

# Education



Georgetown resident, Tom Ramautarsingh (far right) was present when Willard Zebedee "Bud" Estey was recently named Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. Pictured above, along with Mr. Ramautarsingh, from left to right, Dr.

Beland Honderich, Chairman of Torstar, the Hon. Paul Martin Sr., former WLU Chancellor and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Dr. Willard Estey. (Photo submitted)

## Estey named university chancellor

Willard Zebedee "Bud" Estey, former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada for 11 years was named Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. He succeeds Maureen Forrester who served as Laurier's Chancellor since 1986.

Estey, as a justice in the Supreme Court of Canada, wrote the first ruling under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1984. He conducted government inquiries into the tragic Gander air crash, banking operations, Air Canada and the steel industry.

He is a chairman of the Ontario Press Council which handles public complaints against newspapers, acts as special adviser to the Bank of Nova Scotia and counsel to the law firm of McCarthy Tétrault in Toronto.

He also serves on the board of regents of the Athol Murray College of Notre Dame and is chairman of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies and the Canadian Law Scholarship Foundation.

Bud Estey was born in Saskatchewan 71 years ago. He received law degrees from the University of

Saskatchewan and Harvard University. During W.W. II he served in the Canadian army and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

He was a law professor at the University of Saskatchewan and a lecturer at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. He practised corporate law in Toronto from 1947 to 1973 before his appointment to the Ontario Court of Appeal. In 1975 he became the Chief Justice of Ontario and in 1977 he was appointed as a justice with the Supreme Court of Canada.

In 1977 Estey received an honorary doctor of laws from Wilfrid Laurier University. On this special occasion Tom Ramautarsingh was president of Laurier's Alumni Association. He welcomed Estey to the Alumni Association and presented him with six specially engraved alumni wine glasses as a memento of this occasion.

Mr. Ramautarsingh says, "Chancellor designate Estey is a witty person, an erudite, an outspoken Canadian and a well respected, dynamic person of the highest calibre. I remember his address to the Ontario secondary

teachers of law at Queen's University. He stressed that it was most important that teachers let students know how the system works and that we stress that a person is innocent until proven guilty."

Laurier has been fortunate to have outstanding Canadians as chancellors. Senator William Euhler, Senator and former Ontario Lieutenant Governor Ross MacDonald, Cabinet Minister, Senator and High Commissioner Paul Martin, Senator, former Ontario Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of University of Toronto John Black Aird, and former Chairperson of the Canada Council Maureen Forrester.

As Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University, Willard Estey presides over ceremonial functions, confers degrees on graduates, is a member of the Board of Governors and the Senate and acts as adviser to the president.

Estey was recently made a Companion of the Order of Canada. He will be installed at Laurier's Fall Convocation on October 28, 1990, at the Kitchener Auditorium

## Teachers recognized as unsung heroes

Those unsung heroes of high school classes, the general level teachers, will be recognized at an "evening of appreciation" at General Wolfe High School tonight (Wednesday).

Although all high school students take at least some of their courses at the general level, successful teaching at this level has not always been "high profile". The "Celebration of General Level" evening is a clear indication that perception is changing. This is a statement that the staff of high schools are making a definite difference in the lives of young people today.

"Students in general level classes, and their teachers as well, have not always drawn great public attention," notes Mark Henderson, one of the event organizers. "There are excellent teachers in Halton producing successful students headed for employment or community colleges. October 3rd is the time to acknowledge this and say 'thanks.'"

In the early 1980's some studies such as Dr. King's "Who Goes to College?" found that Ontario students enrolled in general level courses were not experiencing enough success and many were dropping out. Such information inspired both province-wide and board-wide initiatives to make sure more students achieved their best.

At the Halton level, one such initiative was the formation of a General Level Committee in each high school. These committees are very "grass roots," flexible and responsive. Concerns of teachers can be addressed quickly on a school-by-school basis. One school might focus on successful evaluation strategies, another on teaching learning skills and still another might organize a "Principal's Award of Merit" where all students, at both general and advanced levels, are recognized for their achievements.

There has been much activity: brain-storming, lobbying, production of motivation, evaluation and career packages, professional development on student self-esteem, motivation, evaluation, classroom management, school organization, teaching methodology and learning skills.

The result is that something is being done. Attitude surveys indicate that students are feeling better about themselves, school and their achievements. Student retention has improved and there has been a positive effect on marks.

This is what the General Level Celebration is all about. It is an opportunity for over 150 educators from all Halton high schools to gather, share ideas that will help students, and to be acknowledged for program innovation, dedication and hard work which has been happening in Halton over the last few years. The challenges are being met. Notes Director of Education Bob Williams, "I think most of us are aware of the fine job done by our general level teachers. This event is an excellent opportunity to recognize those efforts."

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## Non-smoking policy puffs along

The Halton Board of Education's new no smoking policy has students lining the streets at some high schools.

The policy, which forbids smoking by students or teachers on school property, was to be reviewed in 1992, however, trustees are concerned things may get out of hand before that time.

The policy is forcing students to crowd around the edge of school property, some bordering busy streets, at times before school and between classes.

North Halton school trustee, Dick Howitt, told the education board that when he drops off his daughter at Georgetown District High School, he is met by "numerous kids sitting on the sidewalk smoking."

Admitting that the sight is not a pretty one, Mr. Howitt said "but what choice do we have." When there is time the students walk to a small corner store or to a church next door, he said.

Mr. Howitt said several schools in Burlington are facing the same problem. "Everybody drives past the high school and the image paints a certain picture for the 1,500 kids at the school," he said.

If the policy is working well enough then the sight of smoking students lining the sidewalks "is a small price to pay" said Mr. Howitt. "It looks a bit dreadful but I can live with that."

Anticipating problems once winter arrives, Mr. Howitt said the students will not want to leave the property to smoke and will move inside into washrooms. "I suspect the girls will go into the girl's washrooms to smoke and the boys will go into theirs," he said.

Unsatisfied with comments that the new smoking policy is operating smoothly, Mr. Howitt proposed that the policy be reviewed in the new year once the cold weather hits. It's too soon to form a judgement about whether there are problems, he said. "We're smoothing it over a trifle to say

that everything's going well," Mr. Howitt told other trustees.

The vice-principal of Acton High School, Bert O'Hearn, said the new smoking policy hasn't created a problem because the students are congregating in residential areas where there is no heavy traffic.

The high school only has about 560 students and 20 per cent of them smoke," he said. "Twenty kids, that's nothing at all," he said. "The size of the school seems to make it easier."

Mr. O'Hearn doesn't know what problems the policy will create in the winter but expects the students will try to find a warm place to smoke. "We'll just have to wait and see," he said. "But if anything we hope it will dissuade some kids from smoking," he said.

Bryn Davies, principal of the Georgetown high school, said he has only seen a dozen students smoking at the front of the school at a time. The policy has been running extremely well, he said, despite the fact 200 students identified themselves as smokers last year.

Mr. Davies said the Georgetown high school is in a better location than a resident in a residential area where students spill into the streets. Georgetown high school students are not blocking traffic and are respectful of traffic flow,

he stated.

The school doesn't have much control over what the students do on the sidewalk because it's public property, said Mr. Davies. If they're visible then it's just a reality, he added. "It's not a perfect world."


The school will deal with problems incurred by cold winter conditions as they arise, said Mr. Davies. There's a possibility they will hug an outside wall, he said.

Mr. Davies explained that students caught smoking on school property will receive a verbal warning the first time, the second time they will be sent home with parental notice and the third time they will be suspended for three days.

When the policy is reviewed in the new year, Mr. Howitt wants a complete report of "the good, the bad and the ugly" side of the policy. "Tell us everything," he said. "I'd like them to be very frank with the report."

Among the things Mr. Howitt wants to know in the report is if staff members who leave the school to smoke are losing contact with students during free periods. He even wants to know if secretary's at the school board building are decreasing in productivity because they have to cross the street to have a cigarette.

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