

# Education Minister Davis Says New Area Schools Best Way to Provide Equality in Education

RODNEY (Staff) — The Hon. William G. Davis, in a speech to large crowd attending last night's official opening of the new Aldborough Township Area public school, said "that the complete establishment of such township school areas is the only way in which the sincere effort to provide complete equality of education can be made in Ontario for rural pupils.

"Good education needs good planning", Mr. Davis said, "and effective planning cannot be done without administrative units of reasonable size. The historic rural school section, with its one-room school played a worthy role in the province's pioneer days, but it lingered too long on our educational stage.

"The trustees are to be congratulated on their efforts to have this school opened by the start of the term last fall", he stated. They were able to overcome both the difficulties of construction and of establishing a township area. It is also to the credit of the trustees and Council that the rural sections in this area were amalgamated before Bill 54 came into effect.

"This modern approach to education in rural parts of the pro-

vince is only one of many new areas of change in our education system. We are also now into educational television.

"There are few people left now", he said, "who would seriously deny the impact which television has made upon our way of living. The blending of sight and sound tends to dominate the senses. Television provides an intimacy of communication with immediacy and impact. It is a highly personal method of communication and this is perhaps its greatest asset, when used for educational purposes.

The minister also said that the opening of the Aldborough Township Area School brings to mind another relatively new area to our educational system.

### PLANNING DIVISION

The Division of School Planning and Building Research, formed in 1964," he explained, "has received a great deal of attention in the past year and a half. The Division provides educators, architects, builders and engineers with considerable useful direction in the planning and construction of school buildings.

"To get their message across to everyone in the province, members of the Division arranged a series of five workshops in various areas, the most

recent of which took place in Kingston in November. At that workshop over 130 delegates representing groups of architects, building contractors, trustees and educators from Eastern Ontario attended panel discussions and group meetings. They listened to speakers cover a wide range of topics from modular components for school buildings to the impact of educational television on school design and construction.

"Another interesting challenge in education these days", he said, "is the updating and constant revision of curricula. To help in this regard the department has expanded their Curriculum Division and are attempting to look at a child's education as a continual process from kindergarten to Grade 13.

"In this regard the results of the study by the Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives in Education under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice E. M. Hall of Ottawa, will be of great interest to educators and public alike. The committee has held public hearings in Ottawa, London, Toronto and Sudbury, and has considered briefs submitted privately."

The Committee is made up of a representative cross-section of Ontario interests including those

of the general public, teachers, universities, labor unions, trustees, and Home and School Associations. The members of the Committee have been carefully selected with a predominance of lay personalities.

"They are endeavoring to identify the needs of the child as a person and member of society. On the basis of the findings, they will try to set forth the aims of education for the educational system of the province. Their next task will be to outline the objectives for children in the age groups presently designated as kindergarten, primary and junior divisions, and to propose means by which these aims and objectives may be achieved.

### A CONTINUING PROCESS

"You will see," the minister continued, "that curriculum is no longer a static framework of studies that is laid down and repeated year after year throughout the province for all children, regardless of their

individual needs. It is rather, a continuing process under constant revision. We look to classroom teachers to assess new teaching methods and techniques and to make full use of the new teaching aids they evolve. Obviously, for the energetic teacher, there are exciting challenges ahead.

"Education," he said, "enhances personal fulfillment in a very immediate and direct way. Education justifies itself for it instills a discipline that will expand and make meaningful all the experience of a lifetime, making it possible to control results and direct them toward achievement of purpose. It develops the ability to choose, challenge and to change. In the future, time for leisure activities will greatly increase, and an educated person is more likely to engage in rewarding use of his free time, as he has the ability to discover and participate in creative activity.

"The community, the nation, and the entire civilization will

benefit from this personal goal of education, for a society can be termed rational and learned only if its members are rational and learned. The advantages are circular: investment in education enriches the individual, who then contributes to the total good of the community and country, and an intellectually enriched country provides the context that stimulates further individual enrichment."

### "HAPPY INFLUENCE"

In declaring the school officially opened, Mr. Davis expressed the hope that the knowledge gained at this institution, the skills that are acquired there, and the characters that are formed there, may have a useful and happy influence on the lives of its students.

The Aldborough Public School came into being following a series of meetings held in the fall of 1962 and early 1963 to discuss the school area formation. Township council at

that time passed a bylaw joining 10 school sections to form the Aldborough Township School Area No. 1, effective Jan. 1, 1964.

The board of the new T. S. A. proceeded with the planning of a central school.

The firm of G. Duncan Black Ltd., St. Thomas, was engaged to design a suitable school for the area, and tenders were called October 22, 1964, for work to begin early in November.

When Bill 54 of the Ontario Legislature came into effect on Jan. 1, 1965, the remaining four school sections of the township were added to the Township School Area. The school opened in September, 1965.

The building is concrete block and brick construction. It consists of 12 classrooms and gymnasium, and is so designed that expansion can be made in three directions. The building contract, which provided an area of 19,000 square feet, amounted to \$279,000, representing a unit cost of \$14.68 per square foot.



OFFICIAL OPENING—The Hon. W. G. Davis, Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, was guest speaker at last night's official opening of the new Aldborough Township Area public school near Rodney. Receiving the keys to the school are left to right: Floyd W. Patterson, principal; D. A. Campbell, chairman of the Aldborough Township Area School Board; Mr. Davis and Gordon Woolner, reeve of Aldborough Township. —(T.-J. Photo)



LARGE CROWD—A large crowd filled the gymnasium of the new Aldborough Public School last night to witness dedication ceremonies and the presentation of keys to Principal Floyd W. Patterson. Guest speaker for the evening was Hon. W. G. Davis, Minister of Education for Ontario. Township council officials, school board members, and area educators were also on hand for the official opening.—(T.-J. Photo)



ELGIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC MEETING

WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Thursday, June 17 - 8:00 p.m.

Purpose:

To present and invite discussion concerning a proposal to create a unified Education Complex in West Elgin to serve students of grades 6 to 13 on the present campus of the West Elgin Secondary School. (See statement concerning this matter which appears in this edition.)

J.A. HARVEY  
Chairman

W.W. ALLEN  
Secretary

ELGIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Meeting concerning School Facilities  
in the Western Part of Elgin County

(The area referred to in the heading encompasses Aldborough and Dunwich Townships and a very small portion of the north-west corner of Southwold Township.)

In early 1969, The Elgin County Board of Education made a priority study regarding capital funds for school construction for its own use and for submission to the Ontario Department of Education and the Ontario Municipal Board. The replacement of the Rodney Public School and the West Lorne Public School were made a top priority. The matter was also related, as it still is, to the need to replace temporary facilities in use at the Aldborough Public School and the Dunwich-Dutton Public School. The two older schools were examined by officials of the Ontario Department of Education and a letter is on file recommending their replacement at an early date. Capital funds for debenture purposes for this project are available in the Board's forecasts for the calendar year 1971 if the project receives initial approval by the Ontario Municipal Board within this calendar year. The matter could, of course, be delayed but will involve revision of the Board's planning as related to other projects planned for Elgin County in 1972 and succeeding years.

The planning for this project has been under periodic consideration since March 1969 by the Board's academic supervisory officials. The matter has been given very careful attention in recent months. A report prepared by Area Superintendent K.R. Steven, after careful study with principals, superintendents and the Director of Education, was presented to the Board for discussion at its meeting of June 1st. The discussion of this proposal elicited considerable favourable comment and some reservations concerning a few of the implications of the report.

The Board was asked, without a formal motion to indicate approval of the presentation of this report for discussion with concerned

groups in the western part of the County. The Board expressed approval of this procedure. It was decided to hold meetings with groups of teachers and with the newly created West Elgin Planning Board, if that organization so wishes. It was further decided to hold a public meeting at the West Elgin Secondary School. The whole matter, including the Board's discussion, was well reported in the St. Thomas Times-Journal of June 2nd.

At the public meeting in West Lorne, it is hoped that the presentation and discussion will serve to familiarize all those concerned with this proposal as well as the alternatives. It is hoped that the discussion will be representative of all points of view if it is to be of value to the Board in decision making. Interested persons in the community who wish to read this brief prior to the meeting may be able to make arrangements to borrow a copy from a teacher in one of the schools.



# WESES Principal Paterson retiring June 30

After 42 years of teaching and attaining the age of 60, WESES Principal Floyd Patterson is retiring the end of June in favor of doing some of the things he has wanted to do for years.

He reports having made his mind up a year ago to retire the end of this term, and is eagerly looking forward to not answering any more bells and being confined to a small office. However, he admits he is going to miss the camaraderie with teachers and students.

But he yearns to get back to gardening, hobbies he hasn't paid any attention to for years, do some travelling and more flying.

His wife, Ellen, who is administrator at Beattie Haven, and is on her third career, has no intention of retiring, he reports.

## HERE SINCE '65

Mr. Paterson came to this area in 1965 to be the initial principal at Aldborough Public School. Fourteen years later he became principal of the senior elementary school in West Lorne and has enjoyed his eight years there.



Originally of the Sudbury area, where he taught and became a principal, he says he has seen many changes and improvements in elementary education during his 42 years on the job.

Most changes have been for the better, because of having to keep pace with students' ever-increasing knowledge gained from informative television and reading.

"Today children's vocabularies are far more extensive than ever before. They know how to express themselves orally, and write better than previous generations. And more changes and improvements are coming," he reports.

## A LEADER

Talking with principals and teachers from all over the province, he reports most readily admit Elgin is a leader in education.

"They say we are miles ahead of most other counties — a hallmark in education — and I believe we are," Mr. Paterson admits.

"Our teachers are nothing but the best, and education will improve because continued on page 19

## Accolades paid Floyd Patterson

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"Retiring herself four years ago, Mrs. McCallum reported trying to talk Mr. Patterson into joining others who enjoy retirement." Speaking for the original APS staff she wished him good luck.

## EXCITING

The school's original secretary, Doris Melnyk, reported the first weeks at APS very exciting.

She recalled the first day, when buses arrived. cards were given each child with the number of the bus they were to return home on that afternoon. But at recess and noon hour students were trading the cards, she said.

The first week the fire alarm sounded without teachers and students having had a fire drill. No one knew who was responsible until a little boy was walking down the hall with a teacher some time later and said he didn't touch the red thing.

In retirement, she said, Mr. Patterson would be cooking for only two, and because his is such an avid gardener she gave him a pair of knee pads.

In conclusion, she said she had worked 12 years with him and with a wonderful teaching staff, which was a pleasure. And she wished Mr. Patterson well in retirement and thanked him for so many pleasant memories.

## DAUGHTER

Mr. Patterson's daughter, Marlene, a grad of Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, B.C., where she lives, assured it was great to be back in Rodney and gratifying to see so many people present to honor her father.

She revealed being a principal's daughter is a mixed blessing, because she had to go to school early each day with her father, instead of on the bus with other students, teachers and students expected more from her — perfection and a high achiever, which she admitted she wasn't.

In fact, she recalled that when Mrs. Audrey Johnston was teaching at APS, she sent Marlene to the principal's — dad's — office three times.

In kindergarten, other children left school early, but she had to wait for her father, and later she had to put up with hearing a lot of gossip about him.

On behalf of the family she wished her father well in retirement.

## YOUR LIFE

Bill Prieksaitis, with the help of others, arranged a "This is Your Life" type of slide presentation showing Mr. Patterson from a baby to the present.

He was assisted by son, George, Margie Young and Shawn Bragg, who impersonated two people in Mr. Patterson's life.

Final speaker was Mr. Patterson, he thanked the Board of Education for hiring him, and he explained how he and the family located in Southern Ontario from the Sudbury area.

In the summer of '64 he and the family drove through this part of the province looking for a place they would prefer to live. Because principals' jobs were easy to obtain, he applied at Palmerston and Rodney, and accepted the latter's offer. On arriving home received a phone call from Palmerston that its board had accepted his application.

## NO REGRET

"We never regretted accepting the principalship of the Aldborough school," he assured.

"And I was always fortunate in having a powerful staff of fine teachers to help me survive. And I had a fine local board to work with, later a good county board," he said.

"I have not made my decision lightly to retire," he said. However he admitted his 90 year-old mother said he was getting too old to be principal, so he quit.

"With so many of my former colleagues retiring and saying how much they like it, I decided to give it a try," Mr. Patterson admitted.

In conclusion, he offered his thanks for the kindnesses everyone had shown him, the kind words expressed that night, and his pleasure in seeing so many of his former teachers, some from long distances to attend his retirement party.

The balance of reports of Floyd Patterson night will appear in next week's issue.



PRINCIPAL FLOYD PATTERSON DISPLAYS the picture of an oriole presented him by the staff and former WESES teachers at a party in his honor at Second City, London, Friday night.