

Northside-Victoria Local



2012
Retiree Banquet

Northern Yacht Club
May 26th, 2012



**Congratulations and Best Wishes to the
2012
Northside-Victoria Local Retirees**

*"You are today
where your
thoughts have
brought you; you
will be tomorrow
where your
thoughts take you."
~ James Lane Allen*



Retirement

Life is a grindstone for sure and whether it grinds us down or polishes us up depends on what we ourselves are made of.

As you retire from a long career of working with young people the lessons in life you have learned and taught are many. Doubtless you've learned that wisdom is as much knowing what answers to give....that learning is sometimes finding out what you already know....and that no words are more effective or valuable than those that come from the heart.

As far as what you've taught...well....in a nutshell it was the students not subjects and the impact they will have on our future whether they grab the torch and run well with it or falter having tried their best.

Your classrooms have served as entrances to the real world not as an escape from it. You may never really know where your influence stops or whether you've been the kind of influence you'd hoped to be at all for you've carved your name in the hearts and minds and not in marble where it's so easily seen.

You've taken time, many days, to be a little kinder than was necessary and you've swallowed words, forgiven transgressions and turned the page and moved on when doing that was extremely difficult. You've gone home many nights worn to the bone with the challenges of that work day and you've gone home with many nights with hours more work left to do but very soon now the days and nights will be yours....the challenges you set will be yours, the work left to do will find its own tomorrow and time will fly by on well rested wings.

As you retire we celebrate what you've accomplished and it is right and it is good and it is a pleasure to do so. You've been a leader and a willing follower a mentor and a sponge you've been steadfast yet pliable and determined yet spontaneous.....you've been both the learner's mountain to climb and the learner's wind.

For many years now you've answered the alarm as if it were a bugle and you've mustered up the strength and the courage you may not have known you had. You've been a superhero without a cape. A magician without a potion and a wish, that for many, happily came true. As the chalk dust settles, the markers dry out and the pen refuses to dance across the plan-book anymore, your legacy or wide open smile, caring words and intelligences live on. For when people really make a positive difference, the dent becomes a dimple.

Congratulations on your new beginning!
Congratulations are only second, though, to the thanks we owe you most of all!

Debbie Murray

Theresa Seward

Theresa currently teaches at Jubilee Elementary, where she has been since the year 2000. Over the years, Theresa has taught in various schools including St. Mary's, Bras D'or, Florence, George's River, Archibald and Notre Dame. She has taught all the elementary grades from Primary to Grade 6.

Theresa is married to Randy, and they have two daughters, Sara and Katelyn. In her spare time, Theresa enjoys reading, gardening and walking. Over the last number of years, there has been a lot of singing, drama and drawing happening in Theresa's Grade 1 class, as she was one of the teachers who brought the Animated Literacy program to Jubilee.

At the beginning of each week when the rest of us were dragging our heels down the hall, Theresa would give a little jump in the air, click her heels and say, "It's a new week – I love Mondays!" She was game for anything from staff parties, karaoke, to Three Men in a Tub. She always tried her best to never leave anyone out, especially the children.

Theresa loved to bake Apple Crisp and Gingerbread men with the children. After school, Randy was in charge of the kitchen. She will have a hard time getting her apron away from him. Some of the things Theresa will be glad to pass on will be her keys, which were often on the missing list, and coming to school early just to unload the dishwasher.

As Theresa retires, she looks forward to spending more time with her family, especially in her new role as a grandparent, and relaxing at her cabin in Ross Ferry. Enjoy your well deserved retirement, Theresa, and know that you will be greatly missed by the students and staff of Jubilee.

Marlene Bailey

Born in Montreal in 1954, Marlene moved to North Sydney, Nova Scotia with her father Joe and her mother Margaret (Madden) Rahey when she was just four months old. It was here that she received her early training and decided at the age of four, that she would become a teacher.

Marlene attended Teachers College in Truro, N.S., graduating in 1975. In September of that same year, she accepted her first teaching assignment with the former Northside-Victoria District School Board, where she was the first to begin a class for Exceptional Children at St. Mary's Elementary, North Sydney. Marlene has since enjoyed a long and successful career in the field of Special Education, Resource, Music, Early Elementary Education and Administration.

Marlene's teaching experience continued with a Resource Circuit position in 1982. Based at Notre Dame in Sydney Mines, her assignment included St. Joseph's Sydney Mines, St. Joseph's North Sydney, Florence, and Central Elementary, North Sydney. In 1986, Marlene was assigned to the Music Circuit which included Central, Florence, Gannon Road, St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, Millcreek, and Alder Point, for a total of 600 students.

In 1987, Marlene was asked to administer testing for all Special Needs classes on the Northside, returning to the classroom in 1989 as a Special Needs teacher. In 1990, she taught Grade Three at St. Mary's and in 1991, was the first teacher to teach a split class in North Sydney, which consisted of Grade One and Grade Two students at St. Mary's Elementary. In 1992, Marlene taught Grade One at St. Mary's and in 1993, she began her present Learning Centre assign-

ment at Ferrisview. Beginning in 2005, Marlene served as acting vice- principal at St. Mary's Elementary and was appointed vice- principal of St. Mary's - St. Joseph Complex within the same year. She has continued her administrative duties while teaching full time at Ferrisview Elementary, and has been instrumental in establishing a foundation of cohesiveness and co-operation among the members of our community and our school.

Marlene has been actively involved in professional and community organizations for over thirty years. She has served on the provincial executive for the Intermediate Teachers Association. She has been a member of the Association for Teachers of Exceptional Children ,where she worked to acquire technological funding for autistic children. She has been an active participant in the Northside Drama Festival and the Northside Public Speaking festival. Marlene has also served as a long time Nova Scotia Teachers Union representative for the former St. Mary's Elementary.

Marlene is a devoted member of St. Joseph Church, North Sydney and has served as senior choir director for twenty five years. During this time she had also conducted the children's choir for several years. She is an active member of the St. Joseph Catholic Women's League, and has been awarded the 2012 Maple Leaf Lifetime Achievement Award. She has taught Brownies and Guides and has served as an active volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society and the Special Olympics. Most recently, she has been awarded the 2012 Northside -Victoria local Excellence in Teaching Award by the staff of Ferrisview.

Marlene has demonstrated her devotion to her profession by continually assuming a leadership role. Throughout her career, she has facilitated in the implementation and promotion of current educational methodologies and techniques.

Ray Musgrave

Ray, presently staffed at Thompson Junior High, has been practicing social work for the past 42 years. Ray began his career with the CBVRSB in 1991 at the Northside Learning Center. His present tenure with the CBVRSB involves servicing various schools within the board.

Ray is married and has three sons. In his spare time Ray enjoys reading and a good round of golf. He is also a long time member of the North Sydney Rotary Club. He is also a recipient of the Local's "Excellence in Teaching Award" (2012).

One of his proudest moments was receiving his Masters of Social Work and having a son graduate as a social worker too (like father, like son). Future plans involve relaxing, travelling, and continuing some private practice in social work.

A favorite saying of Ray's is "There's a whole lot more **good** kids out there than we often realize." Ray also learned that classroom teaching is much more challenging than perceived by the public.

One piece of advice Ray would like to pass along is to provide help and support to new colleagues which will also be a learning experience for yourself. Ray's legacy is being the 'first' school social worker with this board and now there are 'three' and it is recognized as a "specialty".

Although Ray will be dearly missed, he can look back with pride and satisfaction on years well lived and look forward to all the things yet to enjoy. Best wishes Ray. Now the fun starts!!!

Rose Marsh

Rose Marsh has been an exceptional teacher, a kind mentor, but most of all, a great friend to everyone at Memorial High.

Rose graduated from Acadia University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. After spending a year travelling the world, Rose returned to Acadia and graduated with a Bachelor of Education in 1978. Although Rose demonstrated great skill as both a Biology and Chemistry teacher she eventually found her niche in the Memorial High Math Department.

Roses' competence as a Math teacher is only surpassed by her kind heart and genuine compassion for the countless children she has taught.

Roses' life outside school is family, family, family. She was brought up in a large close-knit family and as the oldest of twelve, her nurturing skills were keenly developed at an early age.

Rose married her high school sweetheart Raymond, together they raised two wonderful children, Lindsay and James.

Rose always said she would graduate with James, being a woman of her word she will begin her retirement as James goes off to university. Rose will now also have time to enjoy the planning and anticipation of Lindsay's' fall wedding!

Rose we have mixed feelings as we celebrate this moment, we are so happy for you, but of course we will miss you! Enjoy

She has recognized and supported the talent and abilities of others so that they may benefit from every educational opportunity. Marlene possesses a natural gift for instilling in others a deep regard for education and has, through example, nurtured within us all, a love of learning.

Marlene has experienced nearly four decades of change which has brought about tremendous challenges. She has met each challenge with a resolute calm and professional demeanor, never losing sight of the most important element, her students. Marlene truly believes that all children are different. They possess their own unique strengths, needs, gifts and talents. She believes that with gentle guidance, patience and mutual respect, all are capable of realizing their potential.

Marlene is a devoted wife and mother to her dear husband John, to whom she has been married for 27 years and to her wonderful children Meghan, John David, and James, who have been her greatest source of joy and pride. Her family has always been her most important accomplishment. Our sincere wish for Marlene is one of good health, happiness and success as she begins a new life filled with promise. On behalf of her colleagues, family, friends, students and parents of Ferrisview, we extend to her our deepest gratitude for her many years of devotion to her chosen profession.

Mary Lou Fleming

Mary Lou began her 37 years of teaching in the area of Home Economics at Cabot High in 1975. From there she spent six years at Sydney Mines Junior High, and two in Dr. T.L. Sullivan. She was introduced to elementary in 1984 when she taught at St. Mary's for a year, ventured on to Archibald for 15 years, and worked her last 12 years in her current school, Jubilee Elementary. Mary Lou instilled confidence in her students which enabled them to rise to the challenge of reaching their full potential. It is only fitting that some of her proudest moments have been reading about former students moving on to a higher education.

Words of wisdom shared by Mary Lou would be to treat others the way you would like to be treated, and to be a good listener. Mary Lou was a kind and helpful mentor to teachers new to her grade level, sharing her ideas, materials and experience.

Mary Lou enjoys oil painting, skiing, walking, and golf. In her years of retirement, Mary Lou would like to do some travelling to Florida, Alaska and maybe the Mediterranean. Most importantly, she plans to relax and take life easy one day at a time.

Enjoy your retirement, Mary Lou, and know that you are leaving the profession respected and loved by students and staff.

Patrice MacNeil

Patrice graduated from St. Francis Xavier University with her BA in 1975 and Acadia University with her Bachelor of Education (Special Education) in 1976. That year she accepted a position as a Resource circuit teacher for the five elementary schools in Sydney Mines. Patrice taught for nine years in Sydney Mines before working one year as a permanent substitute and the following year as part-time Resource / Speech on circuit throughout the board. In 1987 she accepted a Resource position at Seton Elementary in North Sydney. While at Seton from 1987 to present day, Patrice taught Resource, Grade 5, Grade 1, Primary, Grade 3 and Grade 2. She was also the Vice Principal for 12 years at Seton.

During the thirty-six years as a teacher and administrator, Patrice says there are too many stories and special moments to share in this forum. She has said she has had the privilege to work with so many wonderful and special students and teach alongside talented and caring teachers that each year has been rewarding and memorable. Thank you to all the students who have come through her classroom door.

One bit of wisdom she has learned over the 36 years is when you put the children and their needs first everything else falls into place! Patrice will miss teaching, but is ready for retirement. She looks forward to no alarm clocks, spending time with her children and grandchildren, learning how to play golf and travelling.

Best Wishes for a wonderful retirement.

Ruth MacDonald

Ruth Mac Donald has spent most of her career teaching elementary grades at Baddeck Academy. She always looks forward to coming to work each day and being with the children. That, for Ruth, is what teaching is all about! After she retires, she looks forward to spending more time with her new granddaughter, Vivian, as well as with the rest of her family.

Denise Hawley

Denise (Doucette) Hawley is known by many names: Sputnik, Neach, Mrs Hawley, Nanny. Born in Ingonish Beach, she is the fourth of eleven children. Her parents, Gerald and Jackie Doucette, owned and ran the Esso station.

Denise excelled in school. Her grades were always near or at the top of her class. This was true in grade school and in university. Comfortable with numbers and words, she functioned equally well in the arts and sciences. Denise was part of Cabot High School's first graduating class. She attended Dalhousie University for one year, then transferred to St. Francis Xavier University where she completed her Bachelor of Arts and her Bachelor of Education.

Mrs. Hawley taught for thirty-one years: long enough to have taught three generations of the same family. Denise had worked in Dingwall, Neils Harbour, Cabot, and Cape Smokey. While at Cabot - twenty-eight years- she taught in all the grades but spent most of her time in junior high. Denise taught many subjects: Language Arts and Math being the main concentrations. Denise always had a love for poetry. Her students were encouraged to write original works and submit them to competitions. She was proud of the work they created. In her last three years at Cabot, Denise was the resource teacher.

She always believed that every student had something to offer and she had a special gift of finding what that was and helping them reach their full potential. While at Cabot, Denise also looked after the public speaking program where she was often the driving force behind students' successes. They earned many awards, including several first place finishes. Her last teaching

years were spent at Cape Smokey Elementary. In that short time the teachers and students knew that this was someone special.

Denise and her husband Keith have raised three daughters: Alison, Jenny, and Lara. Granddaughters Julia and Madelyn also manage to spend a lot of time at Nanny's. Denise is devoted to her family. She is an acknowledged cook, gardener, and blueberry picker.

Denise's talents extended beyond school and her home. She was also a keen athlete. While attending Dalhousie she played basketball for King's college and was well known at the Dal. pool. Denise also competed in cross country skiing, winning a provincial women's double competition with her favorite sister. She also spent a fair share of her time at the tennis courts.

Mrs. Hawley's dedication to her job, loyalty to colleagues, students, friends and family have set a standard difficult to duplicate. Her retirement is truly a loss to the teaching profession but a gift to wherever she chooses to devote her time and energy.

Debbie MacDonald

Debbie graduated from St. Francis Xavier University with her Bachelor of Science in Foods and Nutrition and Bachelor of Education. She began her teaching career at Sydney Mines Junior High in 1980. In 1983 Debbie transferred to Memorial High School and taught at Memorial for the next six years. The following year she made the choice to move to elementary. Although Debbie enjoyed teaching junior and high school students, the passion for her teaching and students was ignited in elementary. She taught at St. Mary's Elementary from 1989 to 1993. Debbie transferred to Bouldarderie School where she remained for the next six years before transferring to Seton Elementary in 1998. From 1998 to present day, Debbie has taught at Seton Elementary.

During her thirty-two years as a teacher, Debbie has taught every grade from primary to twelve, except Grade 2. Debbie's philosophy for her success as an educator was a simple, but an extremely effective one. Her special talent for letting "her kids" know they were valued, respected and loved made all the other educational pieces of the puzzle fall into place. The sparkle for "her kids" is still glowing in her eye, even in this, her last year of teaching. She is looking forward to the next chapter in her life, spending time with her grandchildren, golfing, traveling and being able to take time for herself. Best wishes go with her as she begins this next chapter.