

By Dennis Poff
Assistant News Editor

It was mainly an opportunity for recognition and celebration, but Opeongo High School students last week received challenges as well as awards at the school's 17th graduation ceremony.

High school graduation is often considered the most clearly-defined step into the world of adulthood. And close to 150 OHS students took that step Thursday.

But nobody told them it would be easy.

"Many problems abound in our society," said board of education chairperson Barbara Hinsperger. "We ask you as adults to play your part in their solution."

Principal Don Whillans also spoke of a troubled society. If you watched the news tonight, he said, you know what kind of world you are going into.

"Be yourself and believe in yourself," the principal advised graduates. "You know what you have to do, now go and do it."

In his farewell address on behalf of the graduating class, Brent Faught reminded students they have a choice between positive and negative attitudes toward life. That choice, he said, affects not only the individual making it, but others he encounters through his life.

The valedictorian said high school graduation presents the first of many

crossroads students will encounter throughout their adult lives.

In deciding which road to take, Brent said, help is available.

"We either choose our own course...or allow God to pilot our lives."

The result of letting God take charge, he said, would be a more fulfilled, happier existence.

Agneta Linhed, an exchange student from Sweden, on stage to accept the Gallery Frame Award for proficiency in grade 13 art, took the opportunity to thank teachers, fellow students and friends who made her year-long visit to Opeongo a "wonderful experience." Agneta also won a proficiency in art award from the Catholic Women's League of Douglas.

Among the most prestigious awards OHS can present are the Opeongo Proficiency awards. This year's winners were Sylvia Gould, in the news recently as a result of an athletic scholarship to an Illinois university, and Terry Kubiseski. Sylvia received the M. Sullivan trophy, while Terry won the D.C. Griffin award.

Sylvia also won the Grant Price Memorial Scholarship. Terry's other awards were the Tremblay Memorial for exemplary performance and one of two Student Council Citizenship awards for contributing most to school life. The other went to Patricia Verch.

Renfrew County Scholars this year are Andrew Procher, Michelle Kenny, Rodney Neitzel, Carolyn Dittburner and Constance Madigan.

Opeongo High's Ontario Scholars for 1985 are Marion Breen, Pamela Downey, Terry Kubiseski, Constance Madigan, Kim Martin, Valerie McKibbon and Ernie Schroeder.

Other Individual Awards

Leanne Enright won the Eganville Legion Ladies Auxiliary award as top grade 12 student in mathematics, continuing education. Leanne also won an Eganville Rotary Club scholarship for outstanding performance in grade 12, continuing

education, as did Carolyn Dittburner. Carolyn was also presented with a Renfrew and District University Women's Club award for highest standing in grade 12 French.

Stewart Felskie and Wendy Kauffeldt received scholarships from the Eganville Legion for merit in technical and business education. Wendy also won the Cobden Masonic Lodge award for highest combined marks in Math and English.

Jack Buelow was given the Principal's award for outstanding participation as well as the Music award for outstanding contribution in that activity.

The Connelly award for best girl citizen went to Kathleen O'Grady. Jeff Bernard won the Golden Lake Band Council award for top graduating Indian student. The Indian Enrichment Fund award for proficiency by an Indian graduate went to Margaret Ann Benoit.

The Cobden Women's Institute award for improvement in physical education was won by Cathy Madigan.

Kim Martin was presented with the Geography award as top grade 13 student. Kim also won the University Women's Club award for highest standing in four art subjects and the Agnes Lavigueur award for top combined marks in grade 13 English.

Teresa Sheedy earned the Killaloe CWL scholarship for proficiency in grade 13 history. Brent Faught got the Cobden Royal Canadian Legion scholarship, while the Cobden Legion Ladies' Auxiliary award went to Laurie Lee Troutman.

The MacKillican and Associates Accounting and Proficiency award was won by Bryan Dittburner. Jo-Ann McMahon received the H.D. Adcock Memorial Scholarship.

Other Renfrew and District University Women's Club awards went to Connie Madigan, highest standing in four math and science subjects; Valerie McKibbon, second-highest standing in four math and science subjects, and Sheila Jessup second-highest standing in four art subjects.

Shelley Lambert won the Family Studies award for grade 13 proficiency in that subject. The Stewart H.J. Lavigueur award for highest standing in grade 12 law was presented to Elizabeth Fletcher.



Valedictorian Brent Faught addressed a positive, God-directed attitude toward life.



The Eganville Legion awards for merit in technical and business education went to Wendy Kauffeldt and Stewart Felskie. The presentation was made by Branch 353 president Les Perkins.