

# Bradley thrilled to be Acton High School's principal

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Joyce Bradley couldn't be happier working in Acton.

Although she's been acquainting herself with the staff, parents and the school itself for the past two months, Bradley's only been Acton High principal for two weeks.

"People have been very friendly and the parents are wonderful,"

she said Thursday.

What makes working in a school interesting, added Bradley, is that no two minutes are the same.

The Burlington resident has worked in many Halton Board of Education institutions in the last 20 years.

Most recently, she was principal at Oakville's Queen Elizabeth Park High School (since 1987). Bradley has held a number of other positions: vice-principal at General Brock, a vocational school in Burlington, from 1985-87; president of the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation (OSSTF) in the 1985-86 school year; head of guidance at Oakville's Thomas A. Blakelock High in 1984-85; and she spent 10 years at Lord Elgin High in Burlington as a counsellor and head of guidance.

Bradley says no immediate changes at the local high school are imminent, since learning about the school and the community come first.

"I think you have to accentuate the good things that are already here," explained the Maritime native.

One of the challenges the new principal will face come the 1994-95 school year is coupling a quality education with a slight decline in staff due to the Social Contract.

"The question," Bradley asks, "is how do you keep the good things going, so people are not over-stressed? Because of the fewer resources, the changes that will be made will be to make the best of a bad deal."

What is Bradley's impression of Acton High's 670 students?

"They're just as friendly as the parents. I hope they will come to me with any questions."

Bradley is also impressed by the active student council at Acton High. With 19 or 20 students, "it's one of the largest student councils around," she said.

As well, she pointed out, there are about 50 or 60 students rehearsing for a musical in April. "Kids are here all hours of the day and night."

Bert Ahearn, the school's vice-principal, was acting-principal from September to February, while science teacher Dr. Paul Tamblyn acted as vice-principal.

"It was challenging, rewarding, instructive and I learned a lot," says Ahearn of his five-month term in the principal's chair.

"It gave me a broader perspective on how schools and the Boards operate and a broader perspective on how the school interacts with the community. It was a very good experience."

## NEWS SHORTS

### No crime reports this week!

There were no reports of crime or fire for the Acton area this past week. At the weekly press meeting held on Monday in Georgetown, Staff Sgt. William Ford said except for two relatively minor occurrences in Georgetown, it was a very quiet week all over the community.

"That in itself is news," Ford said of the non-crime wave.

### Guelph OPP caution parents

The police in Guelph are saying that parents should be suspicious if their children start coming home with expensive gifts of clothing or electronics.

Constable Charlie Hunter, of the Guelph OPP, says parents don't want to believe their teens are getting into trouble with crime or drugs, but turning a blind eye can lead to more serious repercussions.

"We have shown a bit of an increase in young people committing some of our property crimes particularly, and quite often it's to get into drugs and such," Hunter said.

Statistics from the Ontario government show that 65 to 70 per cent of all property crime is related to the drug trade. Since stolen merchandise typically nets only 10 per cent of its actual value, it could take up to 10 stolen VCRs to buy \$200 worth of drugs.

Warning signs may include missing time from school, coming home very late at night or early in the morning and coming home with money or new clothing or electronic goods.

Hunter says parents should make sure their kids are at school, find out where they've been late at night and trace any gifts back to the source. The occasional talk with a troubled or restless teenager may be all that's needed to keep them from being marked for life with a criminal record.

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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Whenever there is an activity that requires music we always play for free. We feel it is our responsibility to play for the community at no charge."

— George Elliott, bandmaster Acton Citizens' Band, Front Page

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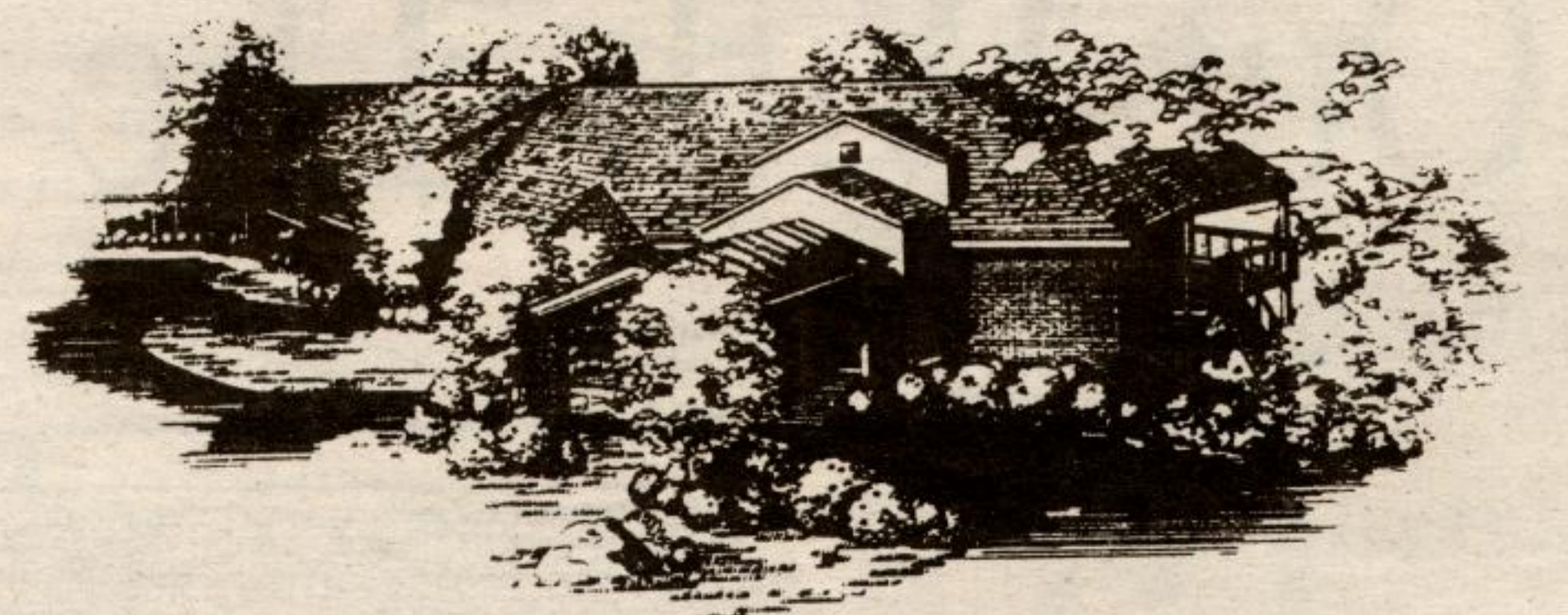
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