

Janet E. Wilkinson

President 1999 - 2000

Janet spent most of her growing years in Tillsonburg where she found having her father as a school principal sometimes cramped her style.

After graduating from Alma College and then London Teacher's College she went to Hamilton where she taught for one year. In 1959 she married Cyril and went to teach at SS#4 Bertie Township outside Fort Erie. Within the next four years Marilyn was born, she "retired" from teaching and we moved to Aylmer. Shortly after arriving in Aylmer a teacher was needed at McGregor P.S. so retirement was put aside for one year. When we found out Karen was on the way she retired again. In September of 1966 she went back to McGregor with the idea that she would teach for a few years to help pay for the house. Those few years stretched out until 1993 when she retired for good. Along the way she decided that if her daughters could get a University degree so could she. In 1983 she graduated from Western and got a big raise in pay. All of her teaching years were spent in the primary classrooms at McGregor except for three years at Edward St. P.S. in St. Thomas. Believing that the primary years were the most important years of a child's life she never got past grade three and was quick to point out to her secondary school teacher husband that she did all the teaching and from then on it was just a matter of refining those skills. Although team teaching in a Family Grouping with Terri Mogk was probably the best year of her teaching career she decided that Cyril had been retired for five years and it was really imperative that she get home and put some order into his life.

Retirement meant joining the Library and signing out all the books she had never had time to read, buying a timeshare in Aruba where she spends three weeks each November, travelling to places she never dreamed of visiting and spending one term on the Elgin County Board of Education. That experience was a real eye opener and she saw Education from the other side. Her fight to save the Outdoor Education Centre was probably the most significant event during those three years. Sensing that amalgamation with the three other School Boards would be an extremely frustrating experience her career as a trustee came to an end.

There came a time when District 41 was having problems maintaining a full Executive and with some prodding from her other half she agreed to step into the void as First Vice-President. In doing this she became part of the first wife/husband combination to serve as Presidents of District 41.

(Written by Cyril, edited by Janet)