Special education teacher honored

She is a special elementary teaching assistant, and her peers thought so too.

Beverley Whatnough, a special education teacher at M.Z. Bennett Public School and Limehouse Public School, was one of three people recognized by their peers at a dinner dedicated to all teaching assistants by the Halton chapter of the Council for Exceptional Students.

Through a nomination process by other teachers, Mrs. Whatnough was chosen to receive the Teacher of the Year Award for elementary students, Ulrike Kern-Cleland the Teacher of the Year Award for secondary schools, and Georgetown resident Eleanor Tyndall, the consultant for the Board of Education's program for mentally handicapped children, received the Educator of the Year Award.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted," Mrs. Whatnough said. She had no idea she would win the award.

The teacher also felt quite honored because the award is given by teachers.

Recipients of the awards exemplify excellence in teaching. "You take a moment and say so-

meone is doing an excellent job," said Gayle Rotenberg, the president of the Halton chapter of the Council for Exceptional Students. "It lets people know how proud we are of our teachers."

Mrs. Whatnough felt her strengths lie in the relationship she has with the children, other teachers and parents.

The teacher works with approximately 30 students in M.Z. Bennett

and Limehouse schools, where she spends a half day at each school.

She is in charge of programming for students, does education assessments of students needing, special education classes, and works with small groups of children in the classroom.

As well, Mrs. Whatnough manages the resource rooms of the two schools, which teachers browse through.

The challenge of being a special education teacher is to make sure the child maintains a good feeling about themselves, Mrs. Whatnough said. If they do not feel successful, they are hard to instruct. The key lies in matching up the

right program to fill the child's needs. If it is not a good match, the

teacher said, they will not feel successful. With success comes the rewards of

seeing the child make gains, and having the child feel he has made gains. Born in Niagara Falis, Mrs. What-

nough has lived in a variety of places such as Montreal, Toronto, and Mossonee, before she and her family settled in Georgetown 20 years ago.

She received her schooling at Con-

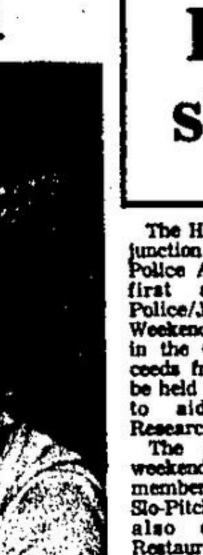
cordia University in Montreal, where she graduated with a bachelor of arts. Mrs. Whatnough finished her education at the Lakeshore

Teacher's College in Toronto.

Taking time off first to raise her family, Mrs. Whatnough began teaching with the Halton Board of Education 13 years ago.

Beverley Whatnough works with eight-year-old Allan Reynolds, a student at M.Z. Bennett Public School. The special education teacher was

(Herald photo)



nominated by her peers as teacher of the year for elementary schools.

Police plan to hold slo-pitch fundraiser

The Halton Regional Police in conjunction with the Halton Regional Police Association is sponsoring the first annual Halton Regional. Police/Juvenile Diabetes Charity: Weekend planned for June 3, 4 and 5, in the City of Burlington. All proceeds from the various functions to: be held that weekend will be donated aid in Juvenile Diabetes Research.

The activities planned for the weekend are being coordinated by members of the Police Association's Slo-Pitch baseball team which is also co-sponsored by Chaps Restaurants of Burlington. The executive committee for the weekend consists of Detectives Earl Fletcher and Murray Drinkwalter, Sergeant James Chapman and Mr. Tim Fredo of the Force's Planning and Research Bureau.

On Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m., the police team will be playing the Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Club at Nelson Softball Park on New Street in Burlington. Admission to the park will be free and donations to the charity will be accepted. The Maple Leafs will be arriving at the park at 6:15 p.m. to sign autographs. All children under the age of 18 entering the park will be given an opportunity to win one of the many prizes which have been actographed by members-

of the National Hockey League and the Canadian Football League. It is hoped that veteran NHL of-

ficial. Don Koharski and other members of the NHL Officials Association will be present to umpire the ball game between the police and the Leafs.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, the police team will be hosting a Law-Enforcement Slo-Pitch Tournament at Sherwood Forest Park in Burlington for the two day tournament. Tournament play begins at 8 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday with the finals tentatively scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The highlight of the weekend is

hoped to be a charity dance on Saturday evening beginning at 8 p.m. at Nelson Arena on New Street in Buriington. Door prizes include return air fare for two to London, England, courtery of Worldways, one week accommodation for two in Jacksonville, Florida, courtesy of Franco Steel of Burlington, and a full side of beef, courtesy of J and G Meats of Burlington. Numerous other door. prizes and draw prizes will be I available. Tickets for the dance are \$10 per person and can be obtained : by calling the Burlington-Hamilton Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation at 335-2372.

Area high schools have also offered to assist in raising funds for the charity. Students from E.C. -Drury In Milton, Oakville-Trafalgar in Oakville and M.M. Robinson in Burlington will be conducting a tag day in their respective communities on Saturday, June 4, 1988.

"Children are our future...

Parents must become partners in education

By CHERYL MOODER Herald Staff

Wally Beever is not a futurist and he does not have a crystal ball to aid him in his job as director of educa-

But what he has learned in his many years of working on different school boards is that change does not happen in a fast way.

People are very uncomfortable with change, he told an audience Thursday night at the George Kennedy Public School. It is very stressful.

In looking to the future, it is better to diagnose change than to subscribe, he said.

If you look at society there are several forces, such as government, the people's dissatisfaction, and technology, which have put pressure on the education system.

With Bill 30 and the increase of

money to the private school system, the public school enrolment numbers have been dropping three to five per cent a year. Another competitor to the public

school comes from technology. Recently, IBM created software

packaged for the secondary school level to be marketed in Canada. In George 'Radwanstis' report, which was released early in the spr-

ing, statistics show 78 per cent of the children leave school before they obtain their certificate. At the general level, 56 per cent of

the students drop out, Mr. Beever said. These students often end up in menial jobs. One thing this report found was

that at the different levels of study, students at the basic and general levels do not join clubs, such as the art and chess club, or participate in extra-curricular activities.

The effective school movement tries to design projects in order to make schools better, improve the instruction the students receive and ultimately improve the drop-out situation.

Halton Region has an excellent group of trustees dedicated to improving the school life for students, Mr. Beevor said.

In the recent budget, programs such as the music program and computer program, will insure equal access to all children of these items.

The director of education also cited the increased desire for parents to become full-fledged partners in the field of education.

"When parents become partners," Mr. Beevor said, "students, teachers and the community benefit." There are numerous advantages

for the children when their parents take part in education, he said. First off, they set an example. The director was sure that the children

of the parents who attended the night's meeting knew they were "It is a powerful way to teach,"

Mr. Beevor said. "Example is the only way to teach." The seeds of example may not germinate overnight, the director pointed out, but in time parents will

reap the harvest. Down deep, children have respect and admiration and receive a feeling that school work is important.

A second message, which is sent out loud and clear when parents get involved, he said, is that education is a life-long process.

"I, as mom and dad, am interested in your future," the director

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Parents have a tremendous influence over their children and can be invaluable as teaching partners.

When they are involved with the school an important communication link is established between the students, parents and teachers, Mr. Beever said.

It increases the student's motiva-

Parents and teachers linked up

The group, which is made up of

Thursday night at the inaugural

parents of George Kennedy

students, was officially launched in

the gymnasium of the school after

Karen Hewer, whose son had just

started kindergarten, got the ball

rolling in September 1987, when she

knocked on the door of principal

Carol Matheson with a proposal to

form a formal parent group. George

Kennedy has also had an active

volunteer group, Mrs. Hewer said.

What the school needed was an um-

brella group to act as a co-ordinating

A steering committee of 12 people

spent the past months exploring dif-

ferent routes the group could take

and looking at other parents groups

Parent/Teachers Association.

grams set up in the school.

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The basic idea of the group is to

enhance the communication bet-

ween the parents and the school en-

vironment and to provide support

for regular and extra-curricular pro-

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meeting of the Kennedy Connection.

Kennedy Connection launched

tion to learn. "Children want to learn," he said. By showing you're interested they will want to work harder, he added.

The quality of learning is enhanced when parents take part in education.

Parents have found that when they help others they help themselves.

Mrs. Hewer was pleased with the

response they had for their first,

night. "I thought we had an ex-

Speaker Wally Beevor commented

on the approximately 70 who turned

up for the evening. He has spoken to

parents groups where only five or so

It is important, in terms of the suc-

cess of the Kennedy Connection, to

have input from all the parents in

George Kennedy is a very diverse

school, housing English and French

classes, as well as special education

classes, Mrs. Hewer said. It is also

a parents group, she said. It is not

just the teachers who are educating

This is why it is important to have

The new Kennedy Connection ex-

ecutive includes: Karen Hewer as

president, Janet Wooten as vice-

president, Cheryl Potosky as

secretary, Donna Kole as treasurer

and Debbie McIlvenna as communi-

ty relations officer. There are also a

number of standing committee

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if you plan for 100 years, educate men and women." are our future." New air index system launched

Metropolitan Toronto and Oshawa have become the first Ontario communities to be served by a new air pollution reporting system which provides information to the public four times each day, Environment Minister Jim Bradley announced.

"Nothing great is achieved without

enthusiasm," Mr. Beevor said.

Parents can become another

The future of the world is truly in

parents' hands, "because children

valuable resource.

"The new Air Quality Index (AQI) system will warn people when high pollution levels are present, and give hourly updates as long as they persist," Mr. Bradley told guests at the official startup of the system in

Toronto. The AQI augments the 16-year-old Air Pollution Index (API) by measuring, analysing and reporting on a wider range of pollutants.

The existing API system measures two pollutants, sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter, which promote respiratory illnesses. The API will continue to be used as an alert and action system.

The new AQI will include the API, and add carbon monixide, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide - all of which can affect health

The AQI will be broken down into five categories: 1. Very Good: AQI 0-15, no adverse effects on people, animals or plants. 2. Good: AQI 16-31, no adverse ef-

fects on people or animals, and

Mr. Beever cited a Chinese pro-

"If you plan for a year, plant rice;

if you plan for ten years, plant trees,

verb which best explained the

parent's role in education:

negligible effects on plants, property or aesthetic values. 3. Moderate: AQI 32-49, negligible effects on people and animals; may affect sensitive plants, property or

aesthetic values. 4. Poor: AQI 50-99, adverse effects on sensitive people or animals; significant damage to vegetation,

property or aesthetic values. 5. Very Poor: 100-plus, health problems to a large segment of the ex-

posed population. Under AQI, the public will be informed four times daily of what the air quality is and what is the most significant pollutant at that time. Under special adverse conditions, the report will be updated hourly, day and night, and the public will be informed as to when the pollution problem will likely end.

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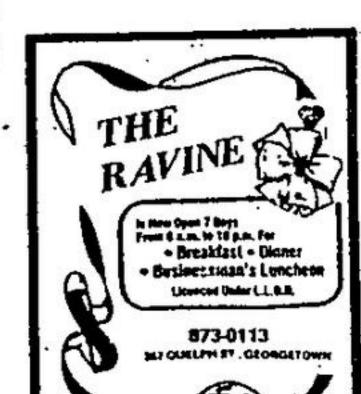
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