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# OHS graduates face new beginning

'OHS has been for us, a place to live and learn.

The last classes to graduate under principal Don Whillans received their diplomas Thursday evening at Opeongo High School's eighteenth graduation ceremonies.

Addressing the 158 grade 12 and 13 graduates gathered in the packed cafeteria, Mr. Whillans reflected on some comments he made at his recent retirement dinner. He had said at the time, "it wasn't only a chapter in my life, it was a chapter in your life, and the history of Opeongo."

Mr. Whillans told those gathered for the graduation ceremonies, that after thinking about it, he discovered, "It was my life—all of it! 54 years in school."

He went on to say, "Now we have the new testament, a new beginning, not only for you but for Opeongo and myself. There will be new people, new ideas, new hopes and aspirations. The opportunities are endless."

With that, Mr. Whillans was given an enthusiastic standing ovation.

The valedictorian address was given by Leanne Enright. She spoke of the changes that have taken place at Opeongo, saying: "We ourselves grow and change," adding, "OHS has been for us, a place to learn to live."

On behalf of the student body, she thanked the teachers and parents for the support they provided. "I hope that both our parents and teachers feel a part of the accomplishments of the graduating class."

Miss Enright went on to extend best wishes to teachers leaving or retiring this year. To Mr. Whillans she said, "Your concern for the students has always been greatly appreciated, and you have made us proud to be a part of Opeongo."

And in closing, she said, "Now we say farewell to Opeongo, by taking a part of it with us, and leaving a little of ourselves behind."

## OHS Awards

Following the presentations of diplomas, came the scholarships and awards.

Ontario scholars Carolyn Dittburner, Julie Dzubina, Leanne Enright, Jean Hein, Antony Holyer and Terry Yuke received their awards from retiring principal Don Whillans.

Renfrew County medallions were presented by RCBE trustees, Mrs. Barbara Hinsperger and Ted Barron to Susan Hobden, Jennifer Koch, Annette Sell, David Ilgert and Leanne Enright.

A total of 19 students were named Opeongo scholars, and a further 27 received student council academic awards.

The prestigious trophies for Opeongo proficiency, the D.C. Griffin trophy and the M. Sullivan trophy went to Terry Rathwell and Leanne Enright. A further 44 individual scholarships and awards were also given out. They included: **Eganville Rotary Club—\$300**, Elizabeth Fletcher, Tina Schraenkler; **Merit in Technical and Business Education**, Wendy Coulas, David Martin; **Top Grade 12 student in Mathematics**

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## Valedictorian

Leanne Enright, valedictorian for the graduating class, received three awards, the M. Sullivan trophy and was named an Ontario Scholar.