

PETER'S PEOPLE

Hempstead Gives His Career A Look Back

BY PETER LAPINSKIE,
Of The Observer

In three weeks, Howard Hempstead will be able to wake up in the morning, read the newspaper, sip at his coffee and not worry about another hectic 15-hour day.

Mr. Hempstead officially retires as director of education for the Renfrew County Board of Education on Dec. 31. He is on accumulated vacation time right now but still goes to the board office three or four times a week to clean up any loose ends before his retirement.

Looking back on his 10 years as director of education, he gives a satisfied smile. "The board accomplished an awful lot in the past 10 years and it was made possible through the efforts of a lot of fine people I had the pleasure of working with", he said.

Among his most memorable accomplishments in his 10 years here were the development of planning and evaluation procedures involving personnel; the development of a functional budget stressing a superior quality of education; the acquisition and ongoing efforts to obtain government grants and northern Status; the introduction of program and curriculum changes such as the Special Education Plan which won provincial and national recognition; and the promotion and recognition of special achievements by students and teachers in the county.

"As a school board we have come a long way in 10 years and I feel confident under the leadership of Don Rikley (his successor) we will continue to grow and prosper," Mr. Hempstead stated.

He said the biggest problem he faced was streamlining a budget that was not sufficient to meet the board's needs when he first took over as director. He had to chop \$1.5 million off his first budget to make ends meet, but now the board operates prosperously on a \$53 million annual budget.

He had other hurdles to jump during his tenure as director, including a teachers' strike in 1978 and a disagreement over sports participation in 1983 but both were smoothed over with his customary patience and practicality.

FOND MEMORIES

Looking back, Mr. Hempstead has lots of fond memories of his term as director of education. Many are centered around the outstanding people he worked with.

"I think of staff members like Renton Patterson, Ruth Woodcock and Art Jamieson who have distinguished themselves in the community in other areas," he said. Patterson developed plans for an electric car and boat that gained national recognition, Woodcock went to South Africa last year to give professional development seminars to teachers there, and Jamieson has had a long and distinguished record of community involvement on the political level.

Students like Don Nguyen, Brenda Beal and Martha Goodfellow who have all distinguished themselves in both academic and social levels at their schools also are a source of pride for Mr. Hempstead. "They prove our education system is working well," he said.

Although he admits he may have some trouble slowing himself down once he officially retires, Mr. Hemp-



HOWARD HEMPSTEAD

stead is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Barbara and son Doug, the last of his four children still at home.

Prior to coming to Renfrew County he was Superintendent of Program with the Durham Board of Education. Before that he was Superintendent with the Whitby Public School Board, was an assistant Superintendent of Education with the Welland Board of Education and a Master at the Hamilton Teachers College.

The Stamp Jar

The Stamp Jar project is going again and needs your help. This project is a method of raising money for the Cancer Society by the sale of used postage stamps that you might save from your mail and parcels. These are accumulated until about 15 pounds are gathered, then are sold to a large dealer to use in his business. Your donations may be dropped off at Dorans in downtown Pembroke or at the Cooks Apron in the Pembroke Mall. Every little bit helps, so while you are in the mall or downtown doing your Christmas shopping, why not bring your old stamps and donate to this worthy cause.



These students from Cobden and District Elementary School will be taking part in a French exchange in March. Left to right, back row, are David Rose, Christopher Hall, Edward Egan, Paul Reinert, Todd Leach, Keith Sexton, Kerr Childerhose, Jim Gouthro, Brad Turcotte, and Brad Dowdall. Middle row are Sonia Warren, Becky

Childerhose, Suzan Warren, Jennifer Sutton, Kristi McHugh, Kealy Graham, Alison Rae, Stephanie Keon, Chanda Gibson and Cecille Smith. Front row are Becky Langstaff, Emily Godin, Shawna Mick, Marie-Paule Cotie, and Darlene Jackson. The girls in the front row are showing off travel bags donated by SEVEC, one of the sponsoring groups.