

# Tribute paid to retiring vice-principal at retirement party

by Mary Golem

Barry Woodyard's 35-year teaching career at the Chesley District High School was honored and his retirement celebrated at a retirement party at the Chesley Community Centre on Saturday, June 11th.

Throughout the evening, past and present staff, students, superintendents and friends praised Woodyard for his dedication, honesty, sincerity, common-sense approach to problems and genuine interest in each individual.

"He has touched the lives of thousands of students," superintendent with the Bruce County Board of Education David Armstrong commented. Trustee Faye Bell-McClure says Woodyard's whole career "was

dedicated to caring" and principal John Miller commented that Woodyard provides "quality control without exception" at the Chesley District High School.

Constable John Twelves of the Walkerton OPP said he knew Woodyard was on the police department's side as he joked about handcuffs on his desk one day! A beautiful plaque, with the OPP crest on it, was presented to Woodyard in recognition of his support to the police.

Head girl and head boy Amy Gowan and Darren Hachey told the 200-plus people in attendance "Mr. Woodyard will be greatly missed -

Continued on page 3



Retiring vice-principal of Chesley District High School

## Retires after 35 years

by Mary Golem

Technological advancements, structural changes to the building and more importantly, social pressures facing both students and teachers have greatly influenced educational life during a 35-year career at Chesley District High School, retiring vice-principal Barry Woodyard says.

Woodyard will retire at the end of this school year. A retirement party has been organized in his honor for this Saturday, June 11 at the Chesley Community Centre. Past and present students, teachers, parents and friends are welcome to attend.

"It's important for people to know," Woodyard commented, "that there is a lot more to the educational system than the teacher standing in the front of a room teaching. There are so many social pressures for both young people and their teachers ... people do have private lives, both students and teachers, and what's going on in their lives has a lot to do with the learning process for the student and what's going on in the private life of a teacher can affect how he or she handles things in the classroom. And yet," Woodyard continued, "there are people who don't consider this and believe, in spite of the pressures, their child(ren) should be achieving."

Woodyard added while "there's important stuff going on in the classroom, it's equally important to allow students and teachers this understanding before criticizing."

Woodyard's empathy for others, his care and concern for both students and staff alike has earned him a great deal of respect at the school and in the community. Many will miss his warmth, his casual and caring relationship with students and his subtle and at times, not so subtle, approaches to problems.

Spending one's entire educational career at the same school is unusual. And while Woodyard has had chances to move, he never did.

"I developed a feeling for this school ... it's difficult to describe, but the late Orville Kalbfleisch, a former principal at the school, had that kind of feeling for this school as well."

It was Kalbfleisch who hired Barry

Woodyard to begin his teaching career at C.D.H.S. back in September 1959. He would teach grade 9, 10 and 11 Mathematics for just over \$4,000 a year.

At the time, there was no guidance department at the school and so, for the next three summers, Woodyard would take guidance courses and would later develop a Guidance Department at the school.

Then, about 20 years ago, he was appointed an Administrative Assistant and nine years ago, the Board of Education decided all schools, despite enrolment, should have a vice-principal "and so I became a bonafide vice-principal", Woodyard quipped, even though he had been handling Vice-principal responsibilities for over a decade.

Teaching at C.D.H.S. had another benefit for Barry - he met and married his wife, Robin, a fellow teacher at the school. The couple have two children, Colin and Adrienne, both university students.

While his work kept him busy, Woodyard also found time for community involvement, everything from being Sunday School superintendent and a member of town council to coaching Minor Hockey and Minor Ball.

"One thing that has stayed the same at the school is the tremendous involvement of students in activities," Woodyard said. "While there is a high percentage of students who are serious about their school work - such dedication is reflected in the results achieved - there is also a high percentage of students who are actively involved in extra-curricular activities."

He talks with pride about the school's "exceptional" music program, technologically-advanced industrial arts program and the "tremendous expansion" of the physical education program.

"Students no longer just make a tin box or gun rack in industrial arts - they are now learning to design using computer equipment; physical education and health classes introduce students to areas they can pursue as hobbies, such as golf and encourage the students to develop a healthy



Constable John Twelves of the Walkerton OPP and Michael VanderHeide, a grade 12 student at Chesley District High School, present Barry Woodyard with two of the gifts he received at a retirement party in his honor on Saturday evening at the Chesley Community Centre.

"It's nice to have a solid academic background, but if you are going to teach, it's very important that you like young people. If you don't, you'd better do something else."

While he may be retiring, Woodyard won't become a stranger at the Chesley District High School. He plans to do some volunteer youth counselling, particularly in the area of anger management; hopes to assist Ridley Gillmore with the music program at C.D.H.S. -the development of a country and western band with Woodyard and some students called County Road 10 was a real highlight - and he plans to continue to teach lacrosse to phys ed students. As well, he hopes to find time to work on a novel he is writing and his wife hopes he find time to re-model the family's kitchen.

And as co-chair of Chesley's 1995 Homecoming celebration, Woodyard is convinced there will be few dull moments!

Replacing Barry Woodyard as vice-principal at Chesley District High School in September will be Jim Rackley of Port Elgin.

SBV3-4