



WE CARE: Links2Care held a barbeque on Saturday at Tuitmans Garden Centre raising funds for the Backpack Program. All proceeds help provide backpacks to underprivileged kids in the community. Cooking up a storm, from left are: Ratheep Kukeadran, Micki Hopkins, Shannon Pickering, Cathy Gerrow, Renee Gareau, Victoria Rapp, Andrea Corkum (back row from left) James Wegenast and Ben Cochrane. — *Denise Paulsen photo*

Acton High retirees

With 92 years in education between them, three retirees at Acton District High School will leave a void at the helm. Principal Bert O'Hearn, guidance counsellor Dave McConnell and Manager of School Administrative Operations Marlene Bogart are wrapping up the school year and their careers.



Bert O'Hearn

Bert O'Hearn began his career at White Oaks in 1975, teaching History and English. He served as Head of Social Science for eight years before heading to TA Blakelock as Vice-Principal in 1986. VP appointments to Acton, E.C. Drury and Georgetown followed, and he was appointed Principal in 1998, and accepted a placement at Syl Apps School.

O'Hearn maintains his time there revitalized his career as he saw another side to the purpose and process of education. As Principal of Lester B. Pearson in 2001, O'Hearn enjoyed three great years with wonderful staff and students, before returning as Principal at Acton. As a "community school" principal, O'Hearn has enjoyed the support of students, staff and community. O'Hearn has been active on many Board focus groups, committees and action teams. He has made significant contributions

to professional organizations like HSPA and OPC at the Board and provincial levels. O'Hearn is looking forward to spending more time at the cottage, but will remain engaged with the educational community through some related work.



Dave McConnell

Dave McConnell began his teaching career in Perth County at Stratford Central High School. This was particularly rewarding for him, being an English teacher, and given the regular access he and his classes had to both the Festival and Avon Theatre performances in the town during the seasons. McConnell then worked at MM Robinson High School, and then on to Acton District High School where he has spent the last 23 years.

McConnell has many fond memories including

several years spent organizing competitive dragonboat teams with staff members, the successful years of high school Band concerts and trips, and his various roles as English teacher, guidance counsellor and OSSTF Branch President, which allowed him to immerse himself in many different facets of school life. He will definitely miss the sense of belonging provided for him at Acton by students, parents and staff alike. McConnell plans to pursue his passions of reading, writing, and cycling as he meanders into another phase of his continuing education.



Marlene Bogart

Bogart began work at Acton High School as a secretary in 1979. In less than two years, she was named Business Manager (later Manager of School Administrative Oper-

ations), a position she has held for almost 30 years. During that time, she has seen her two children, Jason and Amanda, graduate from Acton. She has worked with (some might say "trained") eight principals and 10 vice-principals.

Bogart has been a school council member, overseen commencements, organized the initial Acton craft sales, worked with inexperienced School Council Treasurers, cooked and served grad breakfasts, and has even run the AHS booth at the Acton Fair. A long-serving volunteer for the Cancer Society, Bogart has been an active organizing committee member for the Community Terry Fox Run for more than 20 years. Her passion for this event has led to the school run becoming an important event on the school calendar. Retirement plans include travel and spending more time with her five grandchildren.

Quiet, please

The Town's new bylaw to control the level and quality of noise that could disturb the "peace, enjoyment, quiet, rest, comfort or convenience of local residents" now has a qualitative aspect. That's one of the changes recently approved by Town Council, which also authorized spending a further \$1,407 to buy sound measurement equipment to use when investigating noise complaints.

Town CAO Dennis Perlin said the quantitative approach sets out certain noise levels with respect to various types of equipment — like portable drills, leaf blowers and air compressors — and measurable levels of noise through shared walls in a townhouse or semi-detached house.

"The old bylaw was really based on sort of the subjective view of the bylaw (enforcement) officer and then the court as to whether the noise really disturbed the peace, quiet and enjoyment," Perlin said on Friday, adding they tried to put a quantitative approach to end the debate over how much noise is too much noise.

Perlin said they also identified 16 types of qualitative sounds that should not occur at certain times — between 11 p.m. on one day and 7 a.m. the next day — including "persistent or repetitive yelling, shouting, whistling or singing" regardless of the sound level.

"So we still have the qualitative, but we've tried to define, or be more pre-

cise, with the qualitative, rather than just disturbing the peace, quiet and enjoyment of a person," Perlin said noise complaints among neighbours and near construction sites are a big issue in Halton Hills.

Several years ago in Acton, neighbours of several outdoor bar patios complained about late night amplified music, and Perlin said the bylaw prohibits amplified music between 11 p.m. on Friday to 9 a.m. on Saturday, and from 11 p.m. on Saturday to 9 a.m. on Friday and on any statutory holiday within 100-metres (300-feet) of a residential area. During other times when that sound is being produced, it should be at the level set out in the quantitative measurements in the bylaw.

Perlin said another change in the new bylaw includes a formal process for applying for exemptions to the noise bylaw for events that generate noise that would normally result in someone being prosecuted. The old bylaw did not include a policy, but council could grant exemptions on an ad hoc basis.

Perlin said the public had ample opportunity to comment on the new bylaw, as the version approved by council was the fifth draft. The quantitative aspect of the new bylaw is now in effect, but the qualitative aspects don't come into effect until October 1, giving the Town time to educate the public about changes in the noise bylaw.

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