

High school

Principal goes over his first semester

High school principal Dean Fink has just finished his first semester in the Acton school. He was transferred here from Lord Elgin high school in Burlington last September, with former principal Dave Katz sent to the new Lester B. Pearson school in Burlington.

Mr. Fink candidly discussed his first semester in Acton with a Free Press reporter. He airs his feelings, his views, his hopes and his accomplishments in the following article.

Better communications between the school and the community have been one of the main objectives of high school principal Dean Fink during his first semester in Acton.

A community newsletter, published with the help of students and staff, goes out regularly to the people in the town, to show just what the school is doing. Editorials, articles, cartoons and poetry represent the wide spectrum of talent within the school.

Continuing one of former principal Dave Katz' weekly sessions, Mr. Fink has parents of grade nine students in to meet him, and to discuss any aspect of the school they are curious about.

An advisory committee has also been formed just recently to unite the school and the community.

Many changes are in the wind for next year and the coming semester, according to Mr. Fink. He explained that his first semester here had been laid out last year by the former principal, so nothing could be changed.

Next year, however, the school for the first time would be able to sponsor Duke of Edinburgh awards. Students are given bronze, silver or gold awards for achievement in services to the community, hobbies, expeditions, fitness and athletics. A gold award is usually presented by a member of the royal family Mr. Fink said.

"It is essentially the effort which is taken into consideration, which is the key to the award, opposed to outstanding ability," the principal explained. "The competition is against yourself as opposed to the win-lose syndrome and beating some-

one else." Mr. Fink explained that it was for this reason that he thought the award was worthwhile. "Everyone has a chance to win it, not just the athletic students who win everything," he said.

"Where are we going?" is a study which members of the staff and students are looking into to find the long-range goals of the school. Four groups of people: chairmen of divisions in the school; staff members; community members and students each answer various questions giving their particular aims and general objectives. These answers will be brought together by members of the groups and viewed as a whole. The big job, according to the principal, will be to look for specific ways to achieve the aims and objectives listed.

Unique programs

The Mounsbury program and Total Immersion will be new courses to the school also this semester. In these programs 20 students from the Acton high school and 40 students from Burlington's Lord Elgin school get together and take four credits in various subjects.

The advantages of Total Immersion are the opportunities for the students to earn course credits outside the school, to involve the students in a more personal and individualized learning experience and to broaden their learning experience through greater involvement of volunteers, paraprofessionals and specialized personnel in the community. Mounsbury wild life sanctuary will be the base of operations for the Total Immersion program. One hundred students will be involved with five teachers, and four subject areas. This learning experience is a commitment to personal, social and environmental change in a different way and in a different place. It is also a real life situation creating choices in facing many of life's decisions.

Since becoming principal here, Mr. Fink has seen many things happen in the school. The Theatre Aquarius Group presented Antigone on January 27 and the poetess Phyllis Gollieb visited the school. The Drama Club was more active putting on plays at M. Z. Bennett and Robert

Little public schools. The Outers have made many trips, their latest being to Algonquin Park in sub-zero temperatures. Intramural sports have expanded. World Development day is coming up and the school is going to take part.

Pluch is on

There have been severe economic restraints in education in order to hold the mill rate down, according to Mr. Fink. "It would appear that many activities in school could be effected because of lack of money brought about by inroads and expenses.

"The Ministry," he continued, "has cut back on support across the province, thus less income and more expenses. The schools have been asked for imaginative ways to effect the economics in the system which will not affect quality of education."

Mr. Fink explained that to do this, the school is using newspaper, which is cheaper than their usual paper, and all paper used is being recycled.

As an example, Mr. Fink feels that the students in Acton are very much different from his former students in Lord Elgin high school in Burlington. He has found in his few months here that the students are genuinely friendly, even the ones who are considered problems. "When you get to urban areas," Mr. Fink said, "there is something which puts you on guard." He explained that when urban teens were friendly, he was suspicious they were more "brown-nosing" than friendly. In Acton, he knows the students are being friendly, and not just trying to

get in good with the principal.

"The kids here are less interested in academic pursuits and are more work oriented," he said. He continued to say, however, that this attitude is beginning to change as more and more urban people move into the community.

When asked to relate his most memorable experience in his five months as principal in Acton, Mr. Fink was stymied. He could not decide which of the many events left him with the most memories.

"The whole semester has been a great experience," he said. However, he decided on several times as being favorites.

The publication of the first newsletter, his running a mile and a half in an intramural cross country race, teaching class again and his visit to the Lions' club all stood out in his mind.

The students and staff accepted his position in a very short time in September which also pleased him.

He is looking forward to the new high school, and the new challenges next year will bring, but he also looks back at the past few months with a



HIGH SCHOOL principal Dean Fink was surrounded by report cards which needed signed last Thursday, but still took time to give his views on his first semester in Acton.

sense of accomplishment and pride.

Mr. Fink had a tough act to follow when he replaced Dave Katz, but when and if the time

comes for him to leave the school, he will be able to do so knowing he was accepted and worked hard for the school, students, and staff.

Scout and Guide news

By Mark Rowe

The annual Acton Scout and Guide church parade will be held this Sunday afternoon. The service will begin at three at the Trinity United church on Mill Street. The public is welcome to attend the interdenominational service.

All members of the Scout and Guide associations please note that they are to meet at two o'clock at the Scout Hall. Be sure to arrive the hour earlier at the hall and not at the church.

The official opening of the new addition to the Acton Scout hall will take place at 7:30, the evening of Sunday February 22. The public is most welcome to attend.

Chess champs

The Scouts held their second troop chess tournament at the hall on Saturday. The chess players are preparing to meet with other troops in the district at the end of the month.

The new addition is now functional and many groups are making good use of it. Anyone wishing to hold meetings and functions at the hall should contact the group

committee chairman, Don McDonald, first. To help in your planning I have listed all groups meeting in the hall.

On Mondays the "A" and "B" Cub packs occupy both halls until 8:30. On Tuesdays the first and second Brownie packs use both halls until eight while the Ranger company meets downstairs until nine.

Wednesdays are meeting nights for the first Guide company and Beaver Colony. The Guides will be in the old hall until nine while the Beavers will vacate the new hall at 7:30. On Thursdays the Scouts use the old hall until nine. The new hall is vacant on Thursdays and Fridays. The third Brownie pack meets in the old hall on Fridays until eight. The new hall is unused on Saturdays and Sundays.

The old hall is used on Saturday nights and on Sundays the Venturer unit meets in the evening. The second Acton Guide company continues to meet at Robert Little school on Mondays. They hope to be able to meet in the hall in September.



MOUNTING TRILLIUM plaques, with the trillium made from white paper and the plaque from sanded and varnished wood are John Barratt and Donnie Miller of 1st Acton Cub Pack. Mike Hastings, Assistant Leader 1st Georgetown Pack shows how it's done

Wolf Cubs participate in conference

Saturday, Jan. 31 was a busy day for 70 first year Cubs of North Halton District, when they attended a craft conference, held in the hall of St. John's United Church.

Over 24 leaders and helpers participated in the various crafts which the boys enjoyed.

The Craft-A-Go-Round was opened with the Grand Howl. Vic Longo, Cubmaster of 8th Georgetown, welcomed the boys and leaders. Mr. Longo

was "Akela" for the day.

Mrs. Pat Garton A.C.M. of Acton demonstrated the fur animal pin; 1st Georgetown the Trillium with Mrs. Ismay Bird, Mike Hastings, Jr. leader and Mrs. Gallagher; 2nd Georgetown, a paper cup by Lee Noel A.C.M.

Roy Gale C.M. of 4th Georgetown demonstrated sail boats; Mrs. Evelyn Owen C.M. and Mrs. Carol Witcher A.C.M. of 5th "A" pack the

decorated glass jar.

From 5th "B" pack Mrs. Terry Colter C.N. and assistants McLeod and Bourque demonstrated the woggle.

8th Georgetown demonstrated sand casting with John Hayes A.C.M. doing the salt and pepper craft. Mrs.

Elaine Hannah C.M. of Limehouse and David Hannah demonstrated nature craft.

The conference was

organized by Mr. Longo,

assisted by Mrs. Jean Layman C.M. of 1st Georgetown. First Georgetown Ladies' Auxiliary served refreshments under the leadership of Mrs. Beth Allen, Mrs. Cathy Hunt and Mrs. Bev Garrett. The boys were able to receive popcorn in the paper cups they made.

The fun filled day came to a close with the Grand Howl and the Lord's Prayer.

M.Z. Bennett weekly news

By Julia Bowen

On Monday the grade eight girls had a film on Job interviews. It was to show how you should act in an interview.

Holiday day ran smoothly and many people supported it.

The Student Council is preparing to have a winter carnival next week followed by a Valentines Day dance. Student Council is discussing having a pancake breakfast, which we hope will be supported by all the sevens and

eights. All the students of grade eight wish the best of luck to Debbie Spence and Joanne Robinson on their first week of high school. The radio draw was held on Monday and the lucky winner was Scott Kowall.

Chocolate bars are still being sold for one dollar each.

The Student Council would like to thank all the people who bought tickets on the radio. Sales were a tremendous success.

GUARDIAN DRUGS

Sweetheart Sale!

VALUES EFFECTIVE UNTIL FEB. 14

- 1 lb. box of **BLACK MAGIC CHOCOLATES** 288
- BLUE JEANS COLOGNE** 2 oz. Mist or 4 oz. Splash on 1.99
- OLD SPICE AFTER SHAVE LOTION** 4 oz. Original or 4 oz. Light 1.99
- Plus! MANY MORE SWEETHEART VALUES IN STORE**
- HEAD & SHOULDERS SHAMPOO** NEW SIZE 250 ml 1.88
- CREST TOOTH PASTE** 109
- EVERYNIGHT SHAMPOO** 8 oz 1.19
- CLAIROL FINAL NET** 8 oz 1.37
- ARRID EXTRA DRY ANTIPERSPIRANT** 2.5% gm 1.44
- CLAIROL NICE 'N EASY** 163
- GELUSIL** 100 2.33

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Mr. F. L. BURKE will be in Georgetown, Friday, February 6th from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon.

In Acton, Friday, February 6th from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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