Reading convention held at York; it packed them in morn 'til night

By EVAN LEIBOVITCH

Last Friday night, Canada's Secretary of State, Hugh Faulkner, called upon educators from across Canada to help to further the aims of the government in maintaining a multicultural mosaic among the Canadian people. His speech, before a packed audience in Winters Dining Hall, capped off a massive conference held at York during reading week.

The conference, called Reading '76, commenced on Wednesday and ended on Saturday. During that time, Ross, Curtis, the underground tunnel and Founders Dining Hall were jammed with the 1,500 people who attended the conference, sponsored by York's Centre for Continuing Education.

The major problem facing the organizers was the huge scale of the operation. Every lecture hall and classroom in Curtis and Ross was used, including the Senate Chamber on the ninth floor. Each day's schedule was packed, beginning at eight in the morning for most delegates.

Speakers, seminars, and sessions took up most of the delegates' time until five, and most nights were taken up with guest speakers. During the session times, delegates had to choose from among up to 48 different subjects, ranging from "Miscue Inventory" to "The Forgotten Years—Grades 4 and 5".

Between sessions, delegates were able to look over displays put out by textbook publishing companies

Chief programme co-ordinator Anna Cavaliere said that it would



Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner speaking at Reading '76.

be almost impossible to expand the conference beyond its present capacity. After the self-destruction of one Curtis lecture hall, organisers had to work furiously at preparing alternate room allotments. From the conference office to N141 Ross, Cavaliere said that in order to be centralized, all the classrooms had to be in the same complex, ruling out the possible use of Complex I. "It was used two years ago, but the system there was inadequate," she said.

According to Cavaliere, the only other major tie-up was caused by the mail strike, because over 800 applications had to be taken by phone. Lodging for the delegates

was arranged at the Yorkdale Holiday Inn and the Skyline Hotel.

Cavaliere expressed regret that a large number of applicants had to be turned down because of the limited capacity of the conference. In most cases, boards of education from across the country sent representatives, but some delegates came independently and paid their own way.

Food service, provided by Rill, did not change in quality during the conference, according to many students, but Cavaliere said that she had received no complaints and that most delegates were pleased with the atmosphere York provided.



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