



WELCOME! Pat South, left, a 30-year member of St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League, pins daughter-in-law Marie South with a new member pin at the recent May meeting. C.W.L. president Arline Coultrup looks on. (Doug Harrison photo)

Demone returns home to teach

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Acton's Brad Demone has experienced a bit of deja vu.

Demone graduated from McKenzie-Smith Middle School in 1982, and will graduate again from the same school in just under two weeks — having completed the last of four teaching practicums that will enable the 25-year-old to apply for a full-time teacher's position.

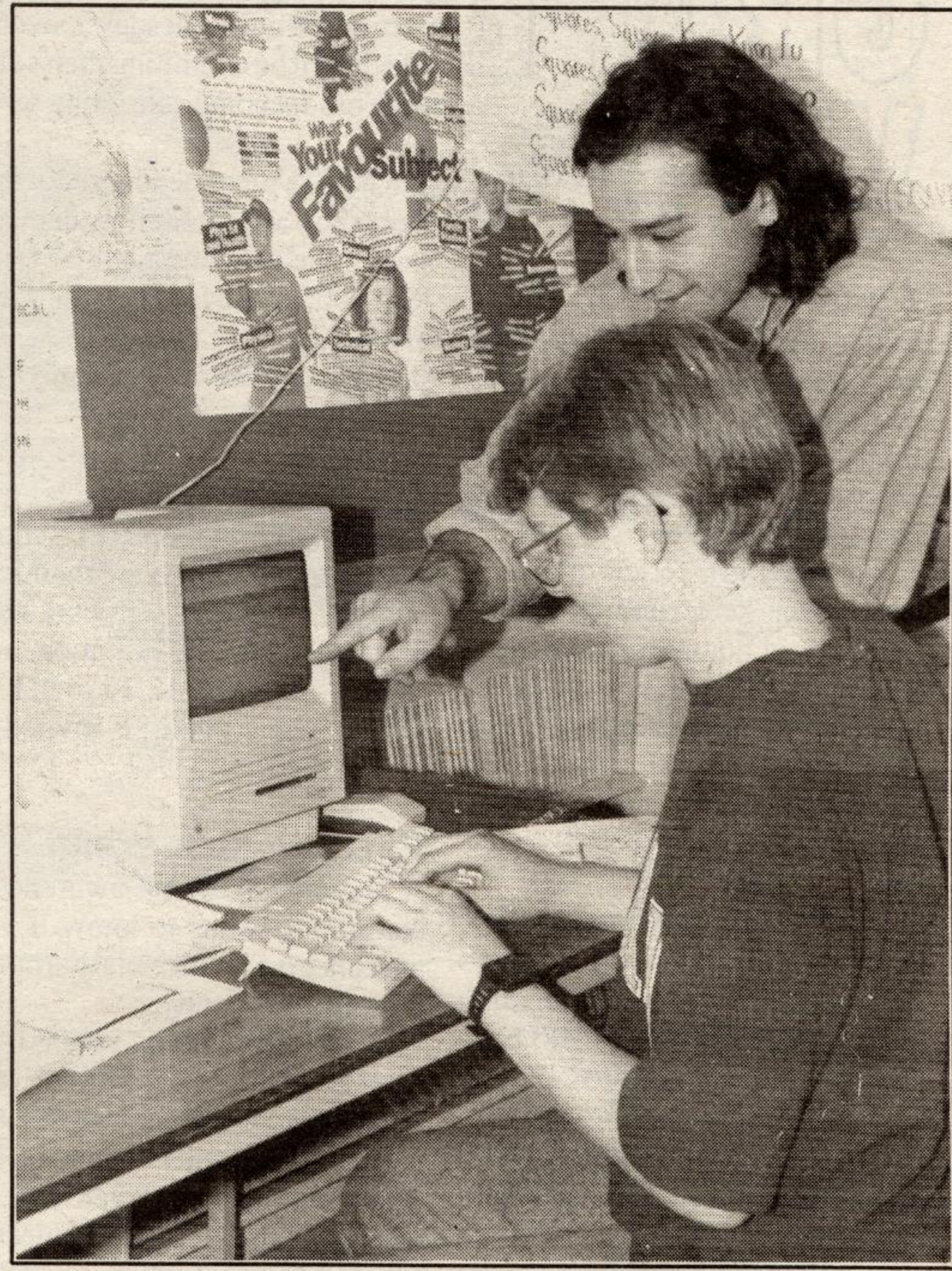
Demone completed his four-year Bachelor of Arts degree last year while majoring in history and political science at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. He graduated two weeks ago from the one-year Bachelor of Education (teachers college) program.

After doing three-quarters of his practicum in eastern Canada, Demone felt a return visit to his alma mater was in order.

"It's nice to do it (the practicum) in your hometown. It's good coming back to your old stomping grounds," said Demone, who starred on the 1981 McKenzie-Smith hockey and basketball teams, which won the North Halton public school championship and appeared in the finals. "Plus I'm flat broke and I can stay at parents' place."

Demone sat on student council as president in Grade 8 and was a representative the other two years. He was involved with cross-country running and volleyball.

"There are still a couple of teachers here who taught me," said



HOMEcoming: "Student teacher" Brad Demone points out a computer solution to McKenzie-Smith student Matthew Schiller last week. (Doug Harrison photo)

Demone, referring to Mr. Travis and Mr. Leatherland. "They're probably shocked I'm here and feel a tad older."

Demone never aspired to become a teacher until his third year of university, when he roomed with two students who were in the Bachelor of Education program.

"I also had excellent professors and after watching them, teaching seemed like something I wanted to do. A teacher can make a huge difference for a student," he says.

In his two weeks at McKenzie-Smith, Demone has taught math, language arts, social studies and physical education.

He admits it felt a little weird standing in front of the class as a teacher instead of as a student.

"It was like a flashback. I was standing in my old environment," says the former Milton Merchant Junior B hockey player, conceding he finds it difficult to be strict with the students.

"Sometimes I want to laugh with them, but I have to bite my tongue and do the right thing. Plus, I'm learning a lot from (practice teacher) Bob Armstrong."

Demone would like to either supply teach or volunteer come September. And how about remaining in Acton?

"I would like to teach in Acton sooner or later, but you have to take what you can get."

"When you're going for a job, the (potential) school knows you have a degree and you can teach. What they want to know is what you can do for them after 3 pm. Extra-curricular activities are important for students and what you can offer in that sense is important."

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CARRIER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to ... **BRITTANY YOUNGBLUT!** Brittany is a Grade 4 student at M.Z. Bennett. She is busy with her dance classes right now, getting ready for a June concert. Her favourite pastime is playing with her friends.

Brittany has just started taking coronet lessons with the goal of playing in the Acton Citizens' Band in the future.

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