

St. Peter's opens to new principal, ideas

During the past year of its construction, St. Peter's School on Woodward Ave. has had its share of visitors. But none came as frequently as Kevin Finnegan.

The former vice-principal of Holy Rosary School in Milton, Mr. Finnegan was earlier this year appointed the principal of the brand new separate school. Since that time, he has spent a part of nearly every day watching the progress of the school.

It was both a delight and exciting to receive the appointment, he said in an interview, but much of his present excitement comes with the realization he will now have his own school to run according to his own ideas.

"Opening a new school is really quite different from walking into an established school as a new principal," he said.

A new school is something else.

"You can't go into an old

school and suddenly change it and stamp your personality on it," he explained.

"My biggest job in the first few months will be to set a tone—a school spirit for St. Peter's. Right now, the tone around here is carpenters running around to finish up in time."

The school will be an addition to the Holy Rosary parish, and much of the school activities will involve both Holy Rosary School and the church.

With 245 students transferring from Milton's first separate school to St. Peter's, he is confident most children will feel at home in their new surroundings.

"Many kids started looking forward to the move earlier this year," he said, adding there is already plenty of enthusiasm and excitement on the part of those registering at the new school.

He admits he has many personal ideals he hopes to

accomplish in his position, but he is also quick to point out that it will take both time and the co-operation of teachers and parents to realize those hopes.

This week, he plans to sit down with the new teaching staff and work out a basic set of goals for the first year.

Heading the list of goals will be the achievement of high academic and social standards, he stated.

Although they are basic goals, he points out that it will require the co-operative effort of both teachers and parents to develop those standards.

Discipline will be an important part of a child's education, he continued.

"I still maintain that a child should be disciplined—not by fear, but they should learn to respect the rules of the school."

He hopes to instill a sense of respect and pride in the students for their new school.

he emphasized.

"They should appreciate it all, the new building, books and staff teaching them. It is a perfect time to teach respect for the school, when everything is completely new."

"You have to give them the feeling of pride for the school."

Close contact with parents will also be an important criteria in shaping the school, according to the new principal.

"I hope to keep parents well informed, and in September plan to organize a parents' meeting."

"I don't know yet how it is going to be organized, but it will provide me with a chance to let them know what they can expect of the school for the first year," he continued.

Keeping parents informed of their child's progress is an important step in developing a child's respect for the school and his total environment, he explained.

There are usually far fewer problems when a student knows both school and parents are working together, supporting each other, he said.

Past experience has also taught him that every parent is interested to know what they can do to help, and are enthusiastic supporters of school programs.

He is hoping to attract some parents as volunteers at the school.

"I am here to lead the school, to develop the teachers as leaders, but one person does not make the school."

Mr. Finnegan arrived in Canada from England in 1968 to teach at Holy Rosary School. In 1970, he was transferred to George Vanier, Oakville and returned to Holy Rosary, Milton as vice-principal in September 1974.

In addition to teacher training at Liverpool University, Mr. Finnegan attended London University and completed part of the Bachelor of Science degree program in Economics. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, and has taken the two courses in Family Life Education as a Board nominee.

He also completed his M.Ed. degree in 1975.

He has resided in Milton since his arrival in Canada.

Mr. Finnegan is a member of Holy Rosary Parish where he serves as a lector and lay minister of the Eucharist as well as being a member of the Knights of Columbus Council for Milton.

He is married with two children, Liam, 12, and Karen 11, both of whom will attend St. Peter's this fall.



POLIO IMMUNIZATION shots have been denied to Milton couple, Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Pohlmann, far left, despite the fact they have two visitors, (right) from Holland. Neither Dutch visitor has received polio vaccine, but the Halton Regional Health Unit stated there are no exceptions to the current restrictions. Ontario Health Ministry regulations state only those under the age of 18, or persons travelling to or from Holland, are eligible for the shots.

Steam-Era weekend

Old fashioned days celebration revived

Don't throw those old-fashioned clothes away just yet — Milton Chamber of Commerce is reviving Old Fashioned Days in Milton for the first three days of labor day weekend.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 and 2, the Chamber with the co-operation of downtown and mall merchants and Milton Jaycees will stage a revival of the popular Old Fashioned Days which was a big event in Milton in the 1960s.

Organizers are busy this week promoting a competition among the retailers, service firms and financial institutions, with three trophies offered for the best display of old-fashioned equipment and/or costumes worn by staffers.

They hope to get three former Citizens of the Year to do the judging of entries, which must be made in advance of the weekend at the Chamber of Commerce of-

Unity Park.

President Maria Reis said she hoped all the stores would have their staffs dress in old-fashioned clothes befitting their trade, and add window displays and in-store displays to carry out the theme.

The three-day celebration was launched in the early 1960s to complement the Steam-Era reunions in Milton fair grounds, and publicize the stores, town and show.

For a few years a big week-long celebration was staged but it waned in the early 1970s. Miss Reis said she hopes this year's "revival" will lead to an even bigger and better show next year.

The Pepsi Challenge team will visit the town for the three days, to give local pop drinkers a chance to test their taste buds on that brand and that "other" brand. Who knows, someone might just find themselves on TV, she said.

Arrangements are being

made with Steam-Era organizers to have either an old-fashioned car or truck or a horse-drawn wagon transport people back and forth between the fair grounds, the mall and the downtown. Rides will likely be free.

Some touring entertainment is also being lined up, including the barbershop quartet which was a popular attraction at last weekend's Milton Madness street fair in the town core.

Pennants are to be strung around the shopping areas in time to add a note of gaiety for the Steam-Era parade scheduled for Saturday morning at 11.30. And senior citizens will be given free bus rides to shopping areas during the three-day period.

Colin Best of the Milton Centre group is working with Chamber directors Reis and Mike Beaver in organizing the event.

Demoted principal to teach in north Halton

Ron Kearns, a former Burlington principal and key figure in a controversy earlier this year, will be teaching in a north Halton public school this fall.

Mr. Kearns had been a principal of Maplehurst Public School in Burlington for 14 years, when he was arrested last September on a charge of possession of marijuana with the intent to traffic.

The demotion of the Burlington teacher from a former position of principal to his present status as teacher, comes after the unsuccessful attempt by the Halton Board of Education to dismiss Mr. Kearns from the payroll.

He was acquitted of the charge in January, after John S. Richards, a boarder at Mr. Kearns' home, testified in court that he had grown the marijuana plants found in the back yard of the home.

Eleven plants, some measuring over 12 feet in height, were found in the yard last fall, at the time of the arrest.

In a letter to the ministry of education in May, the Halton Board of Education requested permission to dismiss Mr. Kearns.

The board was refused on the basis that Mr. Kearns was found not guilty of the charge.

"We have not decided where he will teach, but he will definitely be placed in an elementary public school in north Halton," said John Boich, superintendent of Halton teachers.

Mr. Kearns has not yet been placed in a school, owing to a declining enrolment in the public elementary schools, he said.

"We must first wait to know enrolment figures in each school, before he is placed."

The decline of more than 1,600 students this fall in the elementary school system is leading to a new arrangement of teaching staff, according to the needs of the various schools, he continued.

"We don't yet have a position for Mr. Kearns, but I expect he will be teaching no later than the second week of September," said Mr. Boich.

He added that Mr. Kearns would likely be teaching either language arts or social

sciences at the junior intermediate level of grades five to eight.

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PREPARATION for the opening of St. Peter's School involves unpacking more than the usual number of boxes for Kevin Finnegan, principal of the new separate school. The former vice-principal of Holy Rosary School in Milton was appointed the double honor of opening a new school as a principal, earlier this year.

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