

Douglas McCarthy Bio

After leaving the novitiate in 1963, Doug went to teach in a two room school house in Stonecliffe, Ontario on Highway 17 south of Mattawa. He taught Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 in spite of the fact that he wasn't qualified and he wasn't interviewed.

In 1964 he moved to London and entered Teachers' College and began "real" teaching in the fall of 1965. Two years later he became principal of a three room school in spite of the fact he wasn't qualified and he wasn't interviewed. However, he was the only man in the school and in those days that was the only qualification that was required in most cases. Eventually he got his B.A. and M.Ed., as well as qualifying for his principals' papers. He remained an educator in elementary schools for 35 years until he took superannuation in 1997, thirty-three of those years as a principal. This is a bit of a surprise because he was just as unqualified for many other jobs in education and would have happily skipped the interview.

Currently Doug is working part-time for the Faculty of Education with the University of Western Ontario in the training of new teachers. He is also retained by two school boards to help train and support school principals new to their positions.

Before retiring from elementary education, Doug became qualified as a Mediator and is currently in private practice, specializing in dispute resolution strategies for conflicts within, and between, organizations.

Doug is also a professional speaker and has been since 1972. (Thank you C.Ss.R.). He is a 28 year member of Toastmasters International, a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers, as well as the National Speakers Association. He has addressed audiences from across Canada, the United States and New Zealand.

If we were meant to have three careers in our life time, then that area of his life is over.

Doug married a Dutch girl, Trudy also a retired teacher, in 1968, and has two daughters and two grandsons, who bring him much joy in his waning years. But before we get to the waning part...

Doug tries all kinds of outdoor activities including: cycling, canoe tripping, white-water kayaking, wind surfing, snowshoeing, winter camping, as well as downhill and cross-country skiing. Even though he has only modest ability at most of these activities, he has survived cancer twice and he is grateful just to be able to continue to be active and healthy. He doesn't like golf, painting the house or hanging wall paper. He tried golf once and scored 74... before quitting after three holes.

Doug also enjoys taking part in community theatre (Thank you St. Mary's for the Saturday night soirees) and also performs with a senior's group "The Nostalgic Theatre Company".

Doug is looking forward to meeting his friends and colleagues from St. Mary's days and hopes that this reunion will be one of many.