

Moffat, Wally

# honored

## '...enjoyed relationship with the students'

By Henry Bury

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Wally Moffat followed in his parents' footsteps — albeit a few years late.

The Tweed native left a 10-year career in banking and finance to enter the teaching profession shortly after his 30th birthday.

Twenty-eight years later, he's retiring in August from the Hastings County Board of Education — the last 11 as education superintendent and this year's co-winner of the Sir Mackenzie Bowell Award as top educator in the county.

"Both my mother and father were teachers and I always had a leaning toward that," the 62-year-old Moffat said Wednesday. "I'll miss education to make the adjustment to retirement."

Moffat, appropriately enough, began teaching business education at Centre Hastings Secondary School in Madoc. Five years later, he became vice-principal. After a three-year stint as curriculum co-ordinator at the Education Centre on Ann Street, he was appointed principal at Centennial Secondary School in 1980. In 1984, he became superintendent.

In his superintendent's role, he was responsible for continuing education (summer and night school and adult literacy), high school staffing and negotiations and hiring teachers and selecting principals.

Moffat said he's enjoyed every facet of his career — teacher, principal and superintendent.

"Being principal is the best job in the system because you have the most impact on what happens to students," he said. "I especially enjoyed my relationship with students, working on improving their self-worth and making them feel good about themselves."

As superintendent, he helped hire new teachers and improve their skills, select and train new vice-principals and principals through professional development activities.

"For different reasons, all three jobs were equally rewarding. But I still miss the everyday relationship with the kids."

Moffat plans on keeping his hand in education by doing some consulting work for the board, faculties of education and teachers' federations in the area of training and professional development.

He'll also help his son, Terry, in an antique furniture and refinishing business.

Besides golfing and travelling, he enjoys going to auction sales. "Now, I'll be able to go on school days," he quipped.



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