



**SMA FUNDRAISER:** Staff and shoppers at Sobeys helped raise over \$1,400 for SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) research with a fun day filled with a barbecue, silent auction and face painting on Saturday. On hand for the festivities were the Van Fraassen family of Limehouse, including Rebecca (front with flag) who has SMA, and from left, store manager Mark Latimer and Luke, Theresa, Rachel and Doug Van Fraassen. — Frances Niblock photo

# No summer break for thousands of Halton students

For some Halton secondary school students, summer vacation was very short – it ended on Wednesday when summer school began.

Approximately 4,000 students will attempt to pass a course or upgrade their mark at summer school classes offered by the Halton District School Board in Oakville, Burlington and Milton, and the Halton District Catholic School Board. Students attending literacy or numeracy summer school courses at E.C. Drury and Bishop Reding High Schools in Milton are able to catch a free bus that leaves Acton's St. Joseph School at 7:30 a.m., and returns after the end of class at 1:30 p.m.

As well, many Acton students head to Guelph schools for summer classes under a reciprocal agreement with the neighbouring Wellington Board of Education.

In Halton, the public and Catholic boards offer two two-week summer school sessions in July, the first from July 4 to 17 and the second from July 18 to 31, running from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Students who achieve a mark of 40 or higher are eligible to take a two-week, 55-hour upgrade course and students with a final mark of below 40 must take the month-long, 110-hour session, normally offered in the Core subjects of English, Math and Science. The

Halton public board is offering 56 full credit courses this summer along with approximately 51 upgrade courses.

In most courses there are tests, assignments and an exam, all done in a much-abridged fashion.

Last year, approximately 1,900 Halton students enrolled in summer school, 964 of them in the month-long course. Ninety-eight per cent were successful at summer school.

With students looking to upgrade their marks, 97 per cent in the first session received a passing grade and 93 per cent of the students in the second session received a passing grade.

"For a lot of students, focusing on five hours a day, just for one session is the key to mastering a subject," Halton District School Board site supervisor Jackie Oxley said on Friday, adding they are proud of their extremely high success rates.

The Halton District Catholic School Board also boasts similar success rates.

"Out students are motivated – by themselves or their parents in some cases – and most on are on their second attempt so they do better," said Joe Mongiari, principal of adult and continued learning on Tuesday, adding they expect approximately 1,900 secondary school and 300 elementary school students to attend summer school.

# Retirement, new staff at Acton schools

By Frances Niblock

The halls are strangely silent, but behind the scenes at Acton's schools, staff and administrators are busy wrapping up one school year and getting ready for September's new students, teachers and staff.

At Robert Little School, Principal Leona Skanes is leaving after three years at the helm where she orchestrated a major cleanup/spruce up of the facility, the retirement of monkey mascot Little Robert, and the continued focus on physical fitness and the environment. She moves to Silvercreek Public School in Georgetown.

Teachers leaving Robert Little include Catherine Lasby, Karie Hanson, Joel Eves, Lisa Hasselfeldt and veteran Kathy Burt. Also leaving are education assistants Lorriane Yade-Howie and Lidra Remacka.

Returning from one-year leaves are Jacqueline Napier, Kristen Parker and Ron VandeKemp. New to Robert Little will be Janet Jeddore who will teach Grades 2/3.

Ashleigh Conway will teach Grade 4 French Immersion, Michelle Mattocks will teach Grade 4, Erin Gagne will teach Grade 1/2 and the new Principal is Bob Tadman, coming from Aldershot in Burlington as vice-principal.

"When I heard that Robert Little had opened up, I was quite pleased to come here... I have a nice warm spot for this area," Tadman said on Friday, adding he lived and

taught in Georgetown for several years and has been with the Halton District School Board for 20 years.

Tadman is not planning any major, immediate changes at Robert Little but will "wait, listen and learn" from a "dynamic staff."

"I'm a big believer in working together with folks to achieve the things that need to be achieved. I know that I'm a 'change agent' on one hand, but no, I don't have big changes in mind," Tadman said, adding being a change agent is part of the role of a principal and he's in for the long haul.

### McKenzie-Smith Bennet

At McKenzie-Smith Bennet School (MSB) six new staff has already been hired with more to come, joining Principal Sharon French and Vice-Principals Paul VanderHelm and Carolyn Reist who begin their second year at the Kindergarten-8 school.

SK/JK teacher Barb Harris is returning from maternity leave and Sarah Venema, a graduate of St. Joseph School begins her career at MSB, teaching Grade 1.

Also joining the staff at MSB are Michelle McCann (Grade 1/2), Lindsay Conn-Smith (Grade 4/5), Brett McClure Grade 5/6), Anita Mederios (Core French) and Stacey Bales (planning).

Off on maternity leave are teacher Kristy Mackenzie and special ed. teacher Tanya Ferro. Retiring teachers include Jim Johnson, Kris Bannerman, Debra Gross, and Peggy Johnson.

Principal French said with enrolment expected to jump by 10 students to 670, the Board has ordered two portables be delivered to MSB for use in September.

MSB has received a \$19,000 capital renewal grant from the school board and over the summer, air conditioning will be installed in the computer lab and library, another staff room with air conditioning will be added at the north end of the school and other improvements will be done, including painting, carpeting and a new floor in the south gym.

### Acton High School

At Acton High School Principal Bert O'Hearn and staff said goodbye to retiring teacher Murray Kittmer, who after 25 years at the school – including stints as department head, literacy champion and coach of several teams – is calling it quits.

Also leaving are Syl-

via Roberts who filled in teaching science for Ms. Warner-Salvio who was on leave and returns as a member of the School Leadership Team.

Science/biology teacher Darryl Leblanc and Terry Roesch will both be on leave next school year and Bob Pecora is leaving after working in the guidance area.

Returning from leaves are social worker John Lanthier, tech studies teacher Paul Nicholson, French/English teacher Christian Schilling and business studies teacher Jim Sheridan.

They join new teachers Jennett Clayton (art and history), Amanda Irving (English) and Joanne Pattison-Meek (Canadian and World Studies).

"We want to build on our strengths and stay-the-course," Principal O'Hearn said on Tuesday, adding they will make every effort to "help our students be successful."

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