

COOKSTOWN NEWS

by Susan Stein

Cookstown Grade 8 grads

The first significant milestone in a student's life, graduating from grade 8, was held for Cookstown Central Public School on Wednesday, June 27, at Bear Creek Secondary School's auditorium.

It was the school's principal Chris Russel's address, which brought this special event into focus.

What is a school? It is all of us together- teachers, parents, graduates. All lessons taught, all lessons learned. All help given by their supports, we all made a difference.

Sally Telford as M.C.

asked the audience to stand up, as to the sounds of Pomp and Circumstance, the 47 graduates entered the auditorium.

Teachers Paul Brett, Stephanie Morris, Daniel French, Sandy Rix, Diane Skinner, had the pleasure to present the Graduation Certificates to all students.

The following students, whose average during the 2006-2007 school year was equal or higher than 79, made the Honour List: Konrad Stephanie - 85.61; Bailey Tayler - 84.96; Quinn Marshall - 84.72; Lea Tanner 84.13; Yoon Jonathan - 83.74; Warldaw Robyn - 83.11; Petkovsek

Maximilian - 82.14; Merkley Jordan - 81.96; Forsyth Jordan - 80.84; Kucharczyk Autumn - 80.60; Dewsbury Joelle - 80.55; Kernot Justin - 79.90; Johnston Elsa - 79.74; McNab Shelby - 79.33; Hall Willem - 79.28; Arnold David - 79.27

The Mel Kennedy Athletic Award: Joelle Dewsbury, Autumn Kucharczyk, Jordan Merkley, David Arnold, Matthew Bridgeman, Jonathan LaPlaca, Duncan McIver, R.J. Stacey, Ryan Nayler.

Edyth Wright Award for Top Academic Students: Stephanie Konrad, Tanner Lee, Jordan Merkley, Tayler Bailey

Principal's Award: Robyn Wardlaw

Shirley Riley Award for Top All-Round Student:

Autumn Kucharczyk, Lonny Myer's Award for Most Improved Student: Julian Purchase

Al McMullen School Spirit and Citizenship Award: Robyn Wardlaw, Tyler Maenz, Stephanie Konrad, Autumn Kucharczyk

Creativity Awards: Robyn Wardlaw, Scott Pharand, Tayler Bailey, Laura Curle, Shelby McNabb, Stephanie Brown.

Masonic Award for Perseverance & Tenacity presented by Gord Turner to Alex Peterson and Meagan Howlett

Athletes of the Year Award: Jordan Merkley, Elsa Johnston, Jonathan LaPlaca, Matt Bridgman.

Maximilian Petkovsek was chosen by his fellow students to be their Valedictorian, returning this

honour with a very fitting address, reflecting on their experiences at Cookstown Central and the role their teachers played in getting them ready for the future.

A visual presentation and remarks by Vice Principal Kathy Newby, concluded the ceremony.

Congratulations to you all, best luck for your future.

Special mention to Mrs. Darlene Braybrook for the creative ideas decorating the auditorium at Bear Creek Secondary School.

Savoury Sensations

Strolling down Cookstown's Queen street, my friend from Slovakia and I stopped at the little yellow house for a treat of Gelato. And what a lovely surprise to be greeted by the owner - Bev Nix.

Known for years from her Queen Street Station

Boutique and the Princely Pear, Savory Sensations is her new venture, a new idea for the Village of Cookstown.

As the name suggests, it serves Gelato lemon, Chocolate, Mango, Raspberry, Cinnamon ice in a waffle cup. Home made tarts, scones, tea biscuits, croissant, cookies are treats from the bake shop as are artisans breads, Duflet cakes, Miniatures (little cakes).

Bev also carries bread dipping spices, apple butter and maple jelly and an assortment of pretty, unusual coffee mugs and cutlery.

So take a moment out of your busy life, sit down at Savory Sensations, go inside for a treat and to meet gracious Bev Nix.

De-clutter your space, de-stress your life, de-great idea!



Before and after pictures of an office, desperately in need of some professional organization. submitted photos



by Michelle Minnoch

Whether a room in your house, or your space at the office, keeping an organized area is not always easy. Some may say it's an art form. There are two organizing companies in Innisfil, both members of Professional Organizers in Canada, which are available to help you de-clutter your life and start fresh.

Karen Main, of Neat Transitions, helps people to organize and individualize their lives and their spaces. A certified practitioner of holistic nutrition and armed with a Business/Administration/ Marketing

diploma from Ryerson, she said she is pulling all her skills together to find the best possible outcome for her clients.

"A lot of people in my generation are burnt out," Main said. "They are trying to keep pace with life, but things keep piling up, it becomes worse and worse, and they don't know where to start."

She said people experience the most disorder in their lives when they are in a transitional period, and they call her up to help makes sense of their space.

Main says she enjoys the creative portion of her work, customizing areas to be both

organized and pleasing to the eye. "I like to use clients' existing pieces when possible, and add a little finesse. It doesn't have to be expensive."

Main said the key is to become less attached to our stuff and focus more on simplifying our lives and surroundings. "Ultimately, with less stuff to maintain and keep track of, we free up time to do the things in life that bring us joy."

She says studies have proven to show that when people are surrounded by clutter, their stress levels often rise. Karen enjoys seeing the look on her clients' faces as they find that special "lost" something, and regain peace of mind in their personal space.

"I'm not there just to get you organized, I'm there to keep you organized."

Margaret Harlos of Living Organized shares the same philosophy as fellow organizer Karen. After working 20 years in the social service field, Harlos decided to start up her own organizing business, something she has been doing since she was a child.

"It's not only de-cluttering peoples' lives, but also helping them to dispose what they don't need," she said. Harlos says people have homes full of history, and when they want to get rid of it, Harlos tracks down a museum or organization that might find

some value to it. Items can also be donated to the Goodwill, local charity, etc. Nothing is ever disposed of without the home-owners permission.

"My slogan is 'Let's make room in your life,'" said Harlos. "Once you get rid of clutter, you can organize your home and get stuff done." She said she assesses her individual clients' needs, and once the job is done, follows up with a phone call, to ensure they are still on the right path.

"It's amazing how happier people feel after their area is de-cluttered," Harlos said, adding, "especially the task of doing it themselves. That is the hard part." She said part of the problem most people find is that they don't know where to start.

Neat Transitions and Living Organized are fully insured and both belong to Professional Organizers in Canada (POC). Neat Transitions provides a free consultation, and Living Organized takes the consultation fee off of the final bill. The organizers will meet with you at your home or office, assess the situation, and can give you a price based on what they see needs to be done.

If you need to de-clutter a space in your home or office, call Margaret Harlos, Living Organized at (705) 431-7774 or Karen Main, Neat Transitions at (705) 770-2144.

Notice of Application of Larvicide for Mosquito Control Town of Innisfil

From June 25, 2007 to September 1st, 2007 the Town of Innisfil under the authority of the Simcoe Muskoka Medical Officer of Health will conduct a program to control mosquito larvae (immature mosquitoes) in standing water in order to prevent their development into potential carriers of West Nile virus. The program will be carried out in the Alcona area.

The larvicide Altosid XR Briquets PCP#27694 is a registered larvicide approved for use by the federal government. This application will be carried out by Ministry of the Environment licensed applicators or trained technicians. For details on the exact locations and date of treatment, call 705-436-3710, or click on www.innisfil.ca



Altosid XR Briquets PCP#27694 will be applied by direct hand application to catch basins of storm drains in the following area Lake Simcoe West to the 20th Sideroad and from just South of the 7th Line to just North of the 10th Line.

For general inquiries about West Nile virus, call Your Health Connection at 721-7520 (1-877-721-7520) or click on www.simcoemuskokahealth.org