

Continued

Baker.

"She was the first woman, I understand, to receive her professional purchasing degree in the early 1970s," said Donaldson.

During Donaldson's three years at the board office, she married Don in 1973, and the couple raised a daughter, Katie.

Donaldson left the school board and went to work for Ontario Hydro for the next 21 years. She began at the then eastern regional office at 420 Dundas St. East (the site of a grocery store) and transferred to the Belleville district office on North Front Street in the early 1990s.

Ontario Hydro was downsizing in June 1997 and almost three months later, Donaldson rejoined the public school board.

She then spent six years as student supervision monitor at Trenton High School.

"It was a new job that had never been in the secondary schools before and I was one of the pioneers. That position is still around today," she said with a smile.

Her job was to ensure that students who were scheduled to be in class were indeed in class. She checked the halls, smoking areas and parking lots for truant students.

"It was my job to escort them to class and assign detentions," she said. "I enjoyed the interaction with students, although it was challenging at times. The students and I developed a mutual respect for one another."

She joined the staff at Hillcrest in Jan. 2004 and the school's approximately 125 students have taken an extreme liking to her.

"It's an amazing little school. It's very community-minded and the kids are adorable ... to have such positive interaction with students as young as four years old is exhilarating."

Donaldson has also formed a special bond with a group of students from the William R. Kirk satellite class at Hillcrest.

"I love them right to pieces. They are so honest and sweet and they respond to my attention."