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WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1995

School's out for summer!

'Linking' uncertainty offset by growth, fun in '94-'95 year

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

The classrooms are empty, the playgrounds quiet.

With cries of "no more pencils, no more books," summer vacation began for Acton's 1,443 elementary and high school students on Thursday.

It was a year of growth, fun and some uncertainty at Acton schools.

The big question still facing McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett schools is whether the proposed linking of the two facilities to form a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school will occur.

McKenzie-Smith principal Chris Logan said despite the uncertainty caused by unacceptably high bids for the construction work, it's been a great year.

"Staff put together a four-page list of student, staff, parent and community achievements," Logan said in an interview last Tuesday.

"The best part of the year for me was having a wonderful school to work in, and I sincerely mean that. The folks in Acton are marvelous, we have a tremendously strong staff and we have kids who are very appreciative of things that are done for them," Logan said.

McKenzie-Smith-M.Z. Bennett will say good-bye to several teachers including Ed Leatherland, who will be teaching in Milton in September, and Kris Leyland, who is moving to an Oakville school.

M.Z. vice-principal Laura Clark is also leaving and will be replaced by Nancy Johnston from Centennial in Georgetown.

New teachers at M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith include Rob Coleman, who will teach at the Junior level, and Carol Lawson, who returns from a leave to teach Junior Kindergarten.

At Robert Little School, principal Deanna Nodwell said the best part

of the year was the sharing that occurred at student assemblies.

"The students would share their classroom work or sing a song or put on a performance and it was easy to see their growth from September," Nodwell said in an interview on Wednesday.

"You can see them physically growing, emotionally growing and academically growing daily.

"When they have the courage to stand up before the whole school, that gives me a real sense of pride — like a parent's pride."

Nodwell said the school accomplished an advance in technology for both the staff and students and continued toward the goal of becoming a paperless facility.

A number of staff are leaving Robert Little including vice-principal Bob Bell, who is taking a leave to travel with this family.

Anita Moorenweiser, Alice Noguera and Angela O'Drowsky will all be teaching in Georgetown schools come September and Leanne MacLean will teach in Milton.

New staff at Robert Little includes Janice Snow, the new Junior Kindergarten teacher, Janet McCluskey, who will teach English to Grade 1 French Immersion students, and Karen Fraser, the new vice-principal.

At Acton High, the school year will begin in September with three fewer teachers but the same number of students.

In her final school newsletter of the year, principal Joyce Bradley said that budget constraints will mean decreased teacher time in the library and special education areas so that they can continue to provide a varied and complete course range for students.

Roy McMillan is retiring, Brian Downes is moving to an Oakville school, and Yvonne Indart will

teach in Burlington. Other departing staff include Judy Osmond, Dorothy Platnar and Betty Jean Hutton.

New to the school are Karl Dahlinger, who will teach math and science, Sharon French, the new head of applied arts and technology, Christine Rogan, a co-op student from the University of Waterloo who will teach some math courses, Gary Seibert, who returns to Acton High to teach math, science and special education, and Shelly Lindsay, replacing a secretary on maternity leave.

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MP won't support red light districts

MP Julian Reed issued a strong statement last week to advise that he "will not be supporting the creation of red light districts" after Metro Toronto Council narrowly voted in favour of the establishment of legalized prostitution areas in designated parts of the city.

"Some cities in Europe allocate various areas as 'red light' districts, and the result has been an accumulation of every imaginable crime based on greed," argued Reed.

"Further to that, under-age girls are not licensed in these areas and our information is that the traffic outside the red light district with these prostitutes is great, or greater than the traffic inside the licensed areas. To create these areas and then turn a blind eye with a nudge-nudge, wink-wink turns us all into hypocrites."

The MP is back in the riding for the summer break and can be reached at his constituency office (877-2900).



GRADUATION TIME!

McKenzie-Smith valedictorian Stephanie McKay accepts her Grade 8 diploma from teacher Tom Travis at graduation ceremonies at the Legion last Wednesday night. Instructional assistants Lynda Bowen and Pat Trotter stand at the podium. Stephanie received a standing ovation from classmates following her address. (Eve Martin photo)

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