

CENTENNIAL TREE PLANTING AT W. GWILLIMBURY PARK BY GRADE 7 SCHOOL CHILDREN

A project planned by the Centennial Commission in preparation for 1967 is to have school children, across the country, participate in tree planting in the parks of Canada, and for this area arrangements were made to have this planting done at the new Holland Valley Conservation Authority park in West Gwillimbury, north of Bradford, on Friday last. The project was in charge of the Canadian Centennial Commission and the Conservation Authority, with the trees and officials who directed the work of planting, from the Department of Lands and Forests.

The project is planned for three years, beginning this year and culminating in 1967, and, according to information received, began this year with Grade 7 boys and girls; next year for Grade 8 and in 1967 by Grade 9, the idea being to create a better appreciation of one part of conservation and to help create a living memento of Canada's birthday.

In this area some 37 pupils from Bradford public school; 30 from No. 1 West Gwillimbury; 25 from No. 2 West Gwillimbury and about 30 from Innisfil township participated in the tree planting, being taken to concession 10, off Highway 11, by buses engaged by their own school boards.

The pupils were met by men from the Department of Lands and Forests, who supplied the boys with shovels and gave trees to the girls, and then directed the boys in digging and planting, while the girls held the trees in place. The trees planted are said to have averaged about 25 per boy.

When the separate schools of St. Mary's and St. Charles' were contacted by The Witness regarding pupils participating in the project, it appeared that staffs of these schools had not been informed. Further enquiry indicated that the public schools learned of it through their school inspector. Because children always enjoy having a part in every such enterprise, it is hoped that care will be taken in the following years to have advance notice given to all local schools. If notified, The Witness will gladly cooperate in giving this publicity.

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