

Mrs. Catherine Mathers

Catherine Mathers (nee Ingram) was born and raised in St. Thomas. She was an avid music student at a very early age, playing both cello and piano. Her first teaching position was at Sparta Continuation School, teaching all subjects from Grades 9 to 13. Catherine remained at home for twenty years after marrying Bill Mathers and raised her family of four children. She reentered the teaching field for ten years and retired in 1974 from Parkside Collegiate, where she had been a Latin and English teacher.

Within two years of retirement, Catherine became the president of the Elgin unit S.T.O. (1977-78). During her presidential tenure in this Elgin Unit of S.T.O., Catherine emphasized the importance of the local unit members being well informed about the advantages of being an S.T.O. provincial member, particularly in the areas of health, finance (pensions) and travel. For the first time the "soon to be retiring" Elgin teachers were invited to a social get-together with the retired teachers, in order to be better informed about the structure of Provincial S.T.O. and the advantages of being an active member in S.T.O.

In her retirement years Catherine remained an energetic and active lady. She was involved in a myriad of clubs and activities, such as the St. Thomas Evening Music Club, the St. Thomas Antique Club, University Women's Club, St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, Alma College Board, bridge playing and travelling. Catherine Mathers is remembered by her family, her students, her friends, and S.T.O. associates as a person with a zest for life, with a fine appreciation of culture and a good sense of humour.