



Steel
Nov. 22/03
p. D2

HENRY
BURY
Intelligencer

Scouting has had a profound influence on Paul Deryaw's life.

And the Ann Street resident considers it a real honour to have a similar influence on the lives of youth in the Belleville Scouting movement during almost the past three decades.

"To be big in the life of a child is the greatest reward an adult can have. It's a fitting epitaph in any life," said the 52-year-old Registered Practical Nurse who works on the rehabilitation ward at the Belleville hospital.

"I just think being involved in Scouting gives you that opportunity of being a positive influence and role model in a child's life."

Deryaw is in his 27th year in Scouting and has done everything from leading a Cub pack and Scout troop to serving as badge secretary and Cub commissioner.

Earlier this month he took on a new role, as curator of the Belleville Scout-Guide Museum located in the former teacher education centre at Sir James Whitney School. He succeeds David Bentley, who has looked after the museum for the past 25 years, but will remain as an advisor to Deryaw.

"I am profoundly honoured to be taking over as curator of the museum that David has taken from a one-room exhibit to a world-class museum which is the only one of its kind in Canada. I have big shoes to fill," said Deryaw.

He has a simple goal as museum curator.

"I hope to carry on the rich tradition that this museum has enjoyed over its 27-year history and to maintain the high regard that it enjoys currently," he said.

"More and more people are finding out about our museum. And we are pleased and honoured to give, on request, free

tours to any interested group from either Scouting or Guiding, or youth groups from the community, or interested adult groups. Visitors will find this museum very interesting."

The museum boasts more than 22,000 artifacts, including exhibits on Sir Robert Baden Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, and his wife, Olave Solmes-Baden Powell, as well as colorful and interesting badges, uniforms, books, stamps and mugs.

The museum has also been a labour of love for Deryaw.

Over the years, he has scraped and painted walls and floors in the museum, built shelving units and display booths and donated everything he has collected during