

# Participark worries school board

By JOHN STEWART  
Times staff writer

The education committee at Queen of Heaven Separate School in Lakeview has raised about \$9,000 for a "Participark" but the separate school board is afraid neighbors may be unwill-

ing participants.

The education committee, comprised of parents and teachers, built a creative playground earlier. In conjunction with the Kinsmen Club it wants to build a "Participark" sponsored through the

federal Participation program. It consists of a trail around the school property with 11 fitness stations. A similar project was recently installed at Clarkson Park near Clarkson Secondary School.

The request has been

deferred by the separate board until a staff survey is completed concerning reaction to existing creative playgrounds.

Archie Papineau, the separate board's controller of plant, says the fitness trail will be within a few feet of most yards

near the school.

When a creative playground was installed last year at St. James school, many neighbors complained. "The trail is going to be so close to neighbors that we're concerned," says Papineau. "What happens if you get

crowds of teenagers and adults, or you get bikes and motorbikes using the trail?"

Gabriella Piotto, chairman of the education committee, says a survey of the surrounding homeowners has already been conducted. "They

all seemed quite thrilled," she says. Since the creative playground was installed, "there's been less vandalism because there is always someone in the school yard," she says.

The board is also checking with its lawyer to determine potential liability for injury.

The education committee had hoped to use parent volunteers to install the fitness trail in October, but the board's concern may delay their plans. A full report will be made to the board next month.

If the project can't go ahead, the funds already raised will be used to establish a toy lending library instead. That was to be the education committee's next project.



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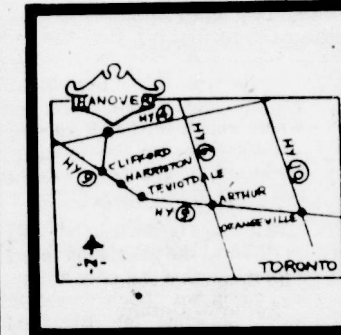
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## These people want action

Four couples on Wilcox Road in Mississauga Meadows want the Peel Board of Education to get their retirements off to a good start.

Lloyd Bagley explained the residents' position to the board last week.

The rear portion of their lands on Wilcox Road is designated for a school site.

Developers have shown interest in their properties, but lose their enthusiasm when they discover that a school is slated for the area, says Bagley.

"We've sat on this land for 10 years waiting for the school board to do something, but it hasn't happened," said Bagley. "As you can imagine, the sale figures in our retirement plans."

Three of the four couples have been living on Wilcox Road for over 30 years.

Bagley suggested the school site might not be necessary, considering declining enrolments. In that case, the land could be used for development purposes.

"We think the onus is on the board to release its claim or make some settlement with the owners," Bagley said.

Board staff will report on the matter at the Aug. 26 meeting.

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