

School opening gave Barlow a nice warm feeling

By Stephen J. Beecroft

"This gives me a nice warm feeling!"

It isn't often one sees Deputy Mayor Jim Barlow speaking from the

heart. Mr. Barlow often uses prepared speeches which he reads very carefully.

The opening of the new Janet Lee Public School in Upper Stoney Creek was the exception, however. People saw the real Jim Barlow — the life and soul of many a stag, the outgoing member of a very outgoing club — the Optimist Club of Stoney Creek and the president of the city's oldest bowling alley.

He had his prepared speech, carefully typed by his secretary at city hall. He also had a speech carefully prepared for the regional chairman, Bill Sears, who was unable to be present.

Mr. Barlow carefully read the prepared speeches and then folded them and shoved

them into his jacket pocket.

"Now I can make my real speech," he said, taking off his glasses.

ALWAYS LAST

"The deputy-mayor is always last when it comes to speeches, but it doesn't matter," he quipped. "As a school trustee I worked very hard with (former trustee) Pat Foye to make this dream come true."

He said that being deputy-mayor of Stoney Creek was "rather like being the vice-president of the United States.

"He only gets to go to openings and things like that when the president isn't in town. Thank God the mayor wasn't in town tonight. I'm glad to be here."

That was when Mr. Barlow said a school opening gave him "a nice warm feeling."

He urged the students to remember that day. They would, he said, think back to their days at Janet Lee School with "gratitude and happiness."

TRIBUTE

Shirley Collins, Wentworth East MPP, paid tribute to her predecessor, Gordon H. Dean, who was in the audience.

"That gentleman was in office when the decision was made to build this school," said Ms. Collins. "I hope you have many, many years of good use out of this facility."

Trustee Doug Conley reminded the audience that a new public school in Upper Stoney Creek had been one of the planks of his election platform.

"Another one of my goals was a new high



Cheerful Politician

Deputy-Mayor Jim Barlow was obviously enjoying himself at the opening of Janet Lee School. — STAFFphoto.

school up here. Well, we're still working on that one," he said.

Bob Coulter, former principal of Mount Albion School and then Billy Green School, said that when he started teaching at Mount Albion in September, 1956, "there were just empty fields where we're sitting now."

Mr. Coulter, who is now superintendent of elementary schools for Wentworth County, made one of the philosophical speeches for which he is famous.

LOOK FOR GOOD

He urged his listeners to "try to look for something good coming out of this school each day."

Only by looking for good would they experience good, he said.

He talked of pride for the school, the fine teachers who worked there ("most of whom I know quite well") and the importance of loyalty.

"I look forward to all the good things flowing from this school," said Mr. Coulter.

Janet Lee Davis, granddaughter of the woman after whom the school is named, was introduced and the Erland Lee Museum Home Committee gave a presentation about Janet Lee and her husband Erland who were responsible for founding the Women's Institute.

Students at the school have been moved from Billy Green, Mount Albion and Tapleytown schools. The principal is Barry Jackson.

Gesture

Shirley Collins MPP said that Gordon H. Dean had been in office when decision was made to build Janet Lee School. — STAFFphoto.

