

MATTHEWS, Tam

# Headmaster ready for next level

*Albert College's new head man takes over July 1*

By Henry Bury  
The Intelligencer

Tam Matthews believes Albert College is the "best kept secret" among private schools — and he plans on changing that.

He'll get that opportunity later this summer when he assumes the headmaster's duties at the Dundas Street West school.

Matthews, 41, will be Albert's 16th headmaster July 1 when he succeeds Jack Rose; Rose, headmaster since 1989, has accepted a similar position with Meadowridge School in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Matthews is currently director of admissions at Lakefield College School in Lakefield, near Peterborough.

He's looking forward to the challenge of running Canada's oldest co-educational independent school. Albert was established in 1857.

"I think this is a great opportunity, particularly with the history that Albert College has. It's an honor to come here," Matthews said in a telephone interview.

"I saw an opportunity in Belleville to take a school with a strong history, dedicated faculty and tremendous potential of its location and advance it to another level of reputation," he said. "Albert has an opportunity to be more widely known outside the Quinte area.

Matthews said there should be no secrets about Albert.

"We should be celebrating on a far wide scale the achievements and potential of Albert's students and faculty."

The new headmaster's goals include strengthening Albert's academic reputation and use of technology in education.

He believes private schools have their place in educational circles.

"Small classes, education of the

whole student, extra curricular programs and a strong values component — these are strengths of private schools."

Matthews is no stranger to private schools, either.

He graduated from Lakefield College School in 1973. For the past eight years, he's served as that school's director of admissions and also taught economics.

Lakefield now boasts a student population of 298 in its Grades 9-13 program; however, the private school is planning on adding a Grade 7 and 8 program in the fall of 1998.

(Albert, meanwhile, currently has 240 Grades 5-13 students and it's introducing a Grades 1-4 program next fall).

Prior to joining Lakefield, Matthews taught at Upper Canada College for four years.



Tam Matthews

He also spent four years in international banking with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Toronto and San Francisco.

Matthews holds an Honors degree in political science from Trinity College at the University of Toronto. He also has certificates in French language from the University of Poitiers and the University of Nice.

Matthews is also an avid sportsman. He was a national team athlete from 1977-84 and has represented Canada on three Olympic sailing teams.

He's past vice-president of the Canadian Yachting Association and a director of the Canadian Olympic Association.

(While at Lakefield, he coached sailing and hockey)

Matthews is married to Jan and they have two children.

"My wife and I feel very enthusiastic about the Quinte area and what it has to offer," said Matthews.

"We're very keen to get involved in the Belleville community."

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March 15/97.