



mathematics, and it was felt that such an association would assist teachers across Canada to share ideas to improve mathematics instruction in individual provinces.

CAMT was a good idea, but financing members to attend meetings was a problem for many of the provincial mathematics associations, and, as a result, CAMT folded.

## W.S. Lencucha

1971-74 *Department of Education Representative*

THE MATHEMATICS COUNCIL must be congratulated for the tireless effort that has been put forth in promoting teaching methodology that centred on the activity and hands-on approach to develop children's ability to think creatively and in the major direction taken in the area of problem solving which carries through the learning process. To me, the whole approach centres on developing the "thinking process." Through its work, MCATA promotes inservice activities for upgrading teachers in new approaches; others in faculties of education are to be recognized for their sincere efforts to prepare more qualified mathematics teachers. Great improvement has resulted, particularly at the elementary level.

Although I have had limited experience visiting classrooms during the past 10 years, I have recognized a major change in math education with the entry of the computer. However, a weakness remains in

secondary education in that a number of our teachers do not possess the specialty or a major in the educational program. In many schools, this has proven detrimental to what our expectations are. However, let it be clear that a teacher with a proper major is a godsend to secondary education.

In closing, I find the result of the Math 30 uproar (I do not concur with the teacher reaction) important because of the Blue Ribbon Panel's review, which will bring renewed effort to emphasizing the importance of mathematics in the school curriculum and to directing changes that may be necessary.

My years as a mathematics teacher and educator bring only pleasant memories, particularly because of the special people who have a devotion and love for mathematics with whom I was privileged to be associated. My regards and best wishes to all members of MCATA.

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 Actually I am enough of an academic to believe that ideas are even more powerful than nuclear weapons.

John Polanyi  
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