



QUEBEC HOME & SCHOOL

# NEWS

"The Voice of the Parent in Education"

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## LEARNING FOR LIFE

# Community must seek solutions for illiteracy

**LEARNING FOR LIFE was the theme of the 47th Annual Convention of QFHSA. The life, its quality and continuance, and the future of each individual and of society is dependent on the learning acquired.**

At the plenary session this theme was ably addressed by two speakers, Maybelle Durkin, Executive Director CHSPTF and National Project Director of Literacy in the Information Age, and Heather-jane Robertson, Director, Professional Development Services, Canadian Teachers' Federation.

Maybelle Durkin spoke first, laying the burden for action on the community.

Fifteen years ago the developed world was talking about a future which would encompass a four-day work week and increased opportunities for leisure and self-fulfillment.

Since then our society has experienced rapid advances in many areas — science, technology, etc. — bringing about changes that require skills the population at large does not possess. Learning for life is an imperative and must include in its focus, communication, technology, the environment, social responsibility and knowledge of cultures.

Ms. Durkin emphasized that the school cannot and should not be required to take total responsibility for learning. The greatest impact

on the schools comes from the community and this is where the initial action needs to occur.

The community needs to agree that education is becoming more and more important. Without appropriate education we are at the mercy of the media, especially T.V., unable to take responsibility



Maybelle Durkin

for its content, unable to react to the increasing use of polls to sway public opinion.

The community:

- Must be willing to seek solutions to many of the social problems that burden the schools;
- Needs to be realistic regarding the demands it puts on the schools;
- Must find ways of providing support for learning for those students that lack this support at home;
- Must show leadership by role-modelling the values and skills

desired for its children.

- Needs to clarify its values, identify those that it holds in common and then back the authority of the school to reinforce these values.

At present there is no clear signal from the community and the schools are having to shoulder the



Heather-jane Robertson

responsibility of instilling values without community support.

(It was noted that Catholic Schools impart values that are understood and not questioned by parents, and that parents who select private schools make their choice on the compatibility of the school's values with those they desire for their children.)

The involvement of adults in youth organization is essential for fostering trust between children and adults. Children and adults need contact outside a formal learning environment.

Volunteering within the schools is only a part of the necessary involvement of the community with its young.

### EXAMINE SCHOOL

All these tools for the community are tasks for the Home and School Association, which to be effective in improving the environment in the school, must first examine the environment in which the school is operating.

HEATHER-JANE ROBERTSON gave us a clear perspective of the problems within the school, prefacing her talk with the remark that with all the subjects clamoring for attention in the classroom we are coming close to the point of being mired in curriculum litter and will soon have to make choices.

Headline grabbers and conference pronouncements on education are very often derived from those who are *not* involved in education, from people unaware of a

real classroom, ie. 29 students in a split grade 3/4, and its problems.

How does one transmit the problems arising from refugee children, the complexity of learning differences and cross-city busing to men in suits sitting in the Hilton?

### FUTURIST

Ms. Robertson is a futurist but admits reading the future from the past and present is difficult. History is the past recounted by the winners and our dealings with the present is often with a shortsightedness that can be destructive. David Suzuki has said that we as a species may be indisposed to seeing things in the long term; the survivors in evolution were those who dealt with the short term, ie. tonight's dinner.

Although the official futurist view is that the ability to compete is the key to survival, Ms. Robertson is convinced that survival depends on co-operation.

We all survive — or none of us!

**PLEASE HELP OUR BABY STOP CRYING.  
DON'T JUST THROW THIS NEWS AWAY.  
THERE'S LOTS INSIDE ABOUT SUMMER  
ACTIVITIES, TRAVEL, SAFE PLAY. READ ON.**

It is interesting to note that while Canada ranks second among the industrial nations in regard to the percentage of the population having post secondary training, in 1986, 46 percent of university graduates were working in jobs that did not require post secondary training.

Looking at some of the things happening, or not happening, in schools may provide an insight into the needs for the future.

Schools are frequently accused of not changing; however, schools are often set up not to change but rather to reinforce what parents already know.

### CHANGE STRUCTURE

Schools were not established for each student to reach his/her maximum potential. If the mission of the school is changed then the structures must also be changed.

The model most likely to collapse is the one where fixes are made by add-ons.

We accept that progress in science is made through experimentation and that progress is in fact made because some experiments fail. Are we prepared to experiment in education?

Schools are places where we purge our guilt regarding the social values, multiculturalism, integration, etc. that we fail to implant in our boardrooms, factories in the community as a whole.

Children live in the present, the viewpoint that children are an investment is exploitative.

Trends are often blips. Can we really be sure which one to pursue? The future may well be determined by the unpredictable.

Does our curriculum really respond to the needs of society? Judging by the prevalent occupation of our own communities, we should perhaps be offering courses like "The Inner Game of Nintendo", "Border Shopping 101", "How to recognize a real gun"?!

Ms. Robertson concluded her talk with a look at the problem of motivation.

Motivation is the result of responding to a felt need. It is extremely difficult to teach in

advance in response to a need that the student will feel in the future, almost impossible if the student is an adolescent.

Perhaps students should be required to suspend their studies at the age of 15, replacing them by five or so years in the workforce, and returning to school later. Is K-12 intensive learning the only viable model for a school?

## MORE AGM IN AUG. NEWS

### CRAZY PETE'S

## TINY TIM BARBECUE

For the Montreal Children's Hospital  
ADULT BARBECUE

Sat. Aug. 3  
5pm-2am

\$10.00 - B.Y.O.B.  
NORTHVIEW SCHOOL

90 Jubilee Sq.  
Pointe Claire

HAMBURGERS HOT DOGS CHIPS  
RAFFLE PRIZES

LIVE MUSIC - THE BLACK CADILLACS

CALL PETE - 697-4211

## DID YOU(R)...

THESE QUESTIONS appeared in *Elementary School Teacher* and were written by Eileen Smyth, a teacher in Etobicoke, ON.

1. Did you ensure that your child had a nutritious breakfast before he arrived in my classroom this morning?
2. Was your child sitting in front of the television for hours last night watching his daily dose of poor quality entertainment?
3. Did your child have a quiet place to do his homework?
4. Did you show interest by checking his work?
5. Did you send your child to school appropriately dressed, as an indication that learning is a serious

business?

6. Did you attend Meet The Teacher Night at your child's school, or were you one of the many parents who didn't think it was important?
7. Did you have prolonged conversation with your child last night, so that he could listen to your ideas and speech patterns, and practise his?
8. Did you read to your child, or let him see you reading or writing?
9. Did your child have sufficient sleep last night?
10. Did your remarks about the school and teachers give your child a positive reinforcement toward learning?

## MRE group to offer helping-hand awards

WHAT SCHOOLS or individual classes *do for others* in their community will be recognized by the Association of Moral and Religious Educators of Quebec (AMREQ). Information about this annual project, called the COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD, will be mailed to school principals in June and in September.

Please tell us how your school or class helps others who are less fortunate.

For more information, call Betty Lou Manker at QFHSA office, or call directly to: Gerald Frank, Vice-President, Association of Moral and Religious Educators of Quebec, (514) 489-7696 (Evenings).

Betty Lou Manker

## WORDS TO THE WISE

*Accept and learn from the mistakes of others,  
You'll never live long enough to make them all yourself.*

# Make summer a learning experience

**YOUR CHILD WILL benefit from some structured activities throughout the summer to reinforce the skills and concepts that were taught in school during the year. Here are some examples your child might try.**

**KEEP** a weather chart including temperatures and observations. The chart can be designed using a ruler.

**CREATE** math problems out of real life situations — especially problems concerning money, time-distance, shopping, budgeting and predicting.

**CHOOSE** a word-of-the-day. Encourage your child to select a word each day and to research it in the dictionary, look for it in the newspaper, use the word in conversation with family and friends, and find another word that means the same.

**START** or expand a collection of feathers, pressed flowers, stamps, rocks, butterflies — anything that the child finds interesting — and to discuss with you the objects collected and how to organize and classify them.

**FIND** a given number of stories to read about in the newspaper each day. Can your child guess what the story is about from the headline?

**FIND** a younger child to read to or to make up stories and act them out.

Equally important as the structured activities are the experiences your child can gain during the summer months. The background experiences children bring to the printed page enable them to understand what they read.

Family trips are great chances for a child to see new things, such as the ocean, mountains, cities, farms — in fact, anything that is

different from what is normally seen at home.

There are lots of opportunities for new experiences close to home as well, such as drama activities sponsored by local theatre groups; exhibits; special days for students at museums, gardens and planetariums; fairs; tours; library activities such as story hours, puppet shows, children's movies and general reading guidance.

Encourage your child to take

part in activities such as:

**PLANNING** family menus and helping to prepare meals (including possibly a gourmet dinner), shopping for groceries and stretching the family food budget,

**HELPING** with maintenance projects around the home, including such old-fashioned chores as lawn and garden care, house painting and building a bird-feeder,

**PLANNING** mini-vacations involving the collection of travel

folders, the marking of highway routes and the estimation of daily mileage and costs,

**IDENTIFYING** birds and other animals near home and on family outings and trips,

**JOINING** architectural walking tours of a downtown area.

Encourage your child's curiosity.

from the Alberta Teachers' Association, 11010-142nd Street, Edmonton, T5N 2R1.

## NAME CHANGE

The Canadian School Trustees' Association has changed its name to Canadian School Boards Association. Elected president at its July 1990 meeting was Bernie Wiens, a trustee with Rosetown S.D. 43, Saskatchewan.

Newfoundland recently ordered a Royal Commission to be set up to examine the way schools are run. Among other things, the commission will look at the role of denominational education.

The law creating the new University of Northern British Columbia was proclaimed in July 1990 and the university's interim governing council has been appointed. The new university is in Prince George, but it will serve the whole north. The interim council members, who will serve for a three-year period, will appoint a president and deans, hire faculty and staff and start formulating courses.

## Co-President's Message

by Jon Percy



I recently attended the Annual General meeting of the Canadian Home & School and Parent Teacher Federation (CHSPTF) held in Charlottetown, P.E.I. I am pleased to be able to report that our national organization is alive and well and engaged in a wide variety of worthwhile activities on our behalf. It was a stimulating and rewarding experience to spend four and a half days in the company of over forty keen and committed delegates from every region of Canada — four and half days (and some evenings) devoted to intense and lively discussions and workshops dealing with a range of topics pertaining to the education, health and well-being of Canadian children. As I listened to the reports of the year's activities by the various provincial federations I marvelled at the remarkable dynamism that permeates the Home and School movement from coast to coast. Together we are truly a parental force to be reckoned with. Our national organization has earned widespread respect and its representations on educational and health issues are taken seriously by a wide range of governmental and non-governmental agencies and groups. A cursory glance through the thick book of reports emanating from the annual meeting (available on loan from our provincial office) will give some idea of the scope and impact of the many activities being undertaken. During the lengthy business meeting some seventeen resolutions submitted by provincial federations and committees were debated at great length. Among them

were resolutions dealing with changes to the Young Offenders Act, mandatory use of bicycle helmets, regulation of cable television marketing, establishment of a ministry to deal with children's issues, tighter gun control and many others. When these are submitted to governments and other agencies they will carry considerable weight, representing as they do the views of parents from across Canada.

The P.E.I. Federation deserves high praise for the tremendous job they did in organizing and hosting the conference. Although the business meetings kept us occupied for far too long, we were treated to several notable examples of "Island hospitality", including the renowned St. Ann's Lobster Supper. Next year our own Quebec Federation will have the opportunity to reciprocate, as the 1992 CHSPTF meeting will be held in Montreal. This will be a big undertaking requiring the participation of a veritable army of volunteers. As the planning proceeds over the coming year we will be calling on many of you for various forms of assistance in order to make this a memorable and productive meeting. I know we can count on your support. It will provide a unique opportunity for you to meet Home and Schoolers from across Canada and to observe first hand what your national organization is doing on your behalf. So have a relaxing and enjoyable summer... and come out fighting in the fall!



## Quebec Home & School NEWS

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**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Editor: Charlene de Condé; Focus on the Locals: Diane Radu; Articles and policy: Jon Percy, Gordon Robertson; Safety Scene: Donald Smith; Peace Column: Mary Gurekas.

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# VACATION TRAVEL TIPS

## DOs and DON'Ts for little car passengers

Each year, almost four-and-a-half million Canadian families take vacations. But bored young passengers in a cramped and stuffy back seat usually become cranky and restless.

Road trips with children require special planning. Game manufacturer Milton Bradley offers these helpful "dos and don'ts" for surviving the travel portion of your family vacation:

**DO** get your kids involved early. Order brochures on your destination and have them sent to your children. Highlight your route on a road map and let children chart your progress with a crayon each day.

**DON'T** over-pack — bring only

the essentials. Lugging heavy luggage and young children will put a damper on everyone's vacation.

**DO** bring along a little bit of home. Children will feel more comfortable and secure if surrounded by a couple of familiar and favourite toys.

**DON'T** forget the importance of frequent pit stops. Trying to make better time on the road by ignoring bathroom breaks is only asking for a back seat revolt!

**DON'T** forget food on the go. Instant pick-me-ups like grapes, raisins, unsalted nuts, and fruit juices are just the answer for a fidgety five-year-old.

**DO** design a portable workstation for back seat playing. A

brightly coloured small paper box — decorated by your children — will do nicely.

**DON'T** forget the radio! Add some variety and amuse your children by playing tapes of their favourite stories or songs.

**DO** direct your children's attention to simple visual games like asking them to count as many buses as they can, different license plates, farm animals, etc.

**DON'T** forget the children need nap time on the road, too! Designate a time of day, like after lunch, as a "quiet time" so that children can revitalize.

**DO** give your children a sense of travelling time. Prepare them for how many hours or days it will take to reach your destination.

At some point during your trip, it's natural for nerves to wear a little thin. But, by following these simple "rules of the road" families can reach their destinations fairly pleasantly — if not completely peacefully!

## Keep kids safe during journey

Child safety seats in cars do more than protect their occupants — they keep other passengers safer too. Studies show that drivers distracted by unrestrained children cause hundreds of crashes.

And children who are not buckled in are more prone to squirm, fight, tug at the steering wheel and otherwise misbehave. When children are restrained, there are 95 percent fewer incidents of unruly behaviour.

Here are suggestions to help your child accept traveling in a child safety seat:

■ If the safety seat is new to a toddler, treat it as a gift and allow your child to play with the seat before using it. Take the child on several short "training trips" to help him or her become accustomed to the seat.

■ Keep very young children busy by providing soft, flexible toys (hard toys may cause injury in a crash). Tie small stuffed animals to the safety seat (keep cords short so as not to risk strangulation), or keep a bag of small toys handy in the car.

■ Older children enjoy looking at picture books or colouring with crayons (avoid pens or pencils,

which can jab a child in a crash). Try personalizing a safety seat with stickers or racing stripes (let your child help you do this).

■ Talk to your child, pointing out objects outside the car. Play games, sing songs or tell stories.

■ On longer trips, try to stop at least once an hour so your child can get out of the safety seat to stretch.

■ Praise your child often for good behaviour. Suggest that he or she is doing what race car drivers and astronauts do when they buckle up.

■ Be consistent in insisting that your child ride in a safety seat for every car trip, no matter how short. Sometimes older toddlers will climb out of their safety seats. If this happens, stop the car immediately and do not resume the trip until your child allows you to buckle him or her up again.

Children imitate adults, so make sure all passengers set a good example by buckling up. When a child learns a car ride means using a safety seat or belt, he or she is establishing a good safety habit that will last a lifetime.

Reprinted from: *Signal*, Summer '90



## School insurance

Reliable Life Insurance Company's plan, supported by Home & School voting delegates for the 1992-93 school year.

Your school should consider making this type of insurance available to your parents should they wish it. It is also likely a good idea to consider insisting that all children taking part in extra-curricular activities, with an element of risk, be covered in case of an accident.

Two options are offered. OPTION A (a limited dental plan), e.g.: \$5.50/student, \$3,000 life insurance, \$500/tooth, or

OPTION B, e.g.: \$10.50/student, \$3,000 life insurance, 5 years unlimited dental expenses, and after 5 years, \$500/tooth to age 20. The cheapest plan available costs only \$3.50/student.

If you wish to receive policy forms for distribution in your school (or school board) this Fall, simply write to: Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance, C.P. 67, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec J2T 9Z9, Tel. (514) 773-2008.

The Quebec agent for Reliable Life is M. Jean-Louis Brais. Or you can call Reliable Life in Hamilton at 1-800-263-6534, Patricia Spence or Pat L'Arrivée.

# CHSPTF National Wrap-up

from the newsletter of The Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation.

**Reader's Digest 1991 Leaders in Education Awards Winners**, eight educators, six individuals and one team, were announced May 1 as part of the three-year program to honour educators in seven schools — individuals or teams who were successful in solving challenges facing Canadian schools.

The program, in its second year is jointly sponsored by Reader's Digest, Canadian Asso. of Principals, Can. Education Asso., Can. School Boards Asso., Can. Teachers' Federation and CHSPTF.

**Reaching for Success.** Helen Koeppel, CHSPTF president and the National Literacy Project Director attended this conference held in Toronto in April. Partnerships between business and education were celebrated with workshops, information sessions, videos of successful regional winners and the awarding of the national awards to four (each of two classes won two awards).

Judges were unable to choose between the top two in the two categories. Of note to CHSPTF members: one of the winners was Pugwash District High School and Seagull Pewterers & Silver-smiths.

Conference Board of Canada organizers of the event, also invited CHSPTF to give one of several roundtable presentations highlighting initiatives that work on the final day. Maybelle Durkin presented the literacy exchange model.

**Concerned Children's Advertisers** On the same trip to Toronto CHSPTF was able to meet with the director of the CCA and were shown several Psa's (videos) which are to be shown on Canadian TV stations shortly. The videos stressed the importance of talking to children and with children about the necessity to make wise, informed choices about lifestyles (drugs).

**Comprehensive School Health** Canadian Association for School Health held a consultation with national organizations in April in Ottawa. A joint statement regarding comprehensive school health, long and short term objectives and should a kit be developed what would be useful to include were all on the agenda.

It was hoped participants could take the statement back to their boards for endorsement. A working copy of the statement is available upon request.

**Tes Choix, Ta Santé** Helen Koeppel attended the unveiling of French materials which are the counterparts of **Your Choice, Our Chance** unveiled a year ago. The two day session included presentation of children's projects, meetings with developers of the materials, videos, strategy forming group sessions with delegates divided by province etc.

The English materials are available from the national office, on loan. Masters of all materials are available from provincial health and social affairs departments. Goal — making informed choices re drugs & alcohol.

**Active Living Alliance** CHSPTF has been represented by Joy Bastness, past president of CHSPTF, at the formation meetings. Guiding principles are being circulated so member groups can get ratification from their individual Boards of Directors. Additional material has been received at the National Office since the March meeting in Ottawa.

**National Community Project** Helen Koeppel attended one of several meetings to acquaint members of the volunteer and charitable organizations sector in Ottawa April 22 re a proposal to develop a "national village" in Ottawa.

Properties would be developed with meeting space, accommodations, shared facilities etc. in a central area in order to highlight the NGO sector, to enhance the capital as a meeting place of peoples, to provide a window on the nation to visitors. The feasibility studies would require an agreement in principle from the groups consulted before being launched.

**Council of Ministers of Education, Canada** CHSPTF was invited to send representatives to a consultation in Toronto on June 5 re the Student Achievement Indicators, a project which would test the literacy and numeracy skills of students 13 and 16 years old and compare results on an international basis.

**Address to the Alberta Legislature** Carolyn Brooks, President ALTA Federation of Home and School Assn. spoke to the provincial Members of Parliament about the Literacy in the Information project and Literacy Exchanges on the occasion of Education Week.

**Canada Guidelines for Healthy Eating** and Recommended Strategies for Implementation were outlined at consultations held in Ottawa in May. Prototypes were displayed for comment and revisions re materials which will be distributed to the public by late fall 91.

The Guidelines are to be the basis for the Vitalité program as well. Several psa's were shown which will be part of a concerted effort re healthy eating, healthy activities etc.

**National Family Stress Test** CHSPTF through its Child Abuse Committee was invited to support this test which will appear in national publication(s) in the fall as part of Child Abuse Prevention month activities.

**LITERACY ALIVE** CHSPTF was represented on a panel by the Education Chairman, Marion Daigle at the Montreal segment of the live-by-satellite television conference Saturday, May 11. This six-hour event was a one-day international conference assisting the development of local community action plans.

Learners, educators, practitioners, experts and concerned citizens coast-to-coast shared the stage. Portions from NFLD revealed a familiar face, Gail Gosse, CHSPTF provincial literacy facilitator.

## GG opens kids book centre

**His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opened the new Canadian Children's Book Centre at 35 Spadina Road in Toronto.**

The gala opening of **The Canadian Children's Book Centre's** new national office marks the first time in its 14-year history that the Centre has had its own home.

The stately Victorian house on Spadina Road is a showcase for Canada's internationally renowned children's authors and illustrators, with plenty of space for the Centre's extensive reference library and for the administration of its many programs.

The Centre is a national, non-profit organization founded in 1976 by a small group of people dedicated to the promotion and encouragement of the reading, writing and illustrating of quality Canadian children's books.

As part of its mandate to provide information on all aspects of children's books in Canada, the Centre produces such publications as *Children's Book News*, a quarterly newsletter distributed to 35,000 Canadians; and *Our Choice*, a catalogue of recommended Canadian children's books. *Our Choice* is highly valued and trusted by librarians, teachers, booksellers and parents. The Centre also organizes **Canadian Children's Book Week**, a national annual celebration of children's books and reading.



# FOCUS on MEMBERSHIP



## 1990/91 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

(based on number of students)

### ON ISLAND BOARDS — ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

	%	Membership Chairman
Beacon Hill	68	Wendy Tonkin
Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield	59	Marilyn Tooley
Courtland Park (Dorval)	53	Louise Amy
<i>Honourable Mention</i>		
Windermere	47	Antionette Jermann
Dorset	46	Vicki Dowley
Christmas Park	44	Pamela Doherty
Elizabeth Ballantyne	42	Catherine Maxham
Edinburgh	41	Ingrid Poupart
Valois Park	41	Sandy Gordon-Loiello

### ON ISLAND BOARDS — SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hudson Elementary/High	22	Heidy Berthoud
<i>Honourable Mention</i>		
Macdonald High	18	Pat Dearing
Royal West Academy	16	Kathryn Arrell

### OFF ISLAND SCHOOLS

Baie Comeau Elementary/High	37	Barbara Rioux
New Richmond High	31	Barbara Harrison
<i>Honourable Mention</i>		
Shigawake — Pt. Daniel	22	Barbara Hottot
Howick School	18	Lynn Cullen

## 1990/91 NEWSLETTER AWARDS

Cedar Park — <i>Cedar Reader</i>	Carol Manger and Nancy Walsh, eds.
Ecole Primaire Harwood — <i>Journal de l'Ecole Primaire Harwood Newsletter</i>	Alessandra Corbeil, Anne De Van, and Chantal Barbeau, eds.
Lindsay Place — <i>Lindsay Place Herald</i>	Vivien Dagher
<i>Honorary Mention to:</i>	
Mount Pleasant — <i>Chalk Talk</i>	Helen Murphy

## HOME AND SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP 1990-1991

as of June 15, 1991

	Membership Chairman	Memberships
Allancroft School	Jean Touchie	178
Andrew S. Johnson School	Gerald Bennett	27
Ayer's Cliff School	Nancy Loadenthal	10
Aylmer Elementary School	Claus Jobes	51
Baie Comeau School	Barbara Rioux	52
Beacon Hill School	Wendy Tonkin	213
Beaconsfield High School	Nancy Acton	89
Carlyle School	Carol Latimer	25
Cedar Park School	Lisa Hooper	122
Christmas Park	Pamela Doherty	136
Courtland Park	Louise Amy	152
Dorset School	Vicki Gardner Dowley	138
Dunrae Gardens School	May Hodhod	159
Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield	Marilyn Tooley	263
Ecole Primaire Harwood	Louise Johnson	159
Ecole Prim. Pointe Claire	Diane Legère	155
Edgewater School	Arlene Whiting	181
Edinburgh School	Ingrid Poupart	172
Elizabeth Ballantyne School	Catherine Maxham	137
Emmanuel Christian School	Rose Thibodeau	47
Greendale School	Sylvia Smith	143
Hampstead School	Lise Axelrod	34
Howick School	Lynn Cullen	24
Hudson Elementary and High	Heidy Berthoud	155
John Rennie High School	Community Office	27
Keith School	Phyllis Molinelli	56
Lachine High School	Sinclair Harris	62
Lindsay Place High School	Mary Jane de Koos	164
Macdonald High School	Pat Dearing	111
Meadowbrook School	Gene Walsh	79
Mount Pleasant School	Elizabeth Cox	170
New Carlisle School	Janice Sylvestre	25
New Richmond School	Barbara Harrison	43
Northview School	Barbara Lalonde	119
Roslyn School	Linda Stern	83
Royal West Academy	Kathryn Arrell	114
Seigniory School	Dolores MacKenzie	107
Shigawake-Pt. Daniel	Barbara Hottot	22
South Hull School	Faye Ingrey	32
Sunnydale School	Nancy Tataryn	139
Thorndale School	Jo-Ann Whalen	151
Valois Park School	Sandy Gordon-Loiello	116
Westmount High School	Cheryl McGrath	23
Westpark School	Janet Goldstein	159
Willingdon School	Francine Jones	103
Windermere School	Antoinette Jermann	153

The above membership numbers include full family members as well as associate members (families that joined originally at another school).



## BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

**YOUR 91-92 MEMBERSHIP KITS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP HELD EARLY IN JUNE. IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED YOURS BY NOW, CALL THE OFFICE.**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO THE 90-91 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION !!**

- T...** Thanks to all our super membership chairmen who helped make the 1990/91 membership drive a big success.
- H...** Hurrah!! Our membership totals are up over last year.
- A...** Applause to all you parents, teachers, administrators, etc., who showed their support of Home & School by joining.
- N...** Never forget: KIDS ARE WORTH IT!
- K...** Kids... the reason for our existence and what it's all about.
- S...** So... sit back and just relax, for at least a couple of seconds!

*With apologies for 'stealing' this idea from Hudson Home & School*

# FOCUS on the LOCALS



Students and parents learned something new at every table of the North Hatley School science fair.

## Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield

**CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL de dessin des jeunes Desjardins: Nous avons deux talents dans la classe de Louise Brunet qui ont gagné une mention d'honneur: Sacha Liben et Yat Kam Lee. Nous leur offrons nos plus sincères félicitations. Peut-être se rendront-ils en finale au niveau international? Nous leur souhaitons.**

On Friday, March 2, Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield saw the play *The Peacemaker*. The moral of the play was to show people of all ages, that there is no need for any physical or mental walls of negativity in the world.

Ignorance and racism played a major part in the play. The blues and the reds in the play represented people of different religions, blacks, whites, different nationalities, who didn't get along.

My personal opinion of the play is that it was very good and it taught me a lesson, and I recommend it to anybody interested.

(Reviewed by Holly Short and Claudia Chalabi)

On May 14, Margaret Mitchell, M.R.E. consultant with the Lakeshore School Board, spoke to our

## HOWICK A Mother's Feast

**IF YOU PLANNED TO go out for Mother's Day it was easy to avoid the line-ups at restaurants if you bought a ticket for the Howick Elementary Mother's Day Brunch.**

The "all-you-can-eat" menu included eggs, bacon, ham, sausages, toast, home fries, potato salad, macaroni salad, beef bourguignon, mashed potatoes, rice, baked beans, cold meats, chicken à la King, pickles, etc. pastries, fresh fruit salad, juice, and beverages!

The Chateauguay Valley Reading association held a writing contest for all schools in the Valley. Over 2000 entries were received.

All our students participated and received a certificate. The following children from the school won awards: Elizabeth Robert, Chantal Agnew, Vanessa Angell, Kimberley Agnew, Cindel Chartrand.

parents on the topic of "Stress Management in Children". The evening was well attended and very well received.

Then, on May 16, the school held a "Sauton en Coeur" with all grades participating, although only grades 3-6 raised funds through sponsors. It was a glorious hot day and while the children skipped for 1½ hours, volunteers were at the ready with moral support and lots of refreshments.

The money raised went to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

McGill University professors, Fred Genesee and Wallace Lambert, recently received the Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in Foreign Language Education. One of the schools studied for their research article was Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield. In appreciation of our school's cooperation a cheque was sent to purchase books or educational materials for our children.

Nos sincères félicitations aux élèves — Adela et Vincent Au-Yeung, Caroline Bartlequi et Branwen Harper-Lee — ont été choisis pour se produire lors d'un concert parrainé par la Société de Musique de Chambre du Lakeshore, 7 avril.

Over 700 students in the Lakeshore Board schools from levels 3 to 6 participated in a French math team problem solving competition.

Lakeshore schools entered were: Cedar Park, Christmas Park, Dorset, Greendale, Ecole Primaire Pointe Claire and Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield.

Nous (la Commission scolaire Lakeshore) avons 2 équipes qui ont été choisies pour aller à la compétition au niveau National (Provincial):

6e année: Mention OR  
école Cedar Park (Susan Larivière)  
James MacLeod et Michael Kouri

5e année: Mention ARGENT  
Ecole Primaire Beaconsfield (Rosie Ziواني)  
Philippe Inagaki et Benjamin Ascher

On a happy/sad, note we are sorry to say goodbye to our grade 1 teacher, Gisèle Dubeau. Nous sommes heureux d'apprendre que vous comptez travailler auprès d'enfants en difficulté d'adaptation et d'apprentissage dans la petite école près de votre demeure de retraite. Au revoir.

Sheila Staton

## NORTH HATLEY

# Fair brings science to life

**APRIL WAS SCIENCE Month at the North Hatley School. The students in the different grades have been researching and preparing information on a variety of scientific and environmental activities.**

From Kindergarten to Grade 6, all students are involved, working within groups, or with a partner, or on a project alone.

On Thursday afternoon, the classes arranged their projects in the gym in preparation for Friday's public display.

The students, on Friday morning, were given an opportunity to visit each other's displays and listen to their explanations. During the afternoon they hosted their families, friends, and people from the community.

The exhibits presented an interesting variety of topics. Kindergarten's topic dealt with *Water — The Water Cycle*, and an experiment

## CARLYLE

**OUR ANNUAL SCIENCE Fair was held on April 23. In the evening the public was invited to view the exhibits.**

There was no judging of the science projects as the work is not seen as a competition but as a learning experience. The projects are informative and educational. It is our way of celebrating "Earth Day" all year long.

This Fair has been a very successful event in the past eight years, and this year was no exception.

The children worked very hard on their presentations and their efforts proved to be well worthwhile.

Carlyle is very grateful to the QFHSA for asking us if there was an interest in participating in the Citizen's Forum.

The joint endeavour to complete the group report, as well as the individual reports, made us aware that we were part of a large collection of Canadians who want to share ideas on what we feel are the values, characteristics and fundamental rights of the citizens of the country.

What came as a surprise to many of us during this process of answering the questions, was the number of positive ideas that we were able to arrive at, while at the same time recognizing certain problems that have to be dealt with for Canada to continue growing in a healthy way.

It was a very stimulating task and we considered it well worth the time and effort spent to complete these forms. So we thank the QFHSA for this opportunity.

Once again you reinforce our idea that the H&S encourages communication and dialogue which is beneficial to us all.

Carol Latimer

using water.

Grade 1 had a lovely display of "Sugaring in the Townships". They had recreated a sugar bush using sticks for maple trees with little tin-foil sap buckets attached to each.

There was a sugar house made of cardboard complete with a lean-to woodshed. A porcelain horse was pulling the sap-sled from tree to tree.

Behind this scene was a back-board filled with drawings and stories composed by the students, as well as a list of vocabulary words used to explain the sugaring process.

On another table was a display showing old equipment, such as a wooden sap bucket, and modern day-pipeline.

The grade 2/3 class concentrated on important environmental issues — *Reuse, Reduce, Recycle* was their topic.

Milk cartons were made into very attractive bird feeders and there were numerous displays showing how we can reuse a variety of empty containers.

The students recorded the results of a week's survey of the waste from the lunch room. They hypothesized that North Hatley food waste is 1419.5 kg per year.

The students in grades 3 to 6 had chosen their own topics. There were models of planets, erupting

## KEITH

**ON APRIL 25, the Black Theatre Workshop performed "The Cat in the Castle" for all the students in the school.**

Special thanks to Mrs. F. Naraine and volunteers for a most successful chocolate bar drive.

On May 1 the school held its public speaking finals for grades 4 to 6. The winners were Tiffany Rickaby (Gr.4), Kamala Pilgrim (Gr.5) and Ranjeeta Banerjee (Gr.6).

Ranjeeta was also the overall winner and on May 10th she represented Keith School at the public speaking contest held at Westmount Park School.

The Lasalle Youth Squad visited all the classes May 2 and 3 to talk with the children about safety. The H&S held a Mother's Day Raffle. Among the prizes were flowers and oven mitts.

May 16 saw the unveiling of the dress code for next year, at the senior concert and fashion show.

Congratulations to Melissa Campbell, winner of a Gold Medal at the Halo Road Race, and to Tiffany Moey, who has won an acting role in a National Film Board movie.

The year finished up with the H&S hosting a wine and cheese party for all the volunteers who helped throughout the year.

Debbie Davis

volcanoes, earthquakes, tornadoes, experiments using batteries and circuits, and a battery-operated windmill.

On the display boards and walls were charts illustrating the skeleton of the human body, and that of such animals as cats and dogs.

There were live creatures: turtles, a kitten, dog, hamster, and a hen. An interesting display showing all the wires used in a telephone cable and a model of wiring North Hatley was one student's topic.

A weather chart showing the highs and lows for each day in April, accompanied by a graph was another interesting display. All the students had made a guess on which date the ice would leave Lake Massawippi and their names were written on a calendar.

The Science Fair was a successful event in which every student had an opportunity of learning and sharing this knowledge with others

Winona Patterson

## NEW CARLISLE H.S.

In March 1991, the Annual Reading week was held at New Carlisle High School.

Home & School hosted the Book Fair from Great Canadian Book Fairs in Toronto. Our sales totalled \$2,330.00, an all-time high for our school. We are able to purchase 50% of our total in new books and materials for our library.

Special thanks to Mr. Desjardins and Mrs. Joan Hocquard for judging the Reading Poster contest. Each winning student was given a free book at the Book Fair. Second and third place winners were given a free bookmark or door hanger.

Many teachers gave of their time and effort to participate in Reading Week with activities and projects for the students. The students had a great week with the Book Fair and all the special events.

Anne MacWhirter

*Ed. Note: Anne MacWhirter is the QFHSA Area Rep for the Gaspé, and a past Vice-President, on our Board of Directors.*

Reprinted from SPEC APR 30/91

## ONSLOW

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL "I Love to Read Week" was organized by staff, students and parents.**

It featured events such as the release of "Spout About Books" helium balloons containing messages from the students; shared reading; the exchange of student designed bookmarks; a Shadow Theatre presentation by the Grade 5/6 for Levels K-4, and an awards presentation for all the students taking part, as well as for individual activities.

## DEAR EDITORS:

You may be interested in the photograph below which was taken at the recent "Idea Exchange" evening held at Lindsay Place High School.

The purpose of the exchange was to define ways in which Home and School could be of value to the school, and to find out what the school expected of Home and School. We had an excellent turnout of Home and Schoolers, School Committee members, staff, administration and students — not forgetting representatives of other Home and School associa-

tions and QFHSA.

The pizza and soft drinks served at the outset of the meeting served to unearth a wealth of ideas, suggestions and comments, all of which have been recorded for future discussion.

Anyone interested in having further details is invited to contact either chairperson:

Margo Heron: 631-6533  
Martin Wale: 695-9389

Yours sincerely,  
Vivien Dagher  
Lindsay Place H.S.



## CAMPBELL'S BAY Rookie Readers

WE CELEBRATED "I Love To Read Week" from April 22 to April 26. Although reading is important each and every day of the year, it is during this week that we focus particularly on the importance and joy of reading.

Daily, everyone in our school participated in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), or, in French, LULA (Lire Un Livre Aujourd'hui) for 15 minutes.

We counted the number of books (or in the upper grades pages) read during the week. This was recorded on individual baseballs using the theme "Rookie Readers".

Banner contests, twinned reading between junior and senior students, a reading treasure hunt and "celebrity readers" were a few of the special activities.

The children participated in a book exchange. They brought in any presentable book and exchanged it for a "token" which they used to purchase another book.

At an assembly the students took part in a "Banner Slogan Bingo".

All in all, we "batted a hundred" when it came to reading.

## NORTHVIEW

STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS were totally enthralled with the recent production of "The Peacemaker" at the school.

H&S picked up half the cost of the two presentations. As well, H&S is purchasing soccer balls, footballs and basketballs for each class for use during recess.

Our Bike Road-e-o took place in mid-May, and order forms for Special Delivery clothing have gone out. We also undertook a MacGregor Meats fundraiser in May — just in time for the barbecue season.

Speaking of barbecues, H&S again endorsed Northview's caretaker, Peter Magee, in his fundraising efforts for the Tiny Tim Fund of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Since 1983, Crazy Pete has raised over \$34,000 through his

## COURTLAND PARK

IN MARCH THE grade 3 students participated in the "Fine Arts Festival" and were awarded a silver in the ensemble category.

During "I Love To Read Week" each class did a page for a "Big Book" creating a story when it was all put together.

Every year the PSBGM publishes a book called "For All Seasons" and this year they have chosen several works from Courtyard Park. Included were works by Katherine Farnell (Gr. 3); Matthew Bain, Don Fletcher, Laura Kedziora, George Montroukas, Jennifer Vitullo (Gr. 4); Melanie Evans, Kerry McKenna, Emily Mitchell (Gr. 5), and Ann-Marie Dilullo, Lorena Hopkins, Danny Laviolette (Gr. 6).

On May 1, a number of very well-spoken students presented their speeches in front of the staff and students of grades 3 to 6. The judges then had the difficult task of choosing the two students represented our school at the finals on May 9.

Their choices were Ken Hay and Melissa Dorion from Grade 6. Matthew Bain from Grade 4 was given honourable mention.

On April 19, Grade 4 (Room 26) tripped off to Argyle Academy in Verdun to take part in a Cosmo Hockey Tournament.

There were four schools involved and it was a great experience for the students. General opinion was that we were "the most sportsmanlike" team.

On April 22 "Earth Day" was observed by the students who participated in a very creative "paint-a-thon" in the gym. All proceeds from the children's involvement go to the World Wildlife Fund for Endangered Species. Through their efforts, a total of \$166 was collected.

"Crazy Pete's Barbecues". This year the Kid's Barbecue was held on June 22 at Viking Pool, and the Adult Barbecue will be held August 3 at Northview School.

Everyone is welcome, for more information call Pete at 697-4211.

As a postscript to our last report, over 800 books were collected during our book drive for New Carlisle School. Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.

Lynn Vrouvas

## LINDSAY PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

# Science dept. competes in Chemical Inst. exam

ON MONDAY, APRIL 15, at the H&S meeting, members of the Science Department discussed what is being taught in the various grades and how well the students were prepared for CEGEP.

The Department reported that for the 10th year in a row it would compete in the Chemical Institute National Secondary School Examination held in May.

Next year the government physical science course will be introduced at the Grade 10 level, as well as LPHS Grade 10 "Science in Action" course, which promises to be very interesting and challenging.

The "Science for the 90's" for Grade 9 is doing very well. This spring the students finished a cosmetics unit in which they prepared cold cream, soap and toothpaste.

Another group completed a unit on Forensic Science, investigating techniques to help solve mysteries.

The Science Department received its first educational computer this year and hopes to have at least one computer in each lab.

The H&S announced plans to use funds raised from the poster sale and the concession stand at the

Christmas band concerts to purchase a Unibind machine for the school.

Every June volunteers repair over 800 damaged textbooks in preparation for the new school year. Throughout the year volunteers are also involved in book-binding, so the Unibind will be put

to good use.

After some stumbling blocks, 50 happy students plus chaperons set off on March 22 for their "experience of a lifetime". They visited The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, Monte Carlo, England and Barcelona, a new addition this year.

## FLASHES FROM THE LOCALS

The New Richmond H&S held a Salad Buffet on June 9. The proceeds will be used for school trips. Among the talented winners in the Beaconsfield 1992 Carnival "Draw a Button" contest were Christmas Park's Jenni Hare (1st), and from E.P. Beaconsfield, Kathryn Hudson (3rd), Alison Roop (gr.2 prize), Mathew Varga (gr. 4 prize). Congratulations! Lindsay Place's Gala Concert at McGill was a super success. They raised \$2200 for the Montreal Children's Hospital and the students really got a thrill out of playing with the McGill music students.

## DR. S.E. MCDOWELL

ONCE AGAIN "I Love To Read Week" was a big event at the school. Among the many events that took place were a few that were especially intriguing.

A wizard changed the names of all the items in the cafeteria (known for the week as Mrs. Wall's Enchanted Eatery)! Every item's name referred to a book or poem title. Classes were challenged to connect each item with the correct title.

Various people from the community were invited to come into the school and read a favourite story to the children. Ray McGrath, the Irish storyteller, entertained everyone.

The "Reach For the Bookshelf" contest had teams from Levels 4 to 6 competing in a literary quiz. Playdowns were held each noon hour. Parents were welcome to attend the final competition on Friday afternoon.

On Friday students and teachers "dressed up" to represent a literary character or theme.

## ROSLYN

THIS WAS AN EXCITING and active year for the school.

Annual events such as our fundraising Giftwrap Sale, Bake Sale, and Book Fair have been terrific, thanks to the co-operative efforts of parents, staff and students.

A very special purchase was just made — a video camera — which we all feel will facilitate a wonderful educational project at Roslyn.

On Saturday, June 1, the H&S sponsored a huge community garage sale. It coincided with the Linda Lee Tribute, in honour of our library "benefactress" (and former teacher at Roslyn) who so kindly and generously remembered the school in her will.

The proceeds from the sale will be used to open the drive for "computers-in-every-classroom".

L. Stern

## BEACON HILL

SOME OF OUR DEDICATED volunteer mothers at the school have been working on the completion of the Peace Quilts.

Students made the designs for the fronts of the quilts, and now they are being pieced together by H&S parents. Quilting will be completed by students, and then these beautiful symbols will be hung in the gym.

Our babysitting course has been completed and now we have a list of over 20 qualified babysitters available to parents.

Organized by Janie Carr, who was assisted by a number of H&S parents, the Jump for Heart events were a tremendous success. Local businesses helped with prizes and snacks, and over \$5400 was pledged in support of the Heart Foundation.

Our usual contribution of funds was made to Allancroft Centre for the year.

An offer was made by H&S to arrange a special purchase of Bicycle Safety Helmets for students. The response has been good, and an order for 100 helmets has been placed, all part of our safety program.

On May 2 a special performance of brass quartet from the Montreal Symphony Orchestra made a great hit with the students, who learned much about both trombones and tubas!

H&S will contribute \$3000 as our part of the refurbishing of our school playground, with the city and the board making contributions. The Family Bar-B-Q took place on June 14.

Our local also helped make the Grade 6 grad a success by assisting with the dance and the fun day.

Ideas for our 25th Anniversary will centre on the new playground for the school. It has been a busy and rewarding year, especially since our H&S received the award for the highest membership this year at the annual AGM.

# MORE FOCUS

## MOUNT PLEASANT Tropical Rain Gym

IN KEEPING WITH THE environmental awareness theme, the H&S sponsored two days of hands-on education about the world around us.

On March 5 and 6, the gym was magically transformed into a Tropical Rainforest by the NOMAD Scientists. As well, on March 6, the exhibition was opened to all children who wished to share this experience with their parents.

The profits from the lunchtime and afterschool programs has enabled the H&S to purchase a computer for the children.

This computer is the first in what we hope will eventually be three computers to be centrally located in the library and available to all the students during the school day. This will give every child a chance to learn and experience the benefits of computer education.

# MORE FOCUS

## DORSET

**EVERY YEAR during the month of May students, teachers and parents are kept busy preparing for the Avey Public Speaking Awards, a tradition at the school.**

The students prepared their speeches then visited other classes and gave the speeches, which vary in length depending on age and can be in English or French.

Finalists were chosen from each of the classes, including kindergarten, then on May 10 the entire school and proud parents assembled in the gym for the finals.

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS/SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE Report to Board Meeting of May 24, 1991

By Pat Lewis

**CHILDREN AND TV:** According to a recent study the most violent shows on TV are the cartoons that children watch. And they are becoming even more so, says a study by the National Coalition on Television Violence.

An average of 37 violent acts per hour occurs on some syndicated cartoon shows.

The most gory in order are: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *G.I. Joe*, *Tiny Toon Adventures*, and *Peter Pan and the Pirates*.

According to a recent book by Jane Healy, TV is warping young brains. Healy contends that electronic media, fast-paced lifestyles, unstable family patterns, environmental hazards and faulty teaching methods are not only changing the way children think, but their actual brain structure, and leading to a loss of creativity of some 20 percent.

This lack of imagination could have a profound effect on industrial technology in our society.

**CHILDREN AND NOISE:** The executive director of the Canadian Hearing Society says we are unknowingly "subjecting our children to noise levels we don't accept in industry." Toys such as drums, rattles and squeaky animals can permanently damage children's hearing.

A study by Université de Montréal researchers found that 85 percent of 300 toys from Quebec stores exceeded the recommended noise level.

The effects may not show up until later, but there is no doubt that long-term hearing loss is possible.

**TEEN APATHY:** A recent series in *THE GAZETTE* by Lynn Moore says today's teens are not optimistic about their futures. Teens know that they are likely to inherit a world of pollution, with many wars, and with an economic situation that leads to a lack of jobs for students even when they finish school.

At present only 60 percent of high school graduates enroll in CEGEPs, and without an education beyond high school, prospects for satisfactory employment are

This year's winners were Kathryn Ionata (grade 1), Brandon Ionata (grade 2), Lucy Smith (grade 3), Alisa Bartosh (grade 4), Adam Csank (grade 5), Ryan Harvey (grade 7) and Stefan Pomme-puy (grade 7).

Dorset has its very own celebrity in the person of kindergarten teacher Kathy Gorrie. First Kathy was presented with the Gordon Paterson Award by the QFHSA at its annual general meeting May 4.

Then *The West Island Gazette* did an article, complete with pictures, about Kathy and her outstanding kindergarten program. Parents always knew how lucky their children were to have Kathy as a teacher. Now everyone knows.

Also in May physical education teacher Cindy Morris organized a Jump-rope for the Heart and raised more than \$3200 for the Heart Fund. Congratulations to Cindy and to all the children who participated and collected their pledges.

Since Dorset will be sending the grade 7s to Macdonald High School next year there were two graduations on June 20. The grade 7s graduated in the morning and the grade 6s in the afternoon.

Instead of the usual buffet lunches, though, this year Janet Ross and Louise Esslinger organized cake and punch for both graduations, with a dance in the evening for both grades.

H&S wants to thank Janet and Louise for volunteering to organize the event and making the graduations memorable for everyone.

After two years as president Charlene de Conde stepped down this year and two other H&S members, Shirley Straughton and Karen Ross, volunteered to co-chair. Good luck for the 1991-92 year, Karen and Shirley.

## St Michael Elementary and High School

Colette Canavan, Chairperson of St. Michael Elementary and Secondary School in Low, was recently delegated by the Parent Committee of the Greater Hull-Protestant Regional School Board of Western Quebec to attend the second national *Small School Conference*. This notable event was held

## Everyone is a potential member

People in business; aunts and uncles; grandparents; pediatricians; school board members; local politicians — all are potential members. Accordingly, make sure to create an atmosphere of openness and hospitality to everyone.

Make a strong effort (and urge other Home and Schoolers as well) to welcome newcomers to meetings and activities. Start a welcoming committee to reach out to newcomers.

Use a similar system in welcoming new members to the Home and School executive. Match veteran

members of your Home & School Executive with "new recruits" to help them get to know the people, organization and procedures.

Be sure to promote membership at every function, meeting or other opportunity.

## You can't do it alone

It takes a team effort to increase a Home & School's membership — you can't do it alone. Form committees, use the talents and expertise of members, local business people, community residents, etc. Delegate responsibilities, ask for help from other members and make use of opportunities to promote Home & School in the media.

## Develop action plan

List the goals adopted by your local association. Develop an activity calendar for your membership efforts.

Determine the tasks necessary to achieve the goals, who will do them and when they need to be accomplished.

Consider how you will evaluate whether you've achieved your goals.

Remember, you will need to develop a budget for your activities.

## Books on Review by Kenneth Radu

**A decade or so ago Tundra Books of Montreal published an autobiographical work for children called *West Coast Chinese Boy*. Based upon the life of the author, Sing Lim, this is a colourful, anecdotal memoir about growing up Chinese in Vancouver during the 1920's. What elicited such praise from critics and readers alike was the book's humour, captivating tone of voice, strong characterizations, the picaresque momentum of the narrative, not to mention the utterly convincing perspective on life from the point of view of the young Chinese narrator.**

A new generation of school children now have the opportunity to enter into a lively and exotic world, filled with extraordinary perceptions and incident. Tundra has re-issued *West Coast Chinese Boy* in a handsome paperback edition, replete with the author's original drawings and full-colour monotypes.

Although the book reveals a despicable part of Canada's history, its fundamentally racist attitude towards the early Chinese immigrants, this is a story of humanity and joy, filled with cultural details like how the young narrator learned to do Chinese calligraphy with a brush or the fascinating contents of Mr. Kwong's drug-store. "One of his concoctions was surprisingly popular: alcohol mixed with snake venom."

We read about the viaduct people who "lived under the Georgia viaduct" in crates or shelters constructed from corrugated iron; about Kee, a little boy suffering from rickets whose uncle built him a huge kite that "looked like a strange insect with two antennae and round discs attached to each 'wing'." So immense and grotesque was the kite, the wings whistling in the wind, that it frightened horses

pulling wagons down the street!" That ended the kite flying, but Kee thought it had been great fun.

Mixed in with realistic details of life in Vancouver are stories of pure imagination, expressing elements of Chinese culture and history. At a baby's 'head shave' party, Sing Lim's mother tells the boy the story of a werewolf who was transformed into a beautiful woman with small feet (werewolf feet) which she tried to hide under her robe. To keep her origins from being discovered she persuades the emperor that the smaller a woman's feet were, the more beautiful she was.

A kaleidoscopic book of memory and story, told in clear and comprehensible language and enchanting vignettes, *West Coast Chinese Boy* is a valuable contribution to Canadian children's literature.

From Annick Press of Toronto comes a little paperback picture book, *Visiting Granny*, by Kim Fernandes. The story, such as it is, depicts the activities of two children in their grandmother's kitchen. From a purely literary point of view, the writing is limited and prosaic, the narrative virtually non-existent. It's nice to see, however, a work that brings young children together with an old person who is independent and creative in her own world.

What saves *Visiting Granny*, however, from the mediocrity or commercial banality of many contemporary picture books for children is Kim Fernandes' coloured illustrations of plasticine figures. Each page of text is accompanied by a full page picture of pots, pans, cookies, tables, etc., all of which have been modeled out of baker's clay or plasticine.

Any kindergarten teacher could use this book in very inventive ways, especially if she has her and her pupils' hands full of plasticine. Forget the words, which are obvious and uninteresting, and concentrate on the detailed, charming plasticine creations.

even bleaker.

**YOUTH AND SEX EDUCATION:** Education Minister Michel Pagé made an appeal to Quebec's school boards to do more about sex education in our schools. Pagé asked the boards to press ahead with teaching about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

The president of the Quebec Federation of Parent Committees says parents have to face reality. Abstinence is not going to happen.

"So what are we going to do about it?" says Gary Stronach. It has been estimated that by the year 2000 10 million of the world's children will have AIDS. No wonder that Pagé felt a "moral responsibility" to intervene! One-fifth of Canadian doctors would pull their children from the classroom if another pupil was infected with the virus linked to AIDS, according to a report from the recent Canadian AIDS Conference held in Vancouver.

The CLSC Lac St. Louis held a seminar on adolescent sexuality for parents in April.

**TEEN SHELTER:** A West Island emergency shelter has been closed and opened again more than once because of a lack of funds, and government-funded treatment facilities for children and teens suffering from mental illness are non-existent on the West Island.

The only local youth program left is Expressions, an art-therapy program for children of mentally ill parents, and that program will end in 1992. The West Island faces a reduction in social workers, also.

**CHILD ABUSE:** The Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse reports that more than 100,000 children in Canada are physically and/or sexually abused every year.

One in four girls and one in 10 boys will be victims before they are 18. Average age is 11, but it is not uncommon for children 3 years old or younger to be sexually abused.

Seventy-three per cent of run-aways come from abusive homes. Offenders are not strangers. More than 85 percent are known to the child.

A coalition of church groups has appealed to Justice Minister Kim

Campbell to get the federal government to legislate against pornography to help protect women and children against violence that can be linked to such pornography.

**DRUG ABUSE:** A television commercial put together by a group of Grade 6 students at Allancroft School in Beaconsfield was chosen as winner in a national contest.

The focus of the campaign was the idea of friends helping friends to avoid drugs. Allancroft had the best entry to show the role of peers in going straight.

**INTERCULTURAL WEEK:** Intercultural Week was celebrated in Montreal in April, with many schools and community organizations taking part.

**SOME RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:**

Available in fall of 1991 only: **DRUGS, Role Modelling: A Parent's toughest performance READY OR NOT! — Parenting a Pre-Teen**

Write: Health & Welfare Canada, Box 8888, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

**DRUGS: PREVENTING A PROBLEM**

From: Toronto Board of Education, Race Relations Department, 155 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P6

**IT ALL ADDS UP: CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR A MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITY**, by Tony Souza. Kit listing classroom and community activities which would benefit from involvement of parents. Audio-visual resources and a calendar of ethnic festivals. English only.

**MULTICULTURALISM IN THE CLASSROOM:** Activities for Elementary Classes, by Ed May. Write to: British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Program Against Racism, 2235 Burrard St., Vancouver, British Columbia, V6J 3H9

Look up: May, 1991, issue of *CANADIAN LIVING Magazine* for an article called: "**WHEN KIDS ARE AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD WORLD**", by Marcia Kaye. "There are wise ways to ease children into the harsh reality," says Kaye.

# SAFETY SCENE

# SAFETY SCENE

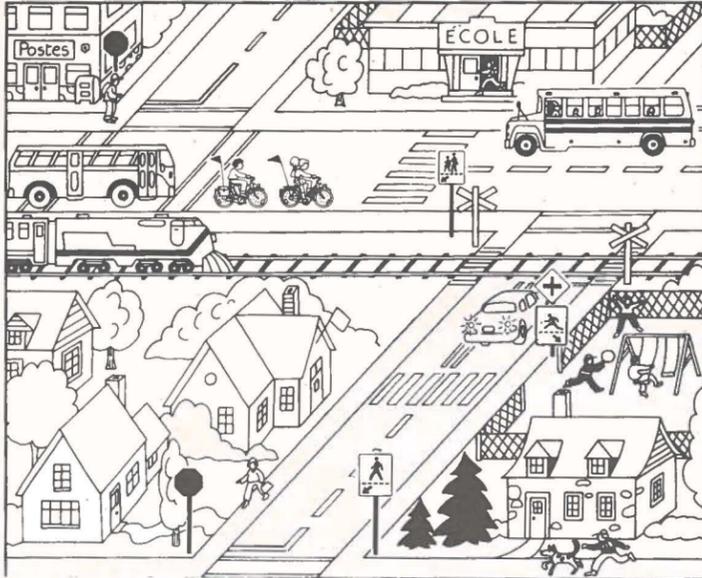
## Bicycles can be killers

BICYCLES. CHILDREN love to ride them; grown-ups use them for recreation and fitness. And they are a great means of transportation.

But there are other, less pleasant, statistics. More than 200 Canadians die each year as a result of cycling accidents. At least 75 percent of these tragedies are the result of head injuries, with children 5 to 14 years of age accounting for roughly half of these deaths.

In addition, for children, cycling accidents are the leading cause of hospitalization for head injuries. For all age groups, most long-term disabilities resulting from cycling accidents are due to head injuries.

Although children form the group most at risk on bikes, they are least likely to wear helmets. Parents should purchase properly-fitted helmets for their children and ensure that they wear them every time they cycle. And parents should set a good example for their children and always wear a helmet when cycling.



## URGENT! For the asking...

The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, through the Ministère de l'éducation, has a Highway Safety Program which is distributed to the school boards upon request by the board or its schools.

This program is in both languages and is there for the asking. There are also complementary programs (which usually include videos, also available in both languages) which are also available to all schools.

Unfortunately, it would appear that the English community in Québec is not taking advantage of these services — either because the information is not fed down from the boards to their schools as is done in a couple of cases I am aware of, or ??? See Highway Programs story on right.

Please take advantage of these services!

## Highway programs for student users

### HIGHWAY SAFETY AT ITS BEST!

Société de l'assurance automobile offers complete program for our schools

Readers to this column have often read about the Comité provincial de concertation sur les programmes de sécurité routière en milieu scolaire and its accomplishments. (Safety Scene editor is a member of the Comité.)

This Comité has been instrumental in developing a highway safety program for students in Québec schools.

The basis of the program is to "form a new breed of users of our highways" (Rough translation, however to better explain the word users, the intention is towards pedestrians, bicycle riders, motorcycle and scooter riders, school and city bus passengers, automobile passengers, in fact, any feasible means that a student would use to get to and from school — using the public roads.)

The accompanying illustrations show the binders and booklets that are still available at the Régie offices. (One binder which is not illustrated is the Highway Safety program for the mentally handicapped.)

For further information, please contact the Société's offices at 1134, chemin Saint-Louis, Sillery G1S 1E5 (Direction des politiques et programmes).

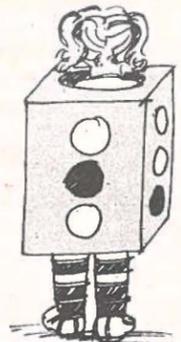
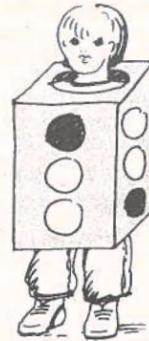
### HIGHWAY SAFETY AT SCHOOL TEACHER'S HANDBOOK

(Kindergarten)

Suggestions are provided for learning activities in the form of games, role-playing, etc..

(Elementary School)

Suggestions are provided for learning activities tailored to pupil's ages and capabilities, with integrated support materials.



(Secondary School)

Contains suggestions for learning activities based on attaining the objectives of the Health section of the Personal and Social Education program.



### ACTIVITY GUIDES

Learning to Share the Road in all Seasons contains suggestions for traffic safety actions around elementary school level themes.

Traffic Safety Week in Elementary School has ideas for organizing an entire week's activities.

### Learning to Share the Road in All Seasons

Information and Activity Guide for Kindergarten and Elementary School Children



PREPARED BY YOUR SCHOOL BOARD IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE FORCES OF QUÉBEC, LE MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION DU QUÉBEC, AND THE RÉGIE DE L'ASSURANCE AUTOMOBILE DU QUÉBEC

## Patrollers on Parade



Twenty-four Safety Patrollers from Windermere School in Beaconsfield represented their school at the C.A.A. National Jamboree in Ottawa on Saturday, May 25.

Schools from all across Canada met for a morning parade which wound through the streets of Ottawa, then viewed a movie and enjoyed a live band in the afternoon. The Windermere patrollers traded hats, buttons and banners with other schools.

This event is one of the ways the Home and School Association thank their dedicated patrollers for keeping the roads around the school safe.

The program, sponsored by Home and School is directed at Windermere by Principal David Nadler and volunteer Betty Lou Manker, both of whom supervised the Ottawa Jamboree trip.

For further information on Safety Patrol organization, call Betty Lou Manker at the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations office, 481-5619.

Betty Lou Manker

### ACTIVITY GUIDES

Your Place is Reserved on Québec Roads and Highways offers ways for educators to intervene on specific subjects.

Traffic Safety Days in Secondary School has practical suggestions for holding activities tailored to that age level.