

lifestyles

Community celebrates teacher's career

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Staff Reporter

Dorthe Davison loved school from her first day of Grade 1 more than 50 years ago up to the final lesson she gave as a teacher before retiring last month.

"I liked everything about the classroom," she said. "School was just a really good place for me."

It was evident other people think so, too, when hundreds of Davison's former students, parents and colleagues celebrated her teaching career with a community gathering last week

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Dorthe Davison

musical presentation and performance of *O Canada* by her students.

"I just felt incredibly honoured. It was a magical evening."

Surrey Board of Education chair Laurae McNally, who also attended the event, said afterwards that Davison will be "dreadfully missed."

"I've known Dorthe for years and years and years, and if I had to say one thing, it would be that I wish every child in our school district could have a Dorthe Davison to teach them."

Davison had been a Surrey teacher since 1969, spending the last 23 years at Crescent Park Annex, which has just one classroom



Frank Dure photos

Hundreds of teacher Dorthe Davison's fans join celebrations at Crescent Park Annex.

with 24 students in Grades 1 to 3.

Davison developed the multi-aged program at the 2378 124 St. school, where the atmosphere was always a stimulating one.

"The classroom itself always afforded me lots of opportunities to follow my passion for singing, dancing... it was always creative, lots of joy," Davison said. "You really learn to live in the moment with children, and that's something adults strive to do."

In visiting Davison's classroom, McNally said it was evident she had a special connection with her students.

"She just enjoyed being around children... and I think they enjoyed being around



her. And I think part of her appeal was her openness and honesty, her heartfelt warmth, and she had a great sense of humour. I always sort of thought Dorthe believed all children were born good and they all needed love, even if they didn't necessarily deserve it," McNally said. "She's just one of those very special people we meet once in a lifetime whose so humble and caring and wise."

Davison, 62, said one of her goals was to retire while she was still passionate about her job.

"I still felt that way till the very last day," she said. "I just wanted to go on a high, and just be really satisfied that I was ending

my career the way it began - with lots of excitement, anticipation and joy."

Davison now plans to focus on her business, Four Quarters Literacy Inc., which supports parents who want to teach their children successful money management. She is also looking forward to spending time with family and friends and making more trips to Mexico.

Davison said she is grateful for the families who came through Crescent Park Annex and made her time there memorable.

"I just want to thank my community. Thank you for entrusting your children to me, for my wonderful career."