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Rosanne Cliff has been a teacher on the staff of Ballantrae School 3 1/2 years. Mrs. Cliff accentuates the positive in her pupils believing each child is gifted in his/her own area. "I try to develop these special talents," she says.

### Ballantrae's Rosanne Cliff

## The positive stressed by primary teacher

By JIM THOMAS  
BALLANTRAE — Rosanne Cliff readily appreciates problems experienced by some children.

For she too experienced problems as a child. She would read backwards instead of forwards. But Mrs. Cliff, mother of three and teacher of 24, overcame this difficulty. Reading is now an enjoyable pastime, an infectious love she passes on to her pupils.

She's our Featured Teacher of the Week. Born in Etobicoke, Mrs. Cliff attended Guelph University and Lakeshore Teachers' College. She joined the Ballantrae staff 3 1/2 years ago and remains a permanent fixture here. Her home room is Grade 3.

**EDUCATION IMPORTANT**  
Education is important to her family. A brother Dick is a professor on the staff of U. of T. Her mother received her BA degree at age 70 from the same university and Dick made the presentation of her robe at Convocation. Husband Bruce is an administrator at Scarborough Centenary Hospital.

Rosanne and Bruce have three children, Sarah, 11; Scott, 9 and Laura, 7, all students at Ballantrae.

"They have a private life here," Mrs. Cliff explains, "they're reasonably independent."

Mrs. Cliff stresses the importance of reading in her own home as well as in class. Television's a no-no during the week. "There are so many other things to do," she says.

**NO OTHER CAREER**  
There was never any other career for her but teaching, Rosanne recalls. "I never wanted to do anything else and there's nothing else I want to do," she states.  
Mrs. Cliff 'retired' for a time when the children were born. However, when Betty Lou Twiddy of the Ballantrae staff took a maternity leave, Rosanne came on as a replacement. She's been here ever since.  
"I'm glad I had that time with my children,"

she agrees, "but it's also exciting to be back." She hopes to obtain her Primary Specialists' degree in 1989.

Mrs. Cliff is full of praise for the principal and staff at Ballantrae.

"Mr. Jefferis, (the principal), is very understanding of primary needs," she says. "I also work with a really nice group of teachers."

**A POSITIVE FOCUS**  
Rosanne believes in focussing on the positive characteristics of her pupils.

Each child is gifted in his/her own special areas," she claims. "I try to develop these."

Mrs. Cliff is a firm believer in the 'learn by doing' theory. She also supports Ballantrae's paired reading program where primary pupils are placed in a senior student environment.

"It provides a relationship with older children," she explains.  
Mrs. Cliff's school day often extends from 8 in the morning until 6 at night. This isn't unusual for the majority in her profession, she claims.

"Most teachers really care. They put in the time because they care," she says.

**EMPHASIS ON READING**  
Mrs. Cliff's emphasis on reading is visible through the number of books in her room. Many are her own. She also has an extensive library at home.

"Materials available today are exciting," she says.  
While her devotion to duty is outstanding, Rosanne enjoys some extra-curricular activities outside the classroom including downhill skiing, Cubs, Brownies and Girl Guides, and baseball.  
She thinks it's good for children to see their teacher in an out-of-school setting.  
Her husband, she says, is very supportive.  
"He knows when I take on something, I give it my best," she states.  
Parents know it too.  
So do 24 boys and girls in Grade 3. Their progress reflects this attitude. She accentuates the positive.

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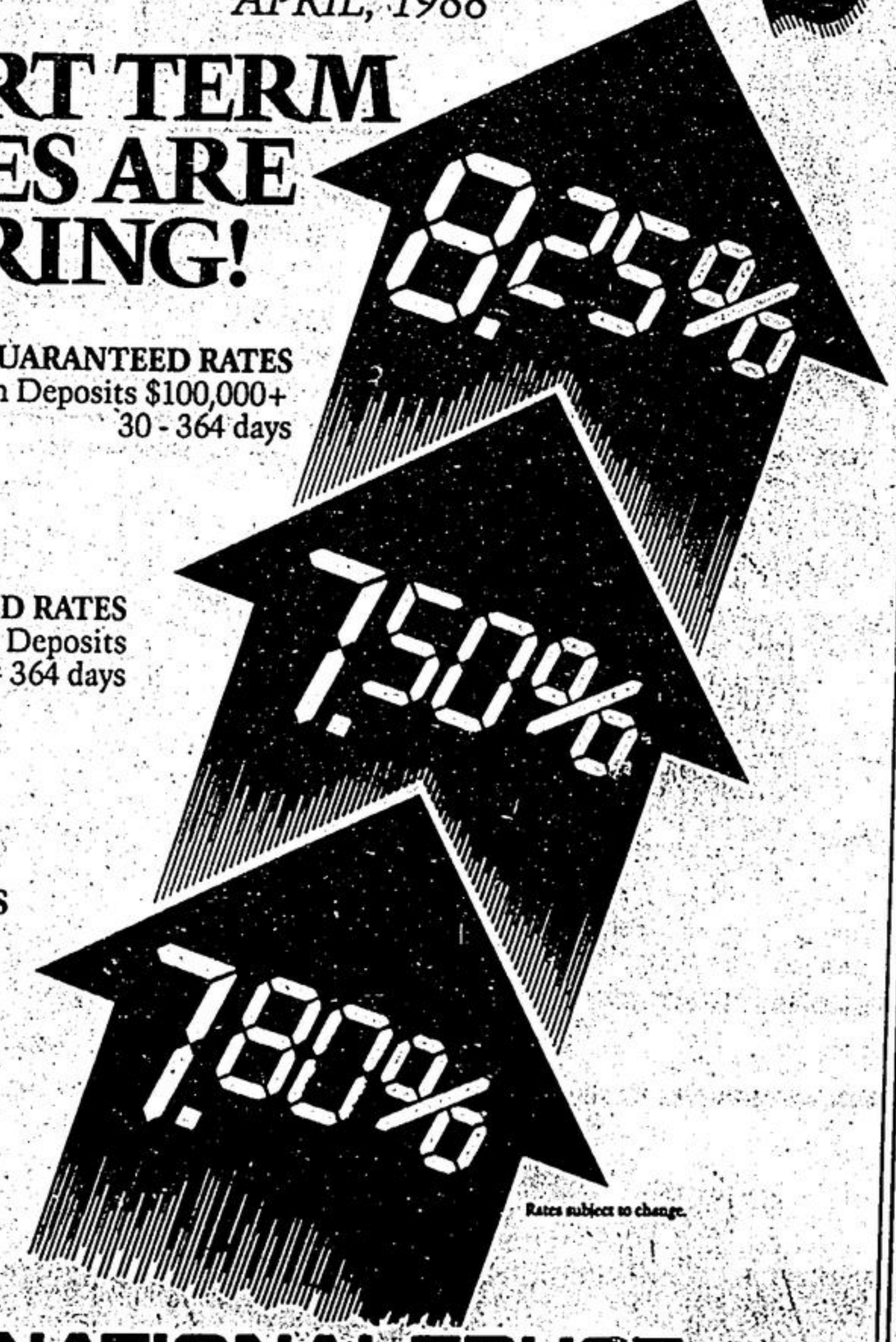
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