

# Quebec

# HOME *and* SCHOOL

*Published Monthly by*

THE QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



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Vol. I. No. 10.

Montreal, Quebec

November, 1949



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# The President's Message

## More About Home & School Objectives

This issue of QUEBEC HOME & SCHOOL completes a series of three messages on the subject of Home & School objectives. They were written to develop in our members a better understanding of our objects and thereby help them in making correct decisions in the planning and carrying out of Home & School activities. The value of cooperation in all Home & School activities is particularly stressed because any violation of the principles of cooperation not only weakens our efforts but also lowers our prestige and respect in the educational field.

### *Developing Cooperation Between Educators and the General Public.*

In the carrying out of projects by its Committees, the Home & School Association enriches its service to childhood and youth by cooperating wisely with other organizations, clubs, agencies or federations *within its own school district*. The Association cooperates *wisely* when it does not allow the vigour and strength of any outside agency to sidetrack its activities away from furthering its own objectives. The Association may have as many projects as it has ideas for bettering child welfare and the available brain power to staff its committees effectively.

Cooperation with other organizations in the working out of a project depends upon such factors as: how pressing the Association feels the need for the project; the number of organizations within the community; and the permissiveness of the by-laws of the

organizations. Of course, the necessary arrangements for cooperation are made by the Executive of the Association.

Sometimes it is information only that is needed by the committee in order to carry out the project successfully. At other times the pooling of each other's resources and efforts is required.



When the Association needs information concerning educational problems, it goes to the professional educators and agencies within its community — that is, to the school principal, the guidance officer, the education officer, the inspector or supervisor, the YMCA and the local PAPT. As contributors, taxpayers and voters, members of the Association have the right to look for information and certain

types of service from public and tax-supported agencies within the community — such as the Department of Health — as well as from Welfare Federation agencies, the Red Cross, the Victorian Order of Nurses, and the Parks and Playgrounds Association. In return for this cooperation, the Association widens the sphere of public understanding — not only of the functions of these outside organizations, but also of the problems confronting educators and school administrators.

As an Association works on its projects, it must always refrain from competition with established organizations. If the community needs the service of one of these organizations, it is the responsibility of the Association to make its members and the

public at large aware of this need and arouse the community to action. When the organization or agency is established, the Association should withdraw and study other needs not yet provided for.

For example, the need for a suitable playground with summer supervision is recognized by the Association. It sets up a committee to study the problem with the power

to seek information and aid from a Parks & Playgrounds Association in a neighbouring community. With interested members of the Association and the cooperation of the School Board, this committee starts a playground for its children on the school grounds. Two years later, with the full blessing of the Association, the committee draws up a constitution of its own and becomes a Parks & Playgrounds Association.

**Maintaining a Nonpartisan, Noncommercial  
Nonracial and Nonsectarian Organization.**

Since the Association is composed of members who belong to different political parties, commercial interests, races and churches, it should avoid any alliance that will bring controversy into its organization. A progressive, smooth-functioning and well-knit Association can only be developed under the guidance and control of principles upon which all agree.

As a nonpartisan organization, the Association does not line itself up with any specific political party or endorse any candidate for public office. It concerns itself with creating public opinion on all political questions which affect child welfare, so that candidates elected to office will be interested in meeting these issues, irrespective of party.

Of course, this nonpartisan political policy does not in any way prevent the Provincial Federation from having a *watchful legislation committee* in order to keep its Home & School membership fully informed on pending or probable legislative issues.

The Association must always be on the alert for some well-meaning commercial concern with a brilliant proposition guaranteed to be the financial answer to its child welfare work. Since it is not always easy to raise the necessary money for car-

rying out the program, the Executive of the Association may easily be tempted to accept these alluring financial offers. Unfortunately, almost all have strings attached to them. They are often very difficult to recognize, but they are there. Sometimes it may only involve turning over the membership list — or, at an Association meeting, mentioning a sale at such-and-such a store. Then it may mean carrying an advertisement in the monthly bulletin, or endorsement of some amateur play by circularizing the membership. The effect on the Association is always the same. Once it opens the door for granting special privileges to commercial concerns, there enter in bickering, suspicion, distrust, humiliation and all the other factors which work against cooperation. Consequently, the child welfare program suffers and with it the respect and prestige of the Association.

Finally, any adult person who is interested in the welfare of the children of a particular school may join the Home & School Association, regardless of race or creed. All that the Association asks is acceptance and support of its objectives.

EDWARD C. POWELL.  
*President.*

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# Quebec HOME and SCHOOL

Published Monthly by

THE QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS  
1461 Mountain St., Montreal 25.

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## Crime Comics.

F. RAYMOND HANNEN, K. C.

A few weeks ago I was asked to constitute myself a one-man Committee on this subject and in co-operation with the Chairman of the National Committee, Mrs. C. W. Mellish, of Vancouver, to seek means to eradicate this evil. A brief report should be both timely and interesting.

It would happily appear that at last public clamour has aroused the authorities to some action. You may recall that no action was taken on a private member's Bill in the previous Parliament; nothing daunted, E. D. Fulton, P. C. member for Kamloops, B. C. returned to the charge early in the current session with his Bill No. 10 seeking an amendment to S. 207 Criminal Code to make it a crime knowingly and without lawful justification or excuse to sell, publish, print or distribute any magazine etc. which comprises matter depicting pictorially the commission of crimes real or fictitious, thereby possibly inducing youthful persons to violate the law or corrupting their morals.

This is the same section which also refers to obscene or pornographic books, pictures or other objects tending to corrupt morals, to indecent shows and to contraceptives; and the maximum punishment is 2 years imprisonment.

This Bill was unanimously supported by Members of all political parties who spoke on it in the House from all Provinces from B. C. to Newfoundland and including at least one French-speaking member; but it was not until the evening of Friday, October 21st, that the Government disclosed its official feeling and intentions by the speech of the Minister of Justice. We were much gratified to learn that the Government is heartily supporting the principle of the Bill and *undertook to pass the Bill at the current session* in as effective a form as possible for the Minister, while anxious to do justice to all parties concerned, has some doubts whether the Bill goes far enough. He points out that the experience in regard to obscene

literature indicates that while the words "knowingly, without lawful justification or excuse" remain in the law, conviction may be difficult to obtain and that this may be the reason why so few prosecutions have been started. (But note there have been far more in our Province of Quebec than elsewhere.) He used strong words in reference to the Crime Comics and pornography which have flooded the bookstands — "nothing but hack-work filth seeking filthy lucre"; and lest it be said that control of these publications constitutes censorship, note the words of Prime Minister St. Laurent — "a shocking abuse of the freedom of the press".

We agree with the Minister of Justice that "in offences of this nature against morals nothing is worse from every standpoint than an abortive prosecution" and that care should be taken in amending the law. That is why, before asking Parliament to pass Bill 10 as drafted or as amended, he proposes to seek suggestions from the Crown Prosecutors and law enforcement officers of the Provincial Governments whose responsibility it is to enforce the Criminal Code; he may ask Parliament to eliminate the words "know-

ingly . . . etc." but he rather feels that this should not be done until it is demonstrated that it is not possible on the law as it now stands to convict the publishers as the source of this objectionable reading matter, for obviously they are the real culprits; they appear to be concentrated in 2 or 3 cities, several in Toronto.

So your Chairman, who felt that amendment of the Criminal Code must be the first objective, may report substantial progress to that end. He has tried to contribute in a modest way by newspaper articles, by participation in "Town Topics" radio discussion, by drafting Resolutions, by correspondence with Ministers and Members and Attorney-General, etc. He is particularly pleased with the unanimity of support from all quarters — newspaper editorials, Ontario Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations, the Catholic Montreal "Ensign", Montreal Police Director Langlois who says "no one is happier to see that a Bill is now before the legislators" which may remove from the news stands these lurid picture books which so blatantly display and almost glorify crime, passion, obscenity, immorality, blood and thunder and violence in all its most horrid forms.

## ARTICLES OF LASTING INTEREST

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*Sélection du Reader's Digest*

# Parents' Page.

## ATTENTION, PLEASE!

This page is all yours, parents; send in your contribution — your offsprings' bright sayings — the poetry you write — the views you want to air — the opinions you want to share — make your voices heard! Don't forget to send us snaps that could be used for cover pictures of the magazine; we'll return them if you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The editor's address is on page five.

## JOT IT DOWN.

Do you write down the interesting things your children do and say? You should, because otherwise you will forget the greater part of them, and so lose for yourselves and your children a great deal of future pleasure. A mother who writes shorthand has a family treasure in many of the things she has overheard her children say. Here is one of them, written down one windy afternoon when she heard her four-year-o'd talking to himself.

The trees are waving good-bye to the house.

They keep waving and waving good-bye to the house.

And night comes.

And morning comes, and the house is still there.

And the trees are still there, pointing at God.

But God doesn't care.

And now I will sing a song about the grass.

God looked down at the grass, and told the grass to sit down.

But the grass doesn't care, the grass stands up.

Just stands up all the time.

## WILL YOU?

Even if you haven't been formally introduced, will you speak to your neighbour at Home and School meetings? You will both be glad, and your Association and your Community will benefit from such friendliness.

Quebec Home and School

## THE EASTER HOLIDAY QUESTION.

Dear Editor,

I think that the "mother of three" referred to in your Parents' Page has got something. By all means retain the long Easter week end on traditional and religious grounds but why should a vacation be determined without regard to climatic conditions?

Health of the pupils alone should weigh heavily in support of mid-term holidays. By coincidence, Health magazine has an interesting article in the September-October issue by Dr. A. J. Phillips. This article is entitled "Absenteeism". The following extract is revealing:—

"At what time in the school year is absence most severe? Although each province did not follow the same pattern the analysis of absence by months showed that there was a steady increase, especially in urban schools, from September to March. In April there was a sudden decrease and from then to June a gradual decline. In the year of the study the Easter vacation came in the first ten days of April so the sudden decrease in absence for that month may be one of the beneficial effects of a vacation at that particular time".

A chart for Quebec Protestant urban schools shows an increase in rate from 8 in September to 79 in March and a drop to 46 in April. These figures are for absence due to medical causes.

Is it not logical to suppose that a late February or early March vacation would start this drop about a month earlier?

You ask, "What do you think?" I'm all for it!

E. A. HANKIN.

## GRADE IV. HOMEWORK

A rather harrassed parent of a grade four child complains in bewilderment at the sudden, heavy onslaught of homework that has almost downed her child. "I'm not the only one who feels this way about it," she says, "Why couldn't the children learn a little more in grade two (especially) and grade three? Then grade four should be easier, and the amount of homework could be reduced." Is this just a local situation, parents, or is it general? Parents of fourth graders, what do you think about it? Let us know.

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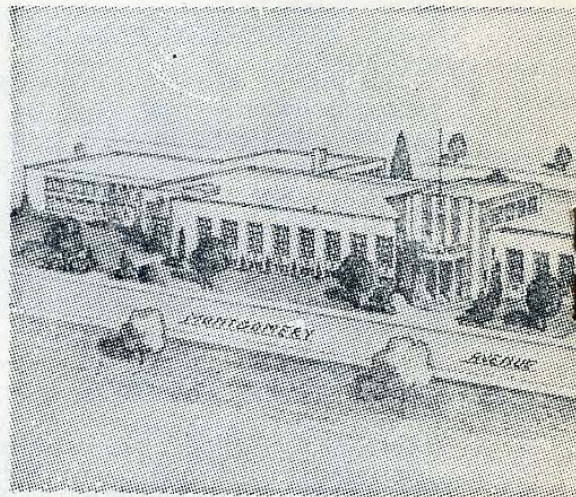
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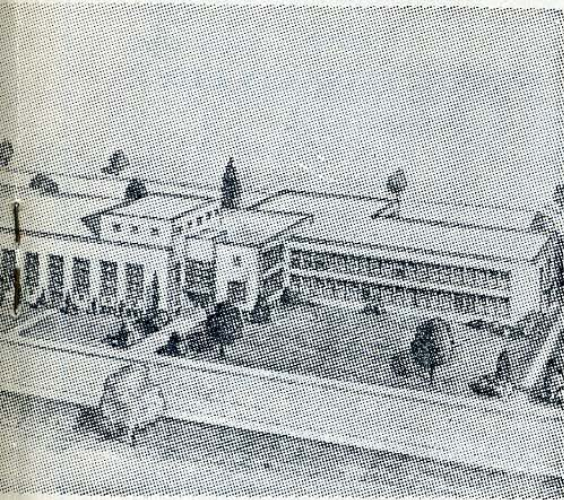
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# of Mount Royal High School



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL

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This Association was organized in 1943. Local and general educational programs are of prime interest. The Association co-ordinates in various ways in the following activities:—

- Parent-Teacher meetings with prominent speakers
- Parent Education study groups
- Student recreation, including dances and trips to points of historical interest, such as Ottawa and Quebec.

There is a Parents' Bookshelf, which is added to from time to time.

Refreshments are served at the close of each meeting, and it is most interesting to meet the School Staff and other parents during this part of the evening program.

MARGARET EMO,  
*Secretary.*

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# Association Highlights

## **Sherbrooke.**

The Sherbrooke Association started the current year auspiciously when Dr. E. C. Powell, President of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, addressed its opening meeting on Sept. 19th. Committee reports showed great progress since the last meeting. Through the initiative of the Association, all class rooms in the largest schools in the system are now equipped with efficient modern lighting. Work is nearing completion on badly needed additions to school buildings. The School Board was thanked for its splendid co-operation in effecting these improvements. An interesting part of the program was contributed by the Treasurer of the School Board, Mr. George Ewing, who outlined methods used in financing the local school system.

Dr. Powell delivered the principal address of the evening, speaking on the scope of the Home and School Association.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, the members gathered informally for refreshments, as the Sherbrooke Association has found that its members always welcome this opportunity for the parents and teachers to get acquainted.

## **Maisonneuve.**

A very interesting talk on parent-teacher relationship was given by Dr. Albert Moll of the Montreal Neurological Institute at the meeting of the Maisonneuve Home and School Association on Sept. 20th. Dr. Moll gave all parents food for thought. The members were impressed by the film "Hostilities" which accompanied the talk. This picture showed the basis for the failings that children carry through life, as a result of incorrect understanding by parents.

This first meeting indicated to the attending members that many interesting evenings are in store for them in the coming season.

## **Barclay.**

The first Fall meeting of this Association was held in October, and was very well at-

tended. Conforming to the program theme for the current season "The Child of To-Day is the Adult of To-Morrow", Mrs. Phyllis Poland, Chief Psychiatric Social Worker of the Allan Memorial Institute, presented the film "Over-Dependency", and invited comments and questions concerning same.

It is expected that several Adult Education classes will get under way very soon as well as the Saturday morning Art classes for children, which were so successful last season. More about these in a later issue.

As the trial edition of "News & Views" was so well received last year, it was decided to carry on. The one issued this September is done on a single sheet of foolscap, but set up and folded to give four pages, bookform. Included in this issue are the names of the Executive and Committee members and Conveners; words of welcome to new and former members; a few pertinent facts relating to our School; the proposed programs and dates for meetings and a reminder regarding Adult and Childrens' Art classes as well as the Parents' Bookshelf. Attention is also drawn to "Home & School on the Air" over C.F.C.F. on Saturdays at 1.10 P.M.

Extensive arrangements for publicity for meetings have been made, using City and district papers as well as posters in store windows.

## **St. Lambert.**

Our Association last year sponsored classes in handicrafts (evenings, for adults) and Saturday morning painting classes for children in the 6 to 12 age group. Both these classes were successful to the point where many applicants were turned away for lack of space and equipment. This year, being better organized, we are expanding the art classes to include teen-agers and adults. We are fortunate in having a professional artist, Tom Smalley, who is intensely interested in developing latent painting urges, not only in children but in grownups.

Our Home and School also started a High School library. In response to appeals, contributions of books and money have resulted in a nucleus of about 1500 volumes, which

# Association Highlights

we hope to build up to something in keeping with the needs of the school.

This year we have added a health committee and hope also to expand into the parent education field if enough interest is shown to warrant the venture.

## University District.

"It is only by being mature parents that we can hope to make mature adults of our children". This was emphasized by Mrs. T. B. Hughes of the Parent Education Committee, at the opening of the University District Home and School Association held in Strathearn High School on Oct. 3rd. Mrs. Hughes also stated that by taking part in a Child Study Group, parents are helped in understanding the different stages through

which a normal child passes, and are therefore more able to guide their children to become better citizens.

The school was thrown open for the inspection of the parents and the teachers were introduced by the principal of Strathearn, Mr. C. B. Ogden.

## Mount Royal.

Mrs. C. E. Woolgar, Chairman of the Parent Education Committee, spoke on "New Ways for Modern Parents" at the first general meeting of the Mount Royal Home and School Association, 4159 St. Urbain Street on Monday evening, October 17.

Child study groups were strongly emphasized by the speaker where the parent could discuss his personal problems and learn to cope with them more easily.

A question and answer period followed the address.

There was a drawing for the benefit of the Association and refreshments were served.

## Your Child And His Future

Perhaps the most fascinating and rewarding experience of your life is watching your child grow and learn.

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## First Federation Meeting

Notices have gone out to all Associations for this season's first meeting of our Federation Council of Representatives. Each affiliated Association is eligible to send three official Representatives. The meeting will be held in Montreal on Friday evening, December 2nd.

There will be a second Council meeting later in the Winter. The Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Spring Conference of the Federation on April 28-29, in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

*When you see me, do not think of Insurance—  
But when you think of Insurance—See me.*

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# Federation Doings.

*From Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Directors  
and the Executive Committee*

**May 19:** Affiliation of two new Associations, **Cookshire** and **Bedford**, was approved . . . Mrs. C. E. Woolgar of **Kensington** was appointed chairman of the Parent Education Committee . . . The Program Planning Committee was placed under two co-chairmen, Mrs. R. W. Coutts of **Hampstead** ("urban") and Mrs. Fred Willows of **Beauharnois** ("rural") . . . Mr. E. G. Banning of **Greenfield Park** was appointed Vice-President in charge of Committees and Regional Councils . . . Vice-President T. W. Gilmour (**King's**) was placed in charge of the Federation's Public Relations — Magazine, Broadcasts, Press, Conference.

**June 16:** Affiliation of the **Springfield Park** and **Montreal North** Associations was approved . . . Three new Directors, representing the West End Regional Council, Montreal, joined the Board. They were Mrs. R. W. Varey of **Rosedale**, Mr. K. R. Lavers of **Iona**, and Mr. L. B. Morris of **Willingdon** . . . Mrs. E. A. McKee, Corresponding Secretary of the Federation, was forced to give up this post for health reasons. Mr. F. W. Price of **University District** was appointed to replace Mrs. McKee. Mrs. W. A. Nichols of **Rosedale** took over the portfolio of Recording Secretary . . . Mrs. Varey was appointed Liaison Officer to Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers.

**July 20:** The President reported on his investigation into the dismissal of nine Montreal "permit" teachers, whose permits had been revoked by the Central Board of Examiners. The meeting decided to continue study of this matter, and authorized the President to report on it to the general membership via the Magazine.

**September 6:** The President reported that a further brief had been sent to the Montreal Protestant Central School Board on the question of charges to our Associations for use of the school buildings.

**September 15:** Mr. F. R. Hannen, K.C. of **Montreal West** was appointed to lead a special committee on Crime Comics and to co-operate with the National Home and School Committee on Children's Reading . . . Mr. H. C. Nourse of **Westmount High** was named chairman of the Radio Education Committee . . . The meeting regretfully accepted Mrs. Woodman's resignation as Vice-President (Organizing). Mr. H. C. Jay of **Kensington** was appointed to fill this vacancy pro tem.

*The Community Standards Committee . . .*

## *Functions and Present Aims:*

In response to a number of requests for information as to our functions and aims, I quote from the Home and School broadcast of October 22 in which I stated that this Committee "is interested in promoting . . . all movements that have as their objective the improvement of community conditions particularly as regards the welfare of the school child." (Reference was then made to a Study Outline on Recreation sent out last term). . . . a further Study Outline . . . on the use of schools as community centres will go out to local associations shortly." (This Outline has already been mailed—watch for this!) "We believe that our schools are peculiarly adapted to serving a dual purpose . . . educational institutions for our boys and girls by day . . . centres for community activities in the evenings. We believe this matter should and must be given consideration before new constructions are undertaken."

The above will, I hope, make clear our present project—the promotion of the use of schools as community centres. Look for a letter to go out very soon to local associations dealing further with this topic and please note therein the specific services we have to offer.

C. L. BROWNLEE, Chairman,  
Community Standards Committee.

# Radio Guide

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.

Stations.

## Sunday.

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1.00 p.m.—Folk Songs for Young Folk | CBM, CBO |
| 1.15 p.m.—Just Mary                 | CBM, CBO |
| 1.30 p.m.—Way of the Spirit         | CBM, CBO |
| 6.30 p.m.—Alan and Me               | CBM, CBO |

## Monday to Friday.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 10.15 a.m.—Kindergarten of the Air   | CBM, CBO |
| 5.30 p.m.—Children's Stories<br>(Life in the Open, Magic Adventure,<br>Maggie Muggins, Sleepy Time Story Teller, etc.) | CBM, CBO |
| 5.45 p.m.—Uncle Troy   | CFCF     |

## Monday.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 9.45 a.m.—Ontario School Broadcasts<br>(Junior Story Period, Primary Music, Junior<br>Music, Books Bring Adventure, BBC Science Talks) | CBM, CBO, CJNT,<br>CKVD, CKRN, CKTS. |
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## Tuesday.

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| 9.45 a.m.—Ontario School Broadcasts<br>(Guidance, French, Classics, Social Studies,<br>Saga of the Pioneers) | CBM, CBO, CJNT,<br>CKVD, CKRN, CKTS. |
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## Wednesday.

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| 9.45 a.m.—Ontario School Broadcasts<br>(Unrolling the Map, Children of other Lands<br>Health, Music for Young Folk) | CBM, CBO, CJNT,<br>CKVD, CKRN, CKTS. |
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## Thursday.

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| 9.45 a.m.—British School Broadcasts<br>(I was There, Let's join in, Senior English,<br>Peoples of the Mountains.) | CBM, CBO, CJNT,<br>CKVD, CKRN, CKTS. |
| 10.05 a.m.—Current Events   | CBM, CBO, CJNT,<br>CKVD, CKRN, CKTS. |

## Friday

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 9.45 a.m.—National School Broadcasts<br>(This is Newfoundland, Citizens of the World<br>Introducing Opera, Children of the Commonwealth,<br>I was There, MacBeth, Our Canadian Poets, They<br>Blazed New Trails.) | CBM, CBO, CJNT,<br>CKVD, CKRN, CKTS. |
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## Saturday.

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 10.30 a.m.—Doorway to Fairyland      | CBM, CBO |
| 11.00 a.m.—Calling All Children      | CBM, CBO |
| 11.30 a.m.—Children's Theatre        | CFCF     |
| 12.15—Sports College                 | CBM, CBO |
| 12.30 p.m.—Melodies for Juniors      | CBM, CBO |
| 1.10 p.m.—Home and School on the Air | CFCF     |
| 6.00 p.m.—Cuckoo Clock House         |          |

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# Young Canada's Book Week

November 12th to 19th, 1949.

"Nowadays, children read trash!" This is the cry raised by educators, parents and teachers. But if they do, is it not the fault of adults who have not made good books available? Children read what is at hand. It has been found that when good books are available in the home and in the libraries, children do read them—that is when there is a parent, teacher or librarian who knows the books and can introduce them attractively. It is not a question of children's innate poor taste, but a question of making good reading material at least as available as bad reading material.

To this end, the Canadian Library Association is sponsoring, this year for the first time, a book week for boys and girls, called "Young Canada's Book Week." The object of the Week is to encourage the reading of worthwhile books among boys and girls by reminding adults of the importance of a child's contact with the best books, by making adults and children more aware of the good children's books of the past and the present and by stressing the need for such books in every community.

Where there is no library service for boys and girls, the Canadian Library Association wishes to call attention to the need.

Home and School Associations can work for the establishment of public or school libraries in their communities.

Where libraries do exist, parents and teachers can do much to encourage children to use them. Many libraries offer book talks and story telling for groups of children from schools, scouts or guides. Teachers may bring their classes to visit the library during school hours. Then the librarian will tell them about the resources of the library and the services it offers and will introduce books by book talks, readings and stories.

Many libraries are having special exhibits of recommended books for boys and girls. Parents and teachers are urged to visit the libraries in their communities and see these special exhibits.

For the celebration of Young Canada's Book Week the Canadian Librarian Association has printed a list of fifty good books for boys and girls. These are recently published titles for all ages, from picture books to teen age reading. They have been especially chosen by a Committee of Children's Librarians representing librarians across Canada. Many libraries and bookstores are featuring the books on this list in their special Book Week displays. Do go and see them.

## PICTURE STORY BOOKS

**The Big Snow.** Berta and Elmer Hader. Lovely pictures in colour and in black and white show the different animals of the woods preparing for winter when they see the wild geese flying south. MacMillan. \$3.00.

**Blueberries for Sal.** Robert McCloskey. Sal and her mother, and a bear cub and his mother are picking blueberries. It is some time before they discover that Sal is following the mother bear and the cub is following Sal's mother. A happy little story illustrated by the author. MacMillan. \$2.75.

*The remainder of the Canadian Librarian Ass. Book List will be published at a later date.*

**Curious George Takes a Job.** H. A. Rey. "An hour later the painters came back. They opened the door and stood there with their mouths wide open. The whole room had changed into a jungle." It was all because George became curious again. Allen. \$2.75.

**The Little Fire Engine.** Lois Lenski. Mr. Small sheds all his other characters and becomes a fireman of great courage and efficiency in this companion book to "The Little Farm", "The Little Sailboat", etc. Oxford. \$1.00.

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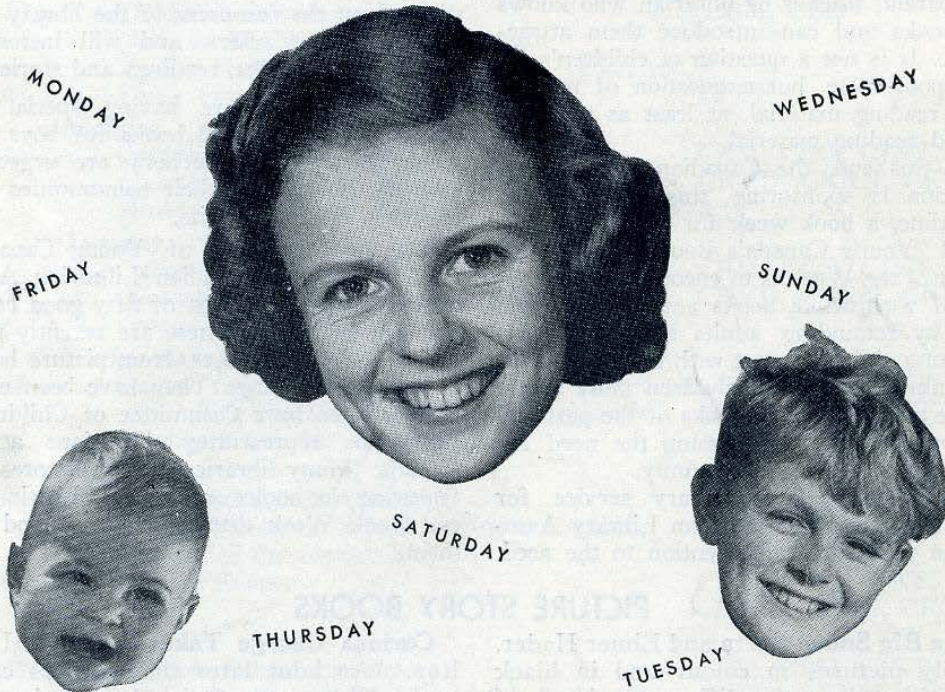
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