Presentation by Sue Bowerman for Long Lake Public School

Four years ago I retired from elementary school teaching, following twenty-three years with the Rainbow District School Board. My mosaic of experiences included a broad spectrum of schools and grade levels. I immediately "signed on" as a volunteer at Long Lake Public School so that I could continue to use these skills and to work with the students.

My purpose in speaking this evening is twofold: firstly, I want to ensure that Long Lake Public School stays open; secondly, I want to support the efforts of the parents and staff to educate their children in their community school. Long Lake Public School is a village with a spirit and character of its own. We all know that "it takes a village to raise a child".

As a volunteer, I work in the primary division under teachers' direction to promote student learning. My involvement includes reading stories and encouraging conversations to enrich and develop daily learning. I assist on field trips and in school activities. In addition, I work one-on-one with students in reading and math. These tasks are all designed to enrich and enhance student growth.

My previous professional training means that I am another set of eyes to support teacher observation and program planning. Each year I have the pleasure of discerning changes and growth in the students with whom I work.

The school programs at Long Lake Public School are most valuable to its students. The short and long term needs of individual students are quickly identified and addressed by one, several or all staff. The Long Lake experience embodies the essence of the saying: "it takes a village to raise a child". The nurturing and guidance of the staff and parents is a reciprocal responsibility. The Long Lake students are shown the cornerstones of a healthy society: honesty, responsibility, cooperation, loyalty and generosity. The children are being given the academic and life skills to be our future leaders. Please PRESERVE the Long Lake Public School experience!