

QUEBEC

Mr. M. Benjamin
720 Aberdaire
Montreal. 16. Que.

HOME AND SCHOOL



In this issue . . .

- **MRS. C. E. WOOLGAR NEW PRESIDENT**
- **ALL ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING**
- **HOW TO STAY ALIVE!**

VOL. IX, No. 5

• **MONTREAL, QUEBEC**

• **JUNE, 1957**

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QUEBEC HOME AND SCHOOL

Published by

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HUnter 1-9251

October, December, February,
April and June

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(Hudson High)

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Gratifying Announcement!

Not the least of the announcements made at the Annual Meeting was President Walkington's statement that Leslie N. Buzzell—one of Federation's founders and an active member of the Council of Protestant Education in this Province—had graciously accepted the office of Honorary President of our Federation. Donor of the Buzzell Award and long interested in our affairs, Mr. Buzzell is a most welcome incumbent of our one and only honorary position. Thank you for doing us this very great honour, Mr. Buzzell!

A TRIBUTE AND OUR THANKS!

"Mr. Edward Gross and his business and life partner, Mrs. Gross, have been most co-operative and generous to us in our period of "growing pains" these past five years. On behalf of your Directors, and on behalf of this Council of Representatives, I want to express our gratitude to them for all they have done for our Magazine. They have made a significant contribution to the cause of education over many years in publication of *The Teachers' Magazine* and a number of others in this field."

Fred. W. Price,

Chairman Magazine Committee,
before the Council of Representatives
at the Annual Meeting.

OUR COVER

Let's teach our children how to stay alive—keep others alive—and let's stay alive, ourselves, at least for their sakes! You will find some rules for swimmers, non-swimmers and for boaters in this issue; tear it out and tack it up in the cottage! Our picture is by courtesy of The American National Red Cross.

GOOD OLD DAYS

I wince at my son's explanation
Of tactics I try to employ—
The older I get as a father,
The better I get as a boy!

Thomas Usk

Quebec Home and School

YOUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Held May 3rd and 4th
at McGill University

THERE JUST isn't enough space in this issue to cover all that went on at your Annual Meeting and Conference early last month. Labelled a sketchy report, this and the other articles in this issue must be considered together and regarded as only barely touching on the highlights.

Mrs. Margaret Dow, the hard working and truly efficient Conference Committee Chairman, reported that 103 Associations had Representatives present—of these, 53 were Associations off the Island of Montreal and 50 from Montreal. There were 242 Representatives and 80 delegates. Between 600 and 700 people were in attendance at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, May 4th.

Let's be chronological

The Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives met in the Auditorium of the Physical Sciences' Building of McGill University in Montreal at 1.30 p.m. on May 3rd. The Rev. E. N. McColl (long a familiar figure at these meetings) gave the invocation. The President's Report is produced elsewhere in this issue. The Treasurer's Report (which showed a paid family membership of 23,208) included a budget for 1957-58 showing a meagre \$15 of excess revenue over expenditure but then, whereas last year's budget allowed for a deficit of \$160 there actually was a surplus of \$374, so perhaps we will come out on the right side of the ledger again.

There followed a report of the Magazine Committee by Fred. W. Price, Chairman, announcing new publishing arrangements. Then came one of the most interesting features of the Conference, the Report of the Resolutions Committee by Norman Wood. Two of the four resolutions were passed but two were referred back to the Committee for study and further submission the next day. The resolutions as finally approved will be published in our October issue. Next was the report of the Broadcast Committee whose Chairman, Mrs. R. M. Robbins, took up the task following the regrettable resignation of

our former Director of Broadcasts, H. Don Allen who rendered such wonderful service to Federation.

Three Workshops—Parent Education under Mrs. Jean Gordon; Citizenship under William Asherman; Traffic Safety under Ross M. Davidson—took everyone's attention and the attendance at all three was most gratifying. In each case there was an interesting program which the attendees found most worthwhile.

On Friday evening the feature of The President's Reception was a panel discussion moderated by Dr. J. M. Paton. The panelists—J. G. Brash, H. R. Matthews, Harold Young and E. A. Hankin—were all excellent, truly authorities in their fields. There was some humour interjected and the whole thing was both enlightening and entertaining. There was a splendid question period following the four talks.

President Douglas Walkington and Mrs. Walkington then received the Representatives and Delegates before everybody proceeded to the Lobby to have refreshments. This is the one occasion during the Conference when one gets an opportunity to greet old friends, make new acquaintances and swap ideas on a strictly personal basis.

And then came Saturday

On Saturday morning, sharp at 9.15 there were 3 Workshops—School Education under C. H. Savage; Program Planning under Mrs. P. Jobin; Audio-Visual Aids under Mrs. J. R. Mallory. After a coffee break 3 more Workshops assembled at 11.15—Forum for Association Executives under Mrs. S. Shuster; Parent Education under Mrs. Jean Gordon; Children's Art under Miss Grace Campbell.

Once again the attendance was remarkable and only exceeded by the attention and participation. The programs of all six of these Workshops matched the 3 of the previous day and were in every way excellent. There are panel discussions with question periods afterwards; there were buzz sessions with reports thereon; there were illustrated talks;

(continued on page 6)

FEDERATION ELECTS

RUNA WOOLGAR

AS FIRST LADY PRESIDENT



MRS. C. E. WOOLGAR not only becomes the "first lady" of our Federation but also its first President from the distaff side. She is no stranger to most home-and-schoolers, however, whether they reside in Quebec, British Columbia or, indeed, any other province because she has been active in home and school in B.C., and has served as chairman of the national Parent-Education Committee as well as having been our Representative to the National Conference. She was installed in office with the well wishes of her hundreds of friends. IT IS always interesting to know people's backgrounds in Federation work and accordingly we publish here the biographical notes which the Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of Past President Reuben Resin submitted to the Council of Representatives:

Runa Woolgar

A former member and President of Kensington Association, Mtl. Chairman of our Parent Education Committee, 1949-51. Chairman of the Canadian Federation's Parent Education Committee, 1951-54. Elected a Director of Federation, 1950. Conference Committee chairman for 1955 Conference. 1st Vice-President Federation 1955 and 1956. Representative to National's Annual Meeting 1957.

Isobel Shuster

Joined Herbert Symonds Association in 1945; President for three years. Representative to West End Regional Council; President for 1½ years. A Director of Federation since 1952; elected Vice-President, 1954. Delegate to Canadian Federation's Annual Meeting, 1953 & 1956. National Representative and chairman of Headquarters Campaign committee, 1954-55. Producer of Federation's Newsletter for 1956-57.

George Brown

Principal of Mount Royal High School 1950-56. Active in teachers' and community organizations for many years. Vice-President of Federation for 1956-57.

Doris McIntosh

Secretary Bedford Association for 2 years; Vice-President for 3 years, President for 2 years. Representative to District of Bedford Regional Council for 3 years. Representative to Federation Council of Representatives for 4 years. Member of Federation Board of Directors for 2 years. Program Planning Convener for 2 years and Vice-Chairman of Conference Committee for 1957.

Jack Chivers

President, St. Laurent High Association, 1952-53. Immediate Past President, St. Laurent High Association, 1953-54. Chairman, Insurance Committee, Quebec Federation, 1955-56 (after having been requested by St. Laurent Association to investigate the insurance situation on their behalf and refer it to Federation). Chairman Insurance Committee, 1956-57. President, Russel Home and School, 1956-57.

Rose Simon

Held posts of program chairman, secretary and president in Crawford Park Home & School. Organized Verdun Regional Council and was president for 3 years of that Association. On the Board of Directors of Federation for 2 years. At present finishing term as President of Verdun High Home and School.

Wolf Rosenbaum

Started in Home and School at Rosedale in 1951. Publicity Chairman at Rosedale in 1952. Vice-President in 1953. President in 1954, serving for 2 years. Member of the Group Committee of the Rosedale Cubs and Scouts from 1952 and Secretary of this Group for the past two seasons.

Axel Eeg

Treasurer, Hodgson Home and School (Toronto) for 1 year. Programme Planning & Membership Comm., Cedar Park (Pointe Claire) Home and School for 1 year. Chairman Programme Planning and creator & editor of "Cedar Post" for 1 year; 1st Vice-President and Co-Editor of Cedar Post, 1 year; President Cedar Park Association, 1 year.

And here are your Directors

IN ADDITION to the Officers named above the Annual Meeting elected these Directors of whom 3 are continuing and the others new. Geographic representation and other considerations in addition to demonstrated abilities enter into the nomination of Directors and this year's slate is a real credit to the Nominating Committee on all these counts.

William Asherman	Devonshire
Rev. Roland Bolger	Barclay
Robert M. Calder	Lakeside Heights
George Dockum	Maple Hill
William L. Latter	Chambly-Richelieu
T. G. Masterson	Lennoxville & Ascot
George H. Mellen	Willingdon
Mrs. R. M. Robbins	Lachine High
Mrs. N. M. Roberts	Beaconsfield-Beaurepaire
Howard A. Stutt	Westmount Junior High
Norman W. Wood	Montreal West High

YOUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE (continued)

in short, there was almost everything an attendee could ask for. With three 'shops running concurrently, it was just too bad that so few Associations had their permissible three Representatives present so that all the Workshops could be attended and reported upon. It is appreciated that out of town Associations have an expense factor to consider in sending Representatives, but there is little or no excuse for Montreal Island Associations not having their full complement of Representatives on hand.

On Saturday afternoon, once again in the Auditorium, the Council of Representatives convened to hear, first, the always popular feature, "Association Highlights" when some 17 Associations responded to the invitation to speak for a few minutes on "Our most worthwhile activity of the year". These brief talks are produced elsewhere in this issue.

A new feature followed. There was a Symposium of Committee Chairmen when 11 of the Chairmen of Standing Committees of Federation spoke very briefly, if at all, in amplification of their Reports (which were printed in our April issue) and then answered questions.

An informal, but well organized, report on the Canadian Federation was presented by Mrs. Runa Woolgar and Mrs. Isobel Shuster. Mr. Wood then returned to the plat-

form to report on the study given the two resolutions not passed the previous day. Following this the Nominating Committee presented its report—a matter of vital importance which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

And Saturday night

Federation took over the large and pleasant Champlain Room of the Sheraton-Mount Royal Hotel for the closing function, the Annual Dinner when John P. Rowat, Chairman of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Education of the Province of Quebec, was the speaker. Mr. Rowat gave a scholarly outline of the history of Protestant education in this Province and it is hoped to publish excerpts from his address in our October issue.

The dinner was also the occasion for the presentation of the Buzzell Award to Mrs. S. Shuster and of the President's Award to retiring President Douglas Walkington.

During the evening the Lachine High School Singers gave some beautifully rendered songs, under the direction of F. L. McLearn, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Following the installation of Officers our newly elected President, Mrs. Woolgar pledged her best efforts to leading Federation and earnestly sought the co-operation and support of all members. ●

INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

THIS REPORT will cover three phases of insurance coverage which, for the last two years, have been available to Home and School Associations.

I would again recommend to all Associations the consideration of Public Liability Insurance if they have any activities outside the physical boundaries of the school buildings which would cause them to be subject to a public liability claim. This type of protection, with reasonable limits, can be purchased by individual Associations at the rate of \$25.00 per year. I also recommend that Quebec Federation purchase the Employers Liability Policy covering all employees of all member Associations in the Province of Quebec for an annual premium of \$50.00.

I THEREFORE MOVE:

That this Employers Liability Contract be renewed when the current term expires.

The biggest field of activity and the phase of this Committee's work that has been most advantageous to Home and School activity is the Student Accident Insurance. The participation in the Student Accident Insurance programme has more than doubled in its second year of operation. In the Montreal area there are presently 16,351 children covered in 57 different schools. Outside of Montreal, there are 6,202 children covered in 35 different school areas. The participation percentage-wise varies from 10% in some schools to 90% in others, and the average participation, where the recommended enrolment procedure was followed, is 55%. We were able to streamline the procedure to some extent this last year and there are further improvements particularly in the line of enrolment procedures which will again cut down on the amount of work required on behalf of Home and School personnel. I would like to emphasize at this point that these are very low rates for the protection afforded, and the only way the children can benefit from this plan is by Home and School members cooperating in the enrolment if they wish to have this protection for their children. If the Company were to handle it themselves the administration would be impossible from their point of view and the cost would be considerably higher. In the first full year of its operation, claims of \$9,165.63 were paid. Up until the 30th of April this year, the Company has paid 278 claims for a total of \$10,883.38. It is interesting to note that the biggest claim so far this year was for an accident to a teacher where the total amount paid was slightly over \$800.00. It has been found



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through experience that 75% of accidents happen on the way home from school and this period results in more and higher claims than any other part of the school day.

I am pleased to advise you that, while our actual contract terminates on the last day of school, I have a letter from the Company advising me that the insurance protection on all children who are presently insured and who enroll again will be continued, free of charge, until the 30th day of September, 1957, if we, as the Home and School Federation, renew the plan for next year. This will allow the children to be protected during the initial enrolment period while the individual Associations are getting organised for the new year. The plan for next year will be identical with our present plan and the rates will be the same.

I THEREFORE MOVE:

That the Student Accident Insurance Programme be renewed for the school year 1957/58.

You have all received in your convention kit a questionnaire regarding insurance. Would you kindly complete these and send them to me as soon as possible. I require a report on the total salaries paid out to any employees which individual associations may have had during this last year and, if we could obtain the name and address of the person to whom the Student Accident supplies

(continued on page 10)

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

AS WAS the case last year, this Annual Report is a summary of the business which will come before the Conference in more detail.

Eleven new associations were granted affiliation during the year, while two disbanded because of the closing of the school. Our total membership is now approximately 23,700 in 161 associations, of which 89 are off the island of Montreal.

A number of schools have been affected by the arrival in their districts of newcomers from Europe who, initially at least, do not speak our language and are unfamiliar with our school system. Temporarily this has tended to weaken the Home and School associations connected with these schools, but we have accepted our responsibilities and through our Citizenship Committee we are endeavouring to help the parents and their children.

A decision has been made by the Board of Directors that, commencing with the October Issue, Quebec Home and School will be published by the Beacon Press of Rosemere. A five-year contract is being prepared in which the new publisher will guarantee Quebec Federation against loss, and with a provision for sharing profits. There will be six issues a year, against the five now in effect, and we believe that improvement will be shown in many ways. Fortunately, there will be no change in the Editor, who has given us such valuable information and food for thought in the past two years.

Another radio station, CKRN, Noranda, has been added to the three already broadcasting Home and School on the air. In the middle of this season, Don Allen, who had been radio director for as long as most of us remember, was forced to resign for personal reasons. However, Mrs. Robbins and her committee rose to the challenge. Aided very substantially by Station CFCF, they are already producing excellent programmes and are gaining valuable experience. It is planned to continue the programmes throughout the summer months.

Some confusion has been caused by statements that Quebec Federation is sponsoring ballet classes and one particular ballet school. I should like to repeat what has been said many times before that the Federation does not sponsor ballet, art, manual training, or any other classes. These are the responsibility of the individual association which organizes the classes and which hires the teachers without any reference to Federation. The only action taken by Federation is the payment of a premium on an insurance policy which covers the liability of associations to their employees of all kinds as long as they report the names of these employees to our Insurance Committee.

No progress can be reported in our attempts to secure incorporation. There is some feeling that the restriction of our activities to the schools operating under the Protestant system of education will have to be indicated in the name of Federation before we will secure our charter. We still hope that this will be unnecessary.

During the year, a number of Parent-Teacher associations in English-speaking Catholic schools formed a Federation under the name, "The Quebec Federation of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations". We gave friendly assistance and have established cordial relations with this body.

Reports received from many schools indicate that Home and School associations co-operated in many local celebrations of Education Week. Your president was vice-chairman of the 1957 Quebec Education Week Committee and has been elected the chairman of the 1958 Committee. Mrs. Shuster has been secretary for the past two years and continues in this capacity.

It has been a privilege to visit a large number of associations, particularly at a distance from Montreal. My visits, and those by the executive vice-president and others, have indicated that there is a need for a greater dissemination of information regarding the aims of the Home and School movement and the ways to work towards our objective. There is considerable evidence, for example, that local officers are not turning over to their successors the files necessary for an understanding of the new job. Many new executive members seem to be uncertain about their duties, the types of programmes which have proven to be valuable, etc., and this results in a lowering of interest on the part of the membership.

The workshops at Conference are somewhat of an antidote to this, but, although they are crowded, they still affect only a small percentage of the local association officials. A highly successful workshop for presidents of Montreal associations was held last Fall. We have requests for a repeat performance. However, despite a number of announcements that members

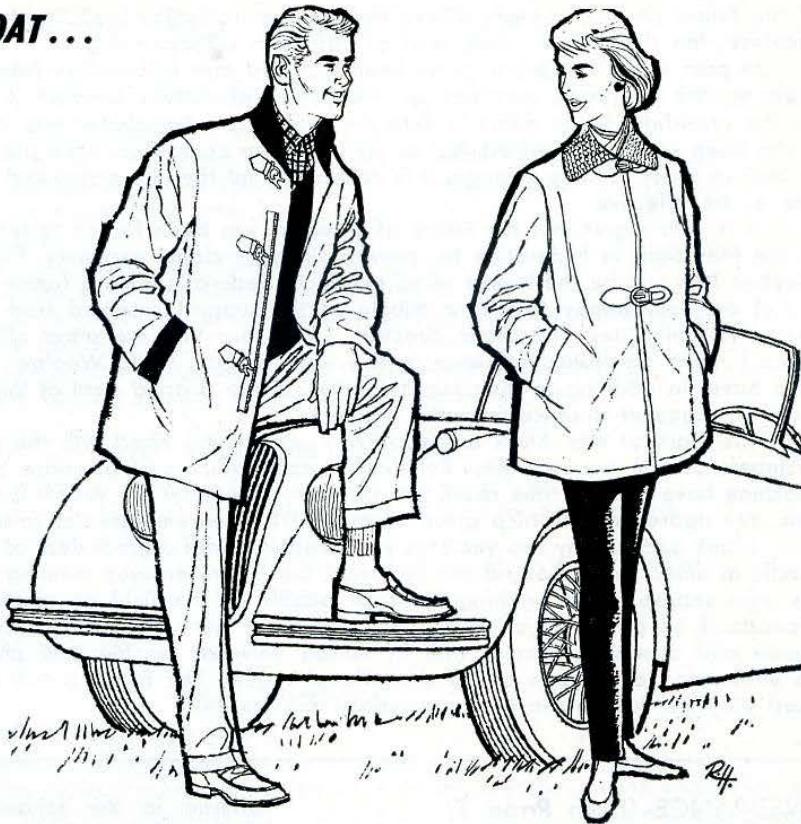
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Wood-carving — Interior decorating — Chair-making.

THE MARINE SCHOOL OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC (Rimouski)

Navigation — Marine mechanics — Wireless telegraphy.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH

HON. PAUL SAUVÉ, Q.C.
Minister.

GUSTAVE POISSON, Q.C.
Deputy-Minister.

of the Board of Directors are willing to take part in similar workshops in other parts of the province, the demand for their services has been disappointing.

In past years, complaints have been received that information from Federation was not reaching the interested members of association executives because it was not passed on by the president. In an effort to cure the problem, a Newsletter was inaugurated this year. It has been very well received, but as the letters for each association are sent to the president in bulk in order to save postage, it is necessary that they be distributed systematically if they are to be effective.

It is with regret that the Board of Directors has been forced to recommend an increase in the fees paid to Federation for provincial and national expenses. Even with the increase, Quebec fees will be the lowest of all provincial federations on a family basis.

I am very happy to pay a tribute to the support received from all members of the Executive Committee and other directors. I am sure that the other officers will understand when I make particular reference to the work of Mrs. C. E. Woolgar and Mrs. S. Shuster who have, in addition to their regular duties, borne a good deal of the load which resulted from my frequent absence from the Province.

The work of Mrs. Stark as executive secretary has risen with the growth in number of members and in our activities. Removal of some work and purchase of an addressograph machine have given a little relief, but for many months of the year it is practically a full-time job. We appreciate the help given by Mr. Stark when emergencies arise.

I look back on my two years as your president with a great deal of pleasure. It has been hectic at times. We have had our problems, but I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and, as your representative, getting to know people in the field of education in all parts of Canada. I have learned a great deal, and I see more clearly than ever the need for the Home and School movement with its liaison between teacher and parent and its striving to understand all aspects of the educational system. The future is full of problems, and we must play our full part in finding solutions to them.

Douglas Walkington

INSURANCE (from Page 7)

could be sent, then this material will be in your hands before the end of August. In this way, the children can have the maximum period of benefit and you will be able to complete this project early in the school year. The final date for associations requesting supplies is October 31st, 1957.

After an analysis of the claims frequency and amount, the Company was forced to decide that the highest cost period was after school, and therefore, if protection is desired for any parochial school, this will have to be provided through the individual parochial school at the regular rate.

In many cases the Home and School representatives have had excellent cooperation from the various School Boards and School Authorities but, in some cases, the enrolment has been difficult, and

I THEREFORE MOVE:

That, as a result of the proven and continually increasing desire of the parents for this plan for their children, we express to the various School Boards and School Authorities our appreciation of their cooperation. At the same time, we request their continued assistance with the enrolment procedure by allowing the letter to the parents regarding the availability of this plan to be distributed to all

children in the school by means of the teachers. It is understood by this motion that Home and School personnel will be responsible for the collection of money and applications where individual School Authorities do not wish to do this themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the many Home and School Associations who have so ably assisted with the work of this Committee.

Jack W. Chivers,
Chairman.



DOUGLAS
WALKINGTON

Our retiring president, Douglas Walkington, was the recipient at the Annual Dinner of the President's Award, a very slight token of our esteem, appreciation and respect for a wonderfully capable, dynamic, tireless, tactful leader. Fortunately, as Past President Reuben Resin said in making the presentation, an Immediate Past President is very much on call and is a continuing member of both our Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

HOW TO STAY ALIVE

For Swimmers

1. Don't swim alone or in unsupervised places.
2. Before diving, check the water depth and look for concealed rocks or branches.
3. Don't swim after eating—wait two hours for food to be digested.
4. Don't dive into cold water when your body is overheated.
5. Don't swim when tired.
6. Don't swim away from shore. Swim parallel to it.
7. Don't swim till you feel exhausted. Know your limitations.
8. Don't swim after dark unless you are thoroughly familiar with the swimming area, know it is safe, and are accompanied.
9. Don't panic if you get into difficulties. Try to think calmly and clearly.
10. Don't duck or push bathers into the water. Playfulness can cost lives.

For Non-Swimmers

1. Never go in places where the water level is more than waist high.
2. If bathing in unknown waters, ask a swimmer to check area for holes or pits.
3. If using a floater never go too far from shore.
4. Never accept a ride in a canoe unless accompanied by an expert swimmer.
5. When bathing avoid places where there are currents.
6. Apply the rules of swimmers as to tiredness and entering water after eating.
7. Never jokingly call for help.

For Boaters

1. Don't change places in a boat, or rock it.
2. Make certain there is life-saving equipment aboard.
3. Be sure there are no ropes or other entangling matter in the boat that is lying around loose.
4. Don't overload a boat with camping equipment. Make sure such equipment is properly secured.
5. Don't get in the trough of waves or rollers. You may be swamped.
6. Don't panic if boat tips over. Hold on to it until help arrives.
7. Never go out into fast-moving waters or rapids.
8. Learn to swim as quickly as possible.
9. Learn to right an upturned boat.
10. Don't cause troughs that may endanger other craft nearby.

It is also suggested that all who can should try to learn life-saving techniques and that owners, operators or proprietors of boats, beaches and other holiday playlands be certain life-saving and emergency equipment is always kept at hand.



“Hello...Coke!”



ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

Here they are, strictly
in alphabetical order

Ahuntsic H & S

A little over a year ago, our Association opened the doors of the school gym for recreational purposes. It had been discussed many times and we had really very little idea of what might develop, but a notice was sent through the school to the parents, and we crossed our fingers and hoped for the best.

The first night, nobody came. The next night, too. Then five, then 17 and, the fifth night, nearly 70. Teenagers accounted for nearly all of the group so we set out to prepare a program for teenagers. In the meantime, basketballs, volleyballs, badminton equipment and a record player seemed to provide all that was required.

The crowd settled down to about 30 per night, and when school closed we held a dance, thoroughly enjoyable and profitable enough to balance the recreation account for the year.

In the fall, they were waiting at the door for more. Originally, we opened for 5 nights a week, in order to assure ourselves of the accommodation if required. Since then we have relinquished one night to Sea Cadets, one night to Scouts, and one to Guides. The two remaining nights were problem enough for the volunteer staff of four!

The problem of staff was serious until the matter was placed squarely before a general meeting of the Association. We found several

talented members who had spare time but did not know how to make good use of it. To assist the volunteer staff, the gym instructor of the school was hired. The Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Association pay half of his salary.

In January our Association paid the tuition fees for two of our volunteer leaders to attend the course in Recreation Leadership offered by the Extension Department of McGill University. With this help we now have a program including basketball, volleyball, badminton, gymnastics, gym games, a well attended clinic for amateur wrestlers, a popular modelling class for girls, a music group which provides pastime for those not actually occupied on the gym floor, Saturday night dances 3 or 4 times a year (in order to keep our budget in balance). Our total membership now stands at about 70 and 30 to 40 are present every night that we are open.

The immediate crying need is for a skilled organizer to create teams and competitive opportunity, and for expansion into other age groups and other areas of activity.

But we have helped to fill a need in the community and we are looking forward to bigger and better things in the coming year.

Beaconsfield-Beaurepaire H & S

The March meeting of the Association presented a film, "Sex Attitudes in Adolescence", followed by a discussion. This latter



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was most skilfully led by Mrs. Kay Calder of the Mental Hygiene Institute.

In introducing the film, Mrs. Calder stated that parents of adolescent children often wished that they could have seen such a film before the immediate problems of adolescence were upon them. Therefore, she felt it was important for any parent education program to anticipate the needs of the parents in this particular aspect of their children's development.

We heartily recommend the film as it follows the lives of two children from their infancy to their eventual marriage. One sees how the parents deal with presenting the facts of life to their small children; how they react to the first "dating", and how their guidance helps with the final selection of a life-long mate. The attitudes of the parents are, of course, constantly reflected in the behaviour of the children.

Mrs. Calder's ability as a leader of discussion cannot be praised too highly. Many parents expressed their views and admitted their difficulties. Those whose children had not yet reached adolescence resolved, we feel sure, to try to avoid some of the pitfalls suggested by the film. We also talked about whether sex education should be taught in the school or at home. A majority favored the latter but some felt that a combined effort might be best.

The present trend towards marriage counselling would indicate that most adults realize the importance of having the adolescent become more fully aware of the responsibilities of marriage. So we feel that a program such as this one just outlined would be worthwhile for any Home and School Association.

Bedford District Regional Council

Our most successful project of the year was our Sixth Annual Regional Conference, which was held in the Bedford High School Auditorium on November 5, 1956.

A dinner was served to 25 guests prior to the meeting which was called for eight o'clock. This enabled those taking part in the program to get acquainted. Members from each of the 7 Associations in the District were present—St. Johns, Farnham, Sutton, Cowansville, Knowlton, Granby and Bedford.

The committee appointed in June, 1956, to prepare the program for the meeting consisted of the presidents of the 7 Associations, along with the president and secretary of the Regional Council. A panel of speakers was decided on for the "highlight" of the evening, which would follow the business session.

Each Association had a representative on

the panel who was given 5 minutes to talk on the subject which he or she had chosen from a list of titles, submitted to them three weeks before the date of the meeting. All subjects had some connection with Home and School. One of the more humorous ones, "Pesky Parents" prepared by Bruce Kirwin, Principal of Bedford High School, was published in our own *Quebec Home and School* magazine and reprinted in the national *Canadian Home and School* magazine.

A discussion period followed the talks. The Moderator for the panel was Douglas Walkington, President of Quebec Federation. The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. and refreshments were served.

Cote des Neiges H & S

Our most successful project for 1956-57 was the basic one of increasing our attendance at meetings because from this contact with the membership at large stem all other projects.

Fired with enthusiasm and ideas, many of which were gathered at the workshops of last year's Conference, we attacked our problem with a four point plan:

1st—Programs were to be planned for more audience participation in general; and in particular, there was to be a greater distribution of individual responsibility at meetings;

2nd—Notices of meetings, which we try to make as attractive and catchy as possible, were to be increased to two per meeting;

3rd—For each meeting, an attendance prize would be presented to the class best represented by parents—also a plaque to hang on the classroom door, the plaque moving from winner to winner;

4th—And most important of all, nothing but absolutely top-notch programming, with no compromise, and no let-down throughout the entire year.

We, in our enthusiasm, feel that any meeting of the year could be considered a highlight. However, forced to choose among them, we decided to report on two meetings dealing with curriculum.

The first of these was our opening meeting of the season and was called, "Meet the Teachers". After the business of the meeting had been conducted, the teaching staff was introduced by our Principal, Mrs. R. A. Munro. Each parent then went to his child's classroom where he saw, on exhibit, textbooks, workbooks, records and other materials to be used during the year. The teacher gave an outline of the course of studies, indicating the amount that would be covered in each subject, and the general methods and books to be used. She

also answered questions pertaining to the curriculum. There were no interviews—no teacher can be expected to discuss Johnny at the beginning of the year when she hardly knows him! The interviews were saved for our annual Open House. But the parents met the teachers, saw the classrooms, and left with a good understanding of what, how, and how much Johnny would be expected to learn during the year.

This meeting dealt with curriculum in general. The following meeting illustrated curriculum in particular—we called the program, "Having Fun With French". A group of parents, many of whom had never before taken an active part at a meeting, prepared in advance a 4th Grade French play, complete with costumes and props—also a verb series—all under the capable direction of our French Supervisor, Mrs. Margaret Fraser. At the meeting Mrs. Fraser outlined the general methods used in the teaching of French, the aims and extent of the course. She demonstrated these methods with the group of parents, who presented their play and verb series. Colored slides, showing children's illustrations of the situations in the play, were shown in conjunction with the running of a tape-recorded performance by a 4th Grade Class. Open discussion followed. The program presented a clear picture of the teaching of French, and convinced the audience and participants of the merit of the methods now in use.

To return to our 4-point plan—it really worked! Our average attendance at meetings was two and three times greater than it had been, and more and more members were volunteering for active service in the Association.

Ideas, coupled with enthusiasm, go a long way—and our Association has come a long way this year!

Dunrae Gardens H & S

Our outstanding project is the 7th Grade Friday night dance parties. These parties have been held successfully once a month during the school term for the past seven years.

The object behind these dances is to develop a certain amount of poise in our 7th Graders, and to teach them some knowledge of the social amenities. We feel that it aids the children in the transition from Elementary School to High School with its social activities.

The Association appoints the parents of a child from each class of 7th Grade to organize and supervise the dances throughout the year. The children are requested to dress

appropriately (no jeans) and are taught the proprieties of a social evening.

Until this year simple dance steps have been taught by the gym teacher, but during this past season a professional dance instructor gave the children six lessons at a very small cost.

Each class has two representatives for each party. These children help with the program and bring their parents to act as hosts and to meet and welcome the children.

The dance program is a novelty one with broom dances, Sadie Hawkins, Paul Jones and matching parties.

Fifteen cents is contributed by each child to purchase soft drinks and small prizes for the dances. Cookies are supplied by mothers of the children.

The dance party begins at 7.30 and is over promptly at 9.30.

The Association makes a donation of approximately 60 cents per child towards the final school-leaving dance at which time more elaborate plans are made, all parents invited, and a small gift given to each child.

Knowlton H & S

The most successful Association program of the past year was Parent-Teacher Night in February. The school buses were sent out on all routes where parents needed transportation. From 7.30 - 9 parents discussed the pupils' progress with the class teachers. At nine we all assembled in the gymnasium for a brief business meeting. Following this members of the Glee Club entertained us with songs. Then Col. Orin Rexford showed slides of a recent trip to England with an interesting commentary. Coffee was served in the cafeteria at the end of the evening.

Lachine-Dorval Regional Council

Highlight of the 1956-57 program of our Council was a capsule conference held last April 1st, on the topic, "Wider Horizons For Your Regional Council".

Two main motives underlay this conference:

(1) Many of the delegates to the Regional Council had been appointed subsequent to the Council's formation and were not completely aware of the reasons for its existence.

(2) The 5 Associations belonging to the Council are all active, thriving groups and their members cannot all understand why a Regional Council is necessary or what its functions are.

Leaders of the Conference were 5 officers or directors of the Quebec Federation: Mrs. Woolgar, Mrs. Shuster, Mrs. Robbins, Mrs. Jobin and Mr. Calder.

The evening began with a brief skit which demonstrated many of the mistakes that a

Regional Council can make in the early stages of operation. After this Mrs. Woolgar led an informal discussion on the problems and functions of Regional Councils.

The gathering then broke up into small discussion groups for about twenty minutes in order to debate questions that the leader had raised. Assembling in plenary session again, group leaders reported the feelings of their groups and Mrs. Woolgar gave a final summation.

Too numerous to mention are the suggestions that were made for activating and improving Regional Councils. Perhaps most worthy of mention, however, are these ideas:

Delegates to Regional Council should be local Association executive members or past presidents. Efforts should be made to improve communications—e.g., by having Council delegates report regularly to Association executive and general meetings. The Regional Council should be able to stimulate interest in Federation affairs.

Coming as it did shortly before the annual meeting of the Regional Council, the capsule conference served to provide not only inspiration but also specific and concrete suggestions to the incoming executive.

Merton H & S

One of the most outstanding programs conducted this year when judged in terms of interest, new information and audience participation was our March meeting held during Education week.

Since the music program in the school curriculum had never been explored and as our members knew little about this facet of education, it was decided that we devote our meeting to this subject.

We were fortunate in obtaining the whole-hearted co-operation of our principal, Mr. Barrie, and that of our school's music teacher, Mr. Stevens.

The program for the evening consisted of the following:

- (a) A selection of songs by the Grade 6 Choir;
- (b) A talk by Supervisor of Music Gifford Mitchell of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal;
- (c) A question and discussion period.

The attendance at this meeting was excellent, due in large part to the fact that many children were participating. In addition, many of our teachers attended in order to hear Mr. Mitchell's talk.

Mr. Stevens conducted the children in a group of four songs, a medley of folk and modern, which were greatly enjoyed. The selection of songs highlighted the comparatively new flexibility and variety in the

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approach to music in our schools. Several encores were called for and gladly given.

Mr. Mitchell's talk was accented by his keen sense of humor and relaxed, informal manner. While entertaining his audience he was also most successful in informing parents of the new philosophy and methods which have been introduced into our schools as well as a stimulating outline of future plans.

The discussion period which followed was marked by considerable audience participation. Among the many topics discussed were, "When should Johnny start to take piano lessons?" and "How do parents encourage interest in music in their children?"

Another criterion for judging the success of this meeting lies in the fact that the discussion continued throughout the refreshment and social period which was the final item planned for the evening.

Monklands High H & S

From the point of view of general helpfulness to our members, the program which was most successful during the past year was a panel discussion entitled, "After Graduation—What?". The purpose of the discussion was to acquaint both parents and students with some of the opportunities awaiting graduates in various businesses and professions and the aptitudes and training required to take the best advantage of these opportunities.

The program opened with a general introduction to the topic by a leading Montreal educator. Following this, the subject was broken down into four major categories for the purposes of presentation, namely:

- Trade and Commerce
- Science and Engineering
- Banking and Finance
- The Social Services (teaching, ministry, etc.)

Each of these categories was covered by a speaker with experience and standing in his field. Treatment of the subject was broad enough to include opportunities for girls as well as boys and for those who did not expect to go to college as well as those who did.

During the presentation ushers patrolled the aisles with question blanks for those in the audience wishing to put questions to members of the panel. Following the final speaker, these questions were collected during a brief intermission and handed to the Chairman who acted as moderator during the question and answer period. It was the duty of the Chairman to screen the questions, cut down duplication, and direct them to the appropriate panel member for reply.

In order to keep the length of the program within reasonable limits, it was necessary to restrict each speaker to ten minutes for his

initial presentation. The intermission lasted another ten minutes. Thus the first part of the program took approximately one hour. Some idea of the interest and keenness of the audience may be gleaned from the fact that it was necessary to cut off the question and answer period after another sixty minutes, though questions were still being presented from the floor. Incidentally, attendance at this meeting, held early in December, was close to 500 persons.

Aside from the high quality of the panel, the success of the evening perhaps can be attributed in part to a previous rehearsal of the program at which panel members came to an agreement on the division of the subject and the method of treatment. Care must also be taken to give the event ample publicity in order to ensure adequate attendance of Home and School members and students. With proper planning, such a panel discussion should provide a rewarding evening for any high school Home and School Association.

Mount Royal High H & S

It is difficult to ascertain which was our most successful meeting.

1. The largest attendance—When the speaker was Dr. L. Thiesmeyer, whose topic was, "The Crisis in Education". This talk was followed by visits to the classrooms to meet the teachers.

2. Greatest audience participation resulted when the film, "Social Sex Attitudes in Adolescents" was shown, this being followed by a very interesting discussion period led by Mrs. Kay Calder.

3. A most entertaining and informative speaker, Dr. Margaret Nix, drew a large audience to hear her talk, "Living With Teen-agers and Liking It". This being Health Week, Dr. Nickerson, Town Public Health Officer, gave a short resume of what the Health Department does for our high school pupils. At the close of the meetings tours were arranged for the parents to visit the Library, Household Science Rooms, the

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4. Our Annual Meeting interesting—the reports and elections of officers was followed by a program sponsored by the Northmount Lions Club—of a public speaking and debating contest by the high school pupils. During the time when judges were determining the winners, the girls of the sewing class modelled their dresses in a delightful fashion show.

Pointe Claire H & S

One of the major problems which confronted this Association was attendance at the Annual Meeting. A new concept was introduced in the spring of 1956 and repeated at the Annual Meeting of April, 1957. The result—over 800 persons with 40 to 50 being turned away for lacking of standing room.

The solution was a simple one and involved the compression of the business proceedings into 15 minutes and the conversion of the meeting into "Family Night". The first half of the program was designed for the youngsters and included a gymnastic display by the well-trained Lachine High School troupe. This was followed by Frank and Dorothy Heron's Quiz Kids. A refreshment intermission enabled parents with young children to break



**ISOBEL
SHUSTER**

Mrs. Isobel Shuster, our 1st Vice-President, was awarded the Buzzell Award for her untiring and outstanding services to Quebec Federation. An Association (Herbert Symonds) Past President, a Regional Council Past President, a Director, twice our Representative to National Federation Conferences and a Vice-President for some years, Mrs. Shuster's activity in Federation work touches almost every phase. At the Annual Dinner in addition to being presented with the Award by its donor, Leslie Buzzell, Mrs. Shuster was presented with a beautiful bouquet of red roses by Don Novinger, retiring President of Herbert Symonds Association, on behalf of her many Association friends. A "first" was established here in that this is the first time a member in office has received the Award.

away before Tom Hugo's talk and presentation of the Grey Cup film.

With this problem disposed of, the Association now has 3 meetings with an attendance of 500 or better—"Meet the Teacher" night, the Christmas party, and the Annual Meeting. The incoming executive is tackling the problem of bringing the attendance at the other four meetings up to capacity levels.

Royal Charles (Croydon) H & S

Our most successful project for the past year was our soup kitchen. Our school was enlarged this year so that children who had been coming to school for half a day were now coming a full day, and our Grades 7 and 8 were brought back from St. Lambert so that this meant that our stay-to-lunchers would be a larger group than in previous years. Looking over our kitchen equipment we found that we would have to buy a larger stock of bowls and spoons and our soup order was going to be much larger, too.

All this meant money. We didn't have the necessary funds on hand and the time was short. At the first meeting of our Association the matter was discussed of how to raise money to see our children through the winter with something hot for lunch. At this meeting a convenor was chosen for a Social Evening. From then on in all responsibility rested on her shoulders. However, let me tell you that our convenor never does any actual work. She immediately called a meeting of a few women who were to be her committee. Each person had one job to do and only one. The success of any of our projects has hung on this fact, that the work is never put on the shoulders of three or four.

After each member knew what was expected of her, she in turn called in her subcommittee, to whom all work was portioned out, and by the time we were ready for our Social Evening, everyone in the five communities served by our school had been contacted for tickets, refreshments, etc., and the evening ran smoothly and was a financial success.

Another matter that is not left to chance is the serving of the soup. A chart is made up of all the mothers who would like to donate two or three hours every two or three weeks depending on the response for volunteers. For each day there are two women named. If one is unable to serve, she telephones the President who tries to get a replacement. If none is available then two of the girls and sometimes boys are asked to help out in the kitchen. I must add that the principal and the teachers have been most co-operative in this matter.

Well, our soup has ended for this year but I think that all the mothers who helped in this project have a sense of satisfaction and of a job well done. They met other mothers with whom they might never have come in contact. They discussed little problems while washing dishes and got to know the teachers better. It has all been very successful in knowing that the children were well looked after and that there was this close co-operation between the teachers and parents and I hope we can have as much pleasure doing the same thing next year.

South Shore Regional Council

Last year we reported on a concert in which children from all South Shore schools participated. Proceeds of this event provided two bursaries of \$200 each and were given to students who graduated from Chambly County High School and planned to continue their studies to become teachers. Miss Marilyn Turiff and Miss Janet Frizell, both of St. Lambert, were the recipients of these bursaries.

During the past season our main project was a Fashion Show held in October. The sale of tickets amounted to more than \$300 and a wide range of attractive clothes were shown to a large audience. This event proved so successful that our Council is now in a position to offer two more bursaries to eligible students and through this we hope to help relieve teacher shortage in the district.

Due to many requests, it is planned to hold the children's concert once more during the coming season.

I feel that a vote of thanks is due to Mr. Templeton, principal of the County High School and to Mrs. E. M. Hicks who both worked very hard to make this show a success. Also credit should go to all local Associations who co-operated by selling tickets in their towns.

Valleyfield High H & S

The program which we felt was the most interesting from the view-point of both home and school—that is, parents and pupils—was the one given at a meeting in June, 1956. This was our annual meeting when the business of presenting the slate and electing the new officers was quickly over and the interesting feature followed. It took the form of a Fashion Show put on by the girls of the Home Economics Class.

The girls modelled the clothes which they had made and two of their members were commentators. The stage had been suitably and tastefully arranged and all was very colorful. Apart from giving all present an excellent picture of this particular phase of

school training it gave the girls a feeling of pleasure and confidence in their work and gave many parents a feeling of great pride in their offspring.

It was one of our best attended and most enjoyed meetings and we are planning a repeat this year.

Westmount High Schools H & S

Kindly note that plural as our Association serves our two high schools.

As an association which operates in schools of specialist teachers, it is very difficult for parents to meet with teachers under anything but highly institutionalized conditions. In an attempt to overcome this difficulty a meeting was organized in which teachers and parents met in small groups and talked over matters of mutual concern. These small discussion groups were made up of approximately five teachers representing a cross-section of the staff, a member of the executive who acted as moderator and a recorder (human, not mechanical) plus about 20 parents.

In this informal atmosphere the teachers expressed themselves very freely and a fine interchange of ideas resulted. After about an hour these discussions were terminated and the groups met in the assembly hall. The recorders presented two-minute reports of the discussion that had taken place in their rooms. Matters which required official explanations were turned over to the principals who clarified matters of this nature. Problems which seemed to be of general concern were discussed at the larger meeting at some length.

Judging by the comments from both parents and teachers, this kind of meeting makes a valuable contribution for better teacher-parent relationships. ●



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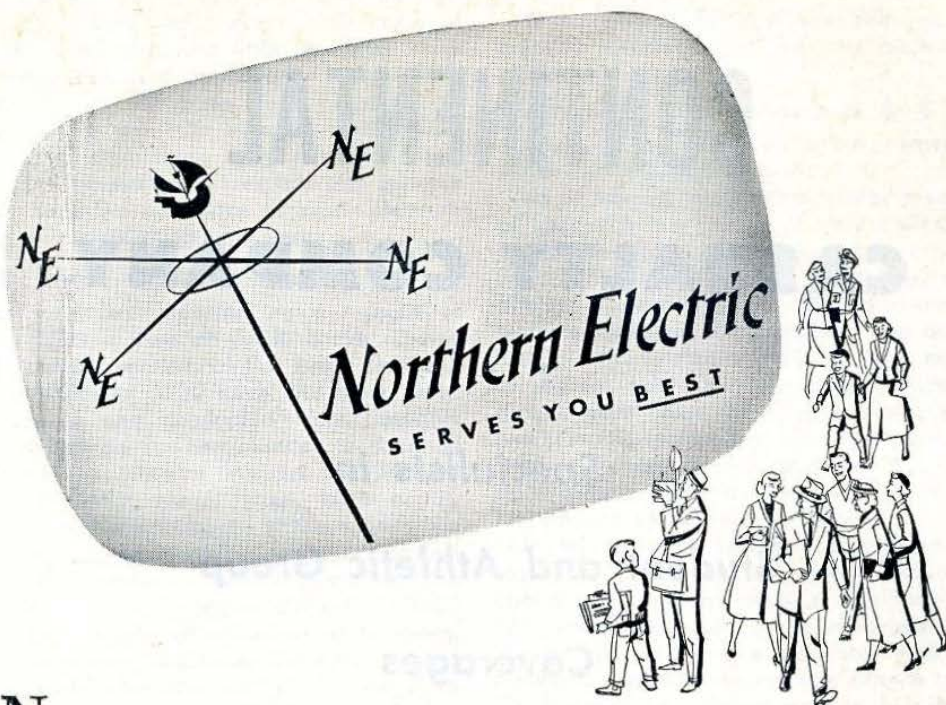
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