"Besides," says Mr. Marshall, "if you have 25 school boards trying to do the same thing (special education, itinerant pupils and teachers) the costs would be even higher."

But increased costs will come with the plan of itinerant students being transported to special classes in other areas of a county, and itinerant, specially-qualified teachers travelling around schools in the division.

Further costs will come with the physical adjustment to schools in the county. With the situations where "students will be able to travel between schools to make up sufficient numbers for classes they want, it is considered highly possible that schools will amalgamate or new central schools will be constructed", says Mr. Marshall.

WORRY TO TEACHERS

Teachers worry about the power of the superboard and the fact that they can be posted at the board's will within a division.

The general opinion of teachers to the new bill, however is expressed by H. R. Wilson, president of the 85,000 member Ontario Teachers' Federation, who, though feeling that a review board needs to be set up to assure fair transfers of teachers under the system, goes on to say that the consolidations form "the basis for one of the finest

educational systems that could be devised".

Supervising principal of Brockville's public schools, C. E. Timanus, says that teachers in this area are generally in favor of the law. A major consideration of the new trustees will have to be, he says, the willingness, suitability and convenience for teachers considered for posting.

EXERCISE DIPLOMACY

Mrs. Grace Wyatt, of the public school board, emphasizes that the trustees will have to exercise considerable diplomacy when it comes to teacher moves.

Department of education officials themselves have said: "There will be promotions within the County and to take advantage, teachers and officials must be prepared to move." But they add that unhappy teachers do not make good teachers, so the answer will be that "the board and superintendent will deal with each case individually".

Advisory committee representing teacher interests have been set up and are in contact with interim school organization committees.

PROTECT BENEFITS

Deputy minister of education, Dr. John McCarthy has said that the new law will protect teachers' fringe benefits such as retirement gratuities and cumulative sick leave.

H. G. Gould, administrator of the Brockville district high school board, says that from his understanding of section 84, subsection (d) and (e) of the second reading of the bill he feels confident about full protection

of the status of all teachers contracted before Jan. 1, 1969.

At present he sees no problems, adding that teachers should go along with the proposals: "It becomes an obligation. It rests on the teachers to make sure education improves."

In Leeds and Grenville, the county board will administer the contracting and posting of teachers in 68 schools.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

To facilitate the enormous transitional stages, the department of education suggested "interim school organization committees". In Leeds and Grenville such a committee was set up with representations from each existing board, under the chairmanship of Donald R. Price of Gananoque. The committee compiles statistics and problems of every school in the area from which the new superboard can base its actions.

The intricate enormity of the task facing the interim committee has brought fear that the transition period until the January change-over is not long enough. William Countryman, principal of Thousand Islands Secondary School, said that the period "could bring changes to be made much more rapidly than ever before."

George Franklin says the committee is not overloaded with work or the time too short because the committee for Leeds and Grenville area superintendents (who are not represented on the committee) were appointed as a secretariat and are doing most of the work.

Structure And Financing Of New Board Explained

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(This is the third in a series of articles dealing with the new educational system which comes into being January 1, 1969.)

By SHEILA MCCOOK

At present there are, in the counties of Leeds and Grenville, 25 school boards, plus ten separate school boards.

High school boards are: Rideau District H.S., Gananoque District H.S., Athens District H.S., Brockville District H.S. (all in Leeds) and South Grenville District H.S. and North Grenville District H.S.

Municipal groupings of elementary schools are: Bastard and Burgess South, Crosby North, Crosby South, Front of Escott, Front of Leeds and Lansdowne, Front of Yonge, Gananoque, Kitley, Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne, Brockville, Elizabethtown, Rear of Yonge and Escott-Athens (all in Leeds) and Elmsley South, Wolford, Prescott, Oxford-on-Rideau, Edwardsburg, Cardinal and Augusta (all in Grenville).

The united counties, with

its population of just over 71,000, is entitled to 16 trustees, elected on the basis of residential assessment. Trustees will hold office for two years.

On April 10 of this year it was announced that Brockville would be represented by four members, Gananoque, one, Prescott, one, the separate schools one, and the townships (the remaining areas of the county divided into wards) nine.

The following is a list of municipalities grouped within the wards, with one representative to be elected in each ward:

1. Bastard and Burgess, Newboro, North Crosby, Westport; 2. Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne, South Crosby; 3. Front of Leeds and Lansdowne, Front of Escott; 4. Front of Yonge, Athens, Rear of Yonge and Escott, Kitley; 5. Elizabethtown; 6. Augusta; 7. Edwardsburg, Cardinal; 8. Oxford-on-Rideau, Kemplville, South Gower; 9. Merrickville, Wolford, South Elmsley.

The trustees will be elect-

ed by "public school electors" those in a school division, entered on the last revised voters' list, as qualified to vote at the municipal election within the school division and not supporters of a separate school. In other words, Brockville people will only vote for candidates running for the four Brockville seats on the county board.

Certain discrepancies of rural representation arise: The largest grouping in terms of population is at Edwardsburg-Cardinal with 5,732 — this is 2,716 more than in the smallest grouping. However, Edwardsburg-Cardinal in terms of total assessment is the most meagre of the nine areas sending a representative to the county school board. It has a total assessment of \$12,316,350, which is \$6,412,438 less than the wealthiest rural area, Elizabethtown, with \$18,728,788.

At the moment, the taxpayer does not know how much of his money goes to education. George Franklin of the public school board would speculate

"about half" of the taxes collected by municipalities goes to primary and high school purposes, while Minister Davis says that about 70 cents out of every dollar goes to education from primary schools through to adult education.

The municipalities get from the local high school and public school boards their anticipated expenditures for the coming year, then add this on to the budgets estimated for municipal expenditures, and gross amount is then used to establish the mill rate.

TWO TAX BILLS

Tax collection under the new system will change, with the intent of providing positive identification about how much goes to education. The one gross bill will be replaced by two, one for municipal taxes, and one for Leeds and Grenville board of education costs.

The school tax will continue to be collected by the municipality and then transferred to the board of education. The elected board (See STRUCTURE—Page 9)

Structure

(Continued from Page Three)

will be directly responsible to the electorate for financing costs, and will issue its own debentures, subject to the approval of the Ontario Municipal Board, says the department.

For the handling of its money, the boards will hire licensed, class "A" auditors, and financial statements will be issued at earlier dates than now possible.

Under the general sharing arrangement of the county, extra or special services will not be financially borne by the municipality involved. Where areas with less population and lower assessment can't afford additional services — kindergarten, or perhaps remedial classes — a wealthier area will have to delay its own ambitions and mark time while the poorer area is brought up to standard.

By the broadened tax system, therefore, local costs in each ward will be supported by the cross-county money, not by the individual ward.

Each trustee will be responsible for a relatively much larger segment of the student population than his predecessors. The range of students will extend all the way from kindergarten right through to the final year of high school; types of students will be increased from the "normal" to the "special" student.

It has already been admitted that the trustees, whose salaries will be up to \$300 per month, will have to have paid advisors (likely some of the present school inspectors whose jobs are being "phased out"). A public school official describes the advisors as "program consultants".

Clarence Marshall of the high school board says the staff responsible to, and hired by, the board, could comprise:

1. Chief educational officer (in effect, area superintendent of new board) who could establish under him, (a) superintendent for high schools, (b) two superintendents for public schools, who in turn might hire their own assistants.

2. An administrative wing in charge of a staff that would look after purchasing, etc.

Mr. Franklin, in his Rotary Club speech of July 15, stressed that the senior administrator appointed by the new board should be a business administrator rather than simply a professional educator.

Mr. Marshall does not think there will be too great a work load for only 16 trustees doing such a large share of work. He thinks, with the new system, there will be more money to spend on administrative staff. A trustee who has never before been one and who hasn't dealt much with education will spend a "heck of a lot more time" for the first couple of years of the plan, but after things are set up, trustees will have less time — consuming work than the present trustees.

He does pass along a warning to future trustees: "They will have to pull in their horns from the nits and bits and stand back from the squabbles they get involved in now. They will have to supervise only."

Four In \$22,500-Yearly Posts:

Regional Board Appoints School Superintendents

A Gananoque elementary school inspector, and a Smiths Falls elementary school inspector with secondary school qualifications are among four superintendents named Saturday to serve the recently set up Leeds and Grenville Counties Board of Education.

Neil W. Ellis, 39, of Gananoque and W. Frederick Hampton of Smiths Falls, both experienced public school inspectors were among the four area superintendents named Saturday to serve the Counties Board at a \$22,500 per annum salary. Also named as superintendents were D. B. Deacon, 47, of Guelph, a public school superintendent for the past six years; and R. C. Skipper 45-year-old principal of North Grenville District High School at Kemptville, for the past three years.

The business administrator named to serve the board at an \$18,000 per year salary, is George W. Tindal, 51, of Thornhill, Ontario, where he has been business administrator of the York Center District High School Board since 1964.

LONG INTERVIEW

The announcements came from D. R. Price of Gananoque, board chairman.

The appointments were made Saturday after 10 hours of interviews by the Leeds and Grenville Counties Board of Education at Victoria School here. The 16-member board interviewed 10 applicants for superintendents' positions and five for the business administrator's post. The Director of Education for Leeds and Grenville, Lloyd A. Dennis, was present during the interviews.

The board faced the field of applicants which had been narrowed down considerably by a committee headed by trustee Eldon Guthrie of Portland. It was pointed out that in the beginning the board had received 64 applications in answer to its advertisements.

The administrator, Mr. Tindal, hired for \$18,000, will take over from J. S. Stratton of Prescott, who has been acting as the interim business administrator. Mr. Tindal is expected to start gathering his staff immediately.

The Director of Education, Mr. Dennis, who has carried out many speaking engagements and public appearances around the counties during the past week, will assume office June 16, but the business administrator and the superintendents will be on the job within one month. Mr. Dennis who will draw a \$30,000 salary will be spending consid-

committed himself to a week a month and all weekends as a consultant at no pay, with expenses only. The director of education, the four superintendents and the business administrator will form the executive council and will report to the board through the director. It is their task to carry out the policies of the board and will play a role in developing the policy. The superintendent or inspectors will be given a geographic area to cover and will have supervision of that area in all aspects from kindergarten to grade 13. They will have further responsibility in one of four other areas. These are learning; the arranging of curriculum; professional personnel, the hiring of school staffs; plant and facilities, building programs; and special education, opportunity classes and psychiatric assistance to students.

The business administrator will establish and direct a service system within the realm of the board, dealing with accounting, payroll, purchasing, cafeteria services, transportation, maintenance, etc.

Those announced as appointed to the new board will take up responsibilities within one month, although Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hampton are now working with the board and will continue in their office.

Dennis Leading Ontario Campaign To Make Education "Child - Centred"

1 **LIAN NEWBERY**

ONTARIO (CP) — The plan for an Ontario education system that is "child-centred" open to everyone according to his needs is being led vigorously by one of the men recommended such a plan.

Mr. Dennis, co-chairman of the commission on Ontario education, is speaking tonight in support of a plan the commission proposed.

His speaking engagements are booked until next April 7, night and Sundays.

He has an answer for Ontario government officials that it may have to back on education spending.

"We have to be careful not to rationalize and find in this report an out," he said in an interview. "To implement the report's philosophy we need not a financial but a new outlook."

The commission, which defined the aims and objectives of education in Ontario, made 258 recommendations, all designed to support the fundamental recommendation that the principles governing school education in Ontario should be:

"The right of every individual to have equal access to learning experience best suited to his needs."

The responsibility of school authority to provide an environment inviting learning by individual inquiry and inquiry.

STYLES DIFFER

The report called for elimination of "lock-step systems" organizing pupils, such as streams, programs,

emphasis in the primary should be on communication, such as speaking, listening, reading and writing. The report said. Senior years

would be designed to accommodate the different needs of students by offering a wide variety of courses.

Other recommendations cover the whole field of educational techniques and methods, as well as educational administration.

In the 1967-68 school year, Ontario had 1,868,788 pupils in elementary and secondary schools. There were 78,182 teachers for a ratio of 23 students to each teacher. Figures for the current year are not yet available, but it is believed the student-teacher ratio has been improved.

Mr. Dennis, who resigned as principal of a Toronto elementary school in 1966 to serve as research director of the commission, was named co-chairman a year later. His contract with the Ontario education department expires next March, but he has asked for a one-month extension. His office is turning down 15 requests a day for speaking appearances.

Implementation of the report should come from a groundswell of public feeling, he says.

"It may not come, but no one should sit back and say, 'Let the department, the minister of education, the school boards or the teacher do it.'"

"Everyone has a role."

STYLE CRITICIZED

The report has its critics. One of the objections concerned the style in which it was written—a professor said it was, in effect, too high-flown.

The commission studied suggestions from students, teachers, parents, industrialists and other members of the community.

The report's preamble reads in part:

"The underlying aim of education is to further man's search for truth. Once he possesses the means for truth, all

else is within his grasp. Wisdom and understanding, sensitivity, compassion and responsibility as well as intellectual honesty and personal integrity will be his guides in adolescence and his companions in maturity."

"Too utopian," was the criticism of A. D. McKague, superintendent of supervisors for the education department. He told an audience in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., that students must be taught "the realities of life."

"If we don't, our young people will become a race of hippies. If carried to the extreme, the report would demand one teacher for every pupil. We just can't afford it."

When a child starts school in Ontario, the report says, he should enter 12 years of ungraded, child-oriented learning, its content a tool for discovery and exploration. It recommends that students examine contemporary issues, that they be offered summer programs, wide choice of courses, film education, health services, audio-visual resource centres, school hostels in parks and food services where needed.

LANGUAGE IS KEY

It recommends compulsory French for the first four years, extended foreign-language studies, the use of "resource persons" such as actors, writers, artists.

One critic says the report "leans on ideal homes, gifted teachers, gifted students."

Mr. Dennis agrees that the first changes should come in teacher education. The present system "is not likely to breed the kind of fiery man" who will kindle confidence, freedom, self-respect and excitement.

He also thinks the public should "get off the teacher's back." Teachers faced appraisal from parents, students, trustees and the hierarchy from vice-principal to the deputy minister.

The report recommends competitive salaries, merit pay, professional development courses and travel programs for teachers.

Already the shortage of teachers has levelled off in elementary schools. This year the province had 2,000 applicants more than last year, and was able to raise the standard of entrance to teach

ATTITUDE CHANGED

The department's attitude to the report is tempered by its changing role in education. Until 1966-67, the department set Grade 13 examinations and thus indirectly, course content for all grades.

The department now sees itself, says a senior official, as a protector of education rights rather than an arbiter of "what is taught and how to teach it."

In December, Ontario voters will elect probably the most influential school boards ever. The new trustees will sit on boards reduced in number from more than 900 to about 100 units in county-sized areas. Strengthening of authority at the local level was one recommendation in Living and Learning, the name of the commission report.

The department has implemented other solutions. Last spring it introduced legislation to set up French-language schools wherever there is a sufficient concentration of French-speaking Ontarians. A student exchange program began with Project School to School which links Ontario students to young people in the Caribbean islands.

But Ontario education has a long way to go, Mr. Dennis says. Too many schools were operated like battleships instead of places of discovery.

"Let's shoot for the stars and hope for the horizon," he says.

In my humble opinion — he set education back years by testing his "theories" of self-discipline.

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A complete picture of Leeds and Grenville representation is as follows:

Municipality		Equalized Assessment	Members
Brockville		\$ 66,509,558	4
Gananoque		12,102,519	1
Prescott		12,423,392	1
Augusta Twp.		17,272,388	1
Elizabethtown Twp.		17,525,076	1
(Edwardsburg Twp.	8,866,484)	12,830,619	1
(Cardinal	3,964,135)		
(Gower South Twp.	2,496,112)		
(Kemptville	5,448,166)	14,928,471	1
(Oxford-on-Rideau Twp.	6,984,193)		
(Merrickville	1,963,142)		
(Kitley Twp.	3,722,708)	17,338,517	1
(Elmsley South Twp.	7,656,250)		
(Wolford Twp.	3,996,417)		
(Front of Leeds & Lansdowne	12,500,926)	21,428,241	1
(Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne	8,927,315)		
(Bastard and Burgess Twp.	10,017,606)		
(Crosby South Twp.	4,428,889)		
(Crosby North Twp.	3,171,786)	19,396,478	1
(Newboro	598,826)		
(Westport	1,181,371)		
(Front of Escott Twp.	3,935,086)		
(Yonge Front Twp.	3,992,348)	13,813,743	1
(Rear of Yonge and Escott	3,435,100)		
(Athens	2,451,209)		
Roman Catholic Separate School Supporters		23,731,024	2
Totals		<u>249,300,026</u>	<u>16</u>

A person is qualified to be elected as a member of the new county board,

- (a) who is a Canadian citizen
- (b) who is of the full age of twenty-one years
- (c) who is a resident within the United Counties
- (d) (i) who in the case of the election of members by public school electors, is a public school ratepayer within the United Counties, and
- (ii) in the case of the election of members by separate school supporters is a separate school supporter.

The annual honorarium which a member may receive will be \$2400 based on current enrolment figures.

During the transitional period, the new board shall, by resolution, constitute ANY OR ALL members of the former boards who are not members of the new board, as a committee of the new board in respect of their former jurisdiction for such a period of time as required but not later than June 1969.

Nominations will be held November 18, elections December 2, and the first Board meeting December 9. Notices regarding all these events will be posted.

After the organization meeting of the Board, it may exercise any of its powers to make appointments, to make orders, rules or resolutions, to give notices, to prescribe forms or do anything for the purpose of organization, policy and planning, but no instrument made under any of its powers shall be effective before the 1st day of January 1969.

An Interim School Organization Committee has been meeting regularly with Dr. D. R. Price, Gananoque as Chairman, Mr. V. J. Pope, Gananoque as Secretary and Mrs. Nora Henderson, Edwardsburg as Vice-Chairman. A comprehensive report on existing school systems with an indication of problems and priorities pin-pointed for the new board will be prepared by the committee. The Area Superintendents of Schools have acted as a Secretariat for the Committee.

Under Bill 172 AN ACT TO AMEND THE SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION ACT the Director of Education to be appointed by the board shall be both chief education officer and chief executive officer. He may also be appointed secretary or secretary-treasurer of the Board but in any case, all other officers will be responsible to the board through the director. The board may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint such additional qualified supervisory officers as it deems necessary.

By another Amendment to THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT (Bill 120), the retarded children's education authorities will be dissolved on December 31st, 1968, and the school at Oxford Mills will be operated by the new board.

Aim Of Bill To Equalize Education Opportunities

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This is the first of a series of articles based on the new school system which will come into effect at the end of this year. Bill 44, now before the Ontario Legislature, will do away with school boards as they now exist in Ontario.)

By SHIELA MCCOOK

On January 1, 1969, Ontario's 1,600 school boards will be consolidated. In their place there will be about 100 public and secondary school boards and about 70 separate school boards. This will come about by the passing of Bill 44, an act designed to equalize educational opportunity throughout the province and achieve greater efficiency in school administration.

At least this is the aim of Education Minister William Davis as he pilots his Bill through the Ontario Legislature's current session.

"The major goal of the organization is to create educational jurisdictions ca-

pable of extending equal educational opportunity to the boys and girls of Ontario", he says.

CONTINUOUS INTEGRATED PROCESS

He wants a continuous, integrated process of education from kindergarten to grade 13, with school boards elected by direct vote of the people rather than through appointments and he wants to make the new school boards responsible for levying their own taxes. After this year there will be a school tax, separate from the municipal levy. At present school taxes are part of the municipality's general tax rate. But while the new boards will set and levy the taxes, taxes will likely continue to be collected by the municipality's tax offices.

It is actually a continuance of the old system of levying school taxes, the method that granddad used. There is one difference, how-

ever: The school boards will set their own tax rate and the money to operate the schools will be paid over to the schools directly from the municipal tax offices. At least this is the present understanding of the procedure.

But if that facet of the effects of Bill 44 is a little foggy, there are others that are just as fuzzy. The whole aim of the Bill is to equalize education opportunities and equalize financial differences now existing among school boards due to variations in population, geography and finances.

What it will mean locally is more responsibility for a smaller number of men and women serving as trustees. But they can receive up to \$3,600 a year salary or \$4,800 if a person is chairman of a new board. It is hoped to attract only top calibre men and women to the office since the administering of school funds is the costliest

single service in any municipal budget today. The higher the quality of school trustees, the better the prospect for taxpayers that standards of education will be improved and that the enormous sums they now contribute will be prudently used.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to having the control of several millions of dollars each year, the new school board will have other responsibilities. Mainly these will be in the area of special education, involving retarded and slow-learning children and the special needs of brighter students.

Education Minister Davis sees further responsibilities of the new boards in the specialist fields of medicine, psychology, education and sociology. Psychological services such as student counselling, remedial treatment, parent

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counselling, special educational services in general, will be required under the new system.

But many of these plans will not be instituted overnight. Of necessity, municipalities are now preparing for the change although Bill 44 isn't as yet law. Mr. Davis himself has pointed out that there will have to be an evolutionary period and this is estimated at between three and five years by department of education officials.

TAKE OVER JAN. 1

But on January 1, 1969, the new board will take over in Leeds and Grenville counties, since the two counties have been grouped as one region. There will be a 16-member board elected this fall and representation on the board will be based on population and farm and residential assessment in each municipality. There will be groupings of municipalities where necessary to meet the minimum financial standards. Cities, towns and townships will lose their individual school boards and some of them will have to settle for one representative for two or three municipalities. Brockville, with two boards now, will wind up with four people on the new single board, although

But the broadened administrative base is expected to rid the area of 'local' problems. These include prejudice, ignorance or reactionary views which conceivably have dominated the rulings of some backwoods municipalities, as the boards now operate. Lack of funds and lack of interest has, in the past, impaired the ideal of educational opportunity.

Fears that urban interests would conflict with and override rural interests are not likely to have any foundation, according to department officials.

But it will mean the loss of an old tie on the local level. C. E. Timanus, supervising principal of Brockville public schools regrets the loss of the personal contact with local boards. He foresees the contact having to be maintained through stronger home and school associations.

Confusion And Mixed Emotions Over School Bill

2

This is the second in a series of articles dealing with the new educational system which comes into being January 1, 1969.)

By SHEILA McCOOK

Confusion has been a part of Bill 44, the act to change our schools' systems, since it was announced November 24, 1967, as a proposed law. The Ontario School Trustees' Council, in a letter to elementary and secondary school boards of Ontario, put it this way:

"The announcement has been received with mixed emotions by trustees. Some have indicated strong support and others extreme opposition. A great many have been loath to taking any position pending the receipt of clarification of the details of the announced reorganization."

The Council itself, after meeting with Education Minister Davis and his deputy minister, Dr. J. R. McCarthy, came out with basic

support of the plan, however, noting:

"1. Firstly, though some details may be changed, it is apparent that the government is firm in its decision to introduce the Legislation. The Council has requested the opportunity of discussing the details of the legislation with the Minister as soon as the bill becomes available after first reading.

"2. The Council is in support of the principle of establishing larger units of educational administration.

"3. The Council is in support of the principle of boards of education as the basic administrative unit for public education."

ADOPTED RESOLUTION
However, at a meeting held January 31, 1968, the Leeds and Grenville Trustees Association unanimously adopted a resolution that they send a communication to Mr. Davis to state that "a unit as large and unwieldy as Leeds and Grenville coun-

ties is not an ideal size, and that the size of this unit be reduced to at least a single county".

This stand was taken by 46 persons representing 11 schools in the counties. The group also complained it had not been given enough advance information to assess the rulings.

The Brockville District high school board did not align itself with the opinions of the counties trustees and their communications to the minister of education. The public school trustees of Brockville went further and declared themselves in favor, generally, of the new plan and of the united counties boundary suggested for the new area board.

EXPRESSED SUPPORT

Peter Lewis, on the public school board, expressed strong support for the methods of implementation and introduction of the bill — "better the confusion of

commissions, committees, sub-committees and so on. Mrs. Grace Wyatt, also on the board, agrees.

The idea is not new. Hope commission of 1949 recommended larger units.

Clarence Marshall of the high school board, did bring up uncomfortable examples of county boundaries however, noting that Gananoque would probably prefer to associate with Kingston (Frontenac) and Kemptville with Ottawa. He also mentioned the situation of some students in North Leeds who go to school in Smiths Falls, and although they are being looked after by a local public school board, the grants received by the board go to Smiths Falls.

But despite these few situations, he and George Franklin, chairman of the public school board, say, "you have got to draw the line somewhere". Neither

(See CONFUSION—Page 9)

Confusion

(Continued from Page Three)

Mr. Marshall nor Mr. C. E. Timanus think the combined counties too unwieldy to handle.

NO MENTION MADE

As the bill guarantees, children may continue to go to the schools they are presently in, although that school may be in another division. But there is no mention whether or not a public school child, ready to go to high school, can also continue in the area he was formerly in.

The Ontario School Trustees' and Municipal Councilors' Association, in a brief to the Standing Committee on Education for Ontario, said it had encouraged for many years larger areas of school administration. In most cases, it feels that the county is the best unit, but would like to see provisions in some cases "where part of a county would be most suitable".

Stewart Oakes, well-known Ontario educationist, in defending the boundaries, supports the variations of size among counties: "Let not reorganization stereotype our country — let us assure each county the unique opportunities — they relate to that specific county." he

However, Mr. Swart, in the Canadian School Association, says: "With variations in county populations from 20,000 to 300,000 or 400,000 there will be inequalities and variations in democratic control. A few are too small. Many, many will be much too large and unwieldy."

Mr. Swart cites an American study and quotes:

"The ideal size of a school district appears to be between 10,000 and 20,000 pupils. No school district can provide efficiently a full range of educational services if it has an enrollment of fewer than 10,000 pupils. . . . there was in the study a gradual decrease in quality . . . as population went over 50,000 . . . (12,000 to 15,000 students).

The statements are contradictory, but it is interesting to remember that Leeds and Grenville has over 16,000 students.

Tape
a "No No"

TORONTO (CP) — Legislation introduced by Education Minister William Davis to the Ontario legislature Monday gives trustees of new county school boards the authority to double their present honorariums to a maximum of \$300 a month.

The legislation, in the form of amendments to the Schools Administration Act forming the new school boards by early next year, also provides that a board chairman may be paid up to an additional third of the honorarium, rather than the present 25 percent.

This will bring the maximum annual honorarium for a trustee to \$3,600, and \$4,800 for a board chairman.

The amendments go before the legislature's standing committee on education for a clause by clause study today.

The amendments also repeal a provision permitting a child of 14 years or more to be kept out of school at harvest time or for up to six weeks in other circumstances.

Trustees will also be permitted more liberal expense accounts, extending coverage beyond the present transportation, room and meals expenses. However, school boards will still retain the power to reduce any expense account.

Other amendments will increase board payments to nat-

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CHECKING THE FACTS: Churchill Public School principal Larry Berry, left, and Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education director, Dr. Lloyd Dennis, review projected enrolment figures presented by Dr. Dennis to the Churchill school committee

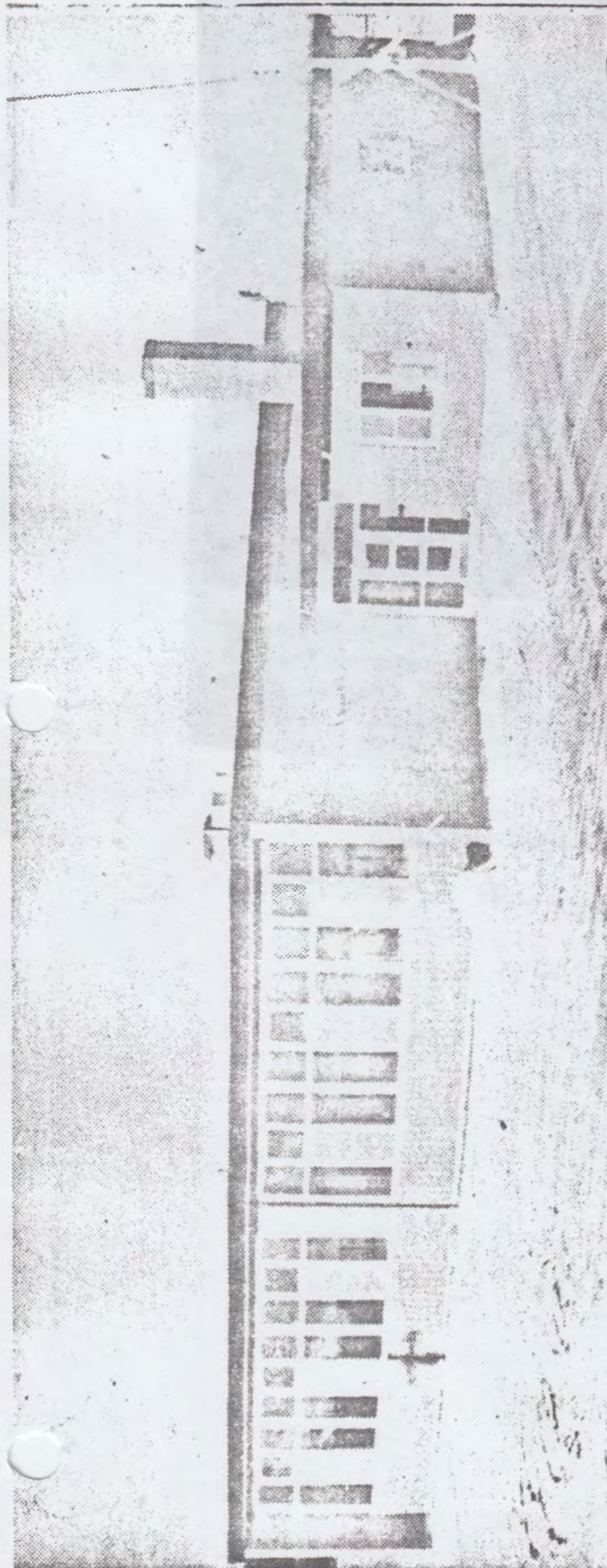
Monday night. The meeting was called to discuss future of the school which some parents felt might closed this year because of dropping enrolm figures. (see story page 1)

1972

-Staff Pho

Larry Berry moved to Churchill from Haley's when it closed.

January 1956



NEW CHURCHILL SCHOOL. The fine new four-room brick "Churchill Public School" opened its doors on Tuesday morning on the western outskirts of Prescott to pupils of the Augusta Township School Area. Built by J. F. Saunders Ltd., and associated sub-contractors, the school is situated on four acres of land on the high point of the Connell Sub-Division, on the west side of Merwin Lane. With the school population of the township increasing rapidly, the school — the second four-room school to be opened in the southern portion of the township in nine months — is designed so that more rooms may be added to the western end. — Journal Photo

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4-room brick school makes fine addition to education facilities

Churchill Public School, Augusta Township's newest school building, stands on four acres of high land of the Connell Sub-Division overlooking the St. Lawrence on the outskirts of Prescott. Built of brick with large windows running almost the full length of each classroom, the school is judged to be one of the finest in the area from its poured concrete base walls to the tip of the large ventilator on the roof. And, with the school population steadily increasing in the township, plans have been made so that more classrooms may be added to the western end.

A full size basement was excavated under the entrance portion of the school, housing the oil-fired hot water furnace, the pressure pumps and two tanks—hot and cold water; and a large storage space, all with 9-foot ceilings.

The well was drilled by the east wall of the building and a man-hole cover is provided outside of the school in case piping should have to be removed from the well.

Inside the glass doors of the entrance are the principal's office which will also be used by the Health Nurse; the boys' and girls' washrooms, each equipped with Bradley wash fountains; and storage closets.

The hall floors, as well as floors in the washrooms, and the base in the corridors are of Terrazzo, and the remainder of the floors are covered with wear-resistant Vinyl plastic squares. Walls in the washrooms are covered to dado height with "cement enamel," a newly-developed paint substance blown on by a pressure gun. The corridor walls are protected to dado height by "Kalestrom," a tough plastic "skin" cemented on that is easily cleaned and is almost scuff-proof.

Classroom floors are of Vinyl plastic, and the walls are plastered over speed tile. The windows covering almost the entire outer-walls are set in aluminum sash and provide permanently installed double windows and screens. Ceilings throughout are of acoustic panels, and set into these, and not noticed,

are ventilating panels to counteract any dampness in the space between ceiling and roof.

Each classroom has its project space with sink and drinking fountain. Blackboards run along two walls, and a feature of the recessed ceiling lights is the switching that will permit use of only those lights along the blackboards. Tackboard space is also provided with the blackboards.



STAFF OF THE NEW ALGONQUIN SCHOOL

ured at Friday night's opening ceremony are the staff
s of the new Algonquin Public School. Left to right, front,

Mrs. B. Graham, D. Johnston, principal; Mrs. M. McKinley, rear,
Miss R. Couperus, D. Downing and Miss J. Bennett.

"Thank you, Mr. Knisley"

The Editor:

Now that smoke has cleared and our sixteen elected members to the Leeds and Grenville School Board of Education have selected their Director of Education and four Area Superintendents, one of our most tireless workers, namely W. H. Knisley, former Area Superintendent of Schools, Gren-

ville No. 1, was not chosen for one of the Area Superintendent positions.

Only a few short years ago he was presented with a plaque which read -

"In sincere recognition of your outstanding service beyond the requirements of your position which has advanced the cause of

Elementary Education in the Township of Augusta during the last decade.

May this token here presented remind you of our admiration and warm esteem. We wish you many years of continued association, health, success and happiness."

I would like to thank Mr. Knisley for all the assistance he has rendered the writer. The famous U.S. General McArthur said, "Old Soldiers never die they just slowly fade away."

Many thanks Mr. Knisley.

A. H. Belmore,
Iroquois, Ont.

Prescott Journal Feb. 13/69.

Teachers and, where appointed, secretaries for schools in Greenville County for the 1956-57 term have been announced by W. H. Kinsley, newly appointed public school inspector for Greenville County elementary schools.

The list follows:

Augusta Township School Area

Secretary: Mrs. Pearl Byers, Prescott, Ont. R.R. 2.

Churchill, Turnbull, Frank, Prescott, Ont. R.R. 1; Simpson, Mrs. Elsie, Prescott, Box 987; Brooks, Mrs. Evelyn, Prescott; Greer, Mrs. Grace, Prescott, Box 534.

Read's: Stone, Mrs. Marion, Brockville, R.R. 2.

Maitland: Roseberry, Mrs. Isobel, 12 Richard St., Brockville; Wilson, Mrs. Bertha, Brockville, Box 210; Empey, Miss Elaine, Maitland; McDonell, Mrs. Eileen, Prescott.

McKinley's: McKinley, Mrs. Mary, Fairfield East.

Maynard: Helmer, Mrs. Phyllis, Prescott, R.R. 2.

Roebuck: Keays, Miss Margaret, Spencerville, R.R. 2; Drummond, Mrs. Marjorie, Spencerville, R.R. 2.

Stone's Corners: Collier, Mrs. Martha, Algonquin.

Brundige: Whitney, Mrs. Rita, Prescott, Box 882.

Domville: Brown, Mrs. Bernice, Domville, R.R. 1.

Charleville: Steven, James, Domville, R.R. 1.

Lord's Mills: Porter, Mrs. Lorna, Prescott, R.R. 2.

Algonquin: Dillabaugh, Mrs. Elizabeth, Algonquin.

Union Grove: Burns, Mrs. Alice, Algonquin.

McLeanville, Whitley, Miss Sadie, Spencerville, R.R. 2.

North Augusta: Reynolds, Mrs. Ina, Algonquin, R.R. 1; Ross, Mrs. Florence, North Augusta; Sturgeon, Miss Helen, Athens, R.R. 4.

South Branch: Sunderland, Mrs. Ella, North Augusta, R.R. 2.

Garretton: Kinch, Mrs. Josie, North Augusta, R.R. 2.

Herron's: King, Mrs. Keitha, North Augusta; Music: Hofmann, Walter, Spencerville, R.R. 3.

Schools and teachers

1957-58

Public School teachers throughout Greenville County, as released to The Journal by W. H. Kinsley, Inspector of Public Schools, took over their duties in the various classrooms on Tuesday, as follows:

Augusta Township School Area

Secretary: Mrs. Pearl Byers, RR 2, Prescott, Ont.

SS 1, Churchill—Robertson, Mrs. Pauline, Prescott, RR 1; Duncan, Mrs. Theresa, Brockville; Brooks, Mrs. Evelyn, Prescott; Greer, Mrs. Grace, Prescott, Box 534; MacRae, Jean, Prescott.

SS 3 (A), Maitland (New)—Roseberry, Mrs. Isobel, Brockville, 42 Orchard St.; Empey, Miss Elaine, Maitland; McDonnell, Mrs. Eileen, Maitland; Wilson, Mrs. Bertha, Brockville, Box 20.

SS 3 (B), Maitland (Old)—King, Mrs. Alwilda, Spencerville, RR 5.

SS 5, Maynard—Keays, Miss Margaret, Prescott, RR 2.

SS 6, Stone's Corners—Collier, Mrs. Martha, Algonquin.

SS 7, Brundige—Casselman, Mrs. Hattie, Morrisburg; Leacock, Miss Margaret, North Augusta.

SS 8, Domville—Brown, Mrs. Bernice, Domville, RR 1.

SS 9, Charleville—Steven, James, Domville, RR 1.

SS 10, Lord's Mills—Porter, Mrs. Lorna, Prescott, RR 2.

SS 11, Algonquin—Dillabaugh, Mrs. Elizabeth, Algonquin.

SS 13, Union Grove—Burns, Mrs. Alice, Algonquin.

SS 14, McLeanville—Graham, Mrs. Bessie, Mallorytown, RR 4.

SS 17, North Augusta—Reynolds, Mrs. Ina, King, Mrs. Keitha, Ross, Mrs. Florence, Whitley, Miss Sadie, North Augusta.

SS 18, South Branch—Sunderland, Mrs. Ella, North Augusta, RR 2.

SS 21, Garretton—Kinch, Mrs. Josie, North Augusta, RR 2.

SS 22-30—Read's—Stone, Mrs. Marion, Brockville, RR 2.

SS 25-19, Roebuck—Tanney, Mrs. Mary, Algonquin, RR 1; Drummond, Mrs. Marjorie, Spencerville, RR 2.

SS 31-31, McKinley's—McKinley, Mrs. Mary, Fairfield East.

Music—Hofmann, Walter, Spencerville, RR 5.

Throoptown Separate (RCSS 15) School—McMahon, Miss Catherine, North Augusta, RR 2.

1958-59

With the exception of a music teacher, all teaching appointments have been made as follows: at Churchill, Mrs. Pauline Robertson, Miss Bella MacLeod, Mrs. Evelyn Brooks and

Mrs. Grace Greer; at Maitland, Mrs. Isabel Roseberry, Mrs. Bertha Wilson, Miss Carol Snelson, Mrs. Eileen McDonnell, with Mrs. Freda Marjerson at the old school; at Maynard, James Steven, Mrs. Marian Stone, Mrs. Alwilda King, Mrs. Theresa Duncan, Miss Minny Knol and Mrs. Shirley MacIntyre; at North Augusta, Mrs. Ina Reynolds, Miss Sadie Whitley, Mrs. Keitha King and Mrs. Elizabeth Dillabaugh; at Roebuck, Mrs. Mary Tanney and Mrs. Marjorie Drummond; Reids, Mrs. Bessie Graham; Dulmages, Miss Margaret Keays; Brundiges, Mrs. Mary McKinley; Domville, Miss Deanna Wells; Lords Mills, Mrs. Mabel Joynt; Algonquin, Mrs. Martha Collier; McLeanville, Mrs. Phyllis Helmer; South Branch, Mrs. Ella Sunderland and at Garretton, Miss Marjorie McKinnon.