

**CITATION FOR TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
BEDFORD DISTRICT 2004**

It is my pleasure to acknowledge Lois Webster for her outstanding contribution to have the Bradshaw School House recognized as the last one room school house to close in Frontenac County back in 1969 including a 100th Birthday Party and School Reunion. Lois has worked tirelessly and persistently to help achieve this goal over the past few years.

She organized endless raffles, potluck suppers, entertainment, etc. to raise money and get the exposure and recognition in the community for the reunion and birthday party in September of 2003. She was continually in contact with politicians, school trustees, local reporters and members of the community to make sure it was well attended and got the publicity it deserved. She dug into the history of the school and had numerous prints redone for sale to the former students, teachers and parent's of pupils who attended the school. She worked diligently to acquire old textbooks, old school desks and memorabilia for display at the school. She organized many past teachers and students to take part in old school plays and learning days to help celebrate this occasion and recreate the "good old days".

Lois also was instrumental in helping organize an official day to celebrate the completion of the construction for the original Bell & Tower to go back up to the top of the school house where it belonged. Again, several past students, teachers and members of the community attended this dedication ceremony because of her constant contact with everyone involved.

Not to stop there by any means, the next event she organized was for a class to attend part of a day at the school and learn how things were taught in days gone by. This was not an easy task and even though she couldn't get a school in our Board to take part that didn't stop Lois. This past June, Lois got Cathy Goodfellow to bring her private school from Perth, Ontario, consisting of 12 students from grade 1 - 6 to attend the school from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The children met and were shown by previous teachers how they taught children in the one room setting a number of years ago. They learned about many things like writing with a feather and felt pen and bottled ink; making creative art by blotting ink on a piece of paper; how the ABC's and memory work were taught; songs that were sung in those days; creative crafts; having lunch outside on the rocks; being brought back to class by the ringing of the bell; and one of the best parts - what it was like to use an outhouse. Cathy's husband was a former student of the school as was her mother-in-law, JoAnn, who also attended the fun and successful day.

Lois has a great personal interest in the school, not only because it is part of the Bradshaw Community where she has lived for a number of years, but because she herself was a student at this school. So it is no wonder she is well aware of what went on in those days. So Lois it is my privilege on behalf of the Township to acknowledge your tireless efforts to date for this very worthwhile project and we just know that it won't end here. I'm sure there will be a lot more celebrations at the School House in the days to come.

Thank you.