

A walk down the fairway attracted new principal to Acton High

By BENDUMMETT
Herald Staff

There was nothing "par for the course" about the golf game Acton High School's new principal Ozzie Caldarelli had this past summer with one of the school's teachers Lyn McLaren.

Mr. Caldarelli had spent his 21 years as an educator first in Etobicoke and then in the south area of Halton. So when he was considering where he would like to be a principal, a school in North Halton had never entered his mind.

But that thinking all changed while walking the fairway with Mr. McLaren. "He told me the school was great, with a caring staff and great kids."

Mr. Caldarelli was last principal at G.E. Perdue High School in Oakville. This is his sixth year as a principal. He has also been a mathematics and a computer teacher and was a department

head for each of these subject areas. He replaces Karel Surry who moved on to General Brock school in Burlington.

Mr. Caldarelli says one of his main purpose's as Acton's principal is to "enhance the school's perceived image."

"People incorrectly think of it as a rough country school. It might have once been but all people have to do is come to the school and see if (the image) no longer true," he said.

The school's image problem doesn't so much apply to parents in Acton but more so to parents in other areas, said Mr. Caldarelli.

He said Acton is a "feeder school" for Brookville and Stewarttown students so it's important parents from those areas know that it's "a good school".

Increasing the school's involvement is one way Mr. Caldarelli plans to improve the school's image. To prove his point, he said the

school has already entered a float in the recent Acton Fall Fair parade.

This summer Mr. Caldarelli conducted a survey in which he asked three specific questions to parents, students, staff, police, school trustees, and local business to find how he could best contribute to the school.

The questions were: "What are Acton's strengths? Where is improvement needed? What do students, staff and parents expect from each other with respect to each's role in the school?"

The general consensus was Acton high school "is a special place". Mr. Caldarelli said the respondents told him the personal nature of the teachers and the school's small size means no one "gets lost in the shuffle." He also found that the building and equipment is "top quality" and "for the most part the students are well

Abandoned CN Railway line is sold

Halton Hills town councillor and Glen Williams landowner Alf Spence said land purchased from the Canadian National railway by 32 residents is "shaping up nicely" after the sale that took place this summer.

The town of Halton Hills was offered the piece of land described as six feet wide and four miles long for \$5,000.

"When the town passed on it, it was offered to abutting landowners," Mr. Spence said.

The local landowners will work the land until it blends in with the environment, the councillor said.

"Some of it is going to be returned to agriculture, and some will be used to enhance lots."

The railway line once serviced a route from Barrie to Georgetown. The property extends from Wildwood Road to Terra Cotta. But Peel residents did not participate in the purchase of the property.

The land was being considered for use as a hiking trail before councillors objected to the scheme last year.



The enthusiastic new principal of Acton High School Ozzie Caldarelli (centre) has made a point of getting involved in all aspects of the institution he refers to as "a special place." Some of the students who share his enthusiasm for the school are (front

row) Keri-Lynn Bishop (left) and Mary Joe McLeod. Back row Mary Moore (left), Jason Schonnop, Bill Andrews, Dan Argudin, Heather Hewitt, Jennifer MacDonald and Ken McIsaac (Student Council President). (Herald photo)

Two cars collide

Police have laid charges of following too closely following a two-car collision on Trafalgar Road south of Britannia Road in Halton Hills the afternoon of Oct. 3. Police say that a 19-year-old Oakville woman was travelling southbound in a 1988 American Wrangler Jeep behind a 1980 Buick when a construction vehicle travelling northbound swerved into the southbound lanes. The Buick's driver, a 36-year-old Oakville man, applied the brakes and the Jeep then collided into the rear of the Buick.

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