

GETTING TOGETHER: Committee plans reunion bash

# South Cramahe PS alumni invited to giant reunion

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CECILIA NASMITH Sun Media

It takes a lot of creative minds to put together an event as big as next month's South Cramahe Public School reunion. Seen here, along with a few of the centrepieces for the Strive For Success gala, are (back, from left) Kathleen Bradshaw, Pearlann (Simpson) Coombes, Marlene (Cochrane) Harnden, Heather (McCrorry) Voskamp, Betty Cotter, Beth (Chapman) Vosbourgh, (front, from left) Jane (Blakley) Mutton, Janet (Beaudry) Simpson, Donna (Herley) Rusaw, and Glenda (Blakley) Quinn.

CECILIA NASMITH

cnasmith@northumberlandtoday.com

**CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP** — An historical chapter of almost half a century will close when South Cramahe Public School shuts its doors, as plans call for — perhaps as soon as 2010.

This turn of events makes next month's giant South Cramahe Public School reunion a timely event. However, organizer Donna Rusaw said, they had already begun planning the reunion before they learned of these plans.

About a dozen committee members are putting this together, including Betty Cotter who taught there for 15 years. She started the school's first kindergarten class, and designed and established its library.

"We were lucky to have her," Rusaw commented.

Other former staff members

lending a hand include Morris Tait, Grade 7 phys-ed teacher from 1966 to 1968.

Plans call for the fun to take place the weekend of June 5 to 7.

There's a June 5 meet-and-greet from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the Keeler Centre, with a cash bar and wine-and-cheese. It's \$8 per person or \$20 per family.

On June 6, there's an open house and barbecue at the school from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In the evening, there's a Strive For Success gala at the Keeler Centre at \$35 per person — cocktail hour from 5 to 6:30 p.m., dinner from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The former Blakley sisters (Glenda Quinn and Jane Mutton) have created more than 30 table centrepieces for the Strive For Success gala (named after the school

motto). These are tiny lunch-boxes stuffed with colourful school supplies and little toys, all purchased from the dollar store and bargain shop.

Also on Saturday, they're arranging a bus tour that will begin at the Keeler Centre, proceed to South Cramahe, and then go to the sites of the six schools that folded into the one consolidated school.

Those who are now living in these former schoolhouses have been invited to the Friday-night meet-and-greet (and on the bus tour, if they wish). The Parent Activity Council will be selling hamburgers, sausages and hot dogs.

A time for breakfast and farewells comes Sunday at the Keeler Centre (along with a classic car show), 9 a.m. to noon, at \$8 per person.

There are package deals too. The green package is all three days at \$60 per person. The gold package is all three days plus the history book at \$110 per person.

The historian of the committee is Janet Simpson, who has been invaluable in putting the combined history book-yearbook together.

The school opened its doors in January 1961, she said, combining six one- and two-room schoolhouses: SS#4 Salem, SS#9 Sharon, SS#10 Pine Grove, SS#13 Dundonald, SS#20 Maple Grove and SS#21 Shiloh.

It originally had five classrooms. An addition a few years later would add three classrooms, as well as a library and staff room.

The principal was Robert Millar, who will be in attendance at the reunion. He would be principal until 1978, and Simpson can name all the subsequent principals in order down to the present day (Hilmar Kieseckamp, Bill Pratt, Warren Brown, Karen Vandermeer, Kevin Dunn, David Mitchell and Michelle Adams).

The 232-page book was a labour of love, honouring the communities involved and schools that amalgamated, with photos and histories and accounts of what school days were like through the decades.

The books are \$60, and about 300 have been printed.

Registrations must be in by May 31, which you can do at [www.southcramahereunion.com](http://www.southcramahereunion.com) (where you can also order your history book) — or contact Rusaw at 905-355-2684.

## COLBORNE COMMUNITY CARE VOLUNTEERS GATHER



TED AMSDEN Sun Media

There was a gathering of some of the 72 volunteers with Colborne Community Care on April 23 to mark volunteer week. Pictured are (front, from left) Liz Rotteveel, Lena Broatch, Beth Palmateer (staffer), Ruth Trolley, Carol McCarthur, Flo Dale, Sharron MacDonald, Betty White (second row) Jean Cooper, Judi Eakins, Agnes Corbett, Ferne Dobson, Ira Wile, Don Perry, Kay Herley, Tony Farwell, staffers Donna Rusaw and Cheryl Storey, (third row) Bob Lee, Howie Knapman, John Beelen, Ted Pedlar, Dan Pearson, Dave Perry, (back) Terry Shortt, Bill Thompson and Eric Wright.

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