

Upon retirement

# Caretaker will miss school children

By JIM THOMAS  
STOUFFVILLE — Hi Ed. Hello Mr. MacAloney. The greetings are one in the same. Some students at Orchard Park School prefer the formal approach, some the informal. However, for custodian Ed MacAloney, the hi's and the hellos are music to his ears. He'll miss when September rolls around. He's retiring soon.

A real good bunch of kids. That's the way Ed describes the pupils at Orchard Park. "Treat them like they're somebodies and they'll treat you the same." Never a day goes by, he says, that a boy or girl doesn't enquire if there's something he or she can do. "I can find them a million things to do," he states. It was 13 years ago that Ed MacAloney was hired on staff,

first at the High School and then at Orchard Park. It just so happened one custodian was leaving when he applied. His application was accepted. "More luck than good management," says Ed with a smile. One of the 'old school', Ed works a five-day week with shifts extending from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., or 3:30 to 11:30 p.m. However, seldom a weekend passes that he's

not around, sometimes Saturdays and Sundays. "I've had a terrific relationship with the Board," he says, "I couldn't ask for better." The feeling's mutual. During his term as President of the Stouffville Lions Club, Ed adopted the motto "People Caring for People." He feels the same expression applies to his work. While keeping the halls and

classrooms spotless on a day-to-day basis is important, Ed says, the real work starts when school ends. During the months of July and August, every inch of the building is washed and waxed. While all kiddies are dear to his heart, Ed admits he has a special affection for his two grandchildren, Jim and Michelle. "I think the world of them," he says. They call out "Hi grandpa" whenever they meet in the hall.

While Ed's stay at Orchard Park will extend into the summer months (Aug. 1 or Sept. 1, he's not quite sure), for the students, the association ends June 25. "I'll just drift out quietly," Ed says, "a touch of sadness in his voice, and when they come back, I won't be here." Not in body, we would add, but the memory of Ed MacAloney will long remain.

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Ed MacAloney, caretaker at Orchard Park Public School, Stouffville, will retire prior to the start of the fall term. He'll miss seeing the boys and girls, he says, especially his two grandchildren, Jim and Michelle. — Jim Thomas

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