

COMMUNITY NEWS

Everything about Castleton pleases new principal

By MANDY MARTIN
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Everything about Castleton Public School pleases new principal Cheryl Langdon: the size of the school, the students, the mature trees in the well-maintained yard, the community spirit and welcome she's receiving.

"Most definitely, without hesitation," Ms. Langdon affirms her pleasure with her new post, her first as a principal.

"The emphasis here is on maximizing the unique resources. I look forward to it."

Raised and educated in Kingston, Ms. Langdon raised the family of three children at Napanee and later Toronto. Her husband, a professional educator, worked outside the home, while Ms. Langdon was active in all aspects of education from the outset. She studied for her



Cheryl Langdon, new principal of Castleton Public School.

Photo by Mandy Martin

degree while rearing the family, the youngest now in the second year of university at McGill, Montreal.

"I taught in a Section 16 School for the severely disabled children in Kingston prior to joining the Northumberland-Clarington Board of Education nine years ago," she explains.

She joined the board as a classroom teacher at Smithfield Public School, relocating to the board office as a special services consultant five years ago.

"My area was from Cobourg east, so I visited Castleton Public School several times. It was nothing for me to put a 1000 kilometres on the odometer a week."

Last year, she was vice principal of Hillcrest Public School.

Enrollment at Castleton Public School is up slightly from last year, registering 180 on Monday: "We're adjusting it daily initially,"

she notes of school start-up."

There are 10 teaching staff at the school this year, including a small teaching role for Ms. Langdon. In addition, there is one education assistant, a full-time secretary and one custodian.

The school has made a commitment to positive avenues of communication this year, Ms. Langdon says in the first monthly school newsletter - printed from her home after lightning struck twice two weeks ago knocking out electrical and technological services at the school. Each classroom teacher will also be producing a monthly newsletter for students to take home.

Having individually met with many of the members of the parent council, the formal introduction will be at the first meeting September 24 with elections for four positions will be held.

Delighted with the community support and obvious pride in the school and grounds, Ms. Langdon pays tribute to the legacy of former principal David King, now in Cobourg.

Even winter holds promise of things positive for Ms. Langdon: "I look forward to an ice skating rink on the grounds this year. It's been awhile since I've had that kind of opportunity so close at hand."