

AHS: Fewer teachers, more students

From Front Page
who will teach art, as well as new head secretary Barbie Taylor.

Laura Clark is the new vice-principal at M.Z. Bennett (population 225).

"With Chris Logan as my supervising principal, I hope to increase parental involvement in the school and to expand our links with the community," Clark said Thursday.

"This school will be perfect for me. I am on the short list for principals and with the link to MacKenzie-Smith, it will be like running my own school."

New teachers at M.Z. Bennett include Chris Leyland, who will teach a Grade 1 and 2 split class; Kindergarten teacher Mary Jane Curry; Grade 4-5 teacher James Fisher and instructional assistant Lori-Lynn Fountain.

At Acton District High School (population 580), principal Joyce Bradley said they will struggle with four fewer teachers than last year and at least 20 more students.

"We will have eight fewer

school days this year and our professional development days have been cut from nine to only one," Bradley said on Thursday.

Bradley said some major changes will occur at Acton High with the Halton Board's expected approval this week of a review of the head ship structure.

"The Board is down-sizing the number of head ships at each school. We have 13 department heads and associates and next year we will probably have only eight heads as middle management cuts are made," Bradley said.

Bradley also said Acton High will have larger class sizes.

"We don't have any that we are really worried about but we have not been able to keep to the class size maximums that we would like, with more classes over 30 or 32 students than ever before."

Bradley said that the cuts that are hitting education are no different than the cuts hitting everybody else but to keep the effects of the cuts out of the classroom things like extra-curricular programs, teams and sports and weekend community activities may suffer.

"We can't expect teachers to be doing their professional develop-

ment on their own time, run extra-curricular activities on their own time and keep up the same level of co-curricular activities."

Gary Crocker is the new vice principal at Acton High this year.

At St. Joseph's separate school (population 404), the emphasis this year is on the environment.

"We have been recognized as a Green School with the S.E.E.D.S. Foundation," explained Principal Robert Maggio on Friday.

"We are one of the first schools in the Separate School Board to be recognized with a program that encourages the school and students to be environmentally friendly and do a lot of activities for the environment.

"We have also set up a new computer lab and will also place more emphasis on sports and crafts this year," Maggio explained.

St. Joseph's has a new primary teacher this year, Lise Roberts and a new Grade 4-5 teacher, Carol Caverley.

Fewer 'P.A.s'

With the need for unpaid Social Contract days, the Halton Board of Education has approved a reduction in the number of professional activity days for teachers.

This year there will be just three "P.A. Days" for elementary teachers, and only one for secondary school teachers.

Last school year there were nine P.A. Days for all teachers.

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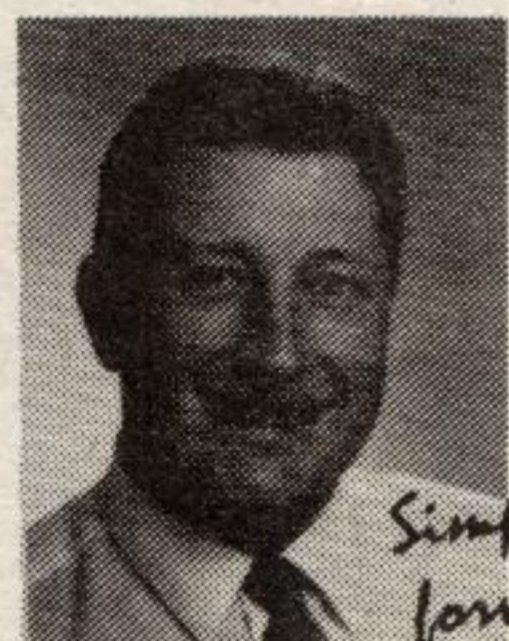
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NEWS SHORTS

Broken mirror in hit-and-run

Police report that the driver of a tractor-trailer unit, headed west on Mill Street, failed to remain at the scene after striking the rear-view mirror on the driver's side of an oncoming vehicle.

The accident occurred last Wednesday at Mill and Wellington Streets. The driver of the 1994 Ford Aerostar was not injured, and police have no suspects.

Emergency birth on Mill Street

Firefighters were called last Wednesday at 6:58 am to assist ambulance attendants at a Mill Street East home. When they arrived on the scene the ambulance was already there. The patient had given birth to baby boy.

Faulty fire alarm

An alarm at a business on Commerce Crescent was activated last Wednesday at 5:55 pm. Firefighters found the cause to be a malfunction with the alarm system and advised the owner to have their service company repair it.

Churchill Road brush fire

A rubbish fire at a residence on Churchill Road South brought firefighters out on Thursday at 1:11 pm. A small pile of brush had been lit buy kids in area. There was no damage.

More faulty alarms

Another malfunctioning alarm brought firefighters to a Holmesway Place address on Sept. 2 at 3:50 pm.

Call for medical assistance

Firefighters received a call on Friday at 4:12 pm to assist a patient suspected of having a seizure. They remained with the patient at the corner of Main Street North and Knox Avenue until an ambulance arrived.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We are one of the first schools to be recognized with a program that encourages the school and students to be environmentally friendly."

— Robert Maggio, St. Joseph's principal, Page 2

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