

ESSEX RETARDED CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AUTHORITY

OPERATING

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL

Mailing Address  
Box 721, Essex, Ontario

115 Talbot St. N.  
Essex, Ontario

June 19, 1969

Dear Mr. Hartley:

A little over 10 years ago, Sun Parlor School was a dream in the hearts and minds of parents who wished sincerely for educational opportunities for their children who were "different".

For your part in helping this dream come true and your continued interest and support in the development and growth of Sun Parlor from it's first day opening of four pupils in January, 1959, to it's fulfillment, 91 pupils, under the Essex County Board of Education - in June, 1969, we say a true and sincere

Thank You and God Bless You

The Children and Teachers of

Sun Parlor School

*Sunny Ray*



# Series of events to honor ECAMR

By Brad Honywill  
Star Essex Bureau

ESSEX — Stan Welsh doesn't feel comfortable at the centre of attention.

But over the next week he will be in the spotlight as he is honored twice for his contributions over the last 25 years in founding and developing the Essex County Association for the Mentally Retarded (ECAMR).

The first event is tonight when Welsh, a retired Bell Canada worker, will be honored at a dinner and dance in McGregor's Knights of Columbus hall along with 12 other founding members and the association's four original students.

Thursday, he will be honored in Kitchener at the Southwestern Ontario Volunteer Awards by John Sweeney, minister of Community and Social Services.

Others being honored are Henry Hartley, Eve and Howard Market, Doris and the late Chester Marshall, Eleanor and Brien Pettypiece, Violet and Gerald Shanahan, Doreen Welsh, Sunny Ray and Pat Tierney. The four students are Terry Market, Nancy Welsh, Larry Shanahan and Helen Pettypiece.

Welsh's involvement began in the

late 1950s when he was having trouble finding a school for his mentally impaired daughter Nancy.

The regular system "wanted to dump her in a corner and forget about her," he said Thursday.

He helped other parents form and operate a half-day program out of an abandoned one-room school house at the junction of South Talbot Road and Malden Road.

THE PREDECESSOR of the Windsor Association for the Mentally Retarded, the Windsor Association for Retarded Children, took the Essex group under their wing, supplying a teacher, supplies and a station wagon. The first class was in January 1959.

By 1961, the Essex Town and District Association for Retarded Children had a charter and moved into a large Essex home they purchased for \$20,000. In September 1961, it was incorporated as the Essex County Association for Retarded Children.

When schools boards were consolidated in Essex County in the late 1960s, they assumed the role of educating mentally retarded children and the association established workshops to train retarded adults.

Today the association operates vocational centres in Essex, Amherstburg and Tecumseh, where sales of manufactured craft goods reached \$170,000 last year. In addition, the association provides developmental, residential, vocational, transportation and support services to more than 200 developmentally handicapped persons in Essex County.

The association's budget has grown to \$3 million, \$2.6 million from the province's social services ministry and the remainder from other sources, including Essex County council, and fund-raising activities.

To Welsh the last 25 years have meant a change in attitude toward the mentally retarded.

"WHEN WE FIRST opened the school here in Essex the high school kids used to go by and make faces at the children," Welsh said. "Now I want to help these kids. There seems to be an acceptance there that didn't exist with the older generation."

A number of events are planned May 11 through May 15. There will be an open house Monday at ARC Industries in Essex, Tuesday at North Industries in Tecumseh, Wednesday at Sun Parlor Nursery in Essex and Children's Residence in Essex, Thursday at Assessment Home in Essex, and Friday a reception at the main office in Essex.

For more information call the association at 776-6485.



**AIDS RETARDED** — Members of the Essex and District Association for retarded children admire the new station wagon purchased from part of the proceeds from their recent drive. Balance of the money will be used to extend school building. A second driver has been hired and a rented vehicle will be used in bringing the 18 pupils to the Sun Parlor School. From left, Dave Freeman, chairman of the campaign, Mayor Elmer Queen, vice-president and Henry Hartley, president.





**ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED**

49 Talbot St. N., Essex, Ontario N8M 1A3

Phone (519) 776-6485

May 21, 1987.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hartley,  
R. R. 1,  
Maidstone, Ontario. NOR 1K0

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hartley:

On behalf of the Essex County Association for the Mentally Retarded, I would like to express my appreciation for your attendance at our "25 Years of Service" celebration.

As a founding member of E.C.A.M.R. you have made many outstanding contributions toward identifying and providing for people with special needs in the Essex County area. The time and energy put forth by yourself and your colleagues has not only established educational, vocational, residential, and transportation services to a very special group of individuals, it has drawn the support and recognition of the community.

The Essex County Association for the Mentally Retarded looks forward to a bright future in the tradition of its founding members. Your innovative ideas have inspired us throughout the years and will continue to provide encouragement in years to come.

Please accept the enclosed pin as a token of our appreciation and a special thanks for your interest in an organization of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,

Timothy Coughlin,  
President.

TC:cm  
encl.

## FOUNDING MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Henry Hartley  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Market  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Pettypiece  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Shanahan  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Welsh  
Mrs. Sonny Ray - Teacher  
Ms. Pat Tierney - Teacher's Aide

## FIRST STUDENTS

Miss Terry Market  
Miss Nancy Welsh  
Mr. Larry Shanahan  
Miss Helen Pettypiece

## 1986/87 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. T. Coughlin	Mrs. M. Barnes
Mrs. S. Hutchinson	Mr. M. Carnevale
Ms. J. Dennis-Delaney	Mr. J. Kennedy
Mr. S. Welsh	Mrs. P. Neilson
Miss L. Hawkins	Mr. E. McCarthy
Mrs. D. Gascoyne	Mrs. J. Myles
Mr. T. Welacky	Mr. D. Gulyas



ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

MENTALLY RETARDED

CELEBRATES

*25 Years*

OF SERVICE IN ESSEX COUNTY

*"Thank you to all our friends"*

Incorporated, 1961



**Dinner and Dance**  
**Friday, May 8th, 1987**  
**Knights of Columbus Hall**  
**McGregor, Ontario**

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. — Cocktails

6:30 - 6:45 p.m. — Master of Ceremonies  
President, Tim Coughlin

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Grace
- Toast

6:45 - 8:00 p.m. — Dinner

8:00 - 9:00 p.m. — Introduction of Head Table  
Introduction of Special Guests

9:00 - 1:00 a.m. — Dancing

- Music by: "Atlantis"

**OPEN HOUSE WEEK**  
**May 11th through May 15th, 1987**

**Monday, May 11, 1987**      A.R.C. Industries  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.      372 Talbot St. N., Essex

**Tuesday, May 12, 1987**      Northshore Industries  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.      119 Lesperance Rd.,  
Tecumseh

**Wednesday, May 13, 1987**      Sun Parlor Nursery  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon      125 Maidstone, Essex

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.      Children's Residence  
251 Talbot St. N., Essex

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.      Relief/Assessment Home  
190 Talbot St. N., Essex

**Thursday, May 14, 1987**      Channel Industries  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.      Fort Malden Mall,  
Amherstburg

**Friday, May 15, 1987**      Open Reception  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.      Central Admin. Building  
49 Talbot St. N., Essex

**Monday through Friday**      Display Viewing  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.      Central Admin. Building  
49 Talbot St. N., Essex

Wednesday, May 20, 1987.

## The Essex County Association For the Mentally Retarded Celebrates a silver Anniversary



The Essex County Association for the Mentally Retarded reached a milestone recently, as it celebrated its 25th anniversary.

with many founding members in attendance.

Pictured at a banquet on May 8th at McGregor's K of C Hall are the founding members and four original students:

In the back row, from left to right, are Larry Shanahan, one of the original students; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Shanahan; Ms. Sunny Ray, the original teacher; Mr. and Mrs. Stan Walsh; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hartley; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Market; Terry Market, one of the original students; and Mr. Mrs. Brien Pettypiece. the front row, left to right, are Nancy Welsh and Helen Pettypiece.



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# ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

MEMBER OF THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

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This is to Certify that

*Henry Hartley*

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is constituted a Life Member of the Essex County Association for Retarded Children  
in recognition of long and meritorious service to the Association.

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PRESIDENT

*Stanley S. Walsh*

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SECRETARY

*Margaret S. Walsh*

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*First Day at*

## *New Sun Parlor School...*



**Principal Mrs. Sunny Ray welcomes the 90 pupils of the school on their first day in the newly constructed building. The school is situated on Maldstone Avenue, directly behind E.D.H.S.**

On their first day in their new school the 90 pupils of the Sun Parlour School greeted their 12 teachers in their shiny new classrooms on Monday morning.

The \$350,000 building contains 11 classrooms, a gymnasium, home economics room, and an industrial arts workshop. It includes classes for those from kindergarten to age 21 of both separate and public school status.

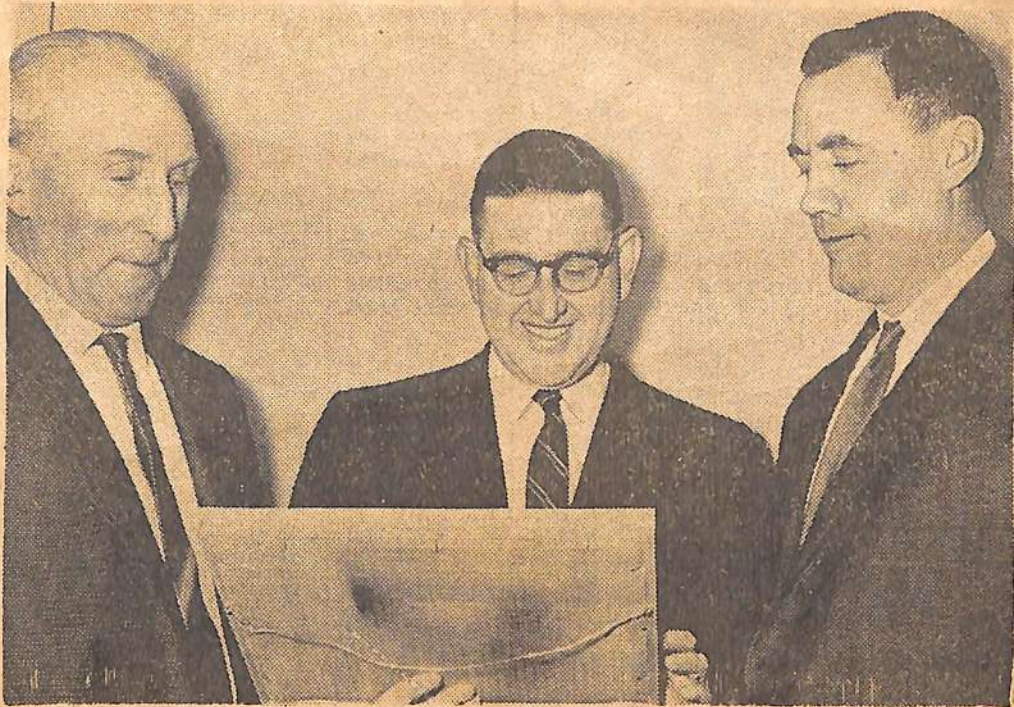
Students come to the school from all of Essex County and the town of Wheatley. The first school for Children with learn-

ing disabilities was opened in 1959 with 4 pupils. By the end of that year there were 12 pupils and by 1961 there were 36.

The home of Dr. D.W. Clark was purchased and used as a school at that time and facilities were offered to children of all the county.

Principal Mrs. Sunny Ray said, "Our other building served our needs while we were there but it became too small. That's Progress. We now have the facilities to do the things we need to do."





**LIFE MEMBER**—Henry Hartley, Sandwich South, was presented with a life membership in the Essex County Association for Retarded Children at a special meeting. Mr. Hartley's compassion for retarded children from rural areas in the county prompted the start of the Sun Parlor School for Retarded Chil-

dren in an abandoned school house in Sandwich South in 1959. The school was recently located in a larger building in Essex. From left: Mr. Hartley, E. B. Campbell, Sarnia vice-president of O.A.R.C., guest speaker, and Stanley Welsh, Sandwich South president of County Association for Retarded Children.