

# Pickering College re-visited

by Doug Reed

It's taken a quarter-century but I'm now officially an "Old Boy."

To prove the point I attended Pickering College's "Old Boys' Reunion" in Newmarket last Saturday.

It was 25 years ago I entered Pickering College. I can still recall meeting my first teacher. Keith McLaren was his name.

He was hunched over his desk in the math classroom when I appeared to officially sign in as a new boy at Pickering.

What a pleasant surprise it was some 25 years later to meet Mr. McLaren again...still hunched over his desk.

He was the college's senior hockey team coach. That hasn't changed. He's still as enthusiastic as ever about shinny and he doesn't look a bit over 40, or 50, or whatever age he is.

## Thinking Out Loud

What a thrill to assure him I had succeeded after all in the real world outside the confines of our little Quaker boarding school for boys.

He seemed pleased and he showed it. I seemed pleased and I'm certain I showed it as well.

Basketball coach Don Menard was there and so was former headmaster Harry and Mrs. Beer...but the place has changed.

The hill-topped school still has its pillard entrance-way but it now has a new ice pad, two TV rooms, computers and a dining hall that puts West Point's to shame.

Mr. Richardson has a beard and there's a trophy case set up for the late Rudy Renzius,

a master craftsman and industrial arts teacher.

He taught me how to make a college ring from scratch. I still have it.

Rogers and Firth House seem the same from outside but inside there are more pictures on the walls...but as a fellow classmate pointed out Saturday, "The smell's the same." And it was.

Lads of every nationality, from many countries of the world have been coming to Pickering College, they always have, they always will.

The bamboo rod was never applied soundly to the backsides of students at Pickering if they failed to make the grade or were

disruptive.

Instead, the Quaker tradition took over.

There was no corporal punishment, no caning but a solid opportunity to sit down to discuss one's responsibility to self and community...in this case the community being the college one had let down. It was called the "honor system," and it worked.

For at Pickering a student was asked to respect the ideal of freedom, he was asked to co-operate, to be tolerant, to be loyal, to be ambitious, to be independent, courteous, honourable, a sportsman and a member of the community so that he will endeavour "in all ways to transmit his community not only, not less but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to him."

At 42 I've finally reached "Old Boys" status...at least at Pickering College and darn it all, it feels good.

## Obituary

### Philippe Beausoleil

Philippe Beausoleil, a longtime resident of Port McNicoll, died on Feb. 16, 1981, following a brief illness. He was 65 years of age.

The resident of 341 Wardell Street passed away in Huronia district Hospital, Midland.

The Tiny Township native was a widower, the husband of the late Theresa Marion. A son, Bernard Beausoleil, of Midland, and two daughters, Annette (Mrs. Jack Bowen) of Midland, and Bernadette (Mrs. David Travers) of Port McNicoll, survive him.

Mr. Beausoleil was a veteran of the Second World War, a member of the Port McNicoll Legion, and a member of the Senior Citizen Club of Port McNicoll. Port McNicoll was his home for 37 years.

Other living members of the immediate family,

are his sister, Dora (Lacroix) of Sudbury, and brothers Albert, Andre, Ernest and Alfred, all of Penetanguishene.

He had 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

His sister, Carrie (Ladouceur), and his brothers Edmond and Alcime predeceased him, as well as his wife. His parents were Rudolphe Beausoleil and Celima Moreau.

Father W. Vincent Egan and Msgr. A. Belanger jointly conducted the funeral service on February 19, 1981, in Sacred Heart Church, Port McNicoll.

Interment will be in the spring in St. Margaret's Cemetery, Midland.

Pallbearers were Danny Travers, John Bowen, Barry Bowen, Dennis Gignac, Jules Beausoleil and Guy D'Aoust.

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