



Community Page

Drury getting ready to celebrate 25 years

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

For a teacher, few experiences are as rewarding as meeting a former student and finding out where life's paths have led.

"It's great to hear what they've accomplished, and maybe I've had a little role in some of their successes and guided them along the way," said Barb McFarlane, who has been teaching business and co-op at E.C. Drury High School for the past 18 years.

With that in mind, Ms McFarlane is brimming with anticipation for next year's 25th year reunion at the school. From May 27 to 29, past and present staff and students will gather for a weekend of fun and reminiscing.

The planning committee has already put a lot of time and effort into the organizing of the event. But that's nothing when compared with the excitement they all have, Ms McFarlane said, knowing the event will be remembered by everyone who attends for years to come.

"Even 25 years from now, they'll remember that weekend," Ms McFarlane said.

May 27 to 29 will be all about cherishing old memories and creating new ones, she added.

"We want to rekindle memories from their (students') high school days and greet people we haven't seen in years," she said. "It'll be a celebration of the history of the school and a celebration of the people who make up the history of the school."

The weekend will begin with an open house May 27. Alumni and the general public will be able to enjoy a leisurely stroll through the halls, locker bay and classrooms.

Memorabilia displays will be set up, reflecting some of the many events and activities of the past quarter-century. Also, current students will provide entertainment and display some of their work.

The displays will continue May 28.

The evening of May 27, the atmosphere will switch to that of a pub — with food, refreshments and entertainment provided in a giant tent.

May 28 will be a family-friendly day. Children will be able to participate in games and activities while their parents relax with old friends.

The main event will be Saturday night, beginning with a cocktail reception and followed by a dinner buffet. After the meal, attendees will have the choice of dancing with live music in one gym, or socializing in the other with music from the good old days.

There will be no formal activities planned Sunday, giving visitors a chance to arrange their own get-togethers with out-of-town friends.

The important part of the current planning is getting the word out, Ms McFarlane said. So far, with the help of the Internet, that hasn't proven too difficult, and she already has word that former students from "all over the world" are planning to attend.

"We expect it to be well attended. It's going to be a high profile weekend," she said.

She added the dynamics between a student and teacher change once the student leaves school. The conversations are no longer between a student and an authority figure, but between two adults.

When it comes to high schools, there isn't one that deserves a celebration more than E.C. Drury, Ms McFarlane said.

"So many people have been touched by E.C. Drury," she said, adding many households in town have been positively influenced



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The reunion organizing committee includes, front from left, Ross Thomson, Barb McFarlane and Larry Jaroslowski and, back from left, Joan Elstub, Simon Vanellis, Liz Wadson and Moe Pennock.

in one way or another by students.

Former E.C. Drury student and organizing committee member Liz Wadson said it'll be exciting visiting with friends and teachers from her time at the school more than 12 years ago.

"It's going to be great catching up and seeing how people's lives are progressing," she said. "I think it'll be interesting seeing what people have done after E.C. Drury."

She's encouraging Milton residents to tell people they know about the event.

"There are 6,000 potential people (who could attend), with past faculty and students," Ms Wadson said, adding, "It's going to take a lot of networking."

As the committee's fundraising co-ordinator, Ms Wadson said she's already gearing up to — hopefully — garner financial support from local businesses.

The committee has corporate sponsorship opportunities available, she said, and is seeking financial donations and door prizes from individuals and companies to help make the weekend a suc-

cess. Anyone interested in supporting the reunion can call Ms Wadson at (905) 875-9602.

The committee is also looking for old photos, uniforms and newspaper clippings for the memorabilia displays. Anyone with items they'd like to share can call Simon Vanellis at (905) 878-3588.

Registrations for the weekend are already being accepted and can be done on-line at www.ecdhs.haltonbe.on.ca or by mailing in registration forms that will soon be available.

The basic registration fee is \$15 for alumni and \$5 for guests. It includes all activities except the dinner. The Saturday night dinner dance costs \$25 per person or \$10 for the dance only.

Participants are encouraged to register early, as tickets are limited.

For more information, call E.C. Drury at (905) 878-0575 or visit www.ecdhs.haltonbe.on.ca.

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Programming Schedule – Tuesday, May 29 - Monday, June 7, 2004

Tuesday, June 1		Wednesday, June 2		Thursday, June 3		Friday, June 4		Saturday, June 5		Sunday, June 6		Monday, June 7	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30 pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	4:00pm	TVCogeco Sports: Halton HS Soccer Finals	10:30am	TVCogeco Sports: Halton HS Soccer Finals	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	5:30pm	Osler Health Connection			7:30pm	Plugged In! -- Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5:30pm	War Amps: The Western Front
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Money Week					5:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Faces - Best of Faces
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - May 31	7:00pm	Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm	The Issue Is...					6:30pm	Seniors Showcase		
		8:00pm	Auto Experts (Live)	8:00pm	Main Street					7:00pm	PeopleSpeak in halton		
		9:00pm	Milton Council - May 25	9:30pm	Halton Region Council - June 2					8:00pm	Money Week		
										8:30pm	Faces - Milton Community Awards		

T.V. Cogeco Sports - Halton H.S. Soccer Final Saturday 4 pm & Sunday 10:30 am