

holds final graduation

Students, teachers, alumni and their families gathered in the gymnasium of Monteith-Shillington Public School, Thursday, June 23 for a very special event: the school's final graduation.

Principal Gord Phillips said he had enjoyed a close relationship with the graduates, and said, "If I could hand-pick a class to close the school and leave me with good memories, each and every one of your would be in it.

"You have all contributed a great deal to the pleasant memories I'll need for my old age," he said, and added that "each and every one of you has taken me a step closer to my old age, so that I can enjoy those memories that much sooner."

Phillips told the graduates that there are two types of education—that which teaches you how to make a living, and that which teaches you how to live—and he said they are equally important.

Phillips abstained from telling the audience about the more interesting occurrences at the school, and claimed he was saving them for a book.

He bade the graduates farewell, and said "It's been grand (knowing you). I care very much about you; go and good luck."

Dan Doey of Shillington presented Phillips with a plaque from students and former students of the school and their families, thanking him for his services.

Superintendent of schools Ray Michon and Cochrane-Iroquois Falls Board of Education trustee James Clarke also wished the graduates good luck. They agreed the closure of the school after this year due to declining enrolment is unfortunate, and said "the school will be missed." Both complimented students and staff for the school's fine play this year: *The Princess and the Trolls*.

This year's graduating class consisted of Thomas Bennett, Michele Desrocher, Heather Doey, Melissa Doey, Melissa Gervais, Patty Guy, Patrick Hetherington, Christine Page, Lori Peever, Kirk Pullen, Tina Pullen, Charlie Shields, Samantha Walasek and Lori Walker.

As the graduates filed into the gymnasium, the senior choir sang *The Graduating Song* under the direction of Jacqueline Marshall. Chairperson for the evening was Melissa Doey.

Charlie Shields announced that this year's valedictorian

expressed regret that the school is being closed. He also said this year's school production was fine.

The highest academic standing trophies, presented to the boy and girl with the highest marks, were presented by Nancy D'Agostino to Charlie Shields and Lori Walker.

Kirk Pullen was awarded a trophy for being the most athletic boy, and Heather Doey and Samantha Walasek were voted the most athletic girls.

The Ross Bastien trophy for best camper went to Audrey Simon.

The student who contributed most to the school was Audrey Simon. That trophy was presented by Rob Cawthorn.

The top Grade 7 trophy was presented to Melony Walasek by Jacqueline Marshall.

The most improved student trophies donated by the Monteith Women's Institute went to Michele Desroches and Thomas Bennett. Those awards were presented by the institute's president, Kate Hoffman.

For having academic average of 70 per cent or more, the following students received gold medals: Lori Walker, Samantha Walasek, Charlie Shields and Patrick Hetherington.

School crests were given to Thomas Bennett, Michele Desroches, Heather Doey, Melissa Gervais, Patty Guy, Patrick Hetherington, Christine Pagé, Lori Peever, Kirk Pullen, Tina Pullen, Charlie Shields, Audrey Simon, Samantha Walasek and Lori Walker.

The staff award, presented to a student when his or her teachers think it appropriate, went to Patrick Hetherington.

Lori Peever, one of the graduates, gave out thank your gifts from the students to community members who were helpful to the school over the years. Diane Hetherington and Betty Lacoursiere were given recognition for their help with activities at the school. Julie Clarke received thanks for being cook at Camp Waskesiu, and Ina Smith and Wendy Phillips were thanked for being camp nurses. Bill McGee received thanks for the many trophies and crests he has donated to the school over the years. Marg McGee was also thanked for her help with school activities, and Evelyn Belhumeur also received thanks for her help to staff and students.

Refreshments were served after the ceremonies in Room 1, and a dance was held for the graduates and their friends.