

# Linking 'pleases 80% of parents'

Continued from Front Page drawing plans to physically link the two Acton Boulevard schools.

It's unlikely the Board, which has undergone a litany of cutbacks in the last two years, would pay upwards of \$100,000 to an architect if they weren't certain the schools would physically join.

"If you were to ask me if we would spend \$70,000 to \$80,000 without knowing where we were going, I would say no," commented Board chair Dave Whiting on Friday. "We're prudent spenders."

He added the plan is to have Connolly formulate his designs in four months, to begin construct-

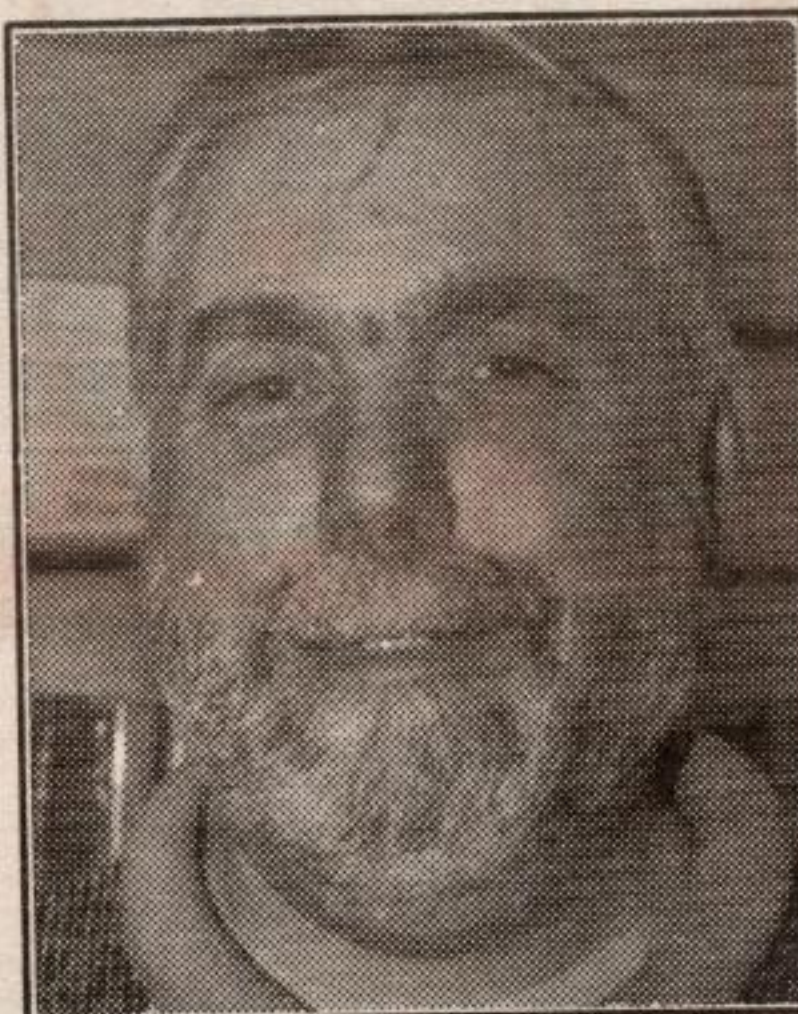
ing by June and have the major construction completed when school opens next September.

"I think the construction workers will have to go like a son-of-a-gun to get it done in three months, but the A-scenario is to have a physical link. We'll deal with B and C if they come up."

No formal announcement has been made by the federal government, because the Halton Board's application for the infrastructure

grants have yet to be approved.

The application for the grant calls for the Board to pay 45 per cent of the project, said to cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000; federal infrastructure funding will cover 33 per cent and the province will cover the remaining 22.



DAVE WHITING

Whiting said the Board will be debenturing, so they can mortgage their end of payments and recover the cost over a four to 4½ year period.

"I know it's all tax money, but if we don't use it now (the feds) are going to give it somewhere else," Whiting remarked.

He went on to say about 80 per cent of parents will be happy with the decision, "especially at M.Z. because they have all the benefits. They'll get an early start on the McKenzie-Smith swim team and the school band, which helps round out their education."

Both principals, Chris Logan at McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett's Laura Clark, are pleased a step forward has been taken in physically linking the schools.

"It will be nice to have a concept of K-8," said Logan, adding two-thirds of the school would consist of Grade 6, 7 and 8 students. "There would be better flow to programs, with students and staff and ideas they could create."

"I'm anxiously awaiting the final decision," Clark added. "Having older students in a building with our kids as friends and helpers would be great. Also it will be nice for our kids to grow up and not have to leave our school."

"It's nice to know the gears are in motion."

## Holiday food hampers for families in need

Local groups are banding together to see that needy Acton families don't go without food for this holiday season.

The Salvation Army, together with the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE, Acton Rotary and St. Vincent de Paul, will provide Christmas food hampers to families in need.

Applications are available at

the Salvation Army Family Services office at 110 Mill St. E. (853-5610) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to noon, and at the Thrift Store, 120 Mill St. E. (853-3321) Monday to Saturday, 9 to 4.

Deadline for applications is next Friday, Dec. 9.

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## NEWS SHORTS

### Vandals target tractor-trailer

Eastern Avenue company Holly Industries was again the scene of vandalism sometime between Nov. 17 and 21.

According to police, someone let the air out of five tractor trailer tires parked at the industrial plant. This incident follows a previously-reported case which saw a number of vehicles spray-painted by vandals.

### Main Street man charged

A Main Street South man has been charged after police observed his Ford pickup truck travelling westbound on Mill Street East before colliding with another vehicle on Nov. 17 at 3 pm.

The 24-year-old man was charged with driving a vehicle while his licence was suspended.

### Charged with shoplifting

A 16-year-old young offender has been charged after allegedly shoplifting about \$45 worth of goods from the Canadian Tire store on Mill Street.

A store employee observed the male youth attempting to leave the store without paying for a number of items on Nov. 14 at approximately 2 pm.

Police have charged the Acton resident with theft under \$1,000.

### Agnes Street blaze

An Agnes Street house fire last Wednesday afternoon caused some \$45,000 in damage.

The blaze began in the home's basement after a man — who had been working with a blow torch — left to visit a local store. When he returned smoke was coming from the house, so the man phoned the fire department from a neighbour's home.

Fire fighters controlled the blaze, but not before it caused extensive heat and smoke damage to the upstairs of the house. The basement sustained substantial fire damage.

There were no injuries reported.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It's such an amazing journey. It'll take a while to set in. You think you'll get another chance, but it took six years after my first one and it was miraculous in some ways."

— Jamie Taras, Grey Cup winner, Front Page

### DID YOU KNOW?

They Grey Cup was donated in 1909 by Governor General Earl Grey for the "Rugby Football Championship of Canada."

## TV & VCR SALE

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