



THE ACTON Tanner

Hometown Paper • Neighbourhood News

A Touch of Class
Lakeview Flooring
SALES & INSTALLATION
STEP CONFIDENTLY
into our showroom and view our ...
Artcraft Kitchens & Vanities, Counter Tops, Window Blinds, Vinyl Flooring, Carpet, Ceramic Tile, All Renovations and More!
853-4577 • 853-1190
1 Mile South of Acton on Hwy. 25

VOLUME 5, NO. 35 • 75 CENTS (.70 + .05 GST)

'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1996

Schools focus on technology, councils

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner
They're back!

Approximately 1,700 students are back in Acton schools today – ready to face a school year that includes the realities of a cash-strapped Board of Education.

That means staff and program cuts – no more swimming, no more lunchroom supervisors – as the Board struggles to avoid huge tax hikes with a major restructuring program.

Acton school board trustee Ethyl Gardiner echoed the comments of several Halton Hills principals that teacher morale is low because of what's happening at the province and at the Board.

"Everyone in the [school] system has to do everything possible to keep the schools as positive an experience as possible for children, given everything that's swirling around us," Gardiner said Friday.

"There are changes that are going to come down both from the Ministry [of Education] and at the Board level which are going to be phenomenal and we have to sort of deal with those one at a time and work our way through them."

With an average daily enrollment of 41,400 students in 68 elementary, 17 secondary and one adult school, the Board has 2,129 teachers and 347 full-time equivalent in-

structional assistants.

To find out how the Acton schools will deal with the new reality, *The Tanner* spoke with the local principals, asking them to introduce their new staff and outline their goals and hopes for the coming school year.

ACTON HIGH

Hooking up to the World Wide Web, a mentoring program for Grade 9 students, and integration of arts and technologies are some of the priorities at Acton High this year. Principal Joyce Bradley said getting parents and the community involved with the new provincially-mandated school council will also be a

priority.

The new faces at Acton High include vice-principal Terry Ruf who comes to Acton from E.C. Drury; Luisa Filson (science); Al Jamieson (math and science); Mary Loker (English and geography); Andy Smith (math and science); Gord Swanson (science); Sam Providenti (transportation technologies); Mary Ross (instructional assistant) and Colin Bain who is returning as head of social science after a one-year leave. At press time the names of two additional teachers who have joined the school this year were not available.

The projected enrollment at Acton High this year is 560 students, little or no change

from last year.

ROBERT LITTLE

There are five new faces among teaching staff at Robert Little Public School, which has a projected enrollment of 400 students this year, down from last year with the loss of the Junior Kindergarten students.

Board restructuring resulted in Robert Little losing its vice principal and there's no word yet who will replace principal Deanna Nodwell when she resigns at Christmas to take a position with the Wellington Board of Education.

The new staff includes Sylvia Pouliotte teaching Grade 5 French Immersion;

Mark Burbidge, the new arts teacher; Trisha Dunnet from McKenzie-Smith Bennett, who will teach the English half of Grade 3 and 4 French Immersion; Maya Leonard, the new French Immersion teacher for Grade 2 and 3; and Special Education teacher Janet Clevely who returns after a leave.

Robert Little students will benefit from a significant improvement in technology this year – every class is now hooked up to the World Wide Web thanks to Board funded-network improvements.

"Until now, access to the Net was only in the library, but now each class will be

See *SCHOOL'S*, Page 4

Dump deal may be in the works

Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) will dump all current and future plans to turn a mined-out portion of the United Aggregates Limited's Acton limestone quarry into a massive landfill, *The Tanner* has learned.

In return the Town, Region and the environmental group P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) must agree to waive all costs in their six-figure fight to stop the dump, and abandon their opposition to a proposed Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA) regulation that would make it easier for UAL to quarry.

No party to the purported deal would comment on the contents, but an August 25 memo from the Town's lawyer outlines the proposed deal that was the subject of a closed-door Council meeting

last week and another meeting after press time Tuesday.

Solicitor Stephen D'Agostino's memo said RSI will drop its nine-year attempt to get provincial approval for the quarry landfill and abandon rights and interests in the quarry, if all parties in opposition agree not to go after RSI to recover their costs and legal bills to date.

Subject to agreement of UAL and the Town, UAL will fund a study to determine an appropriate end use for the Acton Quarry and to develop a rehabilitation plan.

The Town will get the option to purchase the entire quarry property once UAL has rehabilitated it and only after Halton Hills and/or the Region and UAL reach a mutually satisfactory agreement for the excavation of the Third Line and Regional Road 43.

See *RSI*, Page 2



FRESH DEALS!

Taking advantage of the beautiful day and final Trunk Sale bargains for the season were Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson and Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, checking out the produce from, at left, Angela Warwick and parents Dolores and Ted Tyler. (Eve Martin photo)

New Owners

Bill & Val Manes

Welcome You to Drop in to the
'New' Acton Home Hardware



Mill Street East, Acton

853-1730