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WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1995

## Windfall for taxpayers?

MVA could favour Acton homeowners

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

With the deadline to implement a new property tax assessment system in Halton just six months away, Halton Hills Council wants to know what the new government at Queen's Park intends to do about property tax reform.

At the request of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Town Council passed a recommendation to ask the Province's intent with respect to implementation of a new assessment system on Halton's plans for Market Value Assessment (MVA) and also asked the Province to follow up on a proposal for Halton to study an alternate tax reform system known as Unit Value Assessment (UVA).

The proposed MVA tax system is due to be implemented Region-wide on Jan. 1, 1996 and a report on what it will mean to taxpayers will be ready in September.

With market value assessment all properties of similar value will be taxed at the same rate, regard-

less of where they are located. With a unit value assessment all properties would be taxed on a square footage basis, again, regardless of where in Halton they are located.

The Chamber also suggested that Council prepare a report on the effect MVA will have on local homeowners and businesses. If they find that MVA is not in the best interest of the Town, they feel Council should support an Oakville Council call for a moratorium on MVA.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, who sat on the Halton Citizens' committee on property tax reform, said he would not support a moratorium.

"The early estimates show that MVA would be good for Halton Hills," Bonnette said in an interview outside the Council Chambers on Monday night.

"We could save \$700,000 with MVA. That means that Halton Hills taxpayers could pay \$700,000 less in Regional and education taxes.

"Now, those figures are preliminary but I want to wait until the impact report is ready in September before making any decisions on MVA," Bonnette said.

With the original MVA proposal, which was deferred for one year to give the Citizens' committee time to study alternatives, four of five Acton taxpayers would have faced a property tax increase.

## Link talk

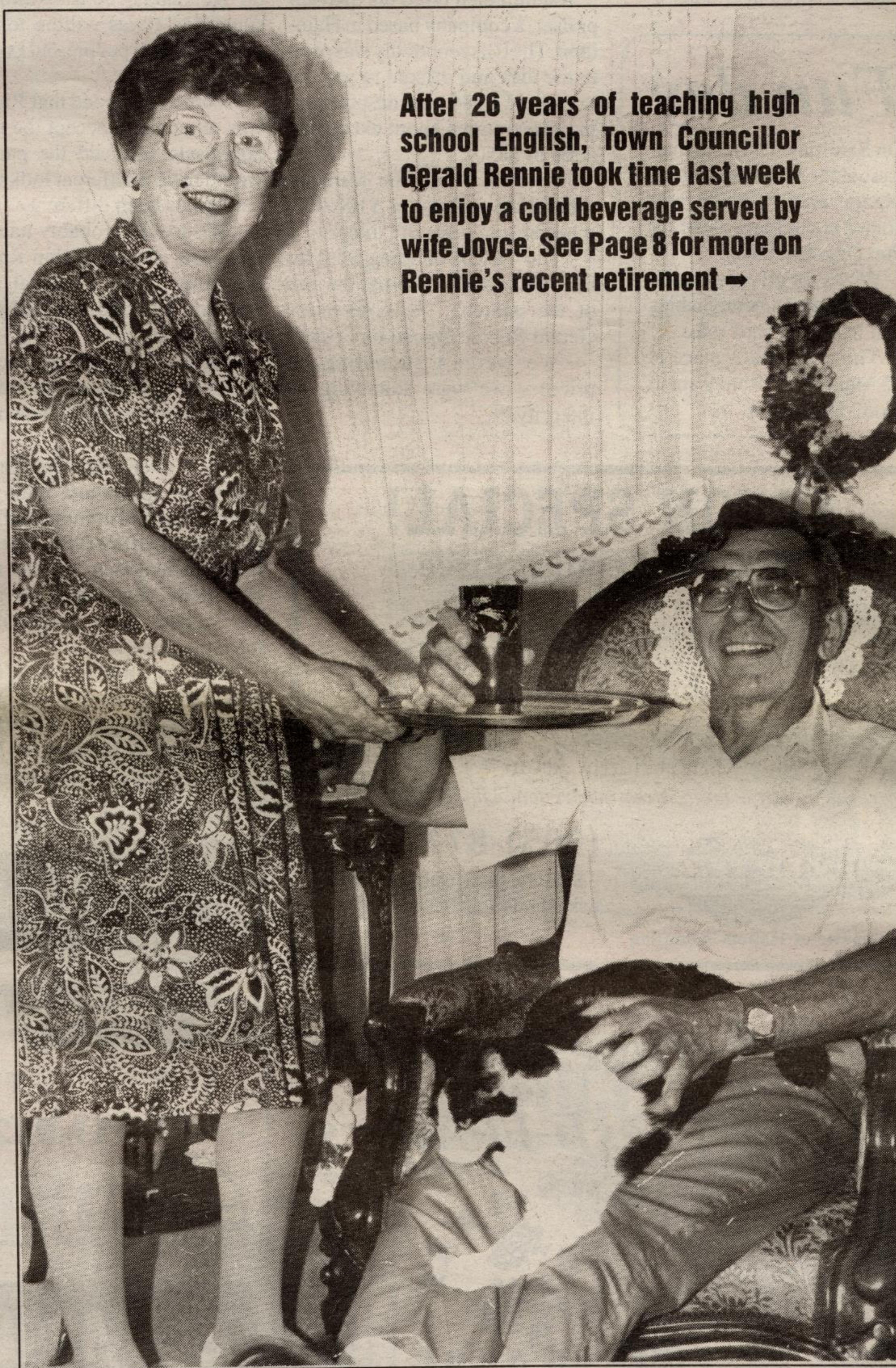
The future of M.Z. Bennett Public and McKenzie-Smith Middle schools may be much clearer following a Halton Board of Education meeting tomorrow.

Trustees will receive a report on the re-tendering of a proposed construction project to link the two Acton Boulevard facilities.

Trustees ordered that the project be re-tendered when the first two tenders came in at double the budgeted amount.

The Board budgeted \$500,000 for the project but not all of that is for construction costs.

## HE DESERVES A BREAK!



After 26 years of teaching high school English, Town Councillor Gerald Rennie took time last week to enjoy a cold beverage served by wife Joyce. See Page 8 for more on Rennie's recent retirement →

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