

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

The combined Public and Separate School Boards of Sandwich South Township met recently on September 12th, 1958 to discuss the formation of a class for children who were mentally retarded.

The Boards would meet again, Thursday evening, September 18th, 1958 at 8 p.m. at Charles Collins School, corner Malden Road and South Talbot Road, one mile south of Maidstone.

An invitation was extended to all parents and friends of children who were mentally retarded in Sandwich South and the surrounding areas to attend this meeting for the purpose of forming an association and setting up a class to meet the special needs of these children.

On Sept. 18th, 1958, a group of parents of retarded children met with the Sandwich South School Board, both Public and Separate, School Inspectors, Medical Health Officer, members of the Windsor Association for Retarded Children and Service Club members to discuss plans for retarded children who were unable to attend the Churchwood School in Windsor, due to transportation difficulties. At this meeting a group to be known as The Essex Town and District Association for Retarded Children was formed and the temporary Board of Directors elected. About 50 attended the meeting.

The school which classes would begin in was donated by the Public school Board of Sandwich South. The building is located across the road from the new Charles Collins School and was known previously as S. S. No. 5 Public School. It became vacated when the new school was opened and is of brick construction with one room. The Separate School Board is also co-operation on this project. On March 15th, 1960 on motion of Milton Farough, seconded by Grant McKee the Sandwich South School Board the deed transferring the old No. 5 School to the Essex & District Association for Retarded Children was accepted and signed.

Mrs. Howard Market of Sandwich South, an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme for the new school said retarded children of the rural areas urgently needed an opportunity to attend school. "We have the building, all we need now is enough people interested in the welfare of these children to help us iron out problems of organization and get classes started as soon as possible," she said.

Dated September 22nd, 1958, a board of directors was appointed to investigate the problems attached to opening such a school. Named to the Board were: Howard Market, Colchester North, - president; Brian Pettypiece, Oldcastle, Vice-president; Chester Marshall, Colchester North and Stanley Welsh, Oldcastle, Directors; and Mrs. Brian Pettypiece, secretary-treasurer.

Ed. Michael, president of the Kiwanis Club of Essex said his club would assist with the transportation.

The teacher would be supplied by Churchwood School, Windsor. Mrs. Elizabeth (Sunny) Ray became Principal and teacher at the new Sun Parlor School. After three and a half months of much hard work by all concerned, the school opened on January 5th, 1959 with four pupils enrolled, two of them residents of Sandwich South Township, Nancy Welsh, daughter of the Stanley Welsh's Jr., and Helen Pettypiece, daughter of the Brian Pettypiece's, here of Oldcastle area. This was the first rural school for retarded children in Ontario. Due to the increasing enrollment, a class was moved to the Maidstone St. Joseph's School for a short period. Mrs. Ray received an electric drill from Churchwood children and a gift of jewelry from the 64th Scout Group.

In the beginning the new school was sponsored by Churchwood School which loaned it a station wagon for transportation.

Mrs. Edward Saby, president of the Windsor Association in speaking to parents at their organizational meeting said that they would be receiving applications for children with an I.Q. under 50 or for children who would never reach the mentality of an 8-year old.

The new school became an established fact but one of the first needs were finances. They needed money for administration. Their first project to raise funds was a horse show at the Ed. Beiderman Farm on Howard Avenue and the Essex Townline, held Sunday, October, 19th, 1968 at 1.00 p.m. It was a huge success and realized \$400.00 clear for proceeds.

One of the chief grants was from the Department of Education but no levy could be made on the township. A grant of \$500.00 was made by Maidstone Township Council on the basis that the school served their district.

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

January 19th, 1959 - The Windsor Star covered the opening exercises and pictures of our two area students, Nancy Welsh and Helen Pettypiece were featured with Mrs. Sunny Ray, teacher discover the world of learning.

The small group of mentally retarded children stood in a circle, held hands, and bowed their heads. "Please, God, help us to learn", the words came with painful slowness and hard to hear. But God heard, and thus the little red school house on South Talbot Road was slated to reap a richer yield in human values than all the modern schools in the county.

For most of these children it was a first venture from a world of apathy into a brighter world of learning. Helen, for instance was a mongoloid with a vocabulary of 12 words. After a week in school, like most of her classmates she was able to sight read her name. The teacher was confident that Helen would soon learn to speak clearly. Helen used to stay in bed until she was carried out. Now she was up before the rest of the family, bright, happy, and eager to go to school. She used to throw her clothes on the floor, now she insists they be hung up. We called her the "hillbilly" because she would never keep her shoes on. Now she never takes them off unless she is going to bed. No one will ever know what a lift it gives me to see Helen pile into that school bus every morning. "At last she is having a chance", Helen's mother said.

For the teacher, the day begins at 7.30 a.m. She drives the school station wagon 94 miles round trip to pick up her students from Essex, Colchester North, Maidstone and Sandwich South. She was paid a salary of \$25.00 per week.

"This is not the sort of thing one does for money", she says. "I love these children. They do something to me. The steps to learning are so small, but for all of us the reward is great.

These children will only vegetate if not kept active. I must think of them always as children but never let them feel they are being treated as such. They are more sensitive than normal youngsters and respond to love rather than sympathy.

There is a feeling of kinship among them and they are eager to help each other. No child is ever excluded from the group. Their minds can be developed as God intended so they may find their place in life".

An appeal for funds to keep the school going went out to councils and service clubs in the area. Many church groups, service clubs and private citizens sent along first contributions until the first general canvas to the public in late 1959.

Officers selected following organization were:

President	Henry Hartley
Vice Presidents	Elmer Queen
	Stanley Welsh, Jr.
Secretary	Mrs. Brian Pettypiece
Treasurer	Chester Marshall
Executive	Gerald Shanahan
	Howard Market
	Joe Rocheleau
	Brian Pettypiece
Education	Milton Farough
Transportation	Mrs. Stanley Welsh, Jr.
Membership	"
Bulletin	Gerald Shanahan
House	Stanley Welsh
Publicity	Mrs. Margaret Brown
Fund Raising	Dave Freeman

Sun Parlor School opened its doors on Tuesday, Sept. 8th for its full day session with eleven pupils. Two were over 12 years of age and attend all day. Children under 12 years could only attend a half-day. Since school opened in Sept. a shiny black station wagon was on rental from Mr. Queen, Essex, and the new driver - helper, Mrs. Harry Jenner. She assists at the school when not driving the children.

The children were already started on making coin purses and moccasins.

At the October 8th meeting their charter was received. Windsor Star picture of October 10th, shows Mrs. Bertha Lott of Windsor, Region No. 1 chairman of the Ontario Association for Retarded Children presenting the charter to the Town of Essex and District Association chairman Henry Hartley while secretary, Mrs. Brian Pettypiece looks on. The group then was on its own.

Miss Rita Campbell, PBE secretary, and Mrs. Mabel Ball, a member of the Board of Directors made the presentation of a tool punch, a wood-burning kit and \$25 milk tickets

THE SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

March 14th, 1959 - The O.P.P. of Essex County made a donation of \$150.00 to the School for Retarded children, the cheque being presented by Cpl. R. H. Graham and Constable D. P. Allison. This will be used to purchase a station wagon in place of the one loaned from the Windsor Association, along with other donations from South Windsor Lion's Club; Pope Pius X School, Colchester North Township; Charles Collin's Home & School; Fairplay Home & School; Maidstone Township; St. Mary's Catholic Women's League of Maidstone, Reseland and Oldcastle Women's Institutes; PEH, Windsor and the Salvation Army Fellowship Group. Other grant of \$900.00 was made by Essex County Council and the Association was reminded to seek a further grant in 1960.

One of the first projects of the Association was a Spring Dance in Essex on June 12th, 1959 at the Legion Hall. Displaying the poster in the Windsor Star picture was Mrs. Stanley Welsh, Jr. and Mrs. Brian Pettypiece.

June 13th, 1959 - Pupils of the school were presented with a set of rhythm band instruments by the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi, Windsor. Mrs. Philip Bilida, welfare secretary, Mrs. Sunny Ray, teacher, and Mrs. Early Cartledge, chapter president were pictured in Star release.

On November 18th, 1959, a drive to raise \$5,000.00 was launched by the Kiwanis Club of Essex with the aid of volunteers and service groups. It was a door-to-door campaign, lasting two weeks for the canvass. Dave Freeman, Police Chief of Essex, and president of the Kiwanis Club was named chairman for the campaign. In the Star picture release, Dave Freeman is seen presenting Mrs. Brian Pettypiece, secretary of the Association with the cheque for \$200.00 from the Kiwanis Club as a first donation towards the campaign. There are now 15 students enrolled in the school. There is no special grant to cover transportation costs. William Quance, Essex, who has recently been appointed public school inspector for Inspectorate No. 2, is a qualified psychologist and tests applicants for admission.

The Sandwich South Township Chairman for the campaign was Mrs. W. A. Crowder of Oldcastle, who realized approximately \$1,700 from her area through the efforts of 30 canvassers. \$6,010.00 was raised throughout the campaign area of Maidstone, Gosfield North, Colchester North, Anderdon and Sandwich South and all the towns within this boundary.

December 16th, 1959 - The school pupils held their first Christmas Concert at Sun Parlor School with all pupils taking part in singing, dialogue and musical numbers.

1961

Officers elected for the year were: President, Dave Freeman
Vice President - Gerald Shanahan
- Gerald Lavender
Corresp. Sec'ty - Mrs. Stan Welsj, Jr.
Recording Sec'ty - Mrs. Brian Pettypiece
Treasurer - Chester Marshall
Board Members - Stanley Welsh, Jr.
Brien Pettypiece
Joe Rocheleau
Carl Esping
Gerald Dunn
Region 1 Rep. - Gerald Lavender
Henry Hartley

Sept. 20th, 1960 - Two Mishaps marred the Benefit Horse Show, the 2nd Show with proceeds going to the Essex and District Association for Retarded Children. It was sponsored by The Trail Riders Club and was held on the grounds of St. John the Baptist Church, Amherstburg with over 1000 attending and the proceeds amounted to more than \$5000.00 (\$500.00). William McGaffrey, 24 of Chatham was preparing to mount his horse to take part in the event when he was injured. Chas. Hurst 13 of Amherstburg escaped unhurt when a run-away horse crashed through the fence and ran over him during the event. A large programme of events had been planned and many prizes were won. Pictured in the Star release was Orville Halfbrich, president of the Trail Riders Club presenting a cheque to Brian Pettypiece, president of the Association with children, Helen Pettypiece of Oldcastle and Lewis Rebideaux, Bill Purdie of Amherstburg, pupils of the school looking on.

Ambrose Shipway was named chairman of the second drive for funds early in October. He would have an office in Essex, opening on Monday, October 24th in the Burstyn Block in the part being used by the Artistic Paintings and will explain and receive donations, open from 9 to 5 daily. The goal for the canvas is \$12,000.00 as the enrolment has reached 27 which has resulted in overcrowding and has required the holding of one class in St. Stephen's Church Hall on Howard Avenue. Two extra teachers and one volunteer have been added to the staff and some pupils have had to be turned away. They receive a government grant now of \$1.25 per day per child.

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

Oct. 25th, 1960 - KIM NOT RETARDED - BUT DEAF ran the headline in the Windsor Star.

The satisfaction of opening a whole new world to a young child - a world of sound and of learning - is one few people ever experience.

An exception is Mrs. Sunny Ray, teacher at the Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children, Sandwich South Township whose perception led to this new world for an 8-year old boy - Kim Dominic, son of Mr. & Mrs. Lou Dominic, Highway 2, Sandwich South. He now can hear voices, the sounds of raindrops and music. No longer is he lost behind a wall of silence among the 27 pupils of the school.

Kim was enrolled at the school after he failed to respond to I.Q. tests. Doctors previously had been unable to find any hearing defects nor could they explain the inability to talk. Mrs. Ray said "Ever since the first day he came to us, I sensed he was different from other children. Although I could get little response from him and his speech was poor, he drew excellent pictures and could complete handicrafts after being shown only once".

Suspecting that deafness might be the cause, Mrs. Ray rolled up a paper tube one day and spoke directly into Kim's ear. She read response in the excited smile which lit up the boy's face.

After Mrs. Ray's discovery, Kim's parents took him to a Windsor audio specialist who discovered that the inner ear was damaged. His 27% hearing could be helped by a dual hearing aid. He no longer has to rely on lip reading attempts and can hear his twin sister Karen.

Remaining at the Sun Parlor School, Kim was kept after classes had ended for special attention. Mrs. Ray was determined to get to the root of the problem, once the first hurdle had been cleared.

One night, teacher and pupil were sitting in the quiet little schoolhouse, when suddenly it began to rain. The boy jumped up and looked toward the ceiling, his eyes wide with wonder, for the first time in his life he had heard the sound of rain on a roof.

Hand in hand they walked outside. The boy held out his hand and felt the drops "Rain", Mrs. Ray said. "Rain", Kim repeated distinctly. "It was the most moving and rewarding experience in all of the eight years I have been teaching retarded children" said Mrs. Ray. "As we stood in the rain I gave thanks for the miracle that led me to discover the wall of silence that almost condemned Kim as a retarded child".

Kim became enrolled in the hard of hearing class at Victoria St. School, Windsor. He was learning to talk and it was hoped he would be able to attend a regular public school next year.

Nov. 23rd., 1960 - Mrs. Elizabeth (Sunny) Ray of the Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children in Sandwich South became the second Canadian woman to hold a Scoutmaster's warrant. The presentation was made at the annual meeting of the Windsor District Boy Scout's Association, by District Commissioner Verna Pillsworth. Mrs. Ray became Scoutmaster of the 72nd Group. Executive Director and Commissioner, V. D. Peach standing by, in the picture.

CHANGE OF NAME AND SERVICE AREA - Due to the increasing number of applicants and the need for wider servicing of the area and County, early in 1961 the Association applied for and was granted a change of name and service area. It then became known as the Essex County Association for Retarded Children, and served all of Essex County except the metropolitan Windsor area.

In 1960 enrollment reached 30. With the growth of the school new quarters were necessary, and, as the Town of Essex was the centre of the County, a large home in Essex was purchased and made ready for classes by October 1st., 1961, at which time 39 children moved into the new school. There was room for 60 pupils.

The second annual Christmas Concert was held in the Town Hall at Essex with about 200 persons enjoying the program.

In January, 1961, the Senior class moved to the annex at the Separate School at the Six Corners for their morning work. It provided a spot for books and equipment would be more available for use each day.

Feb. 25th., 1961 - Mrs. Elizabeth (Sunny) Ray was honoured for her service with the youth of the community at a dinner staged by La Sertoma at the Canton Dining Lounge, when she was presented with a certificate of recognition from La Sertoma International. Mrs. Wm. Hart, chairman of the Windsor La Sertoma awards committee and Mrs. Stanley Swisniewski, president of the group were features in the Star picture with Mrs. Ray.

THE SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

In 1961 the Essex County grant to the Association was \$1800.00, they were informed to further seek next year's grant in January.

May 30th, 1961 - ESSEX HOME PURCHASED FOR RETARDED CHILDREN ran the headlines in the Windsor Star.

The Essex County Association for Retarded Children has purchased the home of Dr. D. W. Clare, 115 Talbot St., Essex as their new school for retarded children.

For nearly half a century the sick of Essex and district had been bringing their troubles to the door of "the doctor's house" on the corner of Talbot and Cameron Sts., Essex. Now destined for a still richer harvest in human values, the 17 room red brick house has been purchased as a retarded school. The house was built by the late Dr. John Doyle, later occupied by the Dr. J. W. MacDonald, who now has a practice in Windsor. Still later occupied by Dr. D. W. Clare.

Mrs. Ray, the Principal reports that the Leamington Jaycettes would furnish the kindergarten room and provide equipment for the playground.

On October 2nd, Monday, pupils trudged into their new school with an enrollment of 41 the first day. The children were brought by three busses making two trips each a day from all parts of Essex County except Metropolitan Windsor.

The school appealed for volunteer workers to supervise children from 1.00 to 2.00 o'clock each afternoon.

In addition to Mrs. Ray, staff members include, Mrs. Laura Reck, Windsor; Mrs. Thelma VanEenoo and Mrs. Margaret Kosokowsky of Sandwich South. Opening of the school contrasts sharply to the initial opening when four children turned out for the first class in January, 1959. They would be having open house at the school Nov. 6th to 11th.

Dec. 23rd., 1961 - An International Traveller bus was donated to the Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children by I.O.O.F. and Rebekah Lodge No. 140 of Leamington. The new vehicle makes the fourth bus operating from the school to bring the 40 pupils from rural Essex County to the school. Pictured in the Star Release was Mrs. Nora Dittus, Noble Grand, Peachland Rebekah Lodge, Leamington; Carl Esping, Sandwich South, transportation chairman for the school gets the keys from Claude Penfold, District Deputy Grand Master for Erie District No. 2; and Otto Dittus, Noble Grand, Leamington.

January 27th, 1962 - The Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children has drawn favorable comment as a result of the first inspection in the school's new location on Talbot St.

Wm. Quance, Public School Inspector, and Mrs. Amelia Stocker, special service inspector for the Ontario Department of Education had made a recent visit to the school.

Mrs. Stocker commented on the homelike atmosphere of the school and was pleased with the renovation of the building. She congratulated the staff on the educational program being carried out.

Mr. Quance works with the education committee in screening youngsters for entry into the school.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1963

President ---	Stanley Welsh Jr.
1st. Vice-President ---	Brien Pettypiece
2nd. Vice-President ---	Jerry Lavender
Recording Secretary ---	Mrs. Margaret Strehm
Corresp. Secretary ---	Mrs. Cora Cascadden
Treasurer ---	Leo Bertola
Adult Programme ---	Herbert Taylor
Education Chairman ---	Arnold McLean
Institutions & Home Care ---	Irene Renaud
Research Chairman ---	John Crump
Finance Chairman ---	Jerry Lavender
Region Delegates ---	John Crump & Stanley Welsh
Recreation Chairman ---	Evelyn Denomey
Other Chairman: Transportation - Brien Pettypiece; Programme - Mrs. Pat Lavender; Bulletin - Mrs. Doreen Welsh.	

SUNPARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

Aug. 14th, 1963 - A Motorcycle Scramble race was staged by the Erie Motorcycle Club of Leamington on Highway 18, two miles west of Kingsville on the McPherson farm. Pictured in the Star release was Jim Clark and Lewis King of Leamington shining up their bikes. Proceeds were given to the Sun Parlor School.

Nov. 1st., 1963 - Mrs. Stanley Welsh and Mrs. Brian Pettypiece were pictured in the Star release wrapping door prizes for the dance to be held Nov. 2nd., at Knights of Columbus Hall, McGregor, proceeds to the Sun Parlor School.

Dec. 7th, 1963 - The fourth annual Christmas Concert would be held in the Essex Town Hall on Dec. 11th with a Mexican theme. Shown in the Star release was Gerry Dunn, 12, the matador, Bryn White, 14, the bull and Barbara Renaud, 15, preparing for "Christmas in Mexico" in costume.

OFFICERS FOR 1964

President -- Brian Pettypiece
1st. V-Pres. -- Gerald Shanahan
2nd. V-Pres. -- John Crump

BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Adult Services	-	Herbert Taylor	Publicity	-
Education	-	Arnold McLean	Recreation	-
Home Care	-	Mrs. Sweet	Camp	-
Institutions	-		Relig. Educ.	-
Membership	-	Mrs. Irene Renaud	Research	-
Bulletin	-	Derek Keenan	Transportation	-
Programme	-	Harold White	Finance	-
				Stanley Welsh

Mar. 9th., - 1964 The Essex County Pony Association took the pupils of the Sun Parlor School through town on a real old fashioned hay ride in an old fashioned wagon drawn by ponies.

May 9th., - 1964. Mrs. M. C. Rock, herself the mother of a retarded child is shown with two pupils in the Star picture release featured in a story of her work in teaching music at the school. She has taught theory in her courses, given lectures and contributed to the Manual of Suggestions for Classes of Retarded Children published in 1954. She discovered the value of music in teaching the retarded when her own boy became less apathetic when she sang and played to him.

June 27th, 1964 - The marriage of one of the teachers, Ida Marge Thorpe to John John Neil McVittie of Weston, wedding to take place Aug. 1st. at New California United Church.

FIRST SUN PARLOR ADULT TRAINING CENTRE

Began operations September 8th, 1964 at the old No. 5 School in Sandwich South. Miss Marie MacLean was its first instructor and was open to all handicapped persons, 18 years of age and older. The official opening at the school on Malden Rd. was set for Saturday November 28th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Courses in academic, social and vocational subjects would be taught. Shown in the Star release of Nov. 30th, 1964 were John Crump, president of the Essex County Association for Retarded Children, Leamington; Herb. Taylor, Belle River, adult service chairman and Bert Bedford, clerk of Sandwich South Township, cutting the ribbon.

October 15th, 1964 - County Council agreed to give the school an additional \$2,500 grant toward its 1964 operating expenses. Beginning in January, 1965 the school would be operated under a Retarded Children's Educational Authority and would no longer receive grants from County Council. The town of Essex would collect tuition from various municipalities from which the school children come and this along with government grants, would be used to operate the school.

October 22, 1964 - Volunteer Fire Chief Allen Maedel, who donates hours of his time to the department took time out to drive the first truck to the Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children and give the pupils a chance to examine the equipment. The children's delight was equalled only by that of the fire chief. It was all part of fire drill and inspection conducted in the schools. Children at the school were wonderful at fire drill, chief Maedel said, "Personell cleared the school in 35 seconds. They couldn't attend the lectures but I felt they should have equal chance to ride on the truck."

Mar. 9th, 1963 - Children at the school were lending a helping hand to the Leamington Goodfellows by stringing the tags used to raise funds for the Christmas baskets for needy families. Cliff Wilkinson & Del Leslie of Leamington are shown with the finished product in the Star picture release.

THE SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

On January 1st., 1965, the school would enter a new phase of its history. On this date the responsibility of administering, maintaining and financing the school operation and transportation became the duty of the newly established "Essex Retarded Children's Education Authority". It will be their duty to control all aspects of the school operation but they do not have any concern for other activities of the Association.

This Authority is authorized by an Amendment of the Schools Administration Act, known as Bill 131. This Bill states that such an Authority must be established by Municipal Council in any community that has a school for retarded children and that this Authority shall comprise of 6 members, 4 of whom would be appointed by the Municipal Council and the other two by the Local Association.

The members for this new Authority for Essex are: Mr. George Rogers, Essex; Mr. Donald Wilson, Essex; Mr. Arthur Michael, Essex; Mr. Mac Simmers, Kingsville; Mr. Stanley Welsh, Oldeastle and Mr. Arnold MacLean, Cottam.

Bill 131 also provides that admission and dismissals will be handled by an Admissions Board to be made up of: School Principal; Psychiatrist or qualified Medical Practitioner; Public School Inspector; Separate School Inspector. The Principal shall be the Chairman of this Board.

The Department of Education would advance money to the Authority in January, 1965 so that they can carry out their duties.

This was a momentous year for the Association as stated in the president's Annual Report for 1964, these following things happened:

- Religious education was started at the school
- Joined the Essex County Ratepayer's Association
- Adopted the Flowers of Hope Campaign for funds
- A school booklet was published which will be revised each year.
- Had third successful annual summer camp
- A teacher's in-training fund was set up
- Some of the children participated in the Windsor Music Festival with Mrs. Rock directing.

- An Adult Training Centre was established
- Plans were drawn up for a proposed gymnasium addition to the school
- Trampoline Training Program was instituted
- Team teaching was introduced.

May 1st., 1965 - Nelson Duquette and Robin McLellan was shown counting seeds and hoping for a new gym in the Star release taken at the Sun Parlor School, Essex. The children have been busy packaging flower seeds and getting them ready to mail for The Flowers of Hope Campaign which begins in May. The drive is a national movement to raise funds for the education of retarded children. The goal at the Sun Parlor School this year is \$12,550.00 to aid in the construction of a gymnasium.

May 1st., 1965 - Keeping pace with current tree planting projects in the county, students at the Sun Parlor School, Essex, sold handicrafts which they made and used the \$20 proceeds to purchase two trees for the school yard. The trees were planted in a special ceremony and their growth will be watched with interest by the pupils. Planting a tree are Reeve Mac Simmers, Gosfield South, member of the school Authority and Dennis MacVicar, one of the students in the Star release.

June 14th, 1965 - Mr. William Quance, one of the founders of the Sun Parlor School was feted by members of the Essex County Association for Retarded Children at a dinner meeting in the Essex Legion Hall. He was Public School Inspector and was being transferred to the Cooksville area at the completion of the school year. Shown in the picture release by the Star were Mr. Quance and Mrs. Mervin Strehm, Association Vice-President.

July 31st., 1965 - Children are pictured in the pool from both Sun Parlor School at Essex and the Churchwood School at Windsor, swimming at the Kinsmen Pool at Leamington. The 60 children were attending the Kiwanis Camp on the shores of Lake Erie instructors said it was too dangerous for them to use the lake. Mrs. Sunny Ray is shown showing students how to work their legs.

Sept. 10, 1965 - "School Solves Retarded Case" ran the headlines in the Star. Every now and again incidents crop up at the Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children that are a great inspiration and make our work seem worthwhile remarked Mrs. Sunny Ray, Principal of the school, whose latest pride and joy is a husky nine-year old boy whose problem was not retardation as it was with other children at the school, but partial deafness.

The youngster, Erwin Bernauer, who has a thatch of unruly blonde hair and an

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

IMPISH GRIN was enrolled two years ago at the school after he failed to respond to an IQ test. Erwin's actions were unlike those of an retarded child and he became a sort of mystery to the teachers. Unable to talk he failed to respond to verbal instruction, yet he caught on quickly and could do things beyond the scope of his classmates.

He tried desperately to make himself understood, was subject to temper tantrums and had a deep emotional problem. The mystery was solved and he can be helped considerably by being fitted with a hearing aid so that he can learn the meaning of sounds and words which he would hear clearly for the first time.

Erwin's case is the second such experience for Mrs. Ray who has been Principal of the school since it opened in 1959. Her persistent faith that Kim Dominic was deaf and not retarded led to his being enrolled in a hard-of-hearing class where he is reported to be doing well.

Mrs. Agnes Langill, Erwin's teacher said the staff suspected from the beginning that Erwin's problem was deafness. One day the class was working with building toys and he put together a scooter in 10 minutes. "It was remarkable" Mrs. Langill said. "He caught the beat of music faster than most children and was bored unless given something to do with his hands".

Erwin's mother, Mrs. Erwin Bernauer of Kingsville took him to the Remedial Speech Association clinic in Windsor. Mrs. Melani Panyok, who examined the boy at the clinic said that in addition to being deaf, Erwin had a language problem since French was spoken in the home.

Mrs. Sunny Ray was pictured in the Star release with Erwin shouting into a cardboard tube and he tries desperately to imitate the sound.

May 10th, 1966 - The Essex County Association for Retarded Children were hoping to raise \$20,000 from its annual fund raising drive through the Flowers of Hope seeds sent all over Essex County rurally, which gets under way this week. They wished to build three new rooms and a gymnasium on the present school which was terribly crowded and 22 new pupils were being expected for the new term in September. They are still obligated to pay the operating costs of the training centre in Maidstone. It was an important part of their program since the centre provides an opportunity for students who must leave this school when they reach 18 years of age to continue training. There were 10 trainees at the centre who were doing commercial work. Pictured in the Star release was Mrs. Sunny Ray, Principal receiving a \$100 cheque from Mrs. Murray Cascadden, treasurer which had been donated by the Leamington Fire Belles, wives of the town's firemen.

May 5th, 1966 - Mrs. Farold Malott of Cottam showed her slides of a trip from Halifax to Vancouver at the general meeting at the Sunparlor School, Essex on this date.

June 1st., 1966 - Pictured in the Windsor Star were students at Sun Parlor School waiting for warm weather to try out an assortment of wagons and triocycles donated by the Leamington Jaycettes. Shown were Erwin Bernauer, Roseanne Duquette with Mrs. Richard Knight a member of the Leamington group who made the presentation.

May 27th, 1966 - Pictured in the Windsor Star was Donna Bensteau, a graduate of the Sun Parlor School demonstrating how trainees carry out the present contract job of sorting used rivets, to James Clark, Windsor, chairman of the board.

The Sun Parlor School in Essex and the Adult Training Centre in Maidstone are important additions to the areas's educational facilities. The centre with nine trainees and Mrs. Jeanne Collins as manager, has two assistant teachers and volunteers. It is open to all handicapped adults living in rural Essex County.

The project is financed by county grants, public donations and earnings from job contracts undertaken by trainees, who pay a fee of \$20 per month when they enroll. "Our goal for handicapped adults is to help them to achieve a degree of economic usefulness", Mrs. Collins said. The program is geared to serve three types of retarded: those who after adequate training may be suitable for placement in business or industry; those who may be able to work under supervision and persons because of their limited intelligence is limited to handicraft form of occupation under supervision. The public was invited to open-house on June 14th at the training centre.

Mr. Wilfred Greaves had joined the training centre staff for three days a week working in the manual training shop with the boys.

Oct. 6th, 1966 - There were 64 students at Sun Parlor School since September and proceeds from the Flowers of Hope Campaign up until now with more coming in slowly, was \$6000.

The group in the training centre lost one of its valuable leaders in the passing of Mr. Wilfred Greaves, instructor in manual training classes.

THE SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

Mrs. Sunny Ray, Principal of the school was 1966 chairman of the "Flowers of Hope" campaign for which proceeds will be welcome to further classrooms badly needed and also to further the work of the Adult Training Centre under the direction of Mrs. Jeanne Collins.

Camperships were being sought from the public or groups at \$25.00 each. Camp would be held from July 26th to Aug. 6th.

Again in 1966 the children of the school were preparing for their Christmas Concert, the date being set for December 14th at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall at Essex.

February 4th, 1967 - Mrs. Jeanne Collins, manager of the Adult Training Centre was kept busy with not only instructions and her teaching efforts but in completing the numerous reports. She is pictured in the Star making out reports. Also in the same release is a picture of Mrs. Frank Kane, one of the three part-time assistants at the centre, gives guidance to Donna Benetean, the only young woman worker and has become skilled at the sewing machine.

The story was a feature on the 54 year old Mrs. Collins who had been involved in hospital work and in reporting news, who instead of being ready to settle down and take it easy, took on the job of manager and director of the Centre, and was now the mother to 10 retarded adults. It's a full time job and she can't get enough help, either physical or financial for the good of the centre, or its workers.

Her day begins before 9.00 a.m. with the arrival of the 10 workers and ends hours after they go home at 3.00 p.m. She is their teacher, their guidance counsellor and their foreman. She plans the schedule of work they have and solicits jobs for them to do. When she's not after jobs to keep them busy, she's trying to get people to donate a few dollars to help the Centre and its workers. Mrs. Collins has three part time workers, at least one on hand each day, and the Centre itself is sponsored by the Essex County Association for the Retarded. Its budget for the Centre's activities this year is a meagre \$6,800, including salaries, operating expenses, transportation for the workers, maintenance of the building, and cost of materials used in the various projects.

The school had \$3,658 in the bank which leaves the Sun Parlor Training Centre a mere \$3,000 in debt. That's not bad, according to Mrs. Collins. The biggest project planned for this year will probably put the school over the top again. But just barely. The project is called "Flowers of Hope".

The workers fill envelopes with flower seeds, and a request for a small donation. These envelopes are sent to about 20,000 residents of Essex County. The ideal donation according to Mrs. Collins would be \$1 per person. At that rate the centre could net about \$18,000 after expenses, enough to purchase a new building for the centre. But the centre usually gets about \$4000 profit from the venture, enough to keep itself out of the red.

The centre also gets a \$1,300 grant from the Essex County Association for the Retarded. The remainder of the proposed budget money must be raised either through campaigns for funds or through actual work done at the centre and sold. At present the 10 workers who come from all over the county spend their days sorting out sweepings from the floors of Fabricated Steel Co., Ltd., Marine Division plant in Windsor. The sweepings consisting of everything from cigarette butts to steel rivets are collected, dumped into large cans, and transported to the centre, just outside Maidstone.

The floor dirt and cigarette butts are sifted out, along with steel filings. The remains are mostly rivets, screws, bolts and nuts. These are sorted into classifications, usually by size, and placed in smaller containers. When these buckets have been filled with objects that can be reused, they are returned to the factory and the centre is paid for its work.

Two or three days work at sorting the sweepings will bring about \$20 profit. This could mean upwards of \$60 a week, but the work isn't steady. The workers are laid off and must resort to other jobs around the centre.

March 6th., - 1967 - Essex detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police donated \$500 to the Association and Centre following a benefit hockey game. Essex defeated Detroit Police hockey team 8-3 before a capacity crowd in the Essex Arena. Shown in the picture Star release was Garry Daly, chairman of the hockey committee of the Essex detachment, Mrs. Jeanne Collins, Director of Sun Parlor Training Centre, Stan Welsh, president of Essex County Association for Retarded Children and George Pattinson, captain of the Detroit City Police hockey team.

THE SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

April 21st., 1967 - Ben Renaud, president of Branch 201 Canadian Legion in Essex is shown in the picture release by the Star, presenting a cheque for \$253 to Mrs. William Cascadden, Essex, secretary of Sun Parlor School for the Retarded. The money is the profit from a dance sponsored by the Legion and would be used to assist the training centre for adult students. The Association plans to purchase a site in Essex and move the training centre from its present location in Sandwich South Township.

May 13th, 1967 - Essex County residents can reap the two-fold reward of helping the handicapped and at the same time, enjoy the fragrance and view of attractive flowers by supporting the "Flowers of Hope" campaign swinging into action Sunday. Pictured in the Star release is Mrs. Percival Collins (Jeanne), Joseph McLean and Louis Tallier.

Mrs. Collins stated "We are the most isolated workshop in Ontario". She enumerated other detrimental factors; the heating is not adequate, the bathroom facilities are antiquated, drinking water must be brought in daily. She remarked that if the trainees were unionized we might have a picket line. They would like to be located where the articles made by the trainees could have a better chance to be seen by the public and thus marketed.

May 25th, 1967 - Dr. Isabella Ralph, supervisor of Ontario Hospital School, Cedar Springs, was guest speaker to the Association at Essex District High School. Pictured in the Star release was Rev. H. W. Hyland of Maidstone United Church, Director of Religion at the school, Dr. Ralph and Anne Littlehales of Windsor. More than 100 persons attended to hear the speaker.

"Encouragement, affection, understanding and respect are the keys to a happy and productive life for a retarded child", Dr. Isabella Ralph said. She emphasized that there is a place in our world for the retarded child, noting all that is required to help him take his place is proper understanding and correct teaching. Handicapped children are accomplishing more and more because of advanced training and stressed "no child is now a hopeless case". She noted there are many jobs which the retarded can be taught to do and do well. She stated there were 1000 children at the Ontario Hospital School and about 700 staff members.

Following her talk the children of Sun Parlor School presented a centennial program, under the direction of Mrs. Louise Roek, school music head. Canada's history during the past 100 years was featured.

Sept. 29th, 1967 - Official opening of the new addition to Sun Parlor School for Retarded Children was set for Oct. 19th. F. J. Reynolds, administrator, special schools and services, Ontario Department of Education would be guest speaker. The addition was built at an approximate cost \$118,000. It includes two classrooms and a playroom. Costs were being shared by the provincial government and the County of Essex. The expansion was necessitated by increased enrollment, attendance had doubled in the last three years, and now there are 72 pupils. Matassa Construction Co., Leamington was awarded the contract; and plans were drawn by Trace & Gies Architects, Windsor for the one-story 42' x 65' extension.

Oct. 20th, 1967 - Pictured in the Windsor Star at the official opening of the extension of the Sun Parlor School were F. J. Reynolds, Administrator, Special Schools & Services, Toronto, guest speaker; Stanley Walsh, president, Essex County Association for Retarded Children; Mrs. Cara Cascadden, Secretary-treasurer, Essex County Children's Education Authority.

"The winds of change have become prevailing winds in the field of mental retardation", F. J. Reynolds, said Thursday night. The education expert noted the number of schools for the retarded had more than doubled since 1956 and that school enrolment had more than tripled.

Mr. Reynolds said the co-operation of the group with individual citizens, service clubs and related groups "exemplifies the forward looking and responsible attitude which is typical of this county".

Those participating in the ribbon cutting ceremonies and opening were besides Mr. Reynolds and Stanley Walsh; ex-mayor of Essex, Marvin LeClair, Association vice-president; Rev. H. W. Hyland; Donald Paterson, MPP (Lib., - Essex South) John Haddad, executive director, Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded; William R. Quance, Inspector of Special Services, Toronto Township, and Donald Wilson, Chairman Essex Retarded Children's Education Authority.

Nov. 14th, 1967 - MOVING DAY - Pupils at the Sun Parlor Training Centre have moved from Maidstone to new quarters at Pope Pius X School on the Edgar Road North of Essex. In Star release two of the students are shown carrying equipment

from the school bus. Mrs. Percy Collins and Mr. Florian Poppe expect the present enrolment of 10 students to increase to 12 shortly.

November 28th, 1967 - Kingsville Lions Club presented a cheque for \$500 to the A. R. C. Centre, those pictured in the Star release were J. S. McHarg, president of the Kingsville Lions, Mrs. Percy H. Collins, manager of the Centre and Ray Cascarden Vice-president of the Kingsville Club, as the Lions made the presentation.

Dec. 11th, 1967 - Members of the Windsor Sartoma Club were shown in an assembly line Sunday afternoon at the concession booth at the Windsor Drive-In Theatre preparing 1000 Christmas stockings which would be distributed to area retarded children centres. The club distributes the stockings every year. The Drive-In facilities are provided by Manager, John Dayzoo.

Mar. 5th, 1968 - The Sun Parlor School has set up a training school at Essex Baptist Church for pre-school children. Classes would be held Monday through Wednesday mornings in the church Educational Centre. Mrs. Mae Ganderton is class instructor; she is seen with John Belog of Emeryville in the Star pictures release. Purpose of the program is to prepare children for further education. Volunteer assistants were being sought.

February 19th, 1968 - BENEFIT GAME: The Essex detachment of Ontario Provincial Police went down to defeat at the hands of the Detroit Police Department in the fifth annual benefit hockey game for the Essex County Association for Retarded Children at Essex Arena. The money raised, about \$600 would be given to the adult training centre and the Sun Parlor School. Pictured were George Pattinson, player-coach for Detroit; Gary Daly, Essex O.P.P., committee chairman; Stanley Walsh, Oldeastle, president of the ECARC, and Lee Deland, captain of the Detroit team.

Sept. 18th, 1970 - More than 1000 persons were expected to take part in the Essex County Walk for the Mentally Retarded scheduled to begin at Essex, Sept. 26th, 1970, at 8.00 a.m. It will begin from the Essex District High School and proceed along a 20-mile course back to the town. Checkpoints for the walkers would be placed every two or three miles along the route.

All secondary schools within the county had registered students for the walk and assemblies would be held to finalize plans for the youngsters. Refreshments would be served along the route, and an insurance policy has already been taken out by the committee to financially protect any marcher struck by a car during the walk.

Walkers are expected to register at each checkpoint along the route in order to qualify for a certificate which would be presented later.

The Walkathon was sponsored by the Kinamen Club of Essex and they hoped to realize \$24,000 from it. Following the walk it was reported very successful with between \$22,000 and \$23,000 collected and still much to be collected that was sponsored for. The proceeds was to go towards the new A.R.C. Industries Building.

The Association has purchased property in the Town of Essex on No. 3 Hwy. for the new workshop. Plans for the building have been started and it is hoped that they would occupy their new building in late Spring. Learning Construction have been granted the tender to build the new 60' x 96' workshop and the initial payment to the amount of \$15,142. was authorized and remitted to the Builders on April 12th, 1971. It is an \$80,000 structure and has begun after a great deal of property hunting, plan selection, approvals, fund raising, grant approvals, loan approvals and countless meetings.

February 16th, 1970 - Sounds of music were echoing through the halls at Sun Parlor School again. The Kinettes donated sufficient funds to purchase a piano and other musical instruments. Mrs. M. C. Reek, school music director was pictured in the Star release with Gary, 11, Ronald, 10 and Donna, 7.

March 21st., 1970 - From the funds it raised showing children's films in McGregor and Amherstburg, the U-N-C, a county-wide teen group, 18 years old and over donated \$75 toward the Essex County Nursery School for retarded children. Kati Dama and Richard Magri of Leamington hand the cheque over to Mrs. James Markham of Essex, treasurer of the nursery school committee and are pictured in the Star release.

Dec. 29th, 1970 - Essex County Board of Education was seeking Ontario Municipal Board approval to spend \$424,848 for the construction of a new school for retarded children to replace the present structure.

May 27th, 1971 - Graduation night for 10 of the senior pupils. Musical selections by the Senior Choir, Band and Mrs. Reek. Speaker - Mr. John Hrene - architect, Would present plans for the new Sun Parlor School.

This month also, three visitors from Ontario Hospital School, Orillia, visited for In-Service training, Jack Davis, Mrs. Lois Laughlin and Mrs. Marg. Bradford.

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN (CONT.)

May - 1971 - Mrs. Shirley Hartley was welcomed as the newly appointed Manager of the Workshop.

ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

Staley Welsh, Jr. Pres. -	John Canil - 1st. V.-Pres.
Marie Markham - 2 V-Pres.	Rose Klassen
Thelma Edwards	Joseph Aussant
Roger Lavergne	Ralph Peters
Herb Taylor	Sunny Ray

Mr. Robert Coulter, Deputy Reeve of Kingsville was appointed by the Essex County Council to sit on the Board of Directors of the Association.

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Secretary-Treasurer - J. Chevrier, Essex
Adult Services - John Canil
Membership - Pat Franco; Rose Klassen
Publicity - Michael Franco; Joseph Aussant
Residential Care - Rose Klassen
Research - Rose Klassen
Bulletin Editor - Jean Chevrier
Transportation - Stan Welsh
Programme Chairman - Sunny Ray
Home Care - Marie Markham
Nursery Chairman - Marie Markham
Camp Committee - Ralph Peters
SUN PARLOR SCHOOL - Mrs. Sunny Ray
NURSERY SCHOOL - Katie Walters
A.R.C. INDUSTRIES - Mrs. Wighton
ASSOCIATION OFFICE - J. Chevrier

Sept. 30th, 1971 - Area Rebekah & Odd Fellow Lodges purchased a van for the A.R.C. Workshop in Essex. The keys to the vehicle were given by Del Leslie, District Deputy Grand Master Erie District 2 of Leamington to John Canil, Chairman of the A.R.C. Industries, of Windsor. Also pictures in the Star release were Mrs. Wilma Spaunburg, District Secretary and Mrs. Hildreth Willan, District Deputy President, both of Leamington.

November Bulletin - 1971: Sun Parlor School had 92 pupils. There was a change in regulations regarding age of leaving school (Retarded) (now to 21 years) they have welcomed back six of their graduates to A.R.C. Centre. They had four in attendance in the Nursery School.

The Annual Christmas Concert would be held Dec. 15th, at 7.30 P.M. in the Auditorium, entitled "Theatre in the Round". The Auxiliary dance proceeds showed approximately \$800.00 profit.

May, 1970 - Mrs. F. Langan of Maidstone supplied us with an electric kiln for firing ceramics, along with patterns and equipment to go with it. It will open up a whole new field for the Training Centre.

May, 1969 - The younger child had his opportunity to enroll in school - Nursery School, that is, when Mrs. Mae Ganderton, armed with love, patience and concern opened the Sun Parlor Nursery School in the Baptist Church across the street from Sun Parlor School in 1967 with three pupils, and not without growing pains and increasing problems, her little family grew from three to six and in June, 1968 half of the class graduated to Kindergarten in Sun Parlor School. In September of that year Rev. Thistle announced that a new church was being built for his congregation and of course this meant new quarters. The Town of Essex gave the Association permission to use the bungalow school on Irwin Ave., just in the rear of the new Town Offices. This building hadn't been used for a number of years and was badly in need of cleaning and repairs, so a crew of volunteers spent one day cleaning and scrubbing and then slowly but surely as funds were being donated, by different interested groups, renovations began. It was in this set-up that Mrs. Ganderton and Mrs. Katie Walters and three pupils moved in in January, 1969 but as of May, 1969 there were eleven pupils attending school. Five of the pupils would be attending the Kindergarten in September.