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WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995

Kids swim free; Rotary sponsors park pool

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Loonies spotted around the wading pool at Prospect Park will now be used for anything but gaining entrance.

According to Acton Rotary Club President Peter Van Dam, the Acton service group last week struck a "quick and painless" deal with Joy Thompson, superintendent of recreation services at the Town, that will see the new fee waived for the rest of the summer.

Thompson explained on Monday that the \$1 fee was imposed this year to recover the costs incurred by a number of capital expenses and a zero per cent increase in the Rec. and Parks budget.

"I'm not surprised they came forward, because when they see an opportunity they come to us," Thompson said, adding the \$550 deal covers the revenue budgeted for the month of August. "We're very pleased. It's nice to have the support from the community."

"They (the Rotary Club) are probably one of the most active service clubs in Acton."

The club contacted the Town after Rotarian Jake Kuiken read some comments in last week's *Tanner* from Actonites unhappy with the Town's \$1 fee.

"When Jake told me about it, I thought it was ridiculous and wanted to get to the bottom of the matter," Van Dam said on Monday. "Some kids have probably lost the loonie walking to the pool

and run home upset telling their parents."

Van Dam said there hasn't been a charge at the pool before, so why start now.

"We just do things like this. We thrive on it. It's us," he said of the

Club's role in the community. "When you mention kids (to other Rotarians), they all go to putty."

The new Rotary president said there was a good chance the club would sponsor the wading pool again next summer.

Dawkins name is 'perfect solution'

BY PAUL NOLAN
The Acton Tanner

Proposed names for the new school created by the linking of McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett have upset and confused a number of Actonites—but now a local citizen has confidently come forward with his own suggestion.

"I really think that it's the perfect solution," said R.R. 2, Acton resident Brian Smith, who brought his proposal in to *The Tanner* offices on Friday afternoon.

"The new school, as an entity, should be named after the late Gary Dawkins. Then the Primary wing could be maintained as the M.Z. Bennett campus, while the Intermediate wing remains the McKenzie-Smith campus."

Not only is Smith, 50, an interested citizen, he is the son of the late Elmer Smith, one of the two Acton educators for whom the present middle school is named.

The other is the late Pat McKenzie, whose wife Mary still lives in town. "And Mary was agreeable when I phoned her with this idea," assured Smith.

Gary Dawkins was principal at McKenzie-Smith at the time of his sudden death in July 1979. He was just 41-years-old.

Longtime teacher Ena Gibson, who retired from McKenzie-Smith last year, said yesterday (Tuesday) that the Dawkins name would be "much better than Sir Donald Mann, who has no connection to education in Acton."

"Gary was also a school chum of mine," said Gibson, who also likes the name McKenzie-Smith-Bennett. "He was a true Actonite, who was born and raised here."

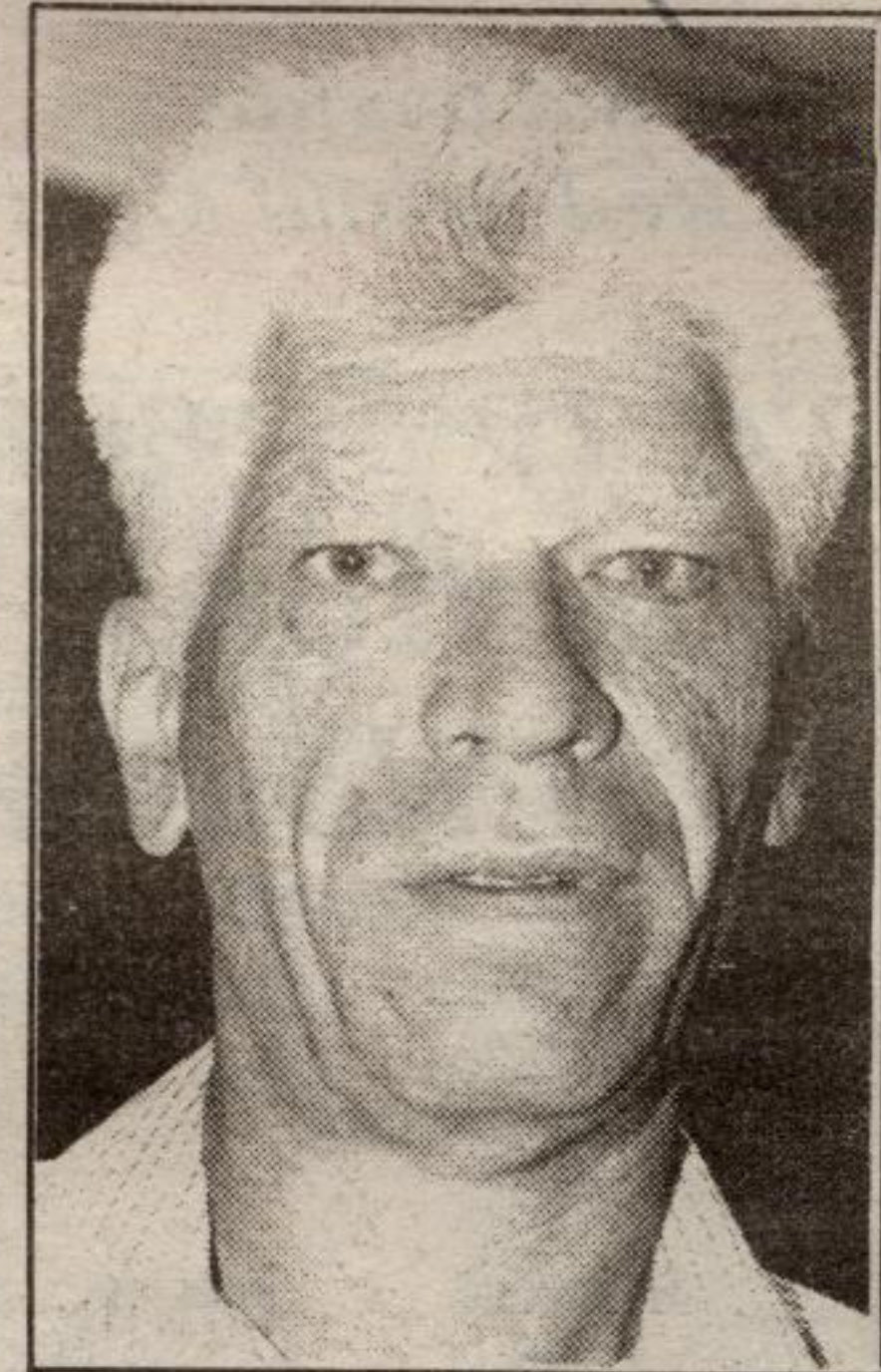
Smith concurs: "This solution would preserve Acton's educational heritage. Sir Donald Mann was a railroad guy; what did he have to do with education?"

"Although it appears that I have a conflict of interest, I have no hidden motive; I just want to see Acton's heritage noted on this Acton building."

School Trustee Tim Kingsbury wants Actonites to contact him this summer with their comments on the new school name. His work number is 416-747-6720; his home number is 856-4576.



HARD AT WORK! These summer campers took a break from the hot weather and visited *The Tanner* offices last Wednesday. Staff member Sharon Steckley shows a few campers a computer program. Clockwise from left: Corey Wilson, 9; Hollie Manson, 9; Nick Newby, 8; and Jeffrey McBean, 8. (Doug Harrison photo)



BRIAN SMITH

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