

34-year principal credits his teachers

John Morrow set to retire after lengthy career

By Henry Bury
The Intelligencer

TRENTON — John Morrow has something else to look forward to besides Christmas.

He's retiring later this month as principal of College Street School here, thus bringing a 34-year career as elementary school principal to a close in Hastings County.

"I just like to experience something else in my life besides educational pursuits," he said this week.

After 34.4 years — all as principal of seven different county schools — Morrow said he's ready to retire.

"There are things I want to do in retirement," said the 54-year-old Morrow, adding he's probably the longest-serving principal in Hastings County.

"I've had the best job in education," he said.

The job was stressful, though.

"As principal, you're responsible for management of the school, discipline inside the school, curriculum implementation, evaluation of your teachers and staff, long term planning, goal packages every year and all the administrative duties that go along with the job."

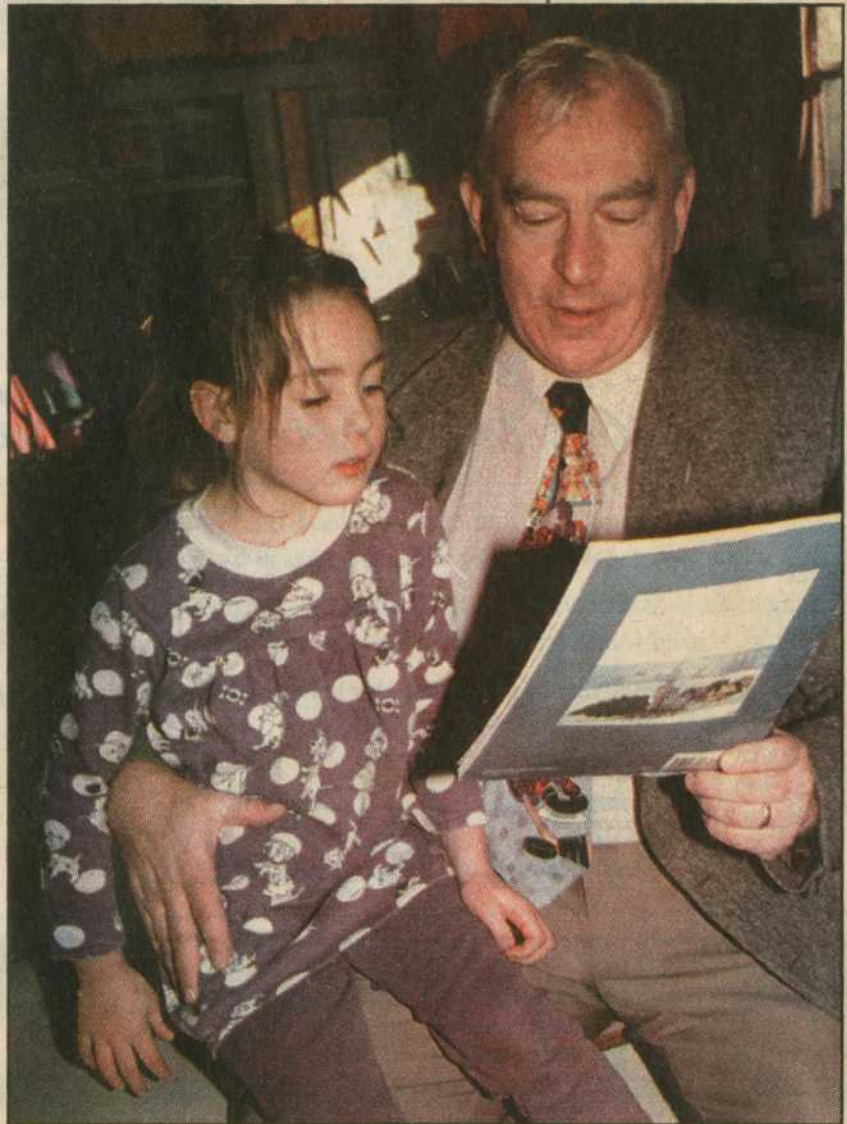
But Morrow said staff from every school he's been involved with over the years "have had a lot of fun and laughter. That's important."

The Wooler native and long-time Belleville resident got his start in education in the fall of 1963, after graduating from Peterborough Teachers' College and East Northumberland Secondary School in Brighton.

Morrow's first job was as principal of Turner's SS No. 16 Sidney Township in Halloway. The two-room school had 100 students.

"Besides being principal, I also taught Grades 5-8 for three years," he recalled.

He was then assigned as principal of Bayside Public 1 and, during his tenure, saw two large additions completed at the facility.



Intelligencer photo by Henry Bury

Principal John Morrow to look at Samantha Willman's Grade 1 workbook in this, his final week, as an area principal.

When the Hastings County Board of Education came into being in the fall of 1969, Morrow was again moved. He became principal of North Trenton School for two years, followed by three years at Hillcrest in Belleville and seven years at Tyendinaga School.

Morrow has been at College Street School since the fall of 1985. Friday was his last official day on the job.

He said he's grateful for having had the opportunity of serving in education in the county.

"I've been able to work in seven wonderful communities, with thousands of students and hundreds of dedicated and compe-

tent teachers. I've had eight vice-principals, 18 superintendents and at least 13 different school secretaries over those years."

For Morrow, though, teachers are the "key people" in education.

"Whatever changes happen in education, teachers make it work. They're in the trenches, making it work."

Morrow said he's also been fortunate in another respect.

"I've had outstanding parent councils who have supported me and been extremely loyal. And because of them, I've been able to take risks and accomplish a lot more for the students in the schools," said Morrow.

Intell, Dec 20/98 p.8