THE SCHOOLS OF SANDWICH SOUTH
THE END RESULTS THAT LED TO THE CONCLUSION OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
IN THE TOWNSHIP LEAVING TWO CENTRAL SEPARATE SCHOOLS WITHIN ITS BOUNDARY.

Jan. 13th, 1970 - At an organization meeting standing committees were named along with James Golden, Harrow and Hazen Imeson, Anderdon were respectively re-elected chairman and vice-chairman of the board.

January 22nd was the date set for the Board of Education and Essex County Council to meet together at Essex High School to discuss mutual problems. The county was particularly concerned about rising costs and would like to discuss problems relating to mobile homes, farm assessments, senior citizens and persons forced to live on fixed incomes.

January 14th, 1970 - The Essex County Board of Education was seeking two new office staff members. Assistant Business Administration officer John E. Sherman will accept applications until 5.00 p.m. Jan. 23rd for a private secretary to the principal -elect of the new Sandwich West Composite School and a clerk for General Amherst High School, Amherstburg. Salaries would be commensurate with qualifications and experience

January 16th, 1970 - Location of the new Sandwich West Township Public School would be on a site off Todd Lane on Wyoming Ave., facing Essex St. The board has secures a 15-acre site in that area and proposes to build a 23-room school to accommodate grades one to eight.

February 19th - 1970 - Pupils from the north and western parts of Sandwich South would go th General Amherst High School in Amherstburg until the new Sandwich Secondary School was built. In Sandwich South the north boundary of the area will be the southern boundary of the City of Windsor. The east boundary will be a line parallel and west of Banwell Road, parallel to and south of Highway #2, parallel to and east of the 10th Concession Rd., parallel to and north of Highway #3, parrallel to and east of Walker Rd. to the Colchester North-Sandwich South townline, beginning in Sept., 1970.

The Essex County Board of Education managed to name three of the four schools it proposes to build but had trouble with the name of the special vocational school.

Board members went along with a committee recommendation that the proposed elementary school in Tecumseh should be named the A. V. Graham Public School in recognition of A. V. Graham, secretary of the Tecumseh Public School Board for some 30 years until its dissolution. The new elementary school in Sandwich West would be known as the Sandwich West Public School. Similarly, the new composite high school in Sandwich West would be named the Sandwich West Secondary School. The name for the special vocational school was tabled for the time being due to a tie vote.

March 3rd., 1970 - Tenders were being called for the new $1,100,000-plus public school in Sandwich West Township. The one-story structure would include 16 classrooms, a double kindergarten, two opportunity rooms, a science room, art room, home economics room, industrial arts room, music room, little theatre, health room, guidance centre, library resources centre, administrative offices and a double general purpose room with stage, change rooms and showers.

Project architect, Johnson and McWhinnie, Windsor would receive tenders until March 19th. Plans call for a brick and block exterior. Classrooms are to be carpeted through-out. The school is to have an inner court. This would include a small greenhouse and pond. There is also to be an outside reading area. Design capacity is 812. Work was expected to begin April 1st and to be completed by September.

March 9th, 1970 - All 89 of the 97 Essex County school caretakers unanimously voted to strike, reported Fred Pyke, representative of the Canadian Union of Public Employees The strike may take place around April 1st. The caretakers are seeking a first agreement with the Essex County School Board which came into being Jan. 1st., 1969. Previously they worked for seven school boards scattered throughout the county, covering the 50 elementary and six high schools in the area.

CUPE wants the same wage rates it negotiated for Windsor janitors and caretakers. Before negotiations caretakers had varying rates in various schools, some of them working without a contract. A working schedule would be set up. Previously janitors in rural schools only went in following classes and worked until the cleaning for the next day was finished.

March 13th, 1970 - BOARD PURCHSES SITE FOR $3 MILLION SCHOOL: location of the new Western Secondary School was announced by William Wood, the board's administrater. This is the name finally accepted for the special vocational school estimated to cost $3,000,000 which would be similar to William Hands Junior Vocational School, Windsor. The board purchased property from Remi Cote on the southwest corner of Conc. 6 and the Anderdon-Sandwich West Townline.

The school will cater to students who come from public schools and are not deemed ready to take composite high school courses, to develop skills to be employable.

SCHOOLS OF SANDWICH SOUTH (CONT.)

March 24th, 1970 - Eastern Construction Company, Ltd., of Windsor was awarded the contract for the construction of the new Sandwich West Elementary School on Todd Lane by the Essex County Board of Education.

Eastern submitted the lowest of four tenders with a bid of $1,078,000. The contractor assured the board that three-fifths of the school would be completed by the end of July or the first week of August, to give the board time to provide the school with furniture and equipment in time for school opening in September. The Gym and some special rooms would not be completed at that time, but classrooms, washrooms and general facilities would be. There is a firewall between the classrooms and the uncompleted part of the school so that workmen could continue building without interfering with teaching or the pupils interfering with the work.

April 7th, 1970 - SANDWICH SOUTH RAPS SCHOOL PLAN - Transfer of Sandwich South students to the proposed new Essex County secondary school in Sandwich West Township would penalize area ratepayers for Sandwich West's mistake in allowing "seemingly uncontrolled" residential buildup, according to a petition prepared by district residents.

Percy Frith, Jr. North Talbot Road, group spokesman, says Sandwich South Reeve, Robert Pulleyblank has been delegated to meet in Toronto with Education Minister William Davis and push for further consideration.

Initial plans call for students to receive temporary education at Amherstburg while the new school is under construction. The board is in the process of purchasing property.

Mr. Frith said Sandwich South residents were satisfied with the education their children were receiving at Essex District High School and questions the school board's ethics in using township students as pawns to fill vacancies at the planned new school. He said the change would result in a particular problem regarding transportation, noting some students would be forced to travel as much as 54 miles per day on buses and others would not be home until 7.00 o.'clock in the evening. Mr. Frith further stated that Sandwich South ratepayers felt it was in the best interest of students to remain in a school where they had planned their educational requirements and said family and social life would be disrupted if the change was allowed.

He questions a school board statement that there would be no loss in the quality of education and said students would be forced to give up their associations with cultural, social and educational life at Essex High School. Reeve Pulleyblank had met with Fred Burr, MPP (NDP-Sandwich - Riverside concerning the problem. Initial suggestion was that Mr. Davis initiate a full investigation into the matter.

Much dissatisfaction was shown over the two-shift four hour system and meetings were being held in various centres. A delegation of strongly opposed ratepayers went to Toronto in an attempt to appeal to Premier Roberts to stop what they term "a trgic mistake before it is too late". William Davis, Education Minister took a hands - off attitude to the delegations appealing to him for assistance.

May 1st., 1970 - Board officials sign agreement with striking school caretakers. The new agreement, effective, January 1st, 1970 called for male workers to receive $3.20 per hour and females $2.69. The new contract also called for increased benefits. They had been on strike since early April.

May 26th, 1970 - PARENTS PLAN COURT ACTION TO BLOCK SHIFT SYSTEM. About 200 parents mostly from Sandwich West and Sandwich South invaded the Essex County Board of Education meeting in Essex to again persuade officials to not initiate the planned two-shift system to Amherstburg. They had a fifteen minute meeting on their own during the board's recess and decided to explore legal means to prevent the system from being implemented.

June 19, 1970 - Budget up on Education for 1970. Sandwich South's portion for elementary school tabulation was $139,586 less education subsidy $2,160, making a net levy for 1970 $134,180. Residential-farm $52.49; commercial $58.32. Secondary School tabulation - EDHSB - $1,519 total requirement, $78,898 Net Levy; residential-farm $36.71; commercial $40.79; WSDHSB - Total Requirement $80,921, Net Levy $76,130, residential-farm $34.25, Commercial $38.06.

July 2nd., 1970 - Essex High School graduates had their graduation exercises on Sunday with the Hon. Jean Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as guest speaker. Kathryn MacKenzie of Sandwich South was one of the four Ontario Scholars. Other graduates from the township were: George Fairbairn, James Frith, Robert Giles, Chris Halford, Bonnie MacKenzie, Margaret McAuliffe, Veronica Mgyerody, Linda Oliver, Michael O'Neil, Randy Pearson, Susan Santo and Christine Walls

July 2nd, 1970 - Another year of confusion has ended for Mrs. Leonard Strong, a school bus driver for Essex Transportation and the five sets of twins she takes to and from St. Mary's R. C. School in Maidstone. The twins posing in front of their favorite bus are: Cathy and Ricky Wellwood, 13; Mrs. Strong; Jean and Joan Sigrist, 11 Ken and Keith Durocher, 6; Don and Dan Bissonette, 6; Patricia and Paulette Gemus, 5. Some of the twins are identical which at times creates amusing situations. They all per pictured in Windsor Star release.

August 21st, 1970 - Farmers dissatisfied with high school taxes and plan to hold back tax. The majority of farmers holding a meeting at the Leamington arena were prepared to withold payment of school taxes.

Approximately 200 farmers from across the county, sponsored by the Essex County Federation of Agriculture expressed willingness to sign a petition supporting the removal of school taxes on real property after they were addressed by Gordon Hill, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. A similar number indicated by a show of hands that they were prepared to withold payment of school taxes from their municipal tax bill.

Explaining the inequities of rising school taxes against property, Mr. Hill said he had no quarrel with school boards or municipal councils. "We merely want a different way of raising money for educational purposes and we would much prefer to settle the problem through negotiation if possible" Mr. Hill said.

Mr. Hill contended that money now raised for educational purposes through taxation of real property could be provided, in part, from the natural increase in taxation revenues and should be more equitably raised by a tax on incomes at both the personal and corporation level. "We want to abolish educational taxes on all property, both rural and urban, and have the government raise the money for education and have it raised in some other manner which would be more equitable because it would be based on ability to pay".

He said that he was prepared to have the change accomplished in two or three years. We want to be reasonable about this. Mr. Hill went on to explain that farmers can expect little relief from educational taxation either through juggling assessments or reassessment. He cited examples of municipalities which ere reassessed and where farmers found themselves paying more education taxes than previously.

Fielding questions from the floor, Mr. Hill said municipal councils would likely have to borrow the money to pay requisitions to school boards if enough taxes were withald. Councils have to pay interest on such money, but they would be collecting interest on the unpaid balance of your taxes at a rate of 12% per annum. "They would be making a little money", Mr. Hill said.

"It would cost you money, but you could invest the money you withhold from your tax bill and get 7.5 to 8% and if our plan is successful, you receive much greater benefits than the difference in interest would cost". The question was raised concerning farmers who have mortgages from the Agricultural Development Loan Board and who must produce tax receipts each year. "We have checked into this and I am of the opinion that ifit is clearly indicated that you're not paying because you want to protest, no action will be taken", Mr. Hill explained.

"This is merely my opinion, but our legal counsel tells us that if you deposit the amount of school taxes you would withhold in a joint trust account and indicate that you are prepared to pay and have the money available to do so, nothing would be done about it".

One member of the audience said he was on an old age pension and that it took the equivalent of two months of his pension to pay school taxes on a small, older house in which he lives.

Farmers paying from $1000 to $3000 for education indicated that they had already reached a decision to withhold the money from installments already due.

Sept. 8th, 1970 - OPEN - JUST BARELY. In a picture release in the Windsor Star it showed the school opening for the first time at the new Sandwich West Elementary School where the southwest section of Sandwich South pupils will now attend. There were desks to go around but with nice new carpet many of the students preferred to sit on the floor in a ceilingless classroom, which is to be finished next week. Principal A. A. McLean and his staff of 36 teachers were out to make the best of a "very poor type of opening". It is an open concept type of school and classes would end at 2.30 p.m. each day to give workmen extra time to finish the school.

Sept. 8th, 1970 - 40 pay to study in city. 2-shift plan receives snub. At least 40 students have opted to leave Essex County school system and pay $670 in fees to study in Windsor this year. The 40 would have had their education covered by taxes in the county system and other problems at Amherstburg's high school. About five students transferred to Assumption High School where fees are about $200 a year

Oct. 16th, 1970 - Seventeen former public school boards in Essex County amassed a total of $301,315 in surpluses, while six others incurred $100,000 in debts, an arbitrator's report revealed, as of December 31st, 1968. William Wood, administrater for the Essex County Board of Education said the surplus or deficit shown for each board was the responsibility of former boards and the municipalities in which the boards operated.

The arbitrators were: William Clark, Kingsville, who was chairman, Stanley A. McManemy, Amherstburg, chartered accountant and Morgan Brown of Leamington. This report deals with the financial position of the public schools in the county. A susequent report on the assets and liabilities of secondary schools in the County was in the process of being prepared by the same board of arbitration. Mr. Wood said that arbitrators had allowed school boards with surpluses six percent on surplus funds and that school boards in a deficit position paid eight percent interest on the amount owed. More than one year was allowed for repayment of deficits. Deficits may be applied with surpluses from either elementary or secondary schools to make up the amounts. Sandwich South had a surplus of $16,590 plus $828 from Colchester North Twp. and $382 from City of Windsor.

Nov. 11th, 1970 - First stone placed at new school site was the headline in the Windsor Star. Cornerstone laying ceremonies for one of the first totally non-academic secondary schools in the province to be built by a county board of Education were held here Tuesday.

James Golden, chairman of the Essex County Board of Education officiated at the ceremony for Western Secondary School currently under construction on the intersection of Concession No. 6, Anderdon Township and the Anderdon-Sandwich West Townline.

The new school to be built at a cost of$2,656,314 by Colavino Bros. Ltd., of Windsor was expected to be officially opened in September of 1971.

The school was to be built with a view to providing education to students who were not interested in following academically-oriented courses. Courses at the school would aid those who wished to follow a general service career after graduation.

Such courses as hospital services, home management, catering, short order cooking, food processing, upholstery, auto service and auto body repair would be offered. The school would become one of the few in the province to offer a complete two-year course in horticulture. The course would be designed to prepare those planning to enter the field of nursery and greenhouse management.

Western Secondary would also become the first such school in the province to offer a course in food-processing on a full-time basis. It would also have the largest greenhouse in Ontario to provide working conditions similar to those which graduates would face in actual commercial establishments. Students presently enrolled in Grade 9 of the occupation program at other secondary schools would be eligible to attend the new school.

Nov. 15th, 1971 - NEW ANDERDON SECONDARY SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED ran the heading in the Windsor Star. Sunday afternoon saw ceremonies for the opening officially although its doors had been opened in September to 441 students who come primarily from the western half of the county. The school has a maximum rated capacity of 620 pupils. Dr. E. E. Stewart, Deputy minister of education for Ontario and a former Windsor School teacher was the guest speaker which attracted an overflow gathering of student s and parents. Dr. Stewart said that one could not help but be impressed by the changes in education which have taken place when visiting a school such as Western. He also noted that change has taken place in school programs. The older programs were sometimes pretty narrow in their scope, but the goal of education in Ontario now is the "attainment of quality and equality" in order to help the individual "achieve full potential". The principal of the new school is J.C.Zangari. Dr. Stewart was pictured in the Star release along with Gordon Clark, the school's technical director; Bruce Cowan, chairman of the Essex County Board of Education and William Wood, director of education. This school will serve pupils from the township of Sandwich South seeking the services provided by this type of secondary school.

Jan. 5th, 1971 - Outlining major considerations confronting the township in the coming year, Reeve Robert Pulleyblank said the municipality would negotiate with the Essex County Board of Education for the purchase of two schools which would become vacant at the end of this school year in June.

One of the buildings would be used as a township hall and the other would be converted into a fire hall. He said a new site for a township hall is needed because the existing structure would be torn down by the highways department to make way for the proposed Chesapeake and Ohio Railway overpass. A new firehall would be needed because there was not adequate space at the township's road garage and there would be even less space when the overpass goes in. The overpass would be part of a highway expansion program. The schools would be vacated at the end of the school year and next term public school students in the township would be bused to other areas.

Jan. 5th, 1971 - Members of the Essex County Separate School Board elected new officers at their inaugural meeting. Pictured in the Windsor Star release were Gerald Dwyer, superintendent and secretary-treasurer; Armand Mastellotto, Tecumseh, chairman; Arcade LeBlanc, Sandwich South, vice-chairman.

Jan. 12th, 1971 - Bruce Cowan was elected chairman of the Essex County Board of Education at their inaugural meeting Monday night which saw trustees turn down a proposed pay-cut for themselves and reduce the honorarium for members of the board's vocational advisory committee.

Mr. Cowan, a Mersea Township farmer, representing Mersea and Pelee Island, replaces former chairman, James Golden who held the chair for two years and was defeated in the last election. The new chairman sees three major problems which must be settled by the board immediately: the tax dispute with Amherstburg; the new Sandwich Secondary School, and relations with the Windsor Star, these problems which have faced the board for more than a year.

Amherstburg withheld $9,100 from its 1970 tax levy as payment for the board's use of a park next to General Amherst High School and salary for a school crossing guard. Construction of the new Secondary School in Sandwich West Township was being delayed by court action fighting the expropriation of 25 acres of land for the school. The school was badly needed in this end of the county. When the facilities are complete they will relieve the burden on General Amherst in Amherstburg where about 2000 students are attending a two-school program.

Hazen Imeson, representative for Anderdon and Sandwich West Townships was re-elected to his third term as vice-chairman.

Trustee John Newland introduced a motion to have the trustee's $200 per month honorarium reduced twenty percent a "blow for public relations". The motion was defeated. Eleven public school trustees on the board are paid $200 per month and the five separate school ratepayer representatives receive a $150 per month honorarium. The chairman receives an extra $66.66.

Percy Frith, one of five new trustees on the board and the representative for Sandwich South, said he was willing to go along with the 20% reduction but pointed out that it looked to him as if a new public relations image didn't begin until Jan. 1st. He made references to salary increases given top administrators in December and "wondered" if there was any question then about public relations.

Director of education, William Wood, and superintendents, Reg. Cozens, Don Frank and Fred Leitch were given $1,000 salary increases by the old board Dec. 28th. The raises were approved in a closed meeting immediately after the last public meeting of the old board.

Trustees appointed to the board's standing committees for 1971 were (chairman's name first): Management Committee - Russ Down and Dr, Frank DeMarco; building and maintenance committee - Robert Taylor and Harold Sanger; Finance committee - Hazen Imeson and Edwin Woodbridge; Extra-curricular activities committee - John Newland and Garnet Stevenson; Adult Education committee - Marwood Parks and William Brown. Two new administration officials were appointed by the board on March 10th. A. Bruce Birrell, formerly of Vineland becomes the board's professional engineer on March 15th. Mr. Birrell, 56, would be responsible for all mechanical maintenance. He would supervise building projects and assist in school design. His salary would be $13,500. Samuel L. Clay, formerly of Montreal, was appointed supervisor of plant on Feb. 15th to replace former supervisor of plant R. S. Halliwell. Mr. Clay, 47, would be in charge of administering all caretaking and non-mechanical maintenance at a salary of $10,500.

Jan. 18th, 1971 - Pictured in the Windsor Star release was John Armaly, Principal of St. Mary's School in Maidstone, Sandwich South who had obtained his Master of Eduacation Degree after completing courses at the University of Toronto. A life-long resident of Windsor, Mr. Armaly attended Assumption Secondary School and the Universit of Windsor, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967.

Feb. 4th, 1971 - Plans were afoot in an attempt to stop the county school board from expropriating 25 acres of land in Sandwich West Township. County Council voted to support the resolution endorsed by Sandwich West, Sandwich South, Anderdon, Malden and Amherstburg at a public meeting Tuesday night. Land on Malden Road was expropriate last September by the county school board for construction of Sandwich Secondary School. After expropriating the land, the board discovered that extensive preliminary foundation work would be required to prepare the site for construction of a large building. Original estimates placed the cost at more than $350,000, but more recent estimates indicate pilings would cost about half that. Murray Yuffy, lawyer for the owners of the expropriated land said his clients are prepared to fight the expropriation all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. On Feb. 12th the Essex County Board of Education announced the new Sandwich Secondary School would be built on the expropriated property on Malden Road.

March 17th, 1971 - St. Clair Beach Council invited the Essex County Board of Education to attend its next meeting to discuss the board's expropriation of the 47-acre Schweitzer property on the northeast corner of Tecumseh and Manning Roads.

The board planned to use the property for a new composite high school. The village has requested the board install a pathway along Tecumseh Rd. as part of the development. Expropriation proceedings are now in progress.

March 24th, 1971 - Tecumseh Council has refused to issue a building permit for construction of a new $641,000 public school in the municipality by the Essex County Board of Education.

Council's decision stems from the board's failure to assume responsibility for constructing an access road to the school site to handle bus traffic. The new school scheduled for September opening is to be located on Clarice Drive east of Lacasse St.

The board's plan was to unload school buses on Lacasse and Council feels this presents a safety hazard as the street is one of the most heavily travelled in the town.

Mayor Donald Lappan said the town has a by-law prohibiting the unloading of school buses on main arterial streets. He said this is supported by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Essex Board chairman said only three buses would initially be coming to the school and Mr. Bruce Cowan, board chairman added when this area of Tecumseh was developed fpr residential purposes, the school would benefit the town and provide open space for recreation.

March 30th, 1971 - Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board would spend $6,503,404 for education in 1971, an increase of $637,708 but would maintain the same mill rate as in 1970.

There will be cases where some school sections would have a lower mill rate this year than last. Boards which ended the 1968 business year with a surplus are having this surplus deducted from this year's allocated levy. These surpluses amount to $39,1130 in total.

The Ontario Department of Education in accordance with a recently announced ruling is picking up one third of the deficits incurred by boards in their 1968 operations plus accumulated interest. This is not reflected in the current mill rate or levies.

The board provides instruction to slightly more than 10,000 pupils throughout the county. The budget anticipates revenues from local taxation amounting to $1,228,895. It derived $1,164,466 from the same source in 1970. The principal source of revenue is provincial grants. These amount to $5,071,242, which includes a mill rate subsidy. Last year the same source revenue provided $4,510,590. Foreseen expenditures this year are $3,844,001 compared with $3,596,510 in 1970, for teaching amounts. Altogether with administration, trustees, maintenance, transportation, tuition fees, capital expenditures and operating expenditures would total $6,503,404 this year compared to $5,865,606 in 1970.

April 24th, 1971 - SCHOOL SITE ISSUE - County Board won't say boo.

After being locked out at the front door, Amherstburg Mayor H. Murray Smith was trying the back door to get some answers from the Essex County Board of Education. Mayor Smith and representatives from five other municipal councils were refused a hearing before the county board April 12th. They had asked to go before the board to talk about the new Sandwich Secondary School.

Now Mayor Smith is mailing a copy of the questions the delegation wanted answered to the 16 trustees.

He said, "we're not dropping this thing", however, he said that he didn't know what the next step might be. "I can't realize how they maybe feel - but I had to represent the people and this is what they wanted. They just voted us down and I don't know what to do".

The land for the new school on Malden Road, expropriated last September has been the subject of a court action over the legality of the expropraition. The delegation wanted to know several questions regarding the ownership of the land and why the school has been held up in starting construction, which have caused concern in the area. It was hoped a public statement would be forthcoming in answer to the questions, the letter stated. "They seem to have the feeling they are the divine right of kings", Mayor Smith said. "Just like Charles 1."

April 26th, 1971 - Elementary school boundary changes in St. Clair Beach, Tecumseh and Sandwich South would be explained at a public meeting this week.

Parents for students at Victoria, A. V. Graham and D. M. Eagle Schools and those from Sandwich South north of the 401 are asked to attend the meeting. Fred Leitch, superintendent of elementary schools for the Essex County Board of Education and trustee, Percy Frith will explain the changes.

Mr. Frith said school boundaries in the area will change considerably because of the new A.V. Graham School in Tecumseh, expected to open in September.

April 26th, 1971 - Percy Frith's motion which would require the board's building and maintenance committee to be directly involved in all phases of building of school facilities including the acquidition of property, after much confrontation within the school board and trustees, died a delayed death after being sicussed and tabled for the best part of two months.

May 18th, 1971 - BATTLE ON SCHOOL SITE HITS SUPREME COURT.

The Essex County Board of Education was accused of ignoring a report which labelled its expropriation plans for the new Sandwich Secondary School as "indefensible"

The board has been sued in the Ontario Supreme Court by three brothers - Emile, Louis and Albert Walters - who have a dairy farm in Sandwich West Township. They are seeking a court declaration quashing the board's plans to expropriate 25 acres of their property fronting on Malden Road for the new composite school; and compensation for expenses and damages.

Toronto lawyer Hyliard Chappell, acting for the plaintiffs, said the core of his case surrounds the board's handling of the report of a hearing into the expropriation should not be approved because it was indefensible and was not fair or sound according to the statement of inquiry officer, Leon Paroian.

Over the objections of board counsel Michael Temple of Toronto, Mr. Chappell pursuaded Mr. Justice Alexander Stark to enter Mr. Paroian's report as an exhibit. Mr. Temple admitted the report was unfavorable, but contended it was irrelevant and would only amount to having the trial turn into another inquiry.

The board subsequently approved the original plans, regardless of Mr. Paroian's opinion. The decision was made in public Sept. 21st after a committee meeting had been held.

Mr. Chappell charged that board members acted merely as tools of the administratio rubber-stamping their approval after having 'shoved before them some resolutions and reasons prepared the weekend before'. He accused the board of a "callous attitude" in holding an improper meeting at which the plaintiffs were given no notice or opportunity of appearing before the board.

Mr. Chappell was also permitted to examine the minutes of board meetings back to last March, when the plans were first drawn up.

The lawyers clashed on the issue of whether the expropriation is contrary to the new Official Plan in Sandwich West, approved by the minister of municipal affairs in June, 1970.

Although no zoning by-law to implement the plan has yet been passed, Mr. Chappell argued that it was now in effect and is contrary to the new school site in several respects. Mr. Temple contended the plan is only "a statement of intention" which is not yet in effect.

Mr. Chappell, who has subpoenaed all 15 board members, indicated he would press for answers on rumours that as much as $250,000 to $500,000 may be required for tiling of 75 acres of marshy low land at the school site.

The Lid's on. This is secret" , he charged. "I want the vouchers and the estimates for the costs of this work". Mr. Chappell emphasozed his view that the board made mistake after mistake in selecting a bad site and rejecting alternative locations. He contended the official plan prohibits any school that might interfere with prime farming land, create a traffic hasard, and stimulate undesirable growth. At the hearing before Mr. Paroian, the board argued the land was ideally suited for the studen body; it would provide maximum school facilities with minimum transportation requirements; it was served by roads and services; and it contained the necessary acreage. The trial resumed with Mr. Chappell reading from Mr. Paroian's 42-page report.

"Thursday, May 20th, 1971 - Professional planners could have assisted the Essex County Board of Education in selecting a better location for the new school and avoidin the expropriation of valuable farm land. The entire inquiry report prepared by lawyer Leon Paroian last September was read by Toronto lawyer Hyliard Chappelll on behalf of the plaintiffs in the case. "The board may have made the worst possible choice, but if they have done it legally there's nothing I can do about it" Mr. Justice Stark cautioned Mr. Chappell. "The merits of the plan are not something for us to decide

Ex-board chairman James Golden under fire. He spent the entire afternoon by Hyliard Chappell, counsel for the plaintiffs, Emile, Louis and Albert Walters. He was bombarded with questions surrounding pressure exerted upon the provincial government in hopes of getting the new Sandwich Secondary School under way; of $376,000 extra costs for soil improvement; and on confidential memos dealing with the prices to be offered for the 25 acres of land.

Testimony revealed board officials visited with Ontario Municipal Board Chairman, J. Al Kennedy in December to see if they could get on with the school. At this time the board was told their approval was "contrary to normal procedures" and no definite go-ahead was given by the OMB pending completion of the litigation. Mr. Chappell charged the board constantly met in private to deal with important business and made an "absolute farce out of the protection given to the people". He said, "the secret meetings enabled "this shambles" to get as far as it did.

A woman who owns property adjacent to the Walters recalled Mr. Burnell offered her four different prices for her land on five visits to her residence. The prices, per acr were $800; $1,000; $1,200; and then $800 again.

May, 1971 - SANDWICH SOUTH SCHOOL TAX BLASTED.
The Township of Sandwich South claims that it has been "2uchred" by the Essex County Board of Education because of the high rate it has been assessed for elementary education. "our public school mill rate is the highest in the county", said Reeve Robert Pulleyblank, "I think we've been euchred for a good many years now and something has to be done".

The township's public school bill for 1971 was set last week at $141,646 with a residential mill rate of 52.21 and a commercial rate of 58.01. Reeve Pulleyblank says the rates are the highest in the county. "I think it's time we camped on their door-steps until we get some answers, he said. "We just can't keep paying this sort of rate"

Council instructed the township clerk-treasurer, Bert Bedford to try to get some answers from the school board. The reeve said in an interview that the township is being penalized unjustly because it was quick to pay off construction of several two-room schools. "We built five or six schools and paid them off on short-term 10-year debentures", he said. "We wanted to pay them off instead of dragging it out over 20 or 30 years." This created a high mill rate.

Reeve Pulleyblank said that when the province took over the schools the rates went up all over. "The problem is, ours was already up and it went up even higher. Its' been going on for years and it's just not fair. That's why we want it looked into".

The reeve said that all of the township schools would be closed and sold by the school board by the end of this year. "We paid for all of these schools - but we won't see any of the money when they're sold", he said. "it will go into the big pot for everyone else to benefit from - but we are the ones who paid for them. We have been paying through the nose for years in this township."

Mr. Bedford said that one of the reasons for the high rate paid by Sandwich South is the township's low equalization factor. He called the situation "mathematical gymnastics."

The township council also took exception to the school board's use of the term "under-levy" in its financial reports. "They tell us we owe them $7,000 under-levy from last year," said Mr. Bedford. "We paid them what they requested last year. "What actually happened is that they overspent and are calling it an under-levy - it's a cute way of wording it."

June 1st., 1971 - County School Tax Requisitions - Municipalities are required to submit their tax revenues in four instalments - due March 31, June 30, Spt. 30 and Dec. 15th. Secondary School rate - Residential for Sandwich South in 1970 was 35.48 mills; in 1971 would be 36.53; Commercial - 1970 was 39.38 and 1971 40.59. Elementary School rate in 1970 was 52.49; in 1971 it would be 52.21; commercial was 58.32 and in 1971 58.01 mills.

June 22, 1971 - Essex County Board to close down 8 schools.
The Essex County Board of Education will eliminate 40 teaching jobs and will close eight of its smaller schools, due in part to an expected decrease in elementary school enrollment and in part to money. Although only a few teachers will actually lose their jobs, the school closings would mean considerable dislocation of staff, and county teachers were disgruntled about the way the whole thing was handled. A large part of the problem was money, both with the teachers and with the board.

Superintendent of Education F. A. Leitch said the board received the resignations of 50 teachers this spring, eight more retired, and the contracts of another 14 were terminated. They had to date hired nine new teachers who were all specialists. The schools to be closed include four in Sandwich South. There was a projected drop in enrollment of 136 pupils but this was a very conservative estimate.

June 22nd., 1971 - An appeal launched against the expropriation of land for the new Sandwich Secondary School would force another delay in construction. William Wood, Director of Education for the Board said construction would not begin until litigation was complete. The appeal was not expected to be heard until October.

June 24th, 1971 - ANN BOYLE, retiring nurse of eight Essex Conty separate and public schools under the Metro Windsor Essex County Health Unit Nursing Service, completes her records in preparation for leaving her post, June 25th. Pictured in Star release she was shown signing papers relative to leaving.

Miss Boyle who lives in Gesto, graduated from Grace Hospital in 1930 and served for 41 years in hospital, school and private nursing fields. She was a highly competent member of the school staff, with extremely good judgment. When the Essex County Health Unit was formed in the early 1950's she became the school nurse in schools in Sandwich South, who up until this time had not engaged the services of a nurse.

July 8th, 1971 - Among the Ontario Scholarship winners from Essex District High School coming out of Sandwich South Township were Crystal Kotow, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kotow, R. R. 2, Maidstone; Patrick Turton, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Turton, R. R. 1, Oldcastle and grade 12 graduate Ronald Bissonnette.

July 27th, 1971 - Two new schools would open in the county which would embrace pupils out of Sandwich South Township. A. V. Graham Public School in Tecumseh would open in September as would Western Secondary School, a special vocational school on the 6th Concession at Anderdon-Sandwich West Townline. Additions to Prince Andrew Public School in Sandwich West, Maplewood Public School in Essex, both with pupils out of our township.

Students who attended General Amherst High School last year while waiting for the new Sandwich Secondary School would do so again this year in September. A rotating split shift was urged, trustee Percy J. Frith would so motion at the next school board meeting.

Aug. 11th, 1971 - Amherst shift switch vetoed. The Essex County Board of Education rejected a bid to have Sandwich Secondary School students attend morning shift at Amherstburg's General Amherst High School in September.

Aug. 4th, 1971 - The Essex County Board of Education had advised Sandwich South Township it would call tenders for the sale of five vacated schools in the township. Reeve Robert Pulleyblank said the township, was intersted in purchasing two of the sxk schools, the one on North Talbot Road (Frith Public School or S. S. No 11) for a new municipal building and the other on concession 8 or (S.S. No. 1.) for a fire dept.

The existing township municipal building would be demolished because of the construction on the highway #3 bypass.

Aug. 31st., 1971 - Specialised education for special needs is a major part of modern education. John Zangari, principal of the new Western Secondary School walks in front of its commercial-type greenhouse. County education officials say it is the only greenhouse of its size in an Ontario High School and with food processing rooms inside would prepare students for food processing industry work. Star picture release.

Sept. 14th, 1971 - PROTESTS PROMPT SCHOOL BUS TALKS

A charge by parents of kindergarten students in Sandwich West Township that youngsters are forced to make unnecessary bus trips has prompted a special committee meeting of the Essex County Board of Education. The parents appeared before the board to complain about students being bused to Sandwich West Public School when there is space available in two schools located nearer their homes.

There were four portable units available at Colonel Bishop School on Hazel St. in LaSalle. A recently completed addition to Prince Andrew on Kelly Road was available for kindergarten classes. MPP Fred Burr (NDP Sandwich-Riverside), was the spokesman for the delegation. He said 33 youngsters from Colonel Bishop school area and an equal number from Prince Andrew district were being bused to the Sandwich West Township School.

He suggested students attend schools in their own areas. He also suggested one of the two kindergarten teachers at the Sandwich West School could hold a morning class at one school and an afternoon session at the other. Youngsters now spent an hour coming home on the bus. Idle portables costing $660 a month could be used to solve the problem. Following a meeting of the board the problem was solved satisfactorily.

Sept. 17th, 1971 - Sealed tenders for the purchase of the following school buildings and sites in Sandwich South, would be received up and until 12 noon, Sept. 28th, 1971 to the Essex County Board of Education, P.O. Box 357, Leamington, Ont.

S. S. No. 1 - Two-room school located on the south half of the north-east quarter of Lot 15, Concession 7 on a sight composing 2½ acres more or less.

S. S. No. 2 - Three-room school known as Fairplay School located on Part of Lot 17 Concession 10 on a site comprising one acre more or less.

S. S. No. 5 - Two-room school known as Charles Collins School located on part of Lot 4, Concession 10 on a site comprising two acres more or less.

S. S. No. 6 - Two-room school known as Percy McKee School located on part of Lot 306, South Talbot Road on a site comprising one acree more or less.

S. S. No. 10 - One-room school located on part of Lot 1 on the 8th concession on a site comprising one acre more or less.

S. S. No. 11 - Two-room School known as Frith Public School located on part of Lot 303, North Talbot Road on a site comprising two and one half acres more or less.

Oct. 30th, 1971 - Pictured in Star release was Percussionist Al Linnell awaiting his big moment at Sandwich West Elementary School. A musical evening had been arranged by school choirs and students. Mr. Linnell had previously been music supervisor for the schools of Sandwich South Township and still directs students from the south-west corner of the township who now attend this new school.

Nov. 15th, 1971 - NEW ANDERDON SECONDARY SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED.

The Essex County's Board of Education's first vocational school, the $2,656,314 Western Secondary School was officially opened Sunday afternoon, November 14th, 1971.

Located at the intersection of the Anderdon Townline and 6th Concession Road, the school opened its doors in September to 441 students, who came primarily from the western half of the county. The school had a maximum rated capacity of 620 pupils. Dr. E. E. Stewart, deputy minister of education for Ontario and a former Windsor school teacher, was guest speaker at the official opening which attracted an overflow gathering of students and parents. He noted that the dominant feature of Ontario Education in the last two decades has been growth and it has been a tremendous job to - just keep pace. The principal of the new school is J.C. Zangari. Pictured in the Star release looking over a spot welder was Dr. E.E. Stewart, Gord Clark, the schools technical director, Bruce Cowan, chairman of the Essex County Bored of Education and William Wood, Director of Education.

Nov. 8th, 1971 - Essex High School graduates on Saturday, Nov. 6th received their awards. From Sandwich South were Crystal Kotow, Patrick Turton, Jackie Wellwood, Paul Bissonnette. Jacjie Wellwood tied with Isabel Martin for the athlete-of-the-year award.

Nov. 22nd., 1971 - GRAHAM OPENS SCHOOL BEARING HIS NAME.
A. V. Graham, the man described as the guiding light of the former Tecumseh Public School Board, Sunday, Nov. 21st, officially opened the new elementary school named after him.

"This is more or less a new addition to me, a second retirement", the popular and highly regarded Mr. Graham told the large crowd at the $641,000 school.

Serving as secretary-treasurer of the old board for more than 20 years, Mr. Graham recalled how he "worked with most everyone in Tecumseh" until he retired in 1963 He noted there were only two classrooms when he joined the public board in 1938. The occasion when Mr. Graham went to the rescue of St. Anne's School whose imported statue of St. Anne was lost by the CNR enroute to Tecumseh for the opening of the school, was recalled by the guest of honour. Mr. Graham managed to trace the statue to a freight car in Chatham and hurriedly arranged to have it sent to Tecumseh by passage train. The statue arrived the night before the opening and has been smiling on the town ever since.

D. J. Ashworth, area superintendent with the department of education's regional office at London praised the Essex County Board of Education and its teachers. More then $6,000,000 has been invested by the Essex Board in new buildings, and 3,400 new elementary pupil places have been created."This is a great accomplishment", noted Mr. Ashworth. He lauded the board's teaching staff as a dedicated hard-working group, "second to noe" in Ontario.

An invitation for Town Council to explore joint use of the playground and athletic development at the 15-acre site was put forth by board chairman, Bruce Cowan.

A. V. Graham School which opened this Fall with an enrolment of 309, can accomm up to 420 students. Designed as an "open concept" school and featuring a continuir progress program, it consists of nine classrooms. Students from the northern sec of Sandwich South attend this

Dec. 7th, 1971 - The Essex Board of Education met with education director William Wood behind closed doors, Monday night, Dec. 6th in Essex for another round in the see-saw between the board and its administration.

Board chairman Bruce Cowan said "nothing has been decided" after the one-hour meeting broke up. However, informal sources said today a notice of motion to call for the resignation of Mr. Wood, was introduced at the closed meeting.

According to the board's procedural bylaw, this notice-of-motion will be presented for a vote at the board's next scheduled committee-of-the-whole meeting on Dec. 13th, then the outcome would go to a public meeting scheduled for Essex District High School on Dec. 27th.

Friction between some of the board's elected representatives personel and senior administrative personnel, especially Mr. Wood, led to a series of 'informal' meetings that reulted in Monday night's closed meeting.

Members directing strategy against senior personnel charge the administration has misinterpreted board policy on certain issues, neglected to implement some moves by the board, and has failed to keep board members informed. Board members have apparently agreed to be closed-mouthed about the situation.

"I'm not going to say anything — other than it's a wet night — or something", one member said as he left the meeting. However indications are that the motion calling for the resignation could be supported with a 9-5 vote. Sources indicate there are a couple of members "on the fence" and board chairman Bruce Cowan may abstain from the vote.

Mr. Wood, asked today what he feels is his situation, said "I can't make any comment...this was a meeting of the board in committee-of-the-whole."

The province was asked to intervene in the dispute and the province tossed the whole matter back to the board. Education minister Robert Welch said the board would have to submit a formal resolution on the issue before any action could be taken.

As of the first week of the new year 1972 a new chairman, Marwood Parks was named for the Essex County Board of Education. He represents Malden, Colchester North and Amherstburg area, and replaces Bruce Cowan as chairman. Also on the heels of this information the government was in the throws of shuffling its cabinet ministers and announced there would be a new Minister of Education, replacing Robert Welch.

Thus the Essex County Board of Education was ending the year with its affairs, as far as the public knows in a hopeless tangle. The only solution would be a public disclosure of the facts.

Nine of the board's 16 members have signed a statement which apparently sets out some grounds for complaint about the director of education, William Wood. The statement which is in the hands of the provincial department of education follows a formal resolution demanding Mr. Wood's resignation.

October 28th, 1971 - A letter received by Sandwich South Council on the disposition of the schools let out for tender is as follows from William Wood, Secretary of the Essex County Board of Education:

"Resolved that the highest tender for each school property received from the purchaser listed below be accepted:

| SCHOOL NO. | PURCHASE OFFER | PURCHASER |
|---|---|---|
| S. S. #1 | $12,000.00 | Donald Antaya,<br>1604 St. Patrick Dr., Windsor, Ont. |
| S. S. #2 | $10,000.00 | R. Turnbull,<br>2557 Lesperance Rd., R. R. 2, Tecumseh. |
| S. S. #5 | $10,050.00 | Essex Christian School Society<br>297 Talbot St. S., Essex, Ont. |
| S. S. #6 | $20,200.00 | Dualflex Co., Ltd., Brockville, Ont. |
| S. S. #10 | $5,100.00 | John Gold,<br>1103 Chilver Rd., Windsor, Ont. |
| S. S. #11 | $27,050.00 | Township of Sandwich South,<br>Oldcastle, Ont. Bert Bedford-Clerk. |

AS OF THE END OF 1971, all public schools have been disposed of except the building and site of S. S. No. 4 located on Anderdon-Sandwich South Townline, which is still maintained by the Essex County School Board for storing purposes.

The above quoted disposition of all public schools in the township means that there is still left the two Roman Catholic Separate Schools - St. Mary's Central located on #3 Highway in Maidstone and St. Peter's located in the northern part of the township. Also all facilities of the Essex County School for Retarded Children are now located in the town of Essex. Thus an era of school administration and education has practically come to an end within the township for the time being.

October 6th, 1971 - REHABILITATION CENTRE OPEN - ran the headline of the new "Essex Times" paper which came into being in early Fall of this year.

Official opening ceremonies at ARC Industries took place Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 1971. Mayor Edmund Michael, Don Batten, president of the Kiwanis Club, Dick Thompson, representing Essex County and Stanley Welsh, took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Mr. Welsh outlined the starting of the workshop with its problems and trials in getting started. Gene Whealen, MP extended his good wishes and stated that he was on County Council when the Sun Parlour School was started. The guest speaker was unable to attend. The Essex County Council and the Kinsmen were thanked for the generous contribution they made toward financing the construction of the building.

A tour through the class areas revealed the value of the program for the mentally handicapped young adults. In the new and larger class area a much better organized system of storage of supplies has been put into practice,— this alone affords a degree of training for the young people. The main room with its spaciousness, provides room for assembly and working area. There is a separate room for sanding, another for painting, conveniently adjacent to the machine shop which houses jig saws, table saws and other necessary equipment.

The students at present have a contract and 8 to 10 of them place rubber seals on the metal part of both ends of the speedometer cables - the normal output is 40,000 a month but if need be, they can do 9,000 per day. Pom-poms are made from coloured toilet tissue and sold for decorating wedding cars. Attractive doll beds are made from empty spools. The young people make lawn furniture, picnic tables in a variety of sizes from the largest, to a child's size to a toy size for little girl's dolls. The furniture comes in a gay variety of colours and all pieces, tables chairs and stools fold for easy storage. Nothing is wasted, scraps of wood are used for smaller items such as bird houses and feeders.

Superintenent, Mrs. William Hartley reported there is a staff of three - Mrs. G. Wighton, Mrs. M. Hutson and Mr. Stanley Welsh, Sr. They work with 26 trainees, some of whom have never been to school. A real opportunity is afforded here for these young people to gain satisfaction in accomplishment and some of them are enabled to find employment in industry.

The lot for the new building was purchased in 1970. The new building 96' x 60' was completed this year, at a cost of $79,000 with $27,675 of this raised by the Essex Kinsmen Club in a Walkathon. Of the costs, $20,800 would be shared by the provincial government with the remaining funds to be raised by the local association.

Stan Welsh, chairman of the board noted the Essex Association for Retarded Children assumes the responsibility of raising funds to operate the centre, with some assistance from the province, some from Essex County Council and some from parents of attending trainees. The remainder is raised through public donations.

Area lodges of Oddfellows and Rebekahs donated a van to the centre last month.

The building is constructed to hold a total of 55 trainees and there is a waiting list of 10. The centre operates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As far as Sandwich South Township is concerned no further historical data on the Sun Parlour School for Retarded Children and its facilities will be recorded. This enterprise in education began here in the township when the first rural school for the Mentally retarded was opened on Jan. 5th with four pupils in the old S. S. No. 5 abandoned school which was deeded to the Board by the Sandwich South School Board.