



Mayor's Remarks on the occasion of the

Bawlf Junior High and Senior High Academic Awards

**Bawlf School
October 24, 2008**

Ladies and Gentlemen, students, former students, staff, and honoured guests: it is my privilege to bring greetings from the Village of Bawlf Council and Administration on this day when Bawlf School students, past and present, come together to celebrate the academic accomplishments of the past year.

I'm always thrilled when the Village and the School collaborate on anything like this and I'm even more pleased personally to be invited to School functions because I'm very proud to have this school in my community. However, I especially enjoy celebrations of a job well done because we seem, in this day and age, not to stop and celebrate the milestones and accomplishments in life. We're either too busy, or don't feel worthy of it, or sometimes even – in our typically Canadian way – too modest to want a fuss to be made. "It's no big deal", the thinking goes.

But celebrations *are* a big deal. It's important to celebrate the little things along the way because we soon discover, as we grow older, that a fulfilling life doesn't occur only as a result of great big events and occurrences happening the way we want them to happen, but rather from an appreciation of those little things as we encounter them on a daily basis.

That having been said, this evening is a celebration of some *huge* accomplishments in your lives. Academic accomplishments are laudable in and of themselves of course but, more importantly, they are inevitably the result of hard work, discipline, and commitment, which inevitably serve as the foundation for leadership and engaged citizenship in the world that awaits. Moreover, let me tell you: regardless of whatever else happens in your life, these are accomplishments that no one can ever take away from you. They are an indelible part of who you are.

So let's celebrate what you've accomplished over the past year. Be proud of your achievements and be thankful that you are surrounded by so many of us who want to celebrate along with you. Congratulations again from the Village of Bawlf!