

Meet the principal

Kevin Finnegan

By ROBIN BAKWELL
Herald Staff
Principal of St. Francis of Assisi School in Georgetown, Kevin Finnegan, would like to see the old image of the school principal changed. In order to do this Mr. Finnegan has a "door open" policy in his office and feels a good rapport is needed between the teachers and students.



"A lot of people think of children as small adults but they aren't. They have a children's perspective of the world," Mr. Finnegan said.

Teachers at St. Francis of Assisi are encouraged to send pupils to the principal's office when their work is good which Mr. Finnegan feels "will do more for the students than anything else." He would like to see the pupils thinking of him as being there to help.

"I don't want the kids to be scared of me," Mr. Finnegan said. "The children know I have authority and they have to respect me, but not because I'm the principal, they should respect all people."

"I feel the children need more guidance and support than anything else." Mr. Finnegan was born in Ireland and moved to England with his parents when he was five. After being edu-

ated at Liverpool University Mr. Finnegan taught high school for about five years in England.

"It was the first high school which was run on the North American lines," Mr. Finnegan said. The school taught academic subjects and had the various shop courses too.

Mr. Finnegan is involved with performing traditional Irish songs and as a result of a trip he made with a band to the U.S. he visited Canada as a tourist to speak with local musicians in the Toronto area.

"As soon as I came up from New York I decided I was definitely going to live here," Mr. Finnegan said.

In August of 1968 Mr. Finnegan left England by boat and started teaching high school in Milton. He became Vice Principal at Holy Rosary School in Milton in 1974 and opened St. Peter's School as Principal in 1978.

His teaching career has included economics, politics, and history and he has taught elementary, junior, and senior classes. He has been Principal of St. Francis of Assisi School since September.

Mr. Finnegan became interested in a career in education while he was involved in doing a project which involved a research paper on the effects of education in institutes.

"I'm very happy in my job," Mr. Finnegan said. "It's a great job and a heck of a challenge."

Mr. Finnegan and his wife, Marie, have three children. The two eldest are completing high school while the youngest is only four years old. "I'm keeping the educational system going," he laughed.



Wheelchair clinic

Andy Bayer, vice-president of Victoria Wheelchair in Kitchener, was in Georgetown Saturday doing minor repairs at a free clinic put on by the March of Dimes. Bayer and another mechanic serviced and repaired wheelchairs in the garage at Capital Ford on Guelph Street, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Power tools worth \$3,900

Approximately \$3900 in assorted power tools were stolen from the maintenance center in the Terra Cotta Conservation Area sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning.

Entry was gained to the building through a small window in the rear of the structure. Among the tools reported missing are five chain saws, link cutters, electric drill and a router.

Halton regional police are treating the Winston Churchill Boulevard case as a break and enter.

Tape deck stolen

A vehicle parked in the driveway of a Mill Street residence in Georgetown is missing a panasonic tape deck and five tapes valued at an estimated \$350.

It is not sure whether or not the vehicle was locked at the time of the incident which happened sometime early Monday evening.

Disc loss

A 1983 Chrysler New Yorker lost four wire wheel discs valued at an estimated \$530 after being parked at a Mount-ainview Road North residence in Georgetown sometime between Friday and Saturday.

Robert Bateman here Friday

The Robert bateman exhibition opens at the Library-Cultural Centre Art Gallery on Friday evening with the internationally-renowned artist and his wife in attendance.

The gala opening of the unique collection entitled "Robert Bateman - the Early Years" is open to the public and tickets for the event are on sale at the Public Libraries in Acton and Georgetown.

The show is being presented as one of the first ventures of the new "Friends of the Library" organization.

The exhibition will be opened by Professor John Hall of Toronto, one of the wildlife artist's former teachers. The artist will meet guests and autograph copies of his popular book as well as posters and prints of his wildlife work which will be offered for sale.

The show which is being mounted for the library by John Sommer of the Gallery House Sol will feature work from Bateman's early years, through his abstract period and beyond.

A brand new etching, the first ever done by the artist will be unveiled. On loan for the opening will be several of the best known Bateman originals including the Winter Cardinal, presently owned by the

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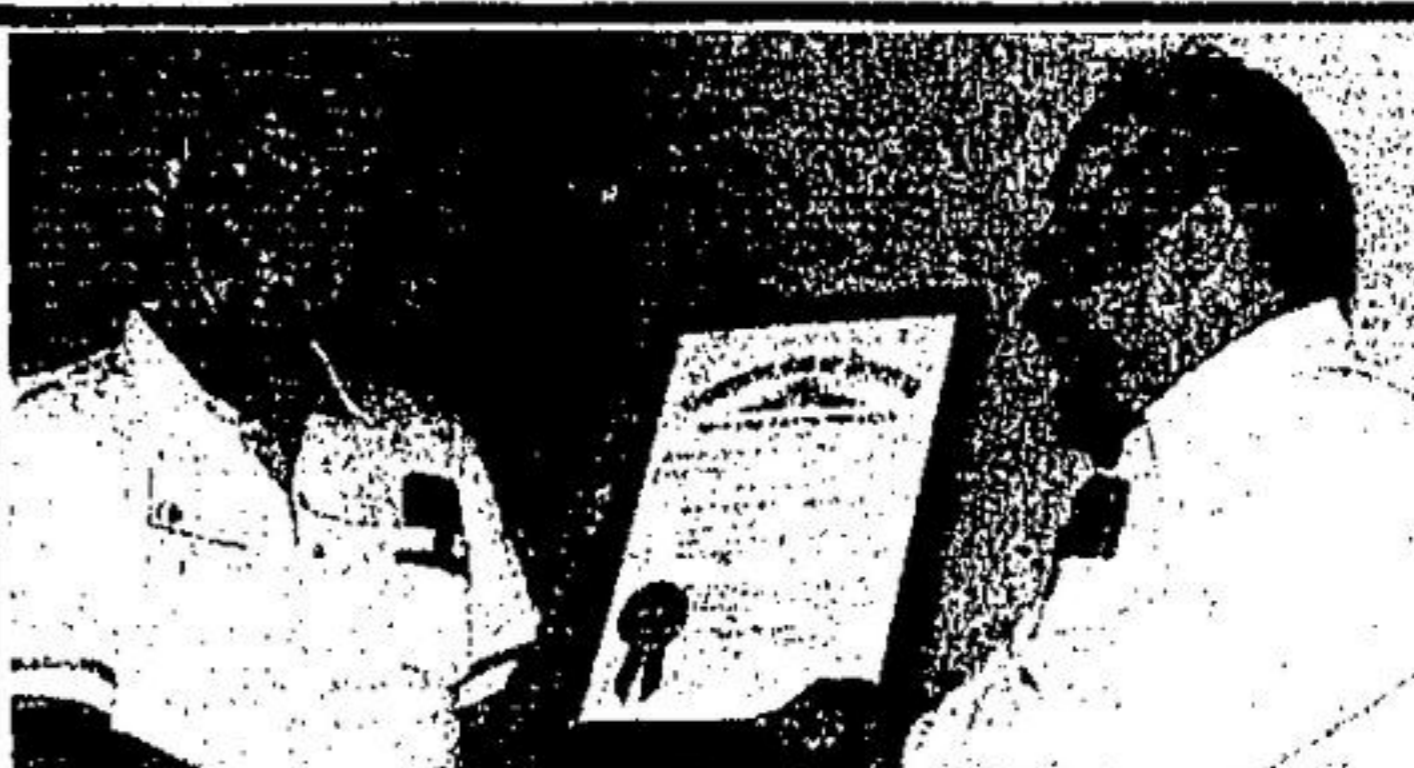
Visions Gallery of Brampton. Also included will be his sketches

and some lovely pieces of sculpture. Tickets are \$5 per

person and are still available at both libraries. Refreshments will

be served. For those wishing information, the library telephone number is 877-2581.

In attendance Friday will be various special guests, art patrons, representatives of government, local naturalists, friends of the artist and library, and many Robert Bateman fans from Halton and surrounding country.



Optimist honors

The Optimists held a banquet in honor of their Georgetown, Kentucky guests last Tuesday night. One of the award recipients in the exchange of gifts was Norm Gutherie who was responsible for Georgetown's Bang-O-Rama. Here, Bill Thorn, an Optimist from Georgetown, Kentucky, gives to Mr. Gutherie a plaque making him a "Kentucky Colonel", a position that can only be awarded by the state governor. The list of previous Kentucky Colonel winners is prestigious: Bing Crosby, Red Skelton, John Glenn, Lyndon B. Johnson and others.

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Sign is vandalized

A three by six foot plexiglass sign with an estimated value of \$800 was smashed at the Canada Trust building on Main Street West in Georgetown sometime between Saturday night

Mary Giffen was first to have TV in Ashgrove

"We were the first ones to have a T.V. in Ashgrove," said Mary Giffen. "I guess we got it in 1950 and I remember the neighbors used to come over and watch it." Mrs. Giffen judged the time they purchased their T.V. by the fact that the neighbors came over to watch the coronation.

borly, least we found so," she said.

One of the major changes Mrs. Giffen has seen in Halton Hills is the development that has gone on. "A lot of the old farms are now residential areas," she said. "The population has increased a great deal."

Mrs. Giffen lived on a farm in Ashgrove for 18 years and was a resident of Georgetown for 22 years. "I was a farmer's daughter and had always been farming, except when I was teaching," Mrs. Giffen said.

She married a farmer in 1944 and lived in Norval where her husband and herself did general farming.

"We did our shopping in Georgetown and had a car we drove in," she said. "We used to buy \$2 of gas and it would go quite a piece," she said.

Mrs. Giffen taught in Glen Williams Quatre Bras, and Stewarttown during her teaching career. She would teach everything to students six years old through to 14. "They were the good times," she said.

Mrs. Giffen enjoyed the time she spent in Georgetown. "I liked the place we lived at, we had excellent neighbors and the plaza and church were close by. People were very neighborly."

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