



**FLIPPIN' RIGHT:** It took a volunteer crew of 20 – including Limehouse resident Bill Sanford – 25 bags of pancake mix, strings of sausage and near-gallons of Maple syrup to feed hungry crowds at the annual Sweet Taste of Spring feast on Saturday in Limehouse. – Frances Niblock photo

# Acton schools ranked

The Fraser Institute report card giving McKenzie-Smith Bennett a 4.2 out of 10 rating is based on faulty data according to Principal Sharon French.

Following release of the annual elementary school report, which ranks schools on nine indicators of academic success, French questioned the accuracy of the ranking that placed MSB at 2,283rd of 2,733 schools.

French questioned if the report took into consideration that MSB is a regional centre for three self-contained classrooms for some of the 25 per cent of the 87 six students last

year who had learning challenges.

“The Fraser report compares schools that they judge to be ‘equal’ in terms of size, make up and parental income to create their ranking. I do not believe that accurate data was used to ‘rank’ MSB,” French said in an e-mail.

French said the school’s highly trained professional staff cares deeply about helping kids achieve their best academic potential, as well as develop good character traits to become successful adults.

St. Joseph Catholic School received a seven out of 10 ranking and

showed trends towards improvement in reading and math. It was ranked in the top third of all Ontario schools at 767th of 2,733.

Twenty-four per cent of the 50 Grade six students at the school tested below the provincial standard of Level three, equal to a “B”, and for two per cent of the students, English is a second language. Twelve per cent of students were identified with special needs and the average income for parents was \$131,300.

St. Joseph Principal Colin Simpson said the results are “flattering” but

he doesn’t like comparing schools, and they don’t use the Fraser results to help develop school plans.

“It (the good results) are a pat on the back for us, and we always want to improve, but the Fraser results don’t paint a full picture of how our students are performing,” Simpson said on Tuesday.

Robert Little Public School does not include Grade six students, so it was not ranked in the Fraser Institute report card. Individual school rankings can be found at [www.compareschoolrankings.org](http://www.compareschoolrankings.org)

# Celebrating Earth Day April 16 in Halton Hills

## Eye See...

The Eye See...Eye Learn program is past the half way mark of the school year, and reports that over 600 Halton Junior Kindergarten students have been through the program to date. For nearly 80 percent of children, was their first eye exam by an optometrist. At least 95 of the children who have participated in the program have received free glasses courtesy of local optometrists and our participating sponsors.

“Many parents are assuming that their child can see well, so they haven’t taken advantage of the program,” said Dr Caroline Teske, a local participating optometrist. “Children, especially four year olds, don’t know what normal vision is supposed to look like and won’t complain to their parents at all,” she said, adding the Eye See...Eye Learn program gives parents the peace of mind.”

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams

and free glasses to all junior kindergarten students in Halton. A parent simply needs to present the child’s Health Card at the time of the appointment to qualify. Every child in Ontario is eligible for an annual eye exam covered by provincial health insurance until the age of 19.

For more information on the Eye See...Eye Learn program or to book an exam with a participating optometrist, please visit [www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca](http://www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca) or call 800-540-3837.

Once again this year, the Town of Halton Hills will celebrate Earth Day with a variety of events. Celebrations will stretch from Saturday, April 16 to Saturday April 30, and will include:

- Community Wide Clean Up Day: The 11th annual Community Wide Clean Up Day takes place on Saturday, April 16. This is your chance to pitch in and clean up Halton Hills. Parks, valleys, roads and rivers all need your help. Free bags and gloves are available. Call 905-873-2601 ext. 2609 for more information and to register your location.

- 22 Minute Makeover: The 7th annual Halton Hills 22 Minute Makeover is Wednesday, April 20. The Town, businesses and schools are asked to do a quick 22 minute litter pick up in their immediate neighbourhood. Free bags and gloves are available. Call 905-873-2601 ext. 2609 for more information and to register your location.

Town staff from all departments will participate in the 22 Minute Makeover. On Wednesday, April 20, dozens of Town staff will leave their offices to pick up litter at various litter hot

spots around the Town.

- Tree Sale at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre: Earth Day celebrations will take place on Saturday, April 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town’s Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, on Trafalgar Road, Georgetown. There will be \$5 trees, free mulch and wood chips, free electronic recycling, BBQ and more. Donations to local food banks gratefully accepted. More details available at [www.haltonhills.ca/earth-day](http://www.haltonhills.ca/earth-day)

- Earth Day Fair: On Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Earth Day

celebrations will take place at the Earth Day Fair at the Georgetown Market Place featuring live animals, music and local environmental groups. Several “green tours” will also be offered. Members of the Town Sustainability Advisory Committee will be present to hear your hopes and dreams for Halton Hills over the next 50 years as part of the Community Sustainability Plan. Call 905-873-2601 ext. 2290 for more information or visit [www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability](http://www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability). Donations to local food banks gratefully accepted.



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