

Helen Munroe

Helen Chase was raised in the country; the oldest of a large family, during the depression. She attended one room schools where she remembers good teachers.

Her teaching career included one year in Chatham Township with the rest in Elgin county. One of her class projects was correspondence with students in other countries.

After retirement Helen worked for several years with Canada World Youth with participants from Canada, Ecuador and Indonesia. With a group from Paris and Fergus she followed the progress of a combined group in Ecuador. She has a special interest in Giovanni and his Canadian counterpart Jane, who stayed with her during their stay in Canada. Two years later he returned to Canada on a computer scholarship and married Jane. They live in Oshawa with their three sons, where he is a computer analyst and she works with immigrants and sells childrens' books.

Another experience which Helen enjoyed (in retrospect) was being landparent to a Junior B hockey player from Sault St. Marie who was very homesick. Three years later she travelled to Hartford, Connecticut to see him drafted by the New York Rangers. It was a thrill to get birthday flowers from a New York Ranger.

Since Helen lives close to Elgin General Hospital, she spends some quality time with residents - many of them teachers. She is also recognized for her gardening talents. In 1993, she was pleased and humbled to receive a Governor Generals medal during Canada's 125th birthday celebrations. Helen is proud of her four grandchildren one of whom is six feet four inches tall, and we hear gets his height from grandmother.

Helen was President of the Elgin unit in 1985. It was during this year that the office of Secretary-Treasurer was divided and Betty Fishleigh became our first (and only to date) Treasurer. One of the ongoing concerns was what monetary support the units should be getting from the district. Also that year, following a report on the proposed changes in district boundaries, the formation of District 37 - Elgin-Oxford (subject to Senate approval) was passed at the last District 8 meeting in April.