

Two LSHS teachers receive 25-year service awards



Jean Ann Connor (seated) and Tom Quinton (left) were honoured last week. Trustees in attendance included (from right) Joan Nugent, Marilyn Chapman and Debbie Fummerton.

by Darren MacDonald
Staff

For Tom Quinton, one of the nicer things about being a teacher in a small town is that he gets to teach the children of former students.

"Last week my wife was talking about this nice little girl who's in kindergarten this year," says Quinton, who now teaches math at Lake Superior High School. "And when she told me who she was I said 'Oh my God, I taught her mother when she was in kindergarten.'"

Last Tuesday evening, Quinton and LSHS Teacher/Librarian Jean Ann Connor were given 25-year Service Awards at a ceremony held at Rosie's and Josie's in Schreiber.

Following a brief overview of each teacher's background by Lake Superior Board of Education Director Ian McQuarrie, the teachers were presented with gold watches by LSBE Chairperson Pat Richardson.

"I think it's a very good thing the board is doing," says Connor, who taught English for 30 years before moving to the library. "It's nice of them to recognize the long-term ser-

vice of teachers. It's deeply appreciated, and the watch is a nice memento of the occasion."

Connor says she began teaching 33 years ago, and has witnessed many changes in the school system since then.

"I find that teenagers themselves have changed radically," she says. "There are quite a few nice teenagers, but today things like vulgar language and lack of respect are much more common. But those changes reflect changes in our whole society. The problems here are small potatoes."

Connor says that the standards in the English department at LSHS are such that many graduates find they have a step up on students from other schools.

"A lot of the students who leave here find that at university, they end up proofreading for other university students to find errors that the others don't know about," she says.

Connor also says she enjoys the freedom she has since she

switched to library work, even though it's taken her out of the classroom.

"I really love library work," she says. "In our English classes, we require that our students write one essay a week, and if you have 90 students, that means your nights and weekends are taken up."

"And now, I'm looking forward to retirement (in two or

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three years.)"

Tom Quinton says the biggest change he's noticed is the impact computers have had on the entire school system.

"They've changed everything from the administration end of things, right on down to the way teachers prepare work and kids taking courses in computers," he says.

Also, Quinton says more of today's students stay in school.

"Years ago, we used to have a 30 to 40 per cent drop-out rate in grade 9," he says. "The media keeps talking about the terrible drop-out rate, but really, it used to be a lot worse."

Quinton was Vice-Principal at Schreiber Public School for

seven years before moving to LSHS. He also spent 10 years on Schreiber Town Council.

He says that the service award is nice "because not all the years are glorious. But it is nice to have some recognition after all the years of service."

"Schreiber and Terrace Bay is one community when it comes to the high school," he says. "And for a teacher that's nice, because you get to follow your students after they leave. I see them graduate from university, get a job at the mill—whatever they do. You don't get to do that in a big city, where once they leave your classroom, they're gone forever."



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