

# Potential new school names puzzle local residents

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Sir Donald Mann. Thomas Moore. Bennett-Smith.

Will one of these names adorn the soon-to-be physically linked M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith schools come the start of classes in September?

While the existing names of the two Acton Boulevard schools will remain to identify wings of the building, the community is being asked over the summer for their input as to what name relevant to Acton's history should represent the building as a whole.

Local Trustee Tim Kingsbury brought forward the motion at the Halton Board of Education's May 25 meeting on behalf of former Acton Trustee Dave Whiting, who recently moved to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, to pursue other career interests.

"Dave had discussed the name change in the community before he left and wanted his wishes to be carried out," says Kingsbury, who adds the motion — for community reflection and input — was deferred until the Sept. 14 meeting.

"If the name change becomes an issue I will ask that it be deferred further, but I encourage

people to call me."

The two suggested names for the school at this time are Sir Donald Mann and Thomas Moore. Mann was, with partner William McKenzie, builder of the Canadian Northern Railway, which became the national railway. Mann was born and educated in Acton.

Moore was a first-class carpenter and an Acton principal of 25 years around 1900.

"Sir Donald Mann already has a park named after him and he really had nothing to do with education in Acton," argues 64-year Acton resident George Elliott, a former professor at the University of Guelph.

"He really did nothing for the town, other than fact he was born here and his parents lived here."

Elliott suggests the name Bennett-Smith. "Even Acton Public School would have some historic connotation."

Both McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett principals Chris Logan and Laura Clark refused comment on the issue, with the latter saying, "we're not being involved (in the decision). It's more of a community issue."

If no other suggestions are offered through the summer, Kings-

bury says Sir Donald Mann will be the new school name.

"Sir Donald Mann was one of the richest men in Canada and well-known to get the park in town

named after him, but he made his fortune outside of Acton," explains longtime resident Hartley Coles.

If Actonites wish to suggest a school name, Kingsbury can be

reached through the summer. His work number is 416-747-6720 and his home number is 856-4576. He can also be reached by fax at 519-763-6587.

## Acton roads closed for summer celebrations

As Acton gears up for a busy summer Town Council has approved temporary road closures for two major events.

The first closure is for the Acton BIA's Leathertown Festival, slated for Sunday, Aug. 13 from 9 am to 6 pm.

Both Fellows Street and Mill Street will be closed from Fellows Street to Hwy. 25.

One month later Acton will be staging its biggest weekend of the year — the Acton Fall Fair.

Beginning at noon on Saturday, Sept. 16, Acton Boulevard to Mill Street West and Main Street North to Knox Avenue and into the fair grounds will be closed to all but

emergency vehicles for the Fall Fair parade.

The Acton Agricultural Society will get a free ride from the Town concerning the licensing fee due for the Fall Fair midway.

As in past years, the Town will waive the midway fee, saving the Society \$600.

## Head clarified

Although Councillor Rick Bonnette continues to work to solve problems at the Cobblehill Co-operative, contrary to a headline in last week's *Tanner*, Bonnette has not found the money for the repairs.

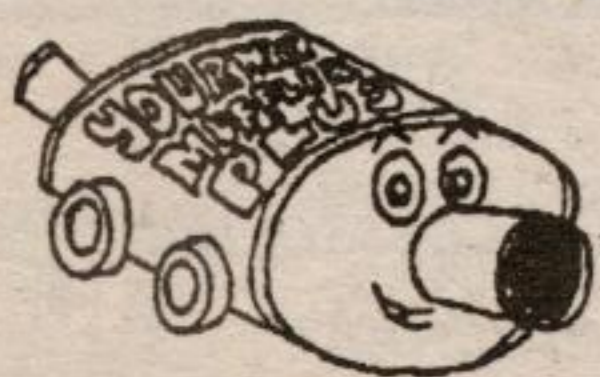
## Replacement sought

The Halton Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Monday night at Acton High to hear public input on finding a replacement for ex-Trustee Dave Whiting.

The Board must make a decision whether to interview interested candidates and make an appointment or to request that a new election be held to replace Whiting, who recently moved to Nova Scotia to take a job as general manager of the Yarmouth Development Corporation.

All public school ratepayers are invited to the meeting. For more information phone Trustee R.T. Howitt at 877-5139.

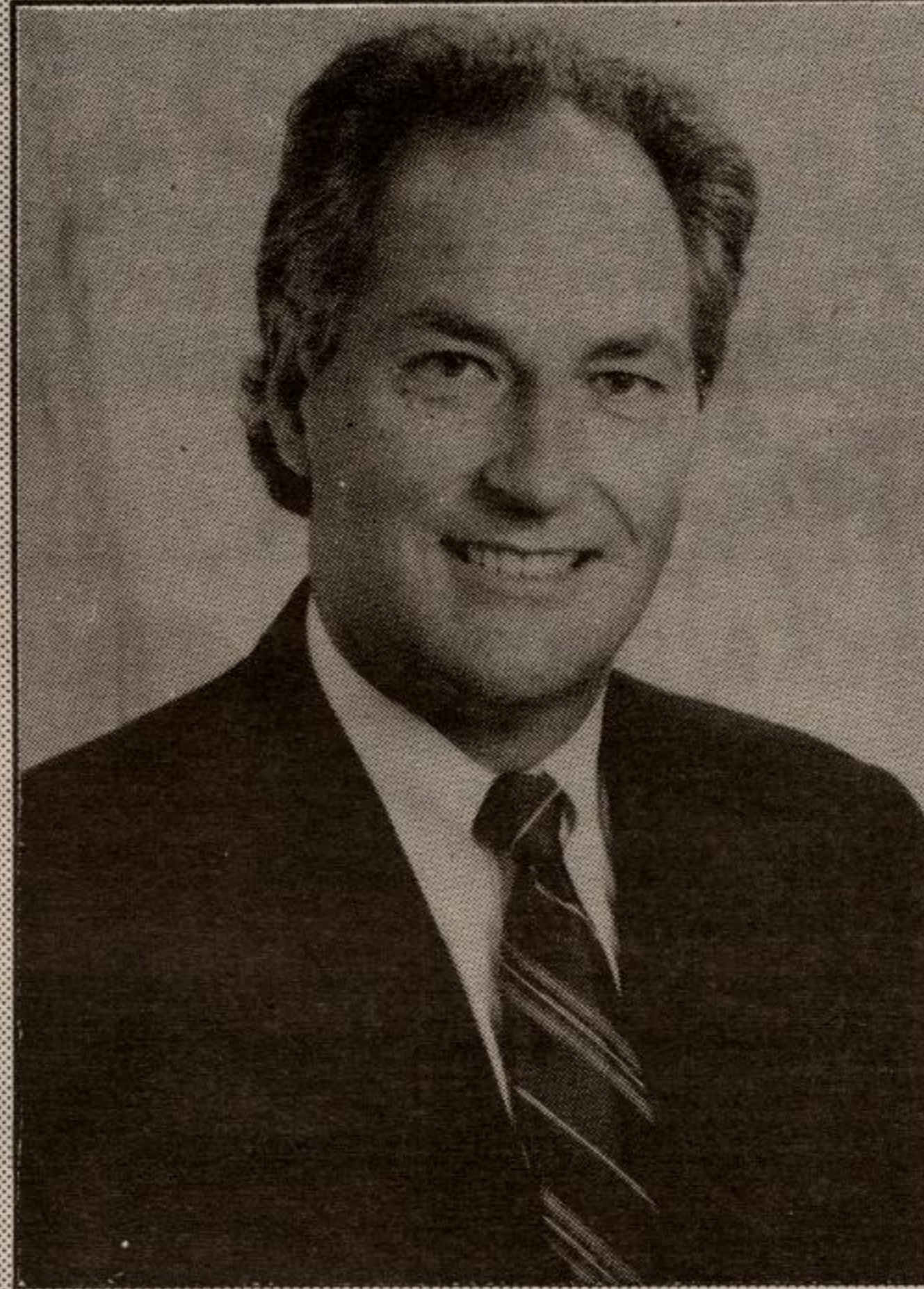
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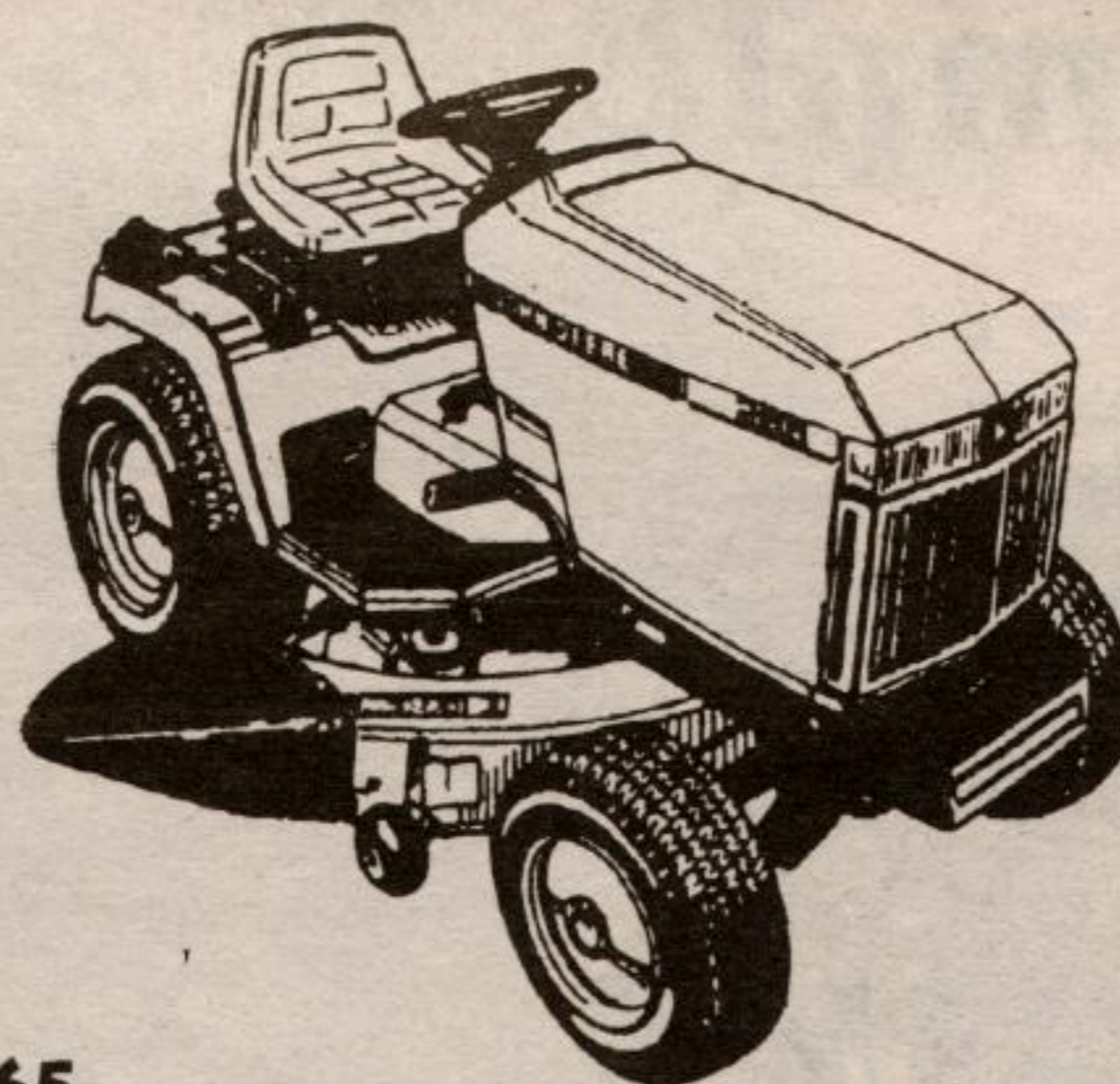


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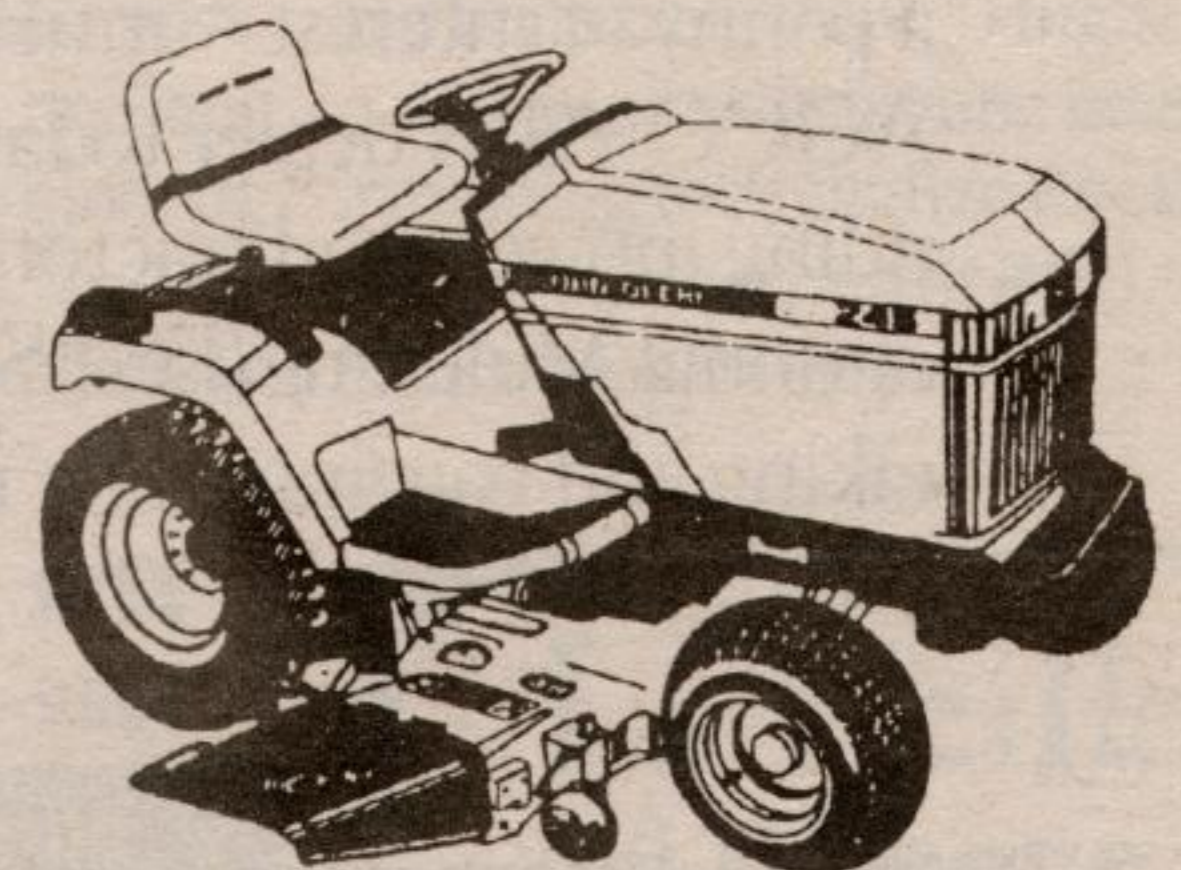
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