

Speyside bids farewell to principal, teachers

The parents of Speyside school children pulled off a successful farewell to three teachers and the principal Norm Howell last Wednesday at the school.

Fifty-seven parents, with the help of some school board officials, surprised Mr. Howell with a party. Weeks of skulduggery passed by the unsuspecting principal, who returned to the school after hours for a "meeting" with Robert Little School principal Hazen Allen and vice-principal Larry Ciglen.

An Inuit soapstone carving of a hunter with a seal was presented to Mr. Howell by the parents.

"For me this is a very serious moment," Mr. Howell told the gathering. "I think I've had some influence. I hope it was positive. Thanks for being the kind of people you are," he said.

Mr. Howell, who was principal at Speyside for five years, is going to Mountain Garden School at Burlington.

Speyside parent Glen Findlay acted as master of ceremonies by giving a brief background on each teacher, playing the piano, and giving a dozen red roses to teachers Ann Hopkin and Jeannette Paquette.

Ann Hopkin taught for seven years at Speyside and Jeannette Paquette has 16 years of teaching.

Another teacher who is leaving the school, Bob McGregor, could not attend the festivities. He taught for 13 years.

Among the ideas Mr. Howell brought to Speyside, Mr. Findlay said, were the creative playground, trips to Kelso, the health hustle and many others.

Invitations to the party were sent home with school children a month ago, and the replies came to the school—all in secret. The children said nothing; the teachers said nothing. The parents put the party together.

Halton Board of Education administrator for the north Don Gentleman phoned Mr. Howell the next morning. Mr. Gentleman arranged the "meeting". From principal Howell, Mr. Gentleman asked forgiveness for two months of deceit.



SPEYSIDE SCHOOL principal Norm Howell, left, cuts his cake during the going away party for himself and teachers Ann Hopkin, centre left, and Jeannette Paquette, centre right. Marion Howell, Mr. Howell's wife, is on the right. Fifty-seven parents surprised the principal with the party.

Special assembly

There was scarcely a dry eye in Speyside school gym Friday morning as students, staff and parents said goodbye to three departing teachers and the principal.

Leaving the school are: Norm Howell, principal for the past five years, who has been transferred to Mount Gardens public school in Burlington; Mrs. Jeannette Paquette, grade one teacher for 16 years, who is going to teach at Robert Little school, Acton; Bob McGregor, grade 4 and 5, who after 13 years at Speyside is transferring to Robert Little also; and Miss Ann Hopkin, grade 3 and 4 who is resigning from teaching. She taught at Speyside for seven and one half years.

The goodbyes were said at the annual year end assembly. Various classes displayed their talents in songs, art work, etc. during an informal program to which parents were invited.

Three students received awards during the special assembly. Robin McClure was presented with the trophy for the best girl athlete, and Joey Clare and best boy, Diana Hurdowar received the John Newell Memorial trophy for outstanding citizenship. The trophy is in honor of a young student who was tragically killed shortly after he graduated from Speyside school several years ago.

At the close of the original assembly, teachers revealed the remainder of the morning would be dedicated to the departing staff members. Each teacher received an arrangement of dried flowers, and a couple of tissues to wipe wet eyes.

Mr. Howell received special mementos from each class including a book of drawings, a photograph mural, and a scrapbook of events since September, 1973 when he first came to the school.

A huge cake, made by parent Gloria Watson was then brought into the gym for everyone present.



KINDERGARTEN STUDENT Laila Khan gets a hug and a kiss from Speyside school principal Norm Howell Friday at a goodbye assembly to the principal and three teachers who are leaving the school.



SPEYSIDE SCHOOL children performed the "Howell Hustle" for parents and teachers at the party for principal Norm Howell last Wednesday evening at the school. The hustlers are Robin McClure, Lisa Mitchell, Nancy Rand, Martha Armstrong and Barb Lamon.



ROBIN MCCLURE was awarded the best girl athlete trophy at Speyside school Friday during a special assembly. Principal Norm Howell explains the significance of the award while teacher Shiona Preston looks on.

Teaching parents

A one-week course offered during the University of Guelph's Summer Campus '78 will tackle the problem of parent egos taking the fun out of kids' sports. Participants will question the importance of winning in amateur sports and will discuss the influential role of parents on children involved in amateur sports.

Through the Summer Campus course, parents, coaches and sports enthusiasts alike may seek to establish a new set of standards for the "good player", and make these standards less superficial than at present and more consistent with character development of the child. They may suggest ways in which parents can contribute to the learning of a sport by their child so that sports for kids becomes not just a vehicle for parental glorification, but a means of learning more about oneself.

Truck permits

It will be at least another two weeks before town staff has any idea what guidelines it should use in deciding who should get a permit and who shouldn't to operate a truck weighing over 11 tons on 17 and 10 Sideroads.

A by-law prohibiting heavy trucks, except those connected with farming from using the two rural roads has been written along with a by-law allowing the staff to issue permits for trucks weighing over 11 tons to use the road.

However, town staff tossed the hot issue of who gets permits and who doesn't into councillors' laps.

The by-laws were developed following years of discussion between councils, truck drivers, quarry owners and residents on 17 Sideroad, tired of seeing the road battered to pieces by heavy gravel trucks.

Two weeks ago Halton Hills works committee asked all councillors to submit written permit guidelines to the engineer.

Monday, engineer Robert Austin told works committee that while he has had discussions with a number of councillors he has yet to receive any written recommendations.

Councillor Mike Armstrong, who as chairman of works committee last year, attended many meetings with those interested in the issue, suggested the subject be deferred for two more weeks.

"Maybe you are happy," Austin quipped alluding to the difficulty people have been having with the issue for several years now.

Esquating Councillor George Maltby said he tried to write out some permit issuance guidelines but everything he came up with was discriminatory, which the municipality can't be.

Mayor Tom Hill said Maltby had described the entire problem "in a nutshell."

Maltby said the council must eventually grapple with the question of "if it is in the best interest of Halton Hills to have gravel trucks on 17 Sideroad."

Earlier this year committee rejected a call by Councillor George Maltby that the Fourth Line be included in the by-law.



KINDERGARTEN CLASS at Speyside school sang songs for students, staff and parents during their year-end assembly on Friday.

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