

□ CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PREPARATION IN SWITZERLAND □

Neuchâtel Junior College in Switzerland has been preparing North American students for successful university careers for the past 30 years. The second generation of "Neuchies" is growing.

The school of approximately 70 students continues to offer the Ontario grade 13, or Ontario Academic Courses recognized by the Ministry of Education. It is in the heart of the city of Neuchâtel which has a population of about 40,000, and is situated between Lake Neuchâtel to the east and the Jura Mountains to the west. The town is surrounded by vineyards which produce the wines for which the region is famous. Chocolate and watch and clock making are the major light industries.

All the students at the Junior College live with French-speaking Swiss romande families where little or no English is spoken. By the end of the school year, most of the students become fluent in the spoken language which the Neuchâtelois claim is the purest in Europe. The academic courses at the school and the cultural activities which the students are encouraged to attend ensure that they get a well rounded exposure to the language and culture of their environment.

A wide range of trips to Italy, France, Spain, Morocco and England are organized by the school for the long holidays, and students can look forward to many weekend ski trips to the Alps during the winter. In this way the students have a unique opportunity to experience the great art and traditions of the past as well as the present day attractions of Europe.

A happy outcome of the year is the lasting friendships formed. Among themselves, the graduates organize



their own reunions, and most will agree that their year at Neuchâtel was one of the most memorable of their lives. Each year many former students drop in at the school to visit and reminisce.

Because of its situation and its reputation over the years, positions on the teaching staff are sought after, and therefore the faculty at the school is highly qualified and enthusiastic. The principal, Mr. Murray Magor, M.A. (McGill), took over the leadership of the school this past summer after having spent the last several years as headmaster at St. George's School in Montreal.

Neuchâtel Junior College has a unique position as an independent school. It has a Board of Swiss educators appointed by the City of Neuchâtel, but it adheres to the guidelines of, and is inspected by, the Ontario Ministry of Education. It is, in

effect, a part of the Swiss education system, but offering a program for Canadians which includes all the major grade 13 subjects, and O.A.C. courses as they are established.

The successful completion of six credits allows students to be accepted at Ontario universities. Québec universities accept the one year program at Neuchâtel as an alternative to CEGEP. American universities may give advanced placement to students with O.A.C. credits.

Many students attending the Junior College are already proficient in French having followed French immersion programs, and can take advantage of the many academic opportunities available at the Université de Neuchâtel and at the Ecole de Commerce.

Mr. Leonard Wilde founded the school in 1956 to allow North American students to spend a year in Europe.