

Acton's David Craig is proud principal

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

David Craig is as much a success as the students who have followed his guidance.

The Acton resident, who is in his 10th year as principal at Mayfield Secondary School in Brampton, has prided himself on hiring a gifted staff of 110 and creating a program in academics, sports, music and drama that ranks among the best in the world.

Mayfield, with over 1,700 students, has become the area's school of excellence.

Over the years, Craig has devoted hundreds of hours researching and checking references to find the staff capable of "making it happen."

"There's a real sense of teamwork here," says Craig, 55. "First I had to find the areas that needed improvement and then I had to find the best people to meet those needs."

Mayfield is proud of its Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) medals in both boys' and girls' volleyball these past two years, an OFSAA gold medal wrestler, a professional fencing champion, a girls' relay gold medal in Nordic skiing, and recognition from the International Jazz Educators Association for the school's jazz vocal group *Magnetics* and the stage band, *Blues Alley*.

One of Craig's success stories has been Mayfield volleyball standout Barbara Ifejika, who will be attending Stanford University in the fall. He took Ifejika under his wing and acted as "agent" in getting her the scholarship, which was one some 600 that she was offered.

"She's the greatest raw talent we have seen," concedes Christine Craig, David Craig's wife and head of the Peel Selects volleyball club. "Every Division I American college would have ranked her as No. 2 in the world, out of high school students this year."

Craig admits Ifejika reminds him of his daughter Susan, an Acton High graduate who is combining the same mental toughness and competitive drive while playing professional volleyball in Germany. Susan was a top athlete here before moving on to volleyball success at York University.

"As a principal you often don't get pats on the back, but I've been satisfied with the respect I get from people who I respect," explains the 17-year principal, who is a consummate jazz and sports enthusiast when away from the office.

From Day 1 at Mayfield, Craig's goal has been to push his students to a level of excellence that they hadn't been seen before. Put simply, he wants the best for them.

In a recent Canada-wide Science Fair, Craig notes, four of the five students chosen to the national level were from Mayfield.

"The proof is in the pudding. We've worked the system so the students can realize their potential. They're not afraid to go for it."

Craig was influenced by his father who, he says, "gave me every opportunity in education, music and sports" and also by his former Burlington Central High teacher, Ward Russell.

"Students are not that different from those 10 or 20 years ago, but the uncertainty that kids face today has changed. We have to make our students as mentally tough as possible to be marketable at the next level."



PROUD PRINCIPAL: Acton's David Craig relaxes with his wife Christine at their Fourth Line home. (Doug Harrison photo)

New programs

The Town's Recreation and Parks Department has announced that its Saturday morning Peanut Club will now be offered at Prospect Park.

Also, Spring Training for Budding Blue Jays (7 to 12-years-old) is slated for Saturday, April 23 in Acton.

For details call 873-2600.

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for kindergarten registration!

The Halton Board of Education is committed to preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges. If you have a child who will be **5 years old by December 31, 1994**, then now is the time to take action on **Kindergarten Registration!**

There's a public elementary school nearby with caring people waiting to help you, and your child, with this important step.

To make registration easy, please **bring a verification of your child's date of birth and proof of eligibility to attend.**

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Registration has already started and we encourage you to register your child. If there's anything you need to know, we're happy to help. Just call your local school principal, or the education centre in your area.

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