

The Spectator, Tuesday, January 23, 1973 11 Busy farmer long involved in education

WALPOLE TOWNSHIP

Don Duxbury is a busy man, but he manages to devote much of his leisure time to education.

The chairman of the Haldimand county board of education was swamped with year-end paper work at his 200-acre farm but he took time to talk of his involvement.

Mr. Duxbury was born and raised on the farm started by his great grandfather in 1885, in Walpole township. Concession 8, a few miles north of Haldimand, is where the farm in partnership with his semi-retired father. "You never retire on a farm," he says.

They own 200 acres, but are operating 300 acres. The business has grown to 145 head of cattle. Mr. Duxbury, 43, employs two men and runs a spread, which has property on both sides of the concession.

"I DON'T get up as early as I used to, but we're up in good time in the morning," he says. "I do the milking myself morning and night. A lot of the other work is done by the help we have."

A neighbor of Walpole Reeve Gordon Miller, Mr. Duxbury started farming during the second World War, after finishing Grade 11 at Jarvis continuation school.

"Unfortunately, the days when you grew up on the farm you became a farmer or you became a teacher or engineer. There's no in-between now," he said. He didn't complete his secondary education because

DON DUXBURY

"Geared to one purpose"

action. It was just one of those things that somebody went out and got done. There weren't any contentions at that time.

"In those days, board members were chiefly involved in the nuts and bolts department, so to speak. A

board's chief responsibility today is making policy. We're not involved in replacing that somebody or seeing that it's done any better.

With four children in various grades in school, and a former teacher, Mr. Duxbury has a wife, Mrs. Janet McBride, and a son, Jim, 21, is in the third year of a mechanical engineering course at Waterloo University.

Mr. Duxbury, 19, is in first-year veterinary medicine at the University of Guelph. Brian, 16, is in Grade 11 and Bruce, 14, Grade 8.

"Having a family in school gives you a real feel for the system as it is concerned. But, of course, you have to be pretty careful in taking advantage of your own family in school. You're not trying to run a spy system," he said.

MANY TIMES HE has to take the things his children say because they don't often understand the whole story behind the problem. Mr. Duxbury claimed to succeed former chairman Wes Kee at the board's managerial meeting earlier, supports the present standing committee system.

His parting remarks in December, Mr. Kee recommended that the board change to a committee-of-the-whole system and appoint ad hoc committees when they are necessary.

"The reason we have decided to resume the committee system is because it has worked well on this board. Members have become much more involved as individuals," he said.

"OUR BOARD has functioned well this way, and we hesitate to change it until we see as it seems obvious to prove it. After all, education is like everything else in life. It's a process of evolution that isn't going to stand still. Many people feel that when we have an educational system, you set up the three Rs and that's it."

"BUT HOW could education possibly stand still when everything else around us changes? It's not practical. So we're bound to be looking and experimenting to a certain extent, and trying to improve."

However, Mr. Duxbury will be keeping an eye on the regional government situation in Haldimand county and in bordering areas.

He is concerned about "rumors" that educational boundaries should be rearranged to fit municipal boundaries. In pointing out that the provincial government has revamped the educational system in Ontario only four years ago, he said the problem in changing educational boundaries to fit municipal boundaries is that officials become concerned with building empires rather than trying to serve the needs of the students.

"Our whole program is geared to one purpose: the action that takes place between pupil and teacher in the classroom. This is what education is all about," he said. "We have to be careful that we don't build an administration system that takes up so much of our energy and resources that we don't end up with time to do the job we originally set out to do."

MR. DUXBURY, chairman of three major committees in the four years in which the county board has been in existence, doesn't see any major problems on the horizon for the board.

"The ongoing problems in education are trying to enrich the program. And it has to be tied in with the content to which you can afford these innovations. It's a slow process because we're not interested in

Open House At Jarvis P.S.



Debbie (centre) and Scott (right) showed their mother, Mrs. Janet McBride some of the work on display at Jarvis Public School's open house last Thursday. (Staff Photo)



Janice Wilson, Tracy Deller, Kim Hazlett, Gail Biddle, Sandra Bruff (left to right) and Brenda Wilson (back) put on an Aztec display in Mrs. Marilyn Hall's grade five and six class at Jarvis Public School's open house last Thursday. (Staff Photo)



Tricia (left) and Tracy Miller showed their mother, Connie some of their work at Jarvis Public School's open house last Thursday. (Staff Photo)

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