

# Community involvement is important to new principal

by Rob Cotton  
the News

Lake Superior High School belongs to the communities and the school and the communities have to work together.

That's the message the new principal of Lake Superior High, Balan Menon, wants to carry to as many people as possible.

Menon said one way he wants to encourage community commitment to the school is by becoming involved in community activities a personal basis.

Menon came to Lake Superior High School from Chatham, Ont. where he was a vice-principal.

He received undergraduate and masters degrees in India before coming to Canada and attending the University of New Brunswick.

While in Chatham he took several graduate courses at Western University and later received his Masters of Education from Wayne State University in Detroit.

The natural beauty of the area is one of the main reasons he and his wife chose to come to the North Shore, he said.

"I really love this area - the beauty of the mountains and the water."

He and his wife are presently living at Jackfish Lake.

Their four children are, as Menon described it, scattered around the country.

One daughter lives in Newfoundland, one in Toronto and one in Chatham. Their son is studying pharmacy at the University of Toronto.

"So far the people I have talked to have been most helpful. I see goodwill out

there and that's very important," he said.

He believes there are several challenges facing Lake Superior High School at this moment.

One of the major needs is to improve staff moral, he said, and one way to improve it is to bring the community closer to the school.

"I want the community to be solidly behind the school."

Another challenge facing the school is one typical of most northern schools. The schools are small and the population scattered.

This it makes it difficult for the school to offer all of the course it would like to offer, he explained.

"One of the problems we face is offering enough courses to give our students a broad base of learning."

The other challenge for the



Balan Menon, new principal at Lake Superior High School, is looking forward to furthering community involvement with the school. photo by Rob Cotton

high school is the two campus situation.

Although it is not a unique circumstance it is not very common, Menon said.

"What is unique is the way the students shuttle between the two campuses," he added.

This creates timetable difficulties and also involves

the cost of transporting the students back and forth.

However, for the new principal there is a real advantage in having two campuses.

"There is a great advantage in this," he explained, "because there are two communities solidly backing one school."

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