

Grafton woman writes third book

Janice Newson wants university students to experience transformation

BY TABITHA OLLIFFE

northnews@northumberlandnews.com

NORTHUMBERLAND — A Grafton author feels her third book will enlighten the public about the current changes in Canadian universities.

Janice Newson, a 68-year-old Grafton resident, has written her third book about universities and about how they have changed over the years. The book, 'Academic Callings: The Universities We Have Had, Now Have, and Could Have', is a collection of short essays written by 29 university faculty who have seen the changes in Canadian universities first hand. Each essay describes the writer's life in the university, how they have responded to the changes the university has gone through, and how they are, and have attempted to shape the Canadian university according to their vision on how a university should be.

Ms. Newson, a retired professor of York University who still teaches in the sociology department, said she and her editor chose people who were active in university life to write the essays.

"We chose people whom we know have some concerns about how the universities are changing," said Ms. Newson.

She said she has written the book to educate the public on the things missing in our universities.

"What pushed me to do this kind of book now was, I began to feel that we were losing something valuable in the university because people who knew about that valuable thing will be leaving the university soon, and a whole new group will be coming in, and we felt we needed to pass that on," said Ms. Newson. "The thing we are losing is the idea the university is a place where people are opened up to the possibility of transformation of their own and world transformation."

Ms. Newson said universities are no longer about transformation, but instead focus on innovation.

"Some people may think that innovation is the same as transformation, but it is not. Innovation is about how to contribute to higher powers, not how we contribute to the world. That to me is what transformation is about



PEG MCCARTHY / NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

GRAFTON — Janice Newson has recently published a book called 'Academic Callings: The University We Had, Have Now, and Could Have'

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contributing to the world."

She said students are no longer encouraged to believe they can make a difference in the world, but to think of their education as a way to be financially successful in the future. Ms. Newson said her experience in university made her believe she could do something great for not only herself but for the world.

"My ideas were stimulated by feeling like I could change the world in a positive way," said Ms. Newson. "I was inspired to believe we could make a difference

and change the world. I believe that the way the university has changed is that it is no longer the most prominent thing for today's students to experience. The book is an attempt to keep that alive, to get the public to think about what an university ought to be about."

Ms. Newson has been writing about universities since 1985 and has already had two other books published, 'The University Means Business: Universities, Corporation, and Academic Work', and 'Universities and Globalization: Critical Perspective.'

■ BY REQUEST: Fundraiser supports two churches

Fast-paced fiddler performs benefit concert in Warkworth

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CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

WARKWORTH — Scott Woods, who has captured all the major Canadian fiddling titles, brings The Scott Woods By-Request Show to Warkworth April 22.

Taking place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, it is a benefit concert for St. Andrew's and for St. Jerome's Catholic Church, toward upgrading accessibility at both places of worship.

The fast-paced two-hour show skillfully combines old-time fiddling with country gospel songs, perennial favourites and a generous helping of humour.

A veteran of performances across North America and in Holland, Woods was the musical director played the title role in the tribute show

Memories of Don Messer for seven years. He has also been named Canadian Open Fiddle Champion, Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Champion, and Canadian Fiddle Entertainer of the year.

He comes backed up by his own four-piece show band to stir up a storm of good music with Woods's most-requested tunes.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at Scott's Variety and at Ecclectic Mix in Warkworth, or contact Maureen O'Grady (905-344-7468 or mogrady@eagle.ca) or Helen King (1-705-924-2467).

cnasmith@northumberlandtoday.com