

English and History to mesh at Acton High School

BY DOUG HARRISON

Effective this September, incoming students to Acton High School will be subjected to computer studies every day which will support the new integration of the English and History courses during period one of each school day.

This is the first phase of integrating two or more subjects, currently taught separately, under the new school system known as de-streaming. It will see the termination of Enrichment classes, placing a wider spectrum of students in the General and Advanced levels.

It's a three-pronged plan which will be introduced over the next three years with more integration of studies already slated for the 1994-95 school year.

"The Grade 9s this September will get significantly more time on computers than (what they're re-

ceiving in Grade 8) this year," Acton High School principal Ozzie Caldarelli told a large gathering last Wednesday at the school's information evening for Grade 8 parents.

"We're going to introduce the students to the IBM lab and get them used to typing with a program called Allemina, which is designed to get people typing in 10 hours," said Caldarelli, adding that the English-History teacher will be by their side at all times. "We'll then get them into word processing with Microsoft Works, which will enable them to edit their own writing."

He said the compulsory courses (English, History, French, Phys-Ed, Math, Science and one of art and music and a second of business or technical) will remain the same, but the latter two choices

will be semestered.

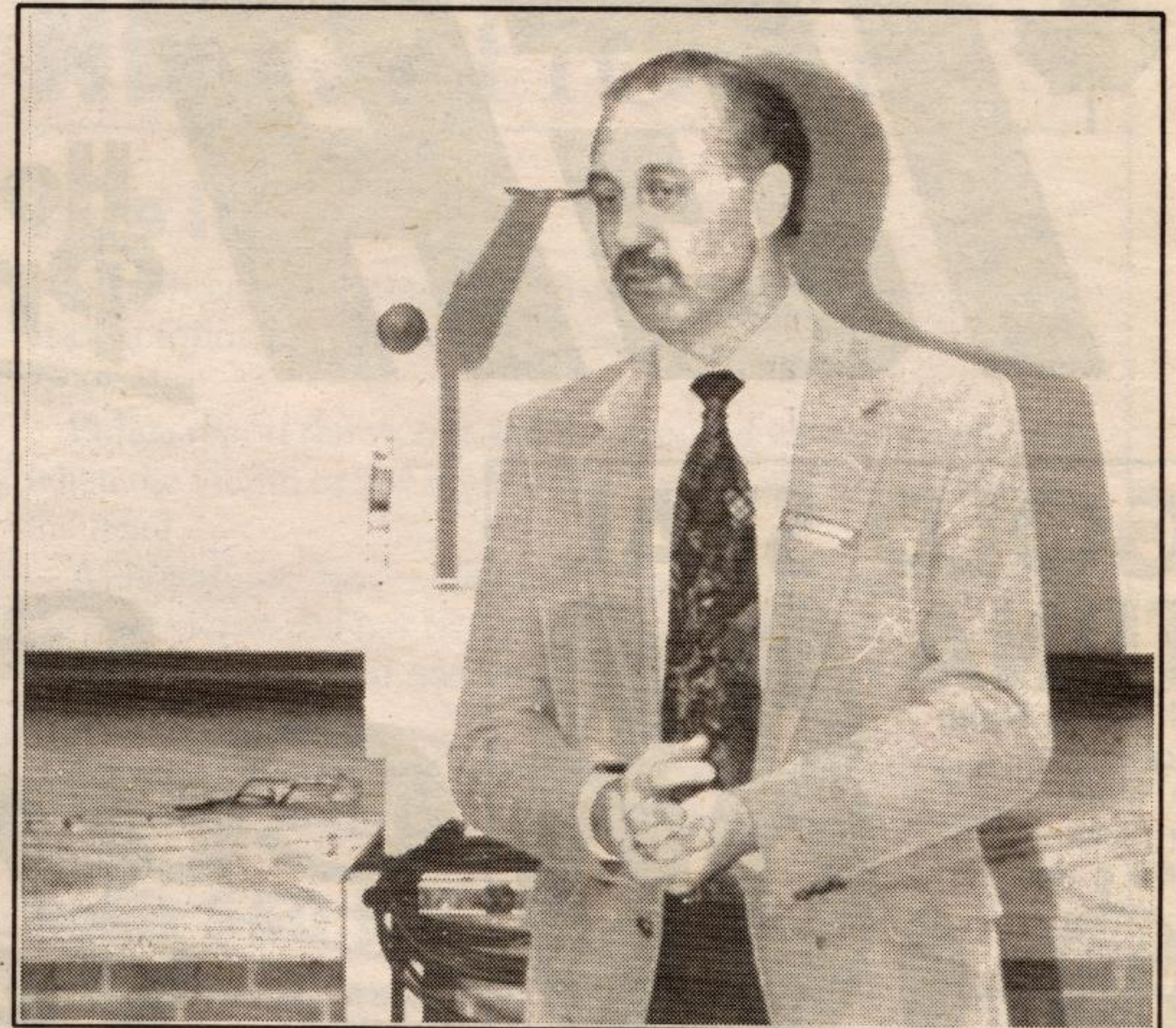
As well, the Math and Science courses (fourth period) will run under a de-semestered basis and alternate on a day-day basis. Ditto for period two, where French and Phys-Ed are the courses of study. However, Caldarelli added it will be the teacher's choice in the Math and Science area as to when either subject will be taught for two straight days or concentrated on to a greater extent.

Period five will include the option courses where the student must select two of Art, Music and two Technical courses. Of the Tech courses, the student is to select two of construction, graphics-drafting, communications and auto mechanics. Students can select both instead of Music or Art if they choose.

French Immersion students will have a similar schedule with a French-English integration and a compulsory Arts Visuale course being the only variations.

"I guarantee your students will be more ready to enter Grade 10 than (the Grade 9s) this year. Grade 10 hasn't changed," assured Caldarelli, who added he would like to see about 25 students in each class and feels this is a manageable number for the teacher.

"It's like a re-birth for Acton High School. I'm really excited about what's going on with the change of curriculum and we (the staff) want to do what's best for the students," he continued. "The key about (de-streaming) is that it's allowing us to learn from and work more with our feeder schools. We're working more with them and it's been good."



INTEGRATION IN '93: Acton High principal Ozzie Caldarelli addresses parents of Grade 8 students during an information session last Tuesday. Caldarelli outlined the schedule that incoming students will follow in September '93. (Doug Harrison photo)

Region refuses Town's \$15,000 grant request

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Halton Hills Council will not get the one-time \$15,000 grant it wanted from Halton Region to help pay legal bills to take part in a court case involving a ruling on the Acton Quarry dump.

Members of a Regional committee refused the request and the decision is expected to be affirmed at Halton Council today (Wednesday).

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette was disappointed by the committee's decision.

"Committee members felt that the Town went into the case on its own, and that the Town should foot the bill," Bonnette said in an interview Saturday.

"Myself, I feel that the Region did a good job fighting the quarry proposal and it should finish the job."

Halton Hills wanted the money to help pay for a lawyer that attended a divisional court hearing dealing with the jurisdictional powers of the Consolidated Hearing Board.

Last fall the Consolidated Hearing Board ruled that it did not have the jurisdiction to deal with an application made by Reclamation Systems Incorporated (RSI) to turn part of its quarry south of Acton into a massive landfill site. That ruling could be in jeopardy, depending on how the divisional court rules.

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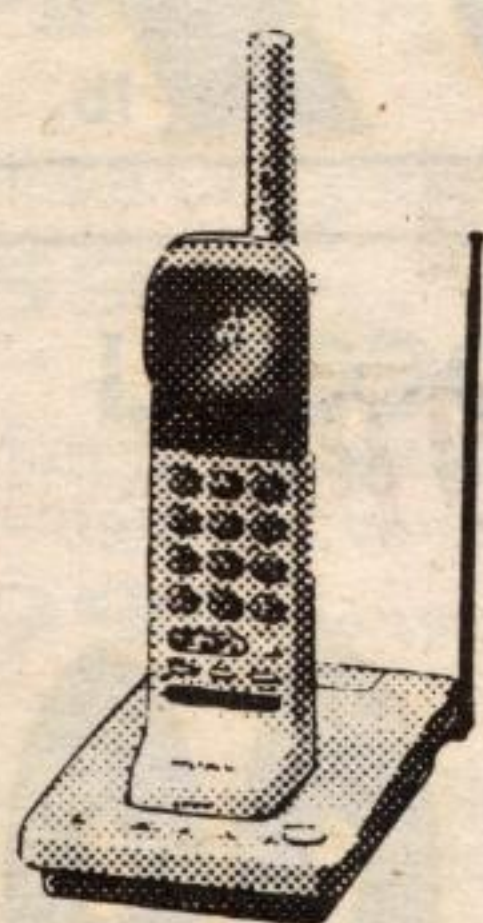
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