

# New principal knows the meaning of harmony

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STAFF WRITER

Colborne Public School's new principal Mac Dallman knows all about working in harmony. He's a former barbershop quartet member.

"We performed for a (local) production of the Music Man and other shows," he recalls.

But for his working career, for the past 30 years he has been with the public education system in Northumberland County.

"I started out at Percy Centennial Public School, and then as a language resource teacher working with children with language difficulties. I travelled into the Colborne School in the early 1970s," he recalls.

"The interesting things here is that I've already met kids I taught at Grafton and South Cramahe who are now parents of kids here. That's a nice connection," Mr. Dallman says after his first full week of classes.

As of last Friday, there were 308 students enrolled at the Colborne School, "down slightly from last year". There are 16 full- and part-

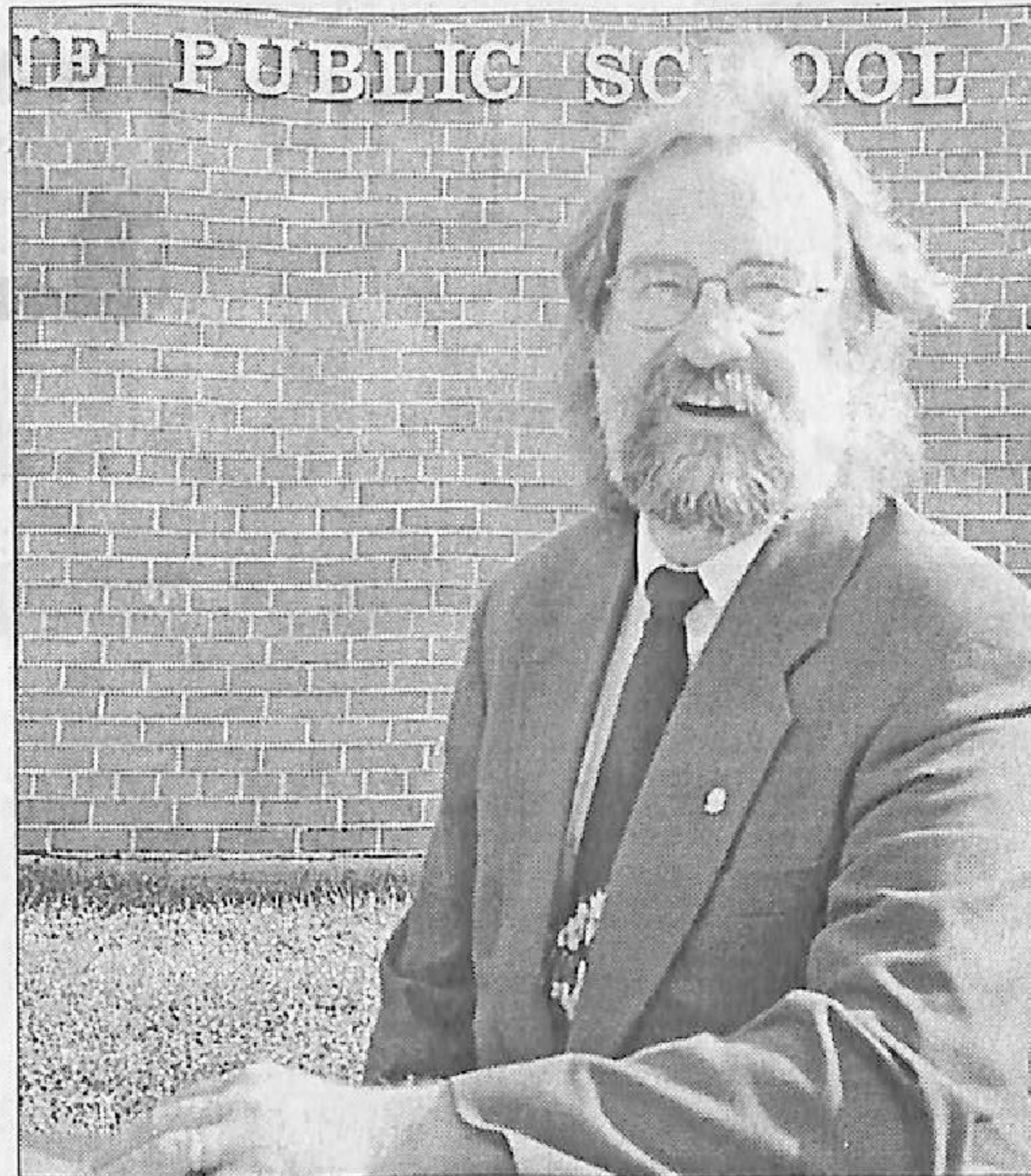
time teaching staff at the school. With no vice principalship at the school this year, Mr. Dallman is taking on those responsibilities, as well as those of the principalship.

"I'm really pleased," he says of his new posting. "Things are coming along really well. I'm getting to know people. As in any startup, there's reorganization initially."

Having walked through the village on several occasions, the friendliness of people has struck him.

"People wave at me and smile, say 'hello' when I pass them on the street."

From his language resource position he moved to teach Grade 8 at South Cramahe, then special education at Grafton Public School. What followed was a year at each of M.J. Hobbs in the west end of the board, Dr.



Mac Dallman is the new principal at Colborne Public School.

Photo by Mandy Martin

Powers at Port Hope, and Thomas Gillbard at Cobourg. He was named principal of Hastings Public School where he remained for five years, moving on to the Kent School at Campbellford for three years, then Dr. Power's principalship in Port Hope until last year.

A Hamilton Township resident, Mr. Dallman and his wife, a health care worker, have been married 26 years.

In Colborne, the school buses begin to roll in just after 8 a.m. every school day morning, bringing kids from Lakeport, as far west as Vernonville, the Purdy Road area and just east of the school.

"The bell rings at 8:20 a.m. and opening exercises are held at 8:30 a.m. It's an early shift."

One supervisory duty shared amongst the staff. The school has one new teacher on staff this year, Paul Scott

for Grade 7 who arrives from Murray Centennial School east of Brighton.

A public and parental introduction is planned for Thursday September 17, "if we can find the corn. We're planning a corn roast and meet-the-teacher event for 5:30 p.m."

Happily, former student David Rutherford, who walked in to welcome the new principal to the community, is out scouting out a supply for the welcome kick-off.

## Scouting's last stand in Colborne?

Scouting in Colborne is at a crossroads. Without a core of committed volunteer leaders and/or support committee, there may be no Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers or Rovers reports Dave LaSalle, chair of the 1st Cobourg Scouting group.

"The regulations have changed and, depending on what we get out for people to serve as leaders or on the committee, we'll see what happens this year," Mr. LaSalle said Monday night. He was taking registrations for this year's potential members two evenings this week, Monday and Wednesday.

"Now, the regulations state your need at least two leaders per group, plus one adult per five Beavers (aged five to seven years) and one for

every six Cubs (aged eight through 11 years). That means we need more adults," he explains.

Active in the Scouts Canada movement for the past 15 years, Mr. LaSalle says he can no longer run the program with only a handful of adult volunteers - even if he wanted to.

"The regulations have changed and it's for the benefit of the kids, but, for a volunteer agency, it's pretty difficult to come up with enough committed volunteers - people willing to make a commitment to the group."

Every volunteer must now have a pass a police security check, and meet with approval following three interviews, one at the District

level.

"If I can get a group in place by the end of this week, and that's extremely important because it affects the total organization, then we will have programs."

It's been a tough week for Mr. LaSalle. A death in the family has disheartened him. It disturbs him that while he has enough children registering for the Scouts Canada groups, it's a battle to get people to volunteer as leaders to help share the organizational and administrative responsibilities.

"We need a place to store equipment, we need new equipment, and we need a place to meet," he notes.

He's appreciative of the sponsorship of Colborne

Rotary, noting that more and more organizations are fundraising and competing for the same dollars.

"Everyone's finding it difficult these days," he notes.

"We're charging \$50 to register for the year, of which \$37.50 goes to the district, leaving \$13 to buy badges, and run programs for the local groups."

Mr. LaSalle knows the Scouts Canada programs are a boon to kids of all ages, and his 15 years of experience as a leader have given him first-hand confirmation of the program's worthiness. He just asks others to catch the spirit! He can be reached at 355-2296.

- Mandy Martin