



Mary Elson is a Grade 1 teacher on the staff of Goodwood Public School. It was Mrs. Josephine Wagg who kindled the spark towards a professional career. "She was my idol," Mary recalls, "I always wanted to be like her."
—Jim Thomas

Teacher Mary Elson

Spark kindled early

By JIM THOMAS
GOODWOOD — Mary Elson's back where she started; well almost.
The Grade 1 teacher at Goodwood Public School received her elementary education in a two-room building only a stones-throw away. And it was there her career really began.

Goodwood United Church; teaches Sunday School; sings in the choir; serves as alternate organist and pianist; heads the Community Hall board and is working towards her degree at York University.
For relaxation, Mary and Brad

enjoy weekends at the family cottage near Miner's Bay.
Any thoughts of retirement? "I hope to continue ten more years," Mary replies.
Parents present and future undoubtedly hope she continues forever.

"Josephine Wagg was my idol," Mary recalls, "I always wanted to be like her."

That spark, kindled back in Grade 4, has been burning professionally 25 years, fifteen years at Goodwood.

Mrs. Elson, the former Mary Tindall, was born in the community, one of three in the family of Earl and Irene Tindall now of Uxbridge. A sister Donna lives in Toronto and a brother Neil resides at Leaskdale.

Mary and Brad are also the parents of two, Melissa, 19 and Kris, 14.

"I love it," Mary says of her chosen profession, "every day is different."

Following graduation from Uxbridge High, Mary attended Toronto Teachers' College, commuting back and forth with Bob Stover, Bonnie Jack and Bill Sanders all of Stouffville.

Following the arrival of their second child, Mary anticipated retirement; and almost did. However, Goodwood principal Jim Smith, (now of Sunderland), asked her to supply. At the same time, Mrs. Lorne Tindall agreed to babysit. That was all the encouragement Mary needed.

She's been shaping young lives ever since.

Music's her specialty. Because children enter kindergarten with more knowledge today than in years gone by, "it's up to the teacher to draw it out rather than push it in," she explains.

She taught daughter Melissa in Grade 1. At the time, she had 38 pupils in her class.

Teaching in her 'home' school creates no undue pressure, Mary says, in fact she kind of enjoys the "Hi, Mrs. Elson" whenever she stops at the local Post Office.

Mary's interests extend far beyond the classroom. She's president of the Women's Institute; a member in the congregation of



Laurie's our 'Girl Next Door'

Eighteen-year-old Laurie Sukki, Jesse Thomson Road, Whitchurch, Stouffville, is a Grade 12 student attending Sacred Heart High School, Newmarket. Mathematics and Drama are favorite subjects. Following graduation, Laurie plans to go on to university in a math-related course. Reading, playing the piano, dancing and squash are favorite extra-curricular activities.
—Jim Thomas

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