



Community Page

Holy Rosary School to take trip down memory lane as it prepares to celebrate 50th anniversary

Full slate of activities in the works for school's upcoming milestone

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

As a student at Holy Rosary Catholic School, Carol Cowan didn't expect she'd one day become its principal.

Likewise, when Denise McCann attended Holy Rosary, she never dreamed she'd teach students like herself at that very school.

And when Annette Lewin taught both of them in grade 6, she couldn't have imagined her grandson would be taught in the same grade by one of them and would have as his principal the other.

"It's a Small World" would seem to be the appropriate song at this point — at least for the Holy Rosary school community, where the small-town atmosphere is alive and kicking.

That's particularly true now as former and present staff, students and parents come together to prepare for the school's 50th anniversary celebrations.

On November 14, a celebration mass and reunion will take place at 2 p.m. followed by a trip down memory lane — as guests tour classes depicting various years in the school's history. A barbecue is set to follow.

"The classrooms in the school will be set up in five-year increments with memorabilia (from each five-year chunk)," said Carol Cowan, who has been the principal at Holy Rosary for three years.

Ms Cowan said she's looking forward to seeing old friends reunited.

"The first thing I hope this does is bring people together who haven't seen each other for a long time," she said.

In May next year, a 50th anniversary dinner and dance will be held as a second part of the celebration.

Ms Cowan said she has many happy memories of teaching, being principal and attending Holy Rosary.

"It's a wonderful community atmosphere. It's a happy school. The kids are happy."

She said she still remembers her father volunteering in the early 1950s to build the original school building, which was torn

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CAROL COWAN

down and replaced by a new one in 1999.

The junior kindergarten to grade 8 school was grades 1 to 8 when she attended, Ms Cowan said, as she reminisced about the school's early days.

"It was a well-run school," she said. "The teachers set standards high for academics, socially and spiritually. The school had a good reputation and that continues, even though the old school was torn down."

Although many things have changed since she attended, Ms Cowan said what's important has remained the same.

"The building has changed, but the spirit of the school is still very much the same."

Annette Lewin, who retired from teaching in 1989, said she can still picture where Ms Cowan — then Ms McGinnis — and Ms McCann sat as students in her class.

"They were good students," she said.

Ms Lewin first began teaching at Holy Rosary in 1959, four years after it opened. She continued there for 26 years, before transferring to Our Lady of Victory School. She said she's looking forward to November 14's festivities when she'll have a chance to talk with former students and re-live memories.

"When I meet students (around town) they always talk about their days at Holy Rosary. It seems to mean a lot to them," said Ms Lewin, who's on the 50th anniversary committee.

Ms Lewin is asking former students, parents and staff to bring in any memorabilia they might have of the school and drop it off at the office before November 14 when it will be used in the classroom displays.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Former teacher Annette Lewin (left) and current principal Carol Cowan look through some old school memorabilia as they prepare for Holy Rosary's 50th anniversary.

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Programming Schedule — Tuesday, September 14 - Monday, September 20, 2004

Tuesday, September 14		Wednesday, September 15		Thursday, September 16		Friday, September 17		Saturday, September 18		Sunday, September 19		Monday, September 20	
9:10, 11am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!	9:10, 11am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!	9:10, 11am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!	9:10, 11am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!	9:10, 11am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!	9:10am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!	9:10, 11am & 12:30pm	Plugged In!
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!	1:00pm	Halton Hills Council - Sept. 13	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!	1:00pm	Georgetown Fall Fair Ambassador Competition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!	8:00pm	Georgetown Fall Fair Ambassador Competition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In!	6:30pm	TVCogeco Sports: CFL Football - Sask at Hamilton	6:30pm	TVCogeco Sports: CFL Football - Sask at Hamilton	8:00pm	SportsZONE Live
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - Sept. 13												

"SportsZONE Live returns Monday, Sept. 20th, 8pm"