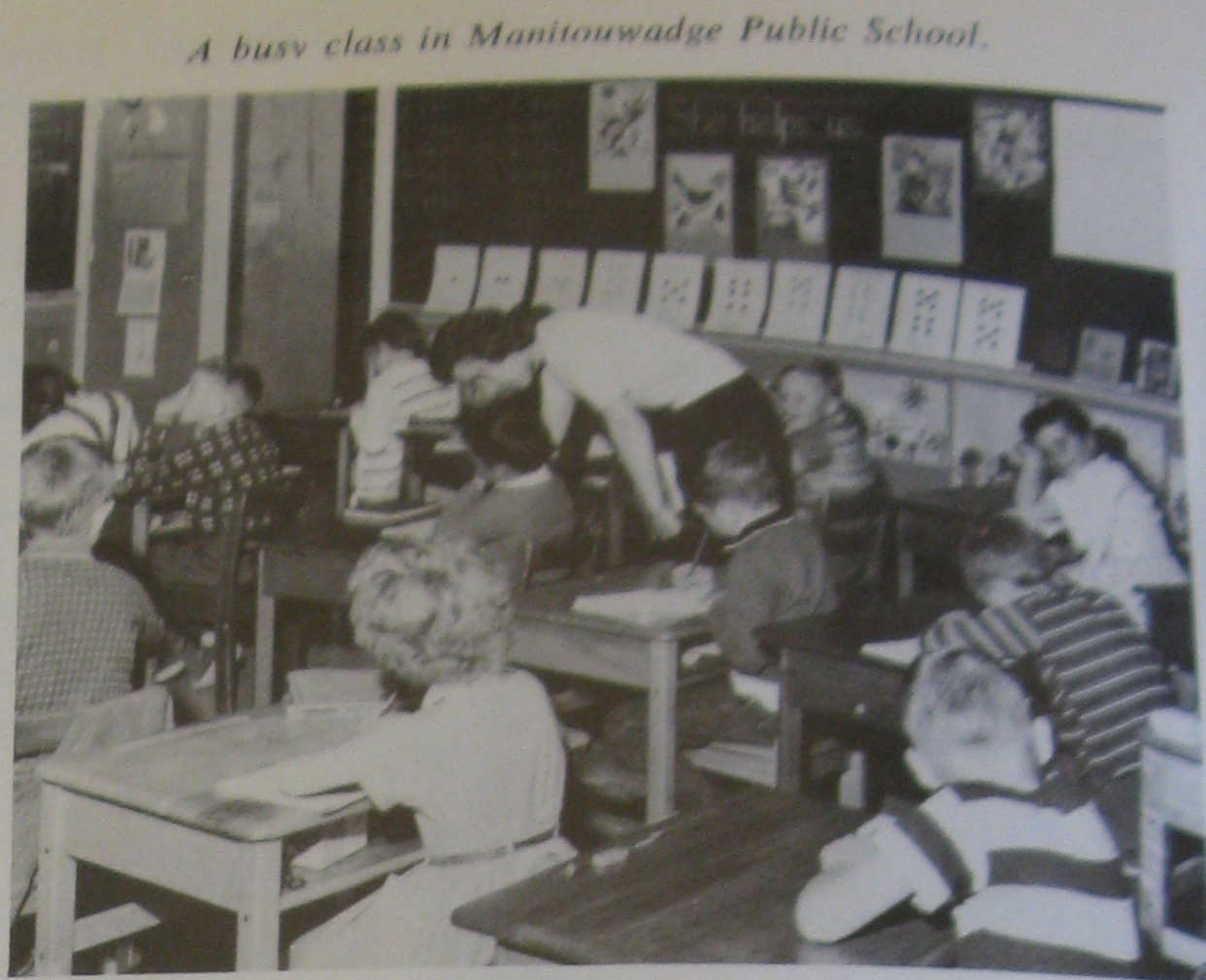




*The interior of the Public Library.*



*A busy class in Manitowadge Public School.*

*The hospital stands on the edge of the lake.*



magnificent contribution to the community in the form of a million-dollar-plus recreation centre that went into operation in 1965. The centre contains a four-sheet curling rink, an arena for year-round use that will seat 400 people, an auditorium, a library, club rooms, meeting rooms and other amenities. The annual operating costs are defrayed through a membership plan in which local employers and employees pay equal shares.

The year 1962 was one of wholesale civic improvement in Manitowadge and, as a result, every street

in the town is now paved and the street lighting system is complete. Incidentally, all wires are strung in lanes behind buildings so the streets are free of unsightly festoons of wires. The Bell Telephone exchange is entirely automatic. Thanks to the initiative of a group of townspeople, residents are able to enjoy regular television with better reception than would otherwise be possible in an area so distant from the points of transmission. Programs from the Lakehead and Marquette, Michigan, are "piped in" at a nominal cost. A C.B.C. "booster"

outdoor swimming pool was opened to the public and work was started on a nine-hole municipal golf course. A gift of \$130,000 by Noranda Mines Limited plus an allocation of \$65,000 by the municipality and a further \$20,000 raised by public subscription made the two projects possible. Paved tennis courts have been added at the community centre.

The rapid expansion of the school population (up by 500 per cent since 1957) has posed special problems for the municipality. Townspeople are justifiably proud of the fully modern public, separate and high schools. But by 1963 it had become evident that a major addition to the high school was urgently needed. Geco Mines stepped into the breach with a contribution of \$300,000, sufficient to ensure that taxpayers would not have to meet any special levy for the expenditure, nor even the interest charges that would have resulted from debenturing the project in the normal way. The remaining \$137,000 required for the school addition was to be received from the Ontario Department of Education as a capital grant.

The same company made another

tower now makes all network programs available to townspeople.

The fire department, whose chief is the only full-time paid member, is the pride of Manitowadge residents. The department has been awarded top honours both for Ontario and all Canada as the most efficient fire-fighting organization in municipalities in the same population range. It has ranked eighth in Canada in competition with all municipal fire departments.

In its early days Manitowadge

found garbage disposal to be a real problem because of hazard to the forest presented by burning rubbish, combined with the nuisance — and possible danger — of bears which, attracted by the prospect of a free meal, swarmed to the dump every evening. The solution to both problems lay in the construction of a highly efficient incinerator.

With a view to recreation, entertainment, and self-improvement the people of Manitowadge have gone to remarkable lengths in establishing such organizations as ski, curling and swimming clubs, a drama group and bridge clubs. All these activities, supplementing the work of such standard organizations as the Canadian Legion and the service clubs make for a busy and happily self-contained community which is made up largely of comparatively young people. Altogether, 48 separate "activity groups" are operating in the town.

The life of Manitowadge is, of course, based on one industry — mining. Undoubtedly this will be the case for some years to come, but a broadening of the municipality's economic base is seen as the ultimate aim.

The present population is about 3,500 but, if the concept of the

community as a resource centre and an urban municipality to serve people living over a broad area is realized, it could and probably will grow very considerably in the coming years.

A major step in that direction was taken with the opening in 1962 of the last short road link that was required to give access from Manitowadge to Highway 11 to the north and, even more important, a direct route through Manitowadge connecting this highway with the Trans-Canada route, Highway 17, to the south.

The incorporation of Manitowadge as the first Government-planned municipality in Ontario stemmed from the decision of the provincial government that no more so-called "company towns" should be set up in organized territories. This decision was completely in line with the wishes and policies of the mining companies concerned.

The Improvement District system gives the municipality complete control of fringe area development over an area of 144 square miles. Manitowadge is presently governed by three-man board of trustees appointed by the provincial government. The arrangement entails financial problems peculiar to



*Sunday Mass is over at the Roman Catholic Church, and the congregation heads for home and lunch.*

*The new separate school in Manitowadge.*

