

Avon Maitland District School Board

**Engage
Inspire
Innovate**

... Always Learning

*Recognition and Retirement
Reception*

*Always Learning Awards,
Service Recognition Awards,
& Retirement Awards*

Central Huron Community Complex

Clinton, ON

Wednesday, June 8, 2016



Programme

5:30 pm *Social and Hors d'oeuvres*

6:00 p.m. *Welcome and Presentations*

MC

Julie Moore, Trustee

Music Provided by

Mark McIntosh and Avon Public School



We Will

Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments

We Will

Maximize Student Outcomes

By Valuing

Our Students, Our Staff, Our Families,

Our Communities

Using Principles of

Character, Equity and Sustainability

*The Board expresses sincere
gratitude for the dedicated service
provided by our staff.*

Congratulations to all

award winners and retirees.

We wish you health, happiness

and continued success

today and every day.

- ♦ *Greetings from the Board:
Colleen Schenk, Chair*

- ♦ *Presentation of Always Learning Awards:
Nancy Rothwell, Trustee
Randy Wagler, Trustee
Colleen Schenk, Chair
Ted Doherty, Director*

- ♦ *Presentation of Years of Service Awards:
Jodie Baker, Superintendent of Education*

- ♦ *Presentation of Retirements Awards
Janet Baird-Jackson, Superintendent of
Corporate Services
Colleen Schenk, Chair
Ted Doherty, Director of Education*

- ♦ *Closing Remarks:
Ted Doherty, Director of Education*

Always Learning Awards

Bryan Ames, Newry Coach Lines—North Perth

Nominated by:

Cathy McNeil, Varsity Girls Field Hockey Team, Ethel Wagler

Cathy Bachner, Teacher, Downie Central Public School

Nominated by:

Peter Rice, Suzanne Gervais, Tina Hildenbrand

Jason Brodhagen and Felicia Featherstone-Breckon

Nominated by:

Helen Brockman, Kerry Carlyle, Lynn Hainer

Ron Burt and Bob Pike, Members of Audit Committee

Nominated by:

Trustee Members on Audit Committee, Cheri Carter, Sandra Hunt

Karri-Anne Cameron and Teresa Farrell Becker

Nominated by: Angela Cowley, Lori Stevens, Maitland River ES

Della Carroll-Smith

Nominated by:

Todd McKone, John Chapman, Michelle Murphy-Bukala

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TRUSTEES

Randy Wagler, Chair
Lynette Geddes, Vice-Chair
Judy Cairncross, Trustee
Robert Hunking, Trustee
Alyson Kent, Trustee
Julie Moore, Trustee
Doug Pratley, Trustee
Nancy Rothwell, Trustee
Colleen Schenk, Trustee

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Shannon Edwards, Goderich District CI
Zach Misener, Stratford Central SS

STUDENT SENATORS

Sean Mitchell & Fedor Sobolev, Central Huron SS
Faith Sebastian, FE Madill SS
Tanisha Curran, Goderich District CI
Donovan Gerber & Shea Kraemer, Listowel District SS
Jessica Schouwstra & Christian Streicher, Mitchell District HS
Andrea Strathdee & Elizabeth Aarts, St Marys DCVI
Kathleen Gregus & Ryan Miller, South Huron District HS
Vanessa Ortelli, Stratford Central SS
Nick Yungblut & Lisa Marshall, Stratford Northwestern SS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary
Janet Baird-Jackson, Superintendent of Corporate Services
Jodie Baker, Superintendent of Education
Peggy Blair, Superintendent of Education
Cheri Carter, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Treasurer
Paul Langis, Superintendent of Education
Jane Morris, Superintendent of Education

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**

Always Learning Awards

Ian Dekker

Nominated by:

Amanda Overholt, Nancy Pridham, Shawn King

Paula Diamond

Nominated by:

April Smith, John Herbert, Amy Crummer

Mary Sanderson

Nominated by:

Mihcelle Spencer, Cheryl Peach, Tamara Schumacher

Bill Shalinsky

Nominated by:

Abby Armstrong, Mary-Anne Hogan Cann, Varlerie Gilbert-Bean

Fred Valdez

Nominated by:

Petra Goetz, Senior Boys Soccer Team, Senior Girls Soccer Team

Bailey Wiffen

Nominated by:

April Smith, John Herbert, Amy Crummer

Service Recognition Awards

40 Years of Service

Nancy Aitchison, FE Madill SS

35 Years of Service

Sylvia Richardson, South Perth Centennial PS

Nancy Skinner, Listowel Eastdale PS

Linda Wray, Goderich PS

Diane Yausie, Mitchell District HS

30 Years of Service

David Allely, Hamlet PS

Tracy Bean, Goderich PS

Wendy Case, Education Centre

Cheryl Chapman, Hamlet PS

Jo-Dee DesJardine

Sandra Fremlin-Skinner, South Huron District HS

Leah Anne Goody, Listowel District SS

Mary Ann Hogan, Goderich PS

Lloyd Renecker, Avon PS

Mary Sanderson, Howick Central PS

Joan Shapton, Bluewater Coast ES

Mary Vink, Upper Thames ES

Retiree Biographies

Name

School

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Diane Lichit **Stratford Northwestern Secondary School**

Diane started her teaching career in 1986 at her Alma Mater Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in 1986. In 1991 she worked as supply at Stratford Central Secondary School, with stints in St Marys, until she settled at SNSS. She and her husband Bruce lived in the hills of North Easthope. Diane is looking forward to spending more time at home; golfing, umping baseball, travelling, snowmobiling, and being a full-time mom and housewife and a general go-for this-thing. Diane and Bruce are actively involved in their church community and will continue to stay active there as well as explore other possible volunteer opportunities.

Linda Matthews **Stratford Northwestern Secondary School**

It was my privilege to serve as an Educational assistant for AMDSB for nine years, preparing Braille and working with a number of students who are blind, then took a leave of absence to obtain a BA and B Ed. Taught as Teacher of the Blind serving a number of students in Huron County for one year, two years of Student Success work at FEMSS, then on to teach English at SNWSS for the final years of my career in education. It was a joy to coach Nordic Ski teams for many years with Betty Shaw at Madill, then at Stratford Northwestern.

Joan Nowack **Stratford Northwestern Secondary School**

Exactly 43 years ago on June 8, 1973, Joan Nowack was hired as Student Services Secretary at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. Joan enjoyed working with the staff and students at Northwestern and gradually rotated through the various secretarial roles at Northwestern in order to gain more experience. She became Head Secretary at Northwestern in August, 1989 and continued in that capacity until her retirement in July, 2015. In retirement, Joan looks forward to having more time to pursue her interests of gardening, music, interior decorating and reading.

James Sampa **Stratford Northwestern Secondary School**

James obtained a BA degree in Geography (Geomorphology) and a Bed in Education from the University of Zambia. He then obtained an MLA degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Guelph. James taught at Fanshawe College, and then with the Avon Maitland DSB at Mitchell District High School and Stratford Northwestern Secondary School.

Service Recognition Awards

25 Years of Service

Wendy Armstrong-Gibson, North Woods PS

Kimberley Boon, Romeo PS

Laurel Carroll-Walls, Downie Central PS

Ruth Claessens, Listowel District SS

Lesley Clarke, Goderich PS

Michelle Clarke Ellison, Mitchell District HS

Mary Lynn Cook-McEwen, Learning Services, Ed Centre

Katharina Coolman, South Huron District HS

Gary Coursey, Exeter PS

Steven Curtis, Shakespeare PS

Sheila Dietrich, Goderich District CI

Joanne Elliott, St. Marys District CVI

Karen Frayne, Goderich PS

Darlene Fisk, Howick Central PS

Lynn Gibson, Milverton PS

Diane Grail, Goderich PS

Larry Grail, Brookside PS

Lynda Hemming, Stratford Northwestern SS

John Herbert, St. Marys District CVI

Judy Hoffmeyer, Learning Resources Centre

Denise Kane, Romeo PS

Sara Kinsman, Maitland River ES

Elizabeth Lagerwerf, Stratford Central SS

Graham Leitch, Stratford Central SS

Kimberley Littleton, South Perth Centennial PS

Michael Lobb, Seaforth PS

Service Recognition Awards

25 Years of Service (continued)

Ruth Lovell, Sprucedale PS
Janet MacIntyre, Bluewater Coast ES
Victoria McDonald, Listowel District SS
Cheryl McPhee, Elma Twp PS
Elaine Merner, Huron-Perth Transportation Services
Scott Mitchell, Listowel District SS
Helen Orr, Bedford PS
Barbara Pepper, Huron Centennial PS
John Power, Bluewater Coast ES
Marilyn Purcell, Listowel District SS
Marsha Purvis, South Perth Centennial PS
Julie Pyke, FE Madill SS
Susanne Ramsay, Mornington Central PS
Christine Ritsma, Stratford Northwestern SS
Lori-Ann Shurgold, Stratford Northwestern SS
Jennifer Smith, Learning Resources Centre
Patricia Taylor, Sprucedale PS
Denise Tedesco, Maitland River ES
Kimberly Thomas, Avon PS
Marcia Tweddle, Downie Central PS
Loretta Wagler, Hamlet PS
Morag Watt, Hullett Cental PS
Kimberly Wagner, Hamlet PS
Christine Wilkinson, North Easthope PS
Christine Wright, Howick Central PS
Andrea Yantzi, Sprucedale PS
Frederick, Yundt, Mitchell District HS

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Wendy Wharren	Stratford Central Secondary School
Wendy has been an educator in the and Avon-Maitland District School Boards for fifteen years. During those years Wendy has been a teacher in both Wingham and Stratford. She has taught Business and alternative education in the COPE program. Wendy's greatest strengths as a teacher were care for students and active listening. This traits were always present during Wendy's years in education as a COPE teacher at Stratford Central. Wendy would always advocate on behalf of her students strongly. She could be both proactive and reactive when advocating for her students, always with sound rationale. During her time in the COPE program, student retention, credit accumulation and graduation rates grew thanks to her efforts. Recently a university graduate and former COPE student took the time to thank Wendy for giving her another chance in education and for always reaching out and showing great patience. Clearly Wendy has made an impact on students during her career. Wendy looks forward to spending her retirement years with her husband Wayne as well as being a grandmother. We wish Wendy the best of luck in all her future endeavours.	

Victoria Lewis	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
-----------------------	--

Retiree Biographies

Name **School** **Angela Leis** **South Perth Centennial Public School**

Angela began her teaching career at the former Juliet Public School, followed by Romeo and Arthur Meighen. Later when Angela and her husband settled on a farm in St. Marys, she continued her next 20 years of teaching at South Perth Centennial. Angela's passion for the arts was shared with her students through many of their dance and drama productions. Having retired in January, Angela now enjoys travelling and putting around on her hobby farm. She misses the students and continues to volunteer at South Perth.

Nancy Stotts Jones **Stratford Central Secondary School**

Nancy Stotts Jones is an educator who fully embodies the qualities of life long learning. Her formal education led her to the pinnacle of academic achievement -- a Ph.D -- and she continues to seek new opportunities to learn things. In addition to being an accomplished musician, Nancy has been an innovative educator in English language and literature, drama, dance, philosophy, and Writer's Craft. Yet her strong academic pedigree has never been an impediment to the pursuit of her core belief in the universality of public education. Nancy is as devoted to teaching marginalized students how to write a good paragraph as she is to facilitating a philosopher's cafe about the writings of Kant, Hume, and Nietzsche (among others). She directed many plays at the school and for the Sears Drama Festival; she coached field hockey; she created the only dance programme and curriculum in Avon-Maitland; she served on countless committees; she is a liaison to many community partners. Indeed, Nancy's story as an educator is the story of innovation balanced with pragmatism; it is the story of a belief in core values and ideals while remaining firmly rooted in a deep awareness of the follies and foibles of the human condition. Along the way, she earned the deep respect and admiration of her students and colleagues because of her tireless commitment to excellence in all things. The English department at Stratford Central has been enriched by Nancy's knowledge and wisdom: without her, we will be inevitably different, but we will never be the same, and we wish her every joy as she embraces the next chapter in her learning.

Retirees (in school order)

Name	School
Sheila Billings	Anne Hathaway Public School
Nora Millard	Anne Hathaway Public School
Helen Orr	Bedford Public School
Gail Moffett	Central Huron Secondary School
John Carr	Downie Central Public School
LaRue Brenner	Education Centre
Don Gibbons	Education Centre (LRC)
Laurie Langstaff	Education Centre (LRC)
Jennifer Smith	Education Centre (LRC)
Jane Floyd	Elma Township Public School
Doris Becker	Exeter Elementary School
Bruce Armstrong	F.E. Madill Secondary School
Suzanne Irwin	F.E. Madill Secondary School (7-8)
Vivien King-Sherwood	F.E. Madill Secondary School
Jane Corrigan	Goderich District Collegiate Institute
Helen VandenHeuvel	Goderich District Collegiate Institute
James Tyo	Goderich District Collegiate Institute
Judith Thomas	Goderich Public School
David Allely	Hamlet Public School
Julie Holmes	Howick Central Public School
Mary Sanderson	Howick Central Public School
Henry Elderhorst	Hullett Central Public School
Lucie Turcotte-Lapaine	Huron Centennial Public School
Judy Skochinski	Huron Centennial Public School
Patricia Coghlin	Listowel Central Public School
Patricia Mayberry	Listowel Central Public School
Kathy Newman	Listowel Eastdale/Wallace Public School
LeahAnne Goody	Listowel District Secondary School
Martin Kuske	Listowel District Secondary School
Wayne Martin	Listowel District Secondary School
Blair McKay	Listowel District Secondary School
Lou-Ann Frook	Little Falls Elementary School

Retirees (in school order)

Name	School
Betty Lealess	Little Falls Elementary School
Jane Riordan	Little Falls Elementary School
Diane Heibein	Maitland River Elementary School
Sara Kinsman	Maitland River Elementary School
Joanne McPherson	Maitland River Elementary School
Faye Wreford	Media Centre
Mary Wilkinson	Mitchell District High School (7&8)
Fred Kindler	Mitchell District High School
Susan Young	Mitchell District High School
Gloria Roe	Mornington Central Public School
Colleen Campbell	St. Marys District C&VI
Leslie Dakin	St. Marys District C&VI
Nancy Davis	St. Marys District C&VI (7&8)
Mary Ross	St. Marys District C&VI
Heather Browning	Shakespeare Public School
Lauree Elder	Shakespeare Public School
Terri Brintnell	South Huron District High School
John McCowan	South Huron District High School
MaryBeth Jantzi	South Huron District High School
Angela Leis	South Perth Centennial Public School
Nancy Stott-Jones	Stratford Central Secondary School
Wendy Wharran	Stratford Central Secondary School
Victoria Lewis	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
Diane Lichti	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
Linda Matthews	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
Joan Nowack	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
James Sampa	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
Richard Storie	Stratford Northwestern Secondary School
Connie Devereaux	Upper Thames Elementary School
Bradley Walsh	Upper Thames Elementary School

Retiree Biographies

Name **School** **Terri Brintnell** **South Huron District HS**

Terri began her teaching career at Seaforth District High School in 1986 after completing her studies at the University of Guelph and Althouse. She taught family studies and was department head of Contemporary Studies, which included a mixed bag of technology, social science and business teachers. Terri worked in Seaforth until it closed and then moved onto South Huron District High School to take the department head of cooperative education position. Returning to the high school she graduated from in 1981 brought her back to her roots and she has since become an important part of the culture at South Huron. Staff and students will miss her leadership and organization skills, especially around catering events through the tech foods program. Her plan in retirement is not to have a plan, which is a great way of kicking off what we hope will be a retirement filled with many unexpected and enjoyable adventures.

Mary Beth Jantzi **South Huron District HS**

Beth graduated from Althouse in 1984 and started her career in education as a supply teacher at South Huron District High School and Central Huron Secondary. She then briefly went back to working at Queensway nursing home where she eventually became an administrator. After putting on a play at the nursing home and realizing her administrative skills could not match her passion for teaching drama, Beth returned to teaching at South Huron in 1987. In the early years, Beth taught English and drama and also worked in adult education, but eventually she focused her attention solely on drama. Over the years, Beth has directed and helped present numerous plays and productions at South Huron and, although they are always stressful and demanding exercises, she has always found and celebrated the humorous and unpredictable nature of teenage actors. Beth plans to help run personal exploration retreats in her retirement and also spend lots of time teaching her 4 yr. old granddaughter how to perform monologues.

John McCowan **South Huron District HS**

John began work in Brucefield as a custodian in 2005. He moved to South Huron District High School in 2009 and remained there until his retirement this past December. Upon retiring, John quickly took off for Florida to spend three months adjusting to retirement living there. He plans to continue to travel and spend more time with his family and grandchildren. Staff and students remember John as a quiet, but always friendly and smiling face that greeted them each day. John was also known to occasionally "borrow" some candy from the staff. John is missed, but working occasionally as a casual custodian allows him to keep in contact with those at South Huron that have appreciated all his efforts over the years.

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Heather Browning **Shakespeare Public School**

Heather began her teaching career at Central Perth, teaching Grade One. Two years later, she moved to Falstaff Public School, in Stratford. While there, she confirmed her interest in educating primary children. Heather focused on obtaining her Primary Specialist as well as her Special Education Specialist certifications. While at Falstaff, she taught Grades Two and Three for eleven years and then Kindergarten for five years. Upon the closing of Falstaff School in 2000, Heather was placed at Shakespeare Public School where she has remained, teaching Kindergarten. Over the years, Heather has had the privilege of leading Primary Literacy workshops and was a member of the Kindergarten Steering Committee. Heather has also organized Shakespeare's Terry Fox Runs as well as been on a number of school committees.

Heather's interest in the life of the author and conservationist, Beatrix Potter, has enabled her to share Beatrix Potter's children's books with numerous classes in our Board as well as a variety of community groups. Heather plans to continue her involvement with the Beatrix Potter Society and continuing to share her legacy through the Society's Reading Beatrix Potter and Introducing Beatrix Potter programmes.

Thank you Heather for your all of work and dedication to our students, staff and parents. We wish all the best in your retirement.

Lauree Elder **Shakespeare Public School**

Lauree began her career in Stratford at Northwestern Secondary School on November 1, 1978 where she was the attendance secretary for the better part of thirteen years. In this role she quickly got a real education as she heard every excuse and reason for being late or absent, mostly from students. In January of 1990 she moved on to Accounts Payable at the Board office and worked in Stratford for the next seven years on Water Street and then two years in Seaforth. She then spent a three month term at Central Perth in the spring of 2000 and then started at Shakespeare Public School in July 2000, until present. During her years at Shakespeare she has been involved with many aspects of the school life. She organizes Graduation, and the Volunteer Breakfast, she was on Parent Council for a several years, she has been involved with fundraising, helped coach the Junior Mixed Volleyball team for a few years, and helped run and organize the School Spring and Fall BBQ's. These jobs were above and beyond the multifaceted roles Lauree does each and every day. Lauree's care, hard work and dedication to students, staff and families at Shakespeare will always be remembered and appreciated! Further, Lauree has also been on the executive council of our OSSTF ESS Union for twelve years, and was recognized with an Excellence in Education Award in 2008.

Thank you Lauree for your dedication to our students, staff, parents and Board. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Nora Millard **Anne Hathaway Public School**

Nora has been the corner stone of Anne Hathaway for many years. She has been a warm welcoming face on site since the doors first opened in 1992. During a teaching career that has spanned 27 years, Nora has supported students in the SERT role as well as in self-contained and regular classroom placements grades 1 through 6. Nora exemplifies our Board's goal of always learning. A phenomenal and dedicated educator, Nora has a drive to learn so that she can be the best that she can possibly be in order to provide individual support to students and staff which has continued right up to her retirement. Nora has a calm and caring presence that endears her to staff and students alike. Her quick wit, strong organizational skills, and professional nature contribute greatly to our positive school culture. Nora not only makes a difference in the lives of the children whom she teaches but with everybody who has the opportunity to work with her. Staff, students, parents, and the folks at the Black Angus wish Nora well as she begins living her retirement dreams.

Helen Orr **Bedford Public School**

Helen recently retired from her Principalship at Ecole Bedford PS, after serving most of her professional career in this area. She began teaching in Waterloo Region secondary schools, where she taught French and even French Co-op, before coming to Stratford to work at Anne Hathaway PS. She remained at Anne Hathaway PS for ten years before moving to Bedford PS as the Vice Principal, working to support the implementation of French Immersion program. She describes her first Principalship, at Sprucedale PS, as baptism by flood, as the school experienced a significant flood just before school was set to begin that year. After five years at Sprucedale, she returned to Ecole Bedford PS as Principal where she remained a fierce advocate for French programming throughout the District. Felicitations et on vous souhaite une bonne retraite!

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Gail Moffett **Central Huron Secondary School**

Gail was a graduate of the former Seaforth District High School and then became an EA at Central Huron Secondary School in 1989. She has been a devotee to the CHSS Redmen and Phoenix ever since. Gail has been the recipient of multiple Excellence in Education awards over her career. Gail is loved and appreciated by her students, her colleagues and her administrators. For her students, Gail shows patience, kindness, reliability, and generosity. She is always willing to offer pencils, assistance, advice, and hugs. Gail knows where to draw the line when supporting every child in meeting their individual learning needs, but in also allowing the child to challenge themselves. For her colleagues, Gail shows a positive attitude, her ideas for lessons, a legendary sense of humour, a conscious effort to maintain a cohesive staff camaraderie, great party hosting skills, and great cheesecake! Gail was more than an EA to the teachers of CHSS, she was an indispensable co-teacher. For her administrators, Gail was a reliable team member and led with a strong work ethic. She could be counted on to have her positive outlook and pleasant disposition in a variety of situations. Gail's contributions to CHSS activities were both in and out of the classroom. She volunteered to help with proms, Red-walk, curling, bake sales and other fundraisers, chaperoning field trips, and other activities. Gail has been a positive role model to all students and staff at CHSS. She will be greatly missed!

John Carr **Downie Central Public School**

John was born in County Down, Northern Ireland and obtained degrees in Belfast, N. Ireland (B.A); Dublin, Ireland (B.Div.) and Ottawa (B.Ed., M.C.L., Ph.D). This Spring, John will retire from his most recent Principalship at Downie Central PS, after a dedicated and lengthy career in education in this area. Having taught for several years at Arthur Meighen PS, Listowel Central PS, Anne Hathaway PS and then Shakespeare PS, John moved into administration at Avon PS. He then was a school administrator at Stratford Central, Brussels PS and finally Downie Central PS. John's leadership, dedication to staff, students and broader communities and Irish brogue will be missed! All the best John as you find more time for family and friends!

LaRue Brenner **LRC—Education Centre**

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Colleen Campbell St. Marys District C&VI

Leslie Dakin **St. Marys District C&VI**

Nancy Davis **St Marys DCVI—Elementary**
Nancy Davis started her teaching career at Downie Central teaching a grade 2/3 in 1987. Since then she has taught grade 3 at Avon when its basement felt like a dungeon, grades 5 and 7 at Arthur Meighen before it closed, and is ending her career at St. Marys DCVI teaching grade 7 homeroom and being the Special Education Resource Teacher for the 7&8s. Nancy has always put her students first and has believed that every student can learn. She teaches from the heart and has been an innovator in teaching strategies since she started teaching. Many students of St. Marys remember the city they constructed in her classroom every year for their structures unit or the Literature Circles that their teacher sat in and took part with her students. Now, her students benefit from the specific feedback that she provides in conferences to assist her students to be the best that they can be. On a final note, integrity has always been the driving force in her classroom community and has served her well throughout her teaching career.

Mary Ross **St. Marys District C&VI**

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Susan Young	Mitchell District High School (AMDEC)
<p>In September, 1989, Susan skipped her first day of Teachers' College to put her son, Jonathan, on the bus for his first day of school. She hasn't skipped a day of school since. Susan initially taught adults in the community, school secretaries, and principals to use WordPerfect 5.1 and computers in general through the Continuing Education department. Principals have certainly been the most talkative group she ever instructed. A substitute teaching assignment at St. Marys DCVI led to permanent sections at Stratford Northwestern followed by an opportunity to work full-time in the Business Studies department of Mitchell District High School in 1999. She later became a department head there. Susan loved her work in the Mitchell and West Perth communities as a Business Studies and co-operative education teacher, a representative on School Council, member of the local Youth Unlimited Board, and developer of the Rural Business Routes program, a predecessor of the current specialist high skills major program. Over her career Susan earned an Honours Specialist in Business Studies, Specialist qualifications in Co-operative Education, and took additional qualifications in English and eLearning. Final years spent as a full-time AMDEC teacher have allowed Susan to work closely with young people through the delivery of co-operative education in ACE Co-op and working with Student Re-engagement educators. Susan is a three-time Excellence in Education award winner and an honorary lifetime member of OBFA where she represented AMDSB Business Studies teachers and presented workshops for other business educators. A marathon walker, Susan is registered for the New Albany Walking Classic in Ohio on September 11, a race in which she can now compete as a retired teacher.</p>	

Name	School
Gloria Roe	Mornington Public School
<p>Gloria started with the former Perth County Board of Education in January of 1987 and began her career as an Educational Assistant at the Atwood School. She then went to the senior life skills class at LDSS. She spent the majority of her time with the Board in the life skills class at Elma Township Public School. For the past two years, Gloria has been at Mornington Central School where she has been working with students in a number of classes. We at Mornington are sad to see Gloria leave us, but wish her every happiness for a well-deserved retirement!</p>	

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Don Gibbons	LRC—Education Centre
Laurie Langstaff	LRC—Education Centre
Jennifer Smith	LRC—Education Centre

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Jane Flood **Elma Township Public School**

Jane is a caring, enthusiastic, energetic educator who began her teaching career as a supply teacher over 30 years ago. In that time, she has taught many grade levels including Special Education and most recently, kindergarten. In 2013, Jane accepted the challenge of being a teacher in the new FDK program. As with most things, she jumped in with both feet spending most of that summer researching, attending workshops, and meeting with her co-educator to collaborate on their upcoming adventure. Jane's enthusiasm about inquiry based learning never wavered in those three years. Her love of the outdoors and strong belief of its importance to children's development provided some incredible learning for her students. (Although it did, on occasion, leave her peers and administrators shaking their heads!) Jane's belief that ALL children could achieve far more, inspired many to do just that. As a co-educator Jane treated her ECE with respect and, as with her students, encouraged and inspired her partner to strive for more. Her sense of humour prevailed despite many challenging situations. No doubt Jane's retirement will be filled with reading, gardening, art, continued learning and...yes, outdoor adventures on extremely cold winter days.

Doris Becker **Exeter Elementary School**

Doris Becker is a teacher who has always enjoyed being involved and has had a great love for working with children. She has shared her love of languages with many students over the years. Doris spent her career teaching French, doing prep coverage and school SERT at St. Benedict's, Hensall Public School, Osborne Central and Exeter Elementary School. She was a lifelong member of OPS and ETFO holding both local and provincial positions. In her career she has coached basketball, volleyball, debate team, chess club, games club and lead Student Council. Doris is a firm believer in listening to children and always being available to lend a helping hand. Doris looks forward to having more time to devote to camping and travelling and to revisit her flower gardens.

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Joanne McPherson **Maitland River Elementary School**

Faye Wreford **Media Centre**

Mary Wilkinson **Mitchell District High School (7& 8)**

Fred Kindler **Mitchell District High School**

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
-------------	---------------

Jane Riordan	Little Falls Elementary School
---------------------	---------------------------------------

Jane started teaching in September 1995 with the Oxford County Board of Education. She taught French for grades 4-8 at A.J. Baker School and grade 3 French at Wildwood Park Public School. The next year Jane taught French at Broadway Public School, also in the Oxford Board. Jane's next move was to Listowel Central again teaching French. After one year in Listowel, she taught at Arthur Meighen Public School until Little Falls opened in the fall of 2010. During the years, she enjoyed coaching intermediate boys' soccer, intermediate girls' soccer, junior mixed soccer and floor hockey. Jane also supervised a chess club for several years, served on the social committee and as union steward. Retirement plans for Jane are spending time at the cottage, travel and most importantly, enjoying grandchildren.

Diane Heibein	Maitland River Elementary School
----------------------	---

Diane has had an exciting career spanning four decades. She graduated in 1970 from Stratford's Teacher College, got married, moved up north and began teaching. She has touched the lives of hundreds of students. Her passion over the last 20 years had been in special education. This truly is where her heart flourishes and not only are the children blessed, but so are the families. Her wisdom, compassion and genuine love of learning will be greatly missed by her colleagues at Maitland River. As she begins the next chapter, retirement, her colleagues, friends and family wish her many hours of reading, sun, and enjoying her grandchildren.

Sara Kinsman	Maitland River Elementary School
---------------------	---

Sara has touched the lives of many children. She will be remembered for many reasons, one being as a grade one teacher who could captivate her students with a desire for learning how to read. She sparked imaginations with stories read aloud. She will be remembered as one of the first teachers in the Avon Maitland DSB to integrate technology into her classroom by participating in a program that meant banks of computers in her room. Sara will be long remembered for her beautiful gift of piano playing at assemblies, concerts and carol signs as a valued staff member of several schools. Her classical training in combination with her natural talent has provided hundreds of students an opportunity to experience the true art of classical piano. Sara's colleagues, the students and the parents of Maitland River ES wish her all the very best in retirement

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
-------------	---------------

Bruce Armstrong	FE Madill Secondary School
------------------------	-----------------------------------

Bruce attended F.E. Madill, graduating in 1979. He then apprenticed to be a mechanic and worked in the trade for 7 years. In 1986, Bruce attended Althouse College in London. One week after finishing teacher's college, Bruce secured a job in Kent County as an occasional teacher in the transportation area. From 1987-1993, Bruce taught small engines, transportation and a grade 9 tech rotation at Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School. Bruce moved to F.E. Madill in 1993. Throughout his career at Madill, he has taught junior and senior transportation, manufacturing, cooperative education and basic math. Bruce's greatest pride is his family. He has been married to his wife, Claudette, for 21 years and they have four children and two grandchildren. Bruce enjoys building projects, construction and fabrication, restoring old things, and building and flying airplanes. In his retirement, Bruce is looking forward to spending more time with his family and grandchildren. He is also looking forward to having the time to finish off the vast number of projects he currently has at various stages of completion. Bruce is planning to get his AZ truck driving licence, and start an ultralight flying school in the area. He also hopes to travel via motorhome around the country, and when at home, relax while tending to his garden. As a teacher, Bruce offered a safe-haven for many students who struggled to find their place. His patience with and compassion for all students are two of Bruce's qualities his colleagues strive to replicate.

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
-------------	---------------

Suzanne Irwin	FE Madill Secondary School (7 & 8)
----------------------	---

Suzanne Irwin was raised on a dairy farm in eastern Ontario, just outside of the city of Ottawa. After high school, she attended the University of Western Ontario and then Althouse College from which she graduated in 1985. Upon completion, Suzanne returned to her home area to supply teach for the remainder of that school year in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Boards of Education. The following year Suzanne supply taught in London before securing her first full time teaching contract with the Akwasne Mohawk Board of Education at Chenail School in September, 1986. At that time, she taught full-day kindergarten. In 1989, her love for London and area brought her back there for a long-term occasional position at J.P. Robarts Public School in London. Suzanne's career with the Huron County Board of Education began in September 1989 at Grey Central Public School. For the next nine years, Suzanne taught throughout all elementary grades at Grey and Turnberry Central Public Schools. In 1998, she transitioned into school administration with a vice-principal placement at Victoria Public School. In 2001, Suzanne was named Principal of Victoria and served in that role until 2004. From 2004-2012, Suzanne was Principal of Turnberry Central Public School. She then transitioned to F.E. Madill Secondary School as the 7-8 Administrator in 2012. Throughout her career, Suzanne has modeled a pro-active and compassionate approach to working with students and staff alike. Her consistent practice of "student-first" is truly admirable and greatly appreciated by others. Suzanne's fun and optimistic approach to work and life is contagious and will be greatly missed. Suzanne is still debating her options for her future path, other than wanting to retire when she is young enough to enjoy life and explore interests like quilting, and new adventures like learning to scuba drive. Regardless of where life takes her, Suzanne's zest for life and laughter will continue to be a blessing to her friends and family.

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
-------------	---------------

Lou-Ann Frook	Little Falls Elementary School
----------------------	---------------------------------------

Lou-Ann has been employed by AMDSB for 28.5 years. She began as a supply Educational Assistant in January of 1988 where she mainly supplied at Portia School. She was hired as a permanent employee at Hamlet P.S. in September of 1988. She remained there until making a transfer to St. Marys at Arthur Meighen PS in September of 1994. Together with Judy Campbell they set up a new self-contained classroom for a group of 11 students. Lou-Ann moved to Little Falls Elementary School and has been there for the past 7 years. In 1996 Lou-Ann went back to school and received her E.A. certificate and then over the next 2 years completed the Early Childhood Educators Diploma. Beside her job as an Educational Assistant, Lou-Ann has worked diligently for the support staff. She was also involved after amalgamation sitting on OCTEA council with MaryJane Karkheck as an Educational Assistant's Representative, Educational Services Officer helping with Professional Development, Excellence in Education Representative that recognizes the fabulous staff on the Board with an awards banquet, Collective Bargaining and most recently with Pay Equity. In 2000 Lou-Ann was recognized as Support Person of the Year by the Council for Exceptional Children. In 2002 and again in 2015 she was recognized as Support Person of the Year by the Local Elementary Teachers' Federation. The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation together with Avon Maitland Board awarded her in their Excellence in Public Education for Support Staff in 2015. She is proud of all of the students that have crossed her path, they have taught her more about compassion, work ethics, respect, and diligence. For that she feels truly fortunate and thankful.

Betty Lealess	Little Falls Public School
----------------------	-----------------------------------

Following a career in nursing, Betty began her second career in 1999 for AMDSB as an REA at Avon Public School. Betty transferred to Arthur Meighen in St. Marys. Betty was nominated for and won the ETFO "Support Person of the Year" in 2002 for her dedication and commitment to supporting student achievement. When Arthur Meighen closed and amalgamated with Central, Betty moved to Little Falls and was instrumental in establishing the brand new library in 2010. She was awarded an OSSTF Excellence in Education award in 2010. Betty has worked with students and staff in the Forest of Reading Program, ran numerous Multimedia, Yearbook and Knitting groups and was photographer for school events. As well she held bi-annual book fairs. One of her cherished memories is when she received thanks for assisting a child by recommending appropriate books, it was the first time she had ever been thanked by a parent. This parent would end up working with her at Little Falls. Betty is looking forward to retiring and spending time with her husband and family. She has four grown sons, Aaron, Nathan, Joshua and Benjamin, two lovely daughters-in-law and four beautiful grandchildren. She is looking forward to walking her granddaughter to school for the very first time this coming September.

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Helen Brockman	Little Falls Public School
<p>Helen began her career as an educational assistant and librarian for the Huron Perth Catholic Board from 1985-1990. During this time, she completed her BA and also a Certificate to Manage a Public Library. She completed her Bachelor of Education in 1991 and started an LTO at Central Perth. Helen has been employed by the Avon Maitland District School Board for 20 years. Helen was involved with ETFO working with Marty Bond for 4 years to plan PD sessions for teachers. She also worked on the Language steering committee for the Board collaborating to create the Balanced Literacy document and the AM PM Bench Mark Binders. In September of 2000, Helen started at Arthur Meighen Public School and in October of that year she was asked to take on the Behavior Class which had her teaching mornings at Avon P.S. and then travelling to schools in the district to work with students with behaviors. In 2001 she was awarded the ETFO Humanitarian Award for her work with the Children of Chernobyl. Helen was the Vice Principal of King Lear from 2001-2002. During this time she completed her Masters of Education with Distinction and received the ETFO President Award in 2002. She was the principal of Sprucedale Public School from 2001-2005. Helen was principal of Anne Hathaway Public School from 2005-2009. During her time there she worked with School Council, Kate Lusk and the city to install an accessible playground. Unloading trucks filled with chicken, sorting chocolate orders, organizing fundraisers were all part of the job. She took advantage of the learning that was available having the Autism Demonstration Classes and Section 23 on site. In 2009 Helen was named "One of Canada's Outstanding Principals." In September of 2009 Helen returned to Arthur Meighen knowing she would be the Principal of the new school in St. Marys. This was the year of getting rid of surplus, building meetings, fundraising, boxing up the items to go to the new school, loading transport trucks, transition meetings with Ralph Van Messenbrink and moving the grade 7 and 8 students to DCVI. On Thanksgiving weekend 2010 Helen, Janet Shivas, the staff and 80 volunteers moved the contents of two schools (Arthur Meighen and St. Marys Central) into the new Little Falls Public School. During her six years at Little Falls Helen has been very proud of the work her staff has done with EOIDs, Forest School, Blogging, Math and Language learning. Helen has enjoyed her years in education. She will miss her colleagues and most of all the hugs from her "angels."</p>	

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Vivien King-Sherwood	FE Madill Secondary School
<p>Vivien King-Sherwood grew up and attended school in London, Ontario. Vivien began her teaching career in June of 1988 in the role of occasional teacher at Seaforth High School. This was the same time as she married her partner and friend, Greg Sherwood. The following September, Vivien began her full time teaching career at Turnberry Central Public school teaching French, her area of expertise, and a plethora of other subject areas as well. Then, she moved to GDCI for one year and, in September of 1990, she began at F.E. Madill. While at Madill, Vivien was the department head of the French program. She also taught English, business, art, communications technology, social sciences. For the past eight years, Vivien has been a guidance counsellor with the last five years being the guidance department head. For many years, Vivien was the yearbook advisor. She also advised the school newsletter and students' council. Vivien has also served as staff representative on Parent Council, the staff social committee and the commencement committee. Maintaining the school website has also been a task that Vivien has willingly undertaken. Providing learning opportunities for students outside of the classroom is of value to Vivien. The student trips to Quebec, France, England, Italy and Switzerland are testimony to her dedication. Vivien served her colleagues by being the OSSTF staff representative, and was a member of the Status of Women and Excellence in Education committees. Vivien was one of the first few teachers in our district to write and teach online courses, and continued for several years with AMDEC. She was one of the first distance education coordinators and worked directly with eLearning Ontario writing and editing curriculum on several occasions. Vivien loves to spend time with her husband and two sons, and is looking forward to travelling and exploring new career opportunities. For those of us who had the pleasure of attending this year's production of "Sex Please, We're Sixty!" at the Lucknow Community Theatre, we know that Vivien has already started to branch out and explore new opportunities and has a rewarding career ahead of her in comedic acting - so the skies the limit for Vivien!</p>	

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Jane Corrigan	Goderich District Collegiate Institute
Helen VandenHeuvel	Goderich District Collegiate Institute
James Tyo	Goderich District Collegiate Institute

Retiree Biographies

Name	School
Martin Kuske	Listowel District Secondary School

The first thing you see when you look at the Board's Strategic Plan's Mission is, "Engage, Inspire, Innovate". These have been the terms that best describe Martin Kuske's teaching philosophies and his unique style and have made him a student favourite over the years -- a teacher you will always remember as one who lead you on the right path, who touched your life, and who made you feel like you mattered. Martin's career started in French, but he was always looking for ways to keep the students interested and engaged. Years ago, when technology was still a fairly new term, Martin had his French students write, act and film a soap opera series. It contained many episodes, a story arc, over-the-top characters, and much humour. Martin also has a powerful interest and attraction to music and the performing arts. In his early years at LDSS, he often wrote full songs, including lyrics and instrumental accompaniment. One phenomenal work he wrote was an environmental musical called *No More Rain* that still goes down in history as a very memorable piece of LDSS extra-curricular Drama. Today, Martin still exemplifies an excellent teacher. He is so caring and positive that it is hard to imagine Martin's classroom not being inclusive in every way. Engaging with students has always come first with Martin. Although he loves French and Drama, his heart is foremost with the students and they are the richer for it.

Wayne Martin	Listowel District Secondary School
---------------------	---

Wayne Martin has been an employee of Avon-Maitland since 1999. Wayne brought a wealth of experience with him to AMDSB from his prior job at Midwestern Regional Centre in working with students with developmental disabilities. He has an innate ability to use humour and treat people with disabilities with respect and dignity. His experience and wisdom has been an asset to all teachers (especially new ones). While his specialty has always been to work with students with disabilities, he has demonstrated a special talent in working with students in regular classrooms. Many students have been able to find a connection with Wayne that they could not find with anyone else. He has been, and remains, active in community affairs. He has served several terms on council in Palmerston and Minto Township. He has spearheaded initiatives related to Palmerston's "Old 81" engine and the related Palmerston Railway Heritage Museum. He has an interest in many sports but his biggest passion is baseball as a coach and an umpire. Those who know Wayne realize that he will not be stopping, or even slowing down, in retirement as he will be going on to pursue his many interests and being a full-time Grandpa.

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Patricia Mayberry **Listowel Central Public School**

Pat is a favourite at Central. She is loved and respected by all who know her and have had the pleasure of working with her. Pat is the grandmother we wish we all had! She is gentle and caring, welcoming to new staff members, and yes, she even bakes. But don't be fooled by that smiling demeanor: underneath she is a hard task-master, known fondly as "the general"! Left the coffee maker or the counters in the staffroom a mess? Not suitably organized for the volunteer tea? You'll be set straight in a hurry! Don't forget decorating for graduation. I understand she had the single largest collection of decorative items squirreled away kept on hand for all occasions. Dust-filled and ripped stage curtains a problem? Pat is the gal to call. Throughout her years at Central, in special and regular classes, Pat supported a wide variety of students with learning, social and emotional challenges with unwavering patience and kindness. She helped students feel like a million and learn to do their best. She has a keen eye for subtle observations and a wealth of ideas for supporting students. Our "general" is a consummate professional with a heart of gold. We wish her the very best in retirement.

Kathy Newman **Listowel Eastdale/Wallace Public Schools**
Kathy commenced employment with the Avon Maitland DSB on August 24, 1999 in the TRA position at Grey Central and East Wawanosh Public Schools. In 2001, she moved to Central Perth Elementary School and in 2003 she relocated to her home in the TRA position at Listowel Eastdale and Wallace Public Schools.

Kathy will miss the students and staff of both schools but looks forward to enjoying the peacefulness of her home. She is anticipating having more time for family, golfing, gardening, exercise and long walks.

Leah Anne Goody **Listowel District Secondary School**
After more than 30 years as teacher and Head of Student Services Leah Anne is retiring. Leah Anne's career began in 1985 at Stratford North-western where she taught Math and Science. In 1986 she moved to Listowel District Secondary School where she taught Math, Science, and Guidance. She became the Department Head of Student Services in 2008, and has worked to increase awareness of mental health and to promote student leadership. Leah Anne has coached basketball, volleyball, ice hockey and track and field. Her talents in coaching and leadership were recognized in 2007 when she was part of the coaching staff for Team Ontario women's Ice Hockey at the Canada Games held in Yellowknife where Team Ontario won the Gold medal. She organized the premier High School Girls hockey tournament in Ontario and the Dan Williams Memorial Tournament from 2002-2011. She served as the Chairperson for the 125th Anniversary of LDSS, and put together an amazing event for not only the school but the community as well. The highlights of her career have been travelling with teams all over the world. The LDSS girls Ice Hockey team has played games in Montreal, Toronto, Lake Placid, Charlottetown, Prague, Munich, and Vienna. She plans to spend time in Gore's Landing on the shores of Rice Lake with her friends and family.

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Judith Thomas **Goderich Public School**

David Allely **Hamlet Public School**
Dave recently retired from his Principalship at Hamlet PS, after serving his entire professional career as an educator in this area. He began teaching in June of 1986 at Juliet Public School, and there is some poetic irony that he remained teaching at either Romeo PS or Juliet PS until 1996. In 1996 Dave moved to Mitchell PS as Vice Principal, and despite a brief return to teaching at Upper Thames remained as a school administrator at Upper Thames ES, Listowel Central PS, Shakespeare PS and finally at Hamlet PS for almost twenty years. As a school leader, and as a teacher, Dave made cherished connections with staff, parents and most importantly, with students. His leadership will be missed. In his retirement, Dave is spending lots of time at the cottage where he enjoys water sports. All the best, Dave!

Julie Holmes **Howick Central Public School**

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Mary Sanderson **Howick Central Public School**

Mary has a unique and deep connection to Howick Central P.S. and this connection will be deeply missed after she retires. Her father, Leonard Sanderson, was one of a group of school trustees that envisioned a central school to join the Howick area communities together and through his work to make that vision come true Mary experienced the beginning days of our school, for as a toddler, she played in the yard as the trustees and neighbours worked together on the construction of the school! Mary's husband, Michael Park, has also taught at Howick, and Mary's mother, Christine Sanderson, supply taught at Howick after she retired from teaching at Minto-Clifford. Mary was a student at Howick from Kindergarten to Grade 8, and she has taught at our school for her entire career (over 30 years). Mary's familial connections to the Howick school community are not only through her own family, but through generations of Howick families that have had Ms. Sanderson for a teacher. Current students, their siblings and their parents have shared the adventure in learning that Ms. Sanderson creates in a classroom learning environment that is engaging, caring and inclusive. In her classroom and on the beautiful learning grounds at Howick, Mary shares her deep appreciation for the arts and the natural environment and she uses her passion to create curious and inspired learners who are excited about their inquiries, supported by her high expectations and instructional expertise, and reinforced by her praise. She not only has high expectations for her students, but also for herself. She has continued to be excited about new learning, and her enthusiasm for learning continues to inspire her students and those that are lucky enough to work alongside her. Mary's dedication to the students of Howick Township leaves a legacy of learning and caring for which her colleagues and the families of the school are deeply grateful.

Henry Elderhorst **Hullett Central Public School**

Henry is a man of many hats. He is involved and interested in many areas. He is a world traveler, a business man, a father and an Educational Assistant. He worked with many students from different ages and stages. I knew of all the hats Henry wears that working in the schools and supporting the students was what made his life interesting, challenging but most importantly, it brought him a sense of fulfillment. Henry I hope in your retirement you continue on with your other hats of interest but also that you find your fulfillment.

Retiree Biographies

Name **School**
Lucie Turcotte-Lapaine **Huron Centennial Public School**

Judy Skochinski **Huron Centennial Public School**

Judy started her teaching career in Medicine Hat Alberta in a Kindergarten program that she credits for teaching her the importance of working together with parents. After 6.5 years she moved to Guelph where she became a parent herself while teaching grade 5/6 language. In 1993 she came to Exeter Ontario had a third child and had her first experience as a Special Education resource teacher. Judy arrived at Huron Centennial in 1999 and remembers being tasked with teaching the children of two of her colleagues and the school secretary. She happily still calls these people friends! She experienced a few years in primary before becoming a Sert again which has kept her very busy and will continue to until the end of June when we may finally let her rest! She describes HCS as her second family and with a house full of men (ie. Husband and three sons); it definitely provides some female companionship. Judy has decided not to retire full time exactly and has taken on the new role of Empower Teacher Trainer which means she will continue to support other Serts within our board. We wish her all the best in this new role while enjoying more time with her family, travel and a life not directed by a school bell.

Patricia Coghlin **Listowel Central Public School**

Patti first came to Central to teach Kindergarten half time in 2005-2006. She taught on and off for the next few years as her family grew. We loved having the warmth and caring she showed to students and adults alike, but she kept going on maternity leaves! Central is close to Patti's heart for another reason: she married Andrew Coghlin, who is a former Central student. We wish her well in all future endeavours.