

Good Morning,

Thank you special guests which include members of the Miller and Church families, members of the District School Board Ontario North East, parents, relatives and students for attending this wonderful tribute to Corinne Miller who was truly a dedicated educator and tireless worker - a person who cared about the students of this Board.

Mrs. Miller focused on providing students with the best education possible. This tree dedication is not only a fitting tribute to a truly remarkable woman but a celebration of a life lived meaningfully and to the fullest. Mrs. Miller's work for the staff and students of this Board was important and will be remembered for generations to come.

Mrs. Miller's career began with the Timmins Board of Education as an elementary teacher in 1943. She taught at several schools including Mattagami, Queen Elizabeth, Flora MacDonald (where she taught with my mother for many years and where they forged an enduring friendship). She also taught at Central school before being appointed supervisor of special services in 1968 and co-ordinator of special education in 1980 - a position she held for 18 years.

She retired from her job in 1987 but not from her work in education - she was sworn in as Trustee for this Board the following year. She remained as Trustee until December of 2007 - unfortunately, Mrs. Miller could not finish her term as Trustee due to health reasons.

Mrs. Miller gained recognition throughout the Timmins area for her work in Special Education in local schools and through the implementation of lunch and snack programs. She was also recognized on the national level.

In 2002, Mrs. Miller was presented with the Queen's Jubilee medal, and the following year she was inducted into the Order of Canada by then Governor General Adrienne Clarkson for her dedication and passion to education and her community.

Mrs. Miller always remained humble when accepting any accolade she received. She would often say that she didn't do things for the recognition but said, "I do the work for the love of the children".

She knew that every child could learn, if given adequate time and with the proper support. She knew that every child learned in a different way. Since she was a teacher herself, and a life-long learner, she knew what worked from experience and she never wavered from these beliefs.

Mrs. Miller was also known for her kindness and her ability to make everyone feel special. I know that her friends and family would agree that she was a loyal supporter, a true inspiration, and a person that we will never forget.

We are all so honoured that Pinecrest Public School was chosen as the school where Mrs. Miller's dedication tree is planted. Mrs. Miller we chose a location that we hope you would have approved of - at the front of our school - where we want it to grow tall and strong, enduring year after year, greeting generations of students who will be attending this school. I'd like to assure everyone present today that our students will know that this special tree was planted for a very special woman who cared about all of them very much and wanted them all to succeed.