

# Nancy Stover bids farewell to staff and students of Stouffville Christian School

By **BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

The longest serving staff member at Stouffville Christian School will close the door to her Grade 4 classroom for the last time when she retires at the end of the current school year.

Nancy Stover was the original librarian when the privately-operated Altona-based school first opened in 1981 to serve the needs of local parents wishing to see their children educated in a Christian setting. After working half-time setting up the library for three years, Stover went on to teach Grade 4 on a full-

time basis. Since then, she has taught Grade 4 and 5 splits, as well as Grade 3 and 4 mixed classes before returning to Grade 4 in recent years.

Stover, a long-time Stouffville resident who was born in Toronto and raised in Lemonville, started her teaching career at Unionville Public School after graduating from Teachers College in 1958. She left teaching to raise her three children in 1965, returning to the profession with the opening of the Christian School 16 years later.

Stover said she always preferred to teach Grade 4 chil-

dren because of the unique stage of personal development at that age. "I most enjoy that age level," she said. "They are young enough to be impressionable and old enough to take responsibility."

In her 15 years on the job, Stover has watched the school undergo numerous changes. It started out in the old Altona Missionary Church, then spread its wings the second year, taking over the old feed mill located directly across the road. Several portables have been added as the school went from being an elementary and high school mix back to

its current elementary school status. She has worked under four principals, including her husband Bob, who was the inaugural principal at the school.

Through it all, Stover has remained an ardent supporter of the Christian school concept. "It's the desire to strengthen the Christian home that has kept the school going, the desire to teach the world view according to God's word and to have good standards in our education."

She said parents of the students are caring and committed. "What I see is parents who are concerned for their

children. They want the very best for them. We've always had good parental involvement at the school. There have been some wonderful parents, some terrific giving people."

Stover said she was thrilled to have been a part of the school in its first decade and a half. "It's really been a privilege to have been involved the whole way through. I'm very grateful for the opportunity."

One of the highlights of her time spent at the school came last November when she was selected to be part of an international school project which saw her and 39 other Ontario

Christian school teachers travel to Russia to teach Christian morals and ethics to Russian teachers.

Once retired, Stover plans to move to a rural property northwest of Owen Sound with her husband, who plans to step down from his position as superintendent with the York Region Board of Education this August. The couple has built a house on the 70-acre site.

Stover will be honored at a retirement reception June 25 at the Stouffville Missionary Church, which will be followed by a banquet dinner at the Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club that evening.

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