

Stephen Rensink

Teacher has 'class'ic style



Stephen Rensink teaches at Summitview Public School. — Denise McDonald

By DENISE McDONALD
 "Having an impact on the students he works with" is the most gratifying aspect of Stephen Rensink's teaching responsibilities at Summitview Public School.

"I relish the challenge of creating new and unique ways to present old material," he said.

After obtaining an undergraduate's degree from Queen's University, Stephen completed his teaching education at Brock in 1981.

Following graduation, he and his wife, Louise, also a teacher, left for Alberta.

"I'd never been out there before and I was very interested in getting to a different area," he said. "It also fit in with the plans I had for my personal life at that particular time."

For the ensuing five years, he taught Grade 5 at the Sundre Elementary School, until deciding to make the move back to Ontario in 1987.

"My wife and I decided it was time to be closer to our parents for a while," he said. "It was a good move. Things were beginning to

open up here, whereas, in Alberta, there just weren't any opportunities to move around."

His family, including two and a half year-old Stephanie, and Megan, 6 months, now reside south of Port Perry. Future plans include building a home near Greenbank.

On September 1, of last year, Stephen joined the staff at Summitview Public School, teaching physical education to students in kindergarten to Grade 6, and history and health to Grades 7 and 8.

"It's nice to have that mix of time in the gym and an academic setting," he said. "It keeps your feet on the ground."

"After being in the gym all day, you tend to get a distorted sense of reality," he continued. "You see the children in such a different environment where the energy level is really high."

He sees little personality change in students today.

"When I look back to my own education, I see that it's not so much harder to teach them as to motivate them and get them ex-

cited about a new topic."

"When I look at what I had when I was growing up, and what these kids have today, it's hard to compete, to find something they've never seen before."

When asked what future goals entail, Stephen said: "I'd definitely like to stay in this area for a long while, but not necessarily teaching the same subjects. It always nice to be able to see what works and be able to make those changes, but if you stay in one spot for too long, you tend to get in a rut. The subject itself tends to become all important, and you eventually stop looking at the child himself."

Stephen cites particular advantages of his chosen profession as providing the opportunity to work with people.

"It's really a people job, working with the staff, parents and children together," he said.

"However," he continued, "my first love will always lie in being in the classroom, working with the kids."



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