

# Introducing E.C. Drury's new principal



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Students at E.C. Drury High School will be seeing a lot of Ruth Peden, their new principal. The former vice-principal wants to be more visible to students.

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**  
*The Champion*

The new principal at E.C. Drury High School wants to make the Ontario Street institution the best school possible.

"If I was to have a goal for E.C. Drury, it is to be a school for academics, a school for vocation and a school for as many co-curricular programs as we can support," said Ruth Peden, who arrived at the school two weeks ago.

"It will be a successful school, and be seen this way in the community."

Ms Peden said she has already interviewed most of her staff to find out what changes they would like to see.

Teachers and assistants have "all the answers" on how to make the school better, she said.

**Always knew what she wanted**

Ms Peden always knew she wanted to be a high school teacher. "I always liked adolescences. I liked being an adolescence," said Ms Peden.

"I knew I wanted to teach high school. There is a lot of energy in high school," said the mother of

two teenagers.

After graduating from university with a degree in physical education and business, she attended teachers' college at Western University.

Her first job out of teachers' college was at Georgetown District High School.

Ms Peden taught business and computer studies at a time when typing was mandatory, computers were rare and the Internet didn't exist.

She spent 10 years at Georgetown before transferring to Gordon E. High School in Oakville.

She also taught at White Oaks Secondary School.

She was promoted to vice-principal at Lord Elgin High School in Burlington before going to Nelson High School.

**Not new to E.C. Drury**

Ms Peden isn't new to E.C. Drury. She was the vice-principal for the 1994-95 school year before applying for a principal's position at Sylapps School in Oakville. Sylapps is a school for young offenders between the ages of 12 to 16.

"It was a big challenge reaching students who, for most of their lives, had been neglected and did some pretty bad things."

After three years at Sylapps, Ms Peden became the principal at Burlington Central High School. She left that position to come to E.C. Drury.

While Ms Peden said she misses the direct impact she has on the lives as students as a teacher, she said being a principal allows her to have a greater influence on a larger number of people.

"I can influence education for students."

**Principal wears many hats**

As a principal, Ms Peden's duties are to provide a safe atmosphere for everyone in the building and to provide quality education to every student.

She also attends meetings with both staff and parents, and acts as a chaperone at school events.

"I love my job," said Ms Peden, who also sits on the board of directors for ADAPT (Alcohol and Drug Assessment, Prevention and Treatment).

"One of my goals is to get into the school and be more visible. I want to meet students and make a difference in their lives and life at school. I hope I can fulfill (this goal). There is lots of time."

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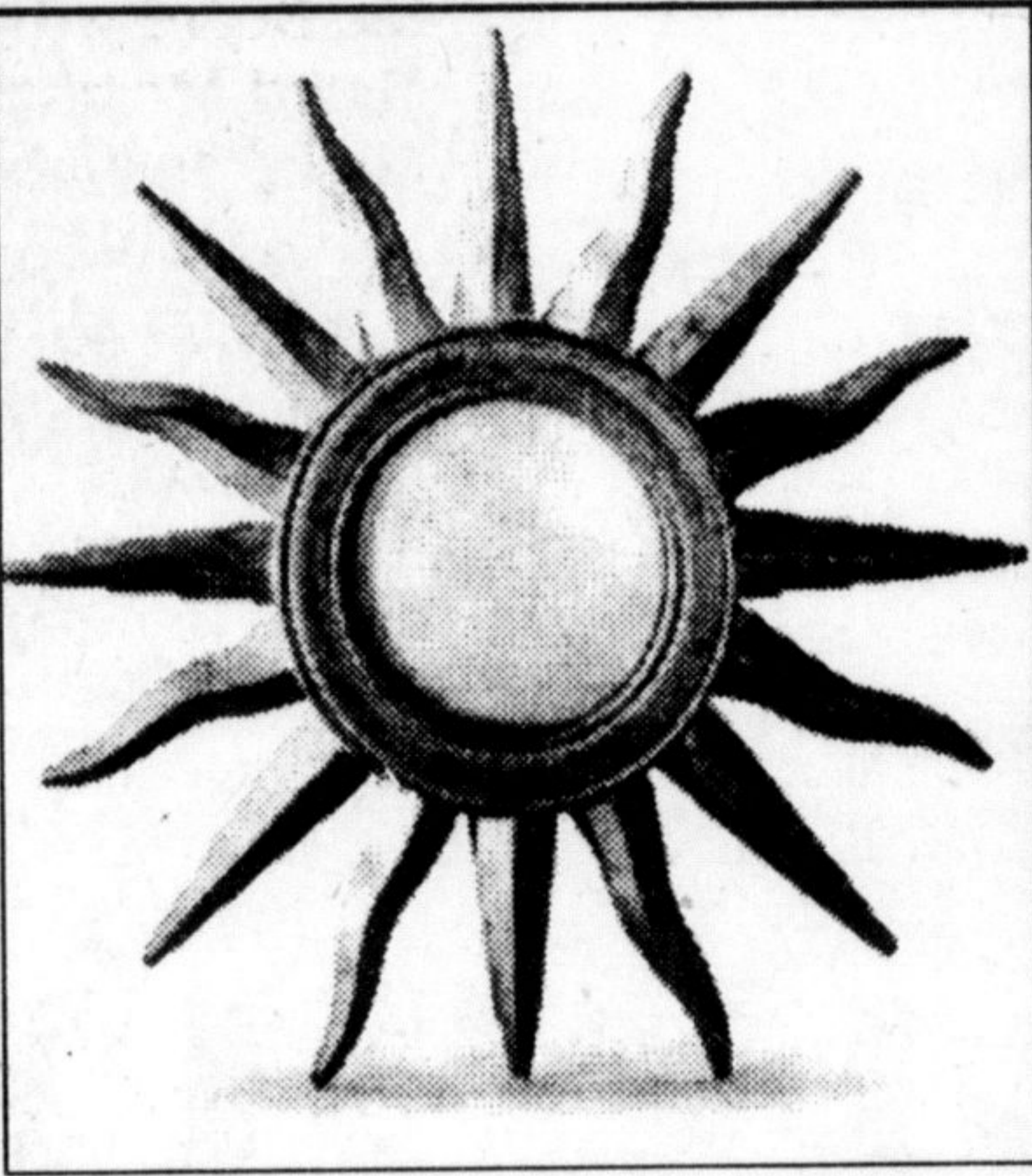
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**REGION OF HALTON PUBLIC NOTICE**

**RECONSTRUCTION OF TRAFALGAR ROAD (REG. RD. #3) FROM 150 m NORTH OF HIGHWAY NO. 7 TO BALLINAFAD ROAD (REG. RD. #42), HALTON HILLS PR-0964(B)**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 297 and 300 of The Municipal Act, R. S. O. 1990, chapter M.45 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on March 29, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. to pass a by-law for the reconstruction of Trafalgar Road, from 150 m North of Highway No. 7 to Ballinafad Road, Town of Halton Hills.

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Planning & Public Works Department, Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville.

On Wednesday, March 22, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. in the Halton Room at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council, through its Planning and Public Works Committee, will hear in person, or by his/her Counsel, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Regional Clerk no later than March 3, 2000.

**For further information, please contact:**

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