

McKenzie-Smith-Bennett tops Tanner survey

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Construction crews are working furiously to link M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith schools, and classes begin next Tuesday. But what will students be calling their new-look school?

How about Acton P.S.? Sir Donald Mann? Gary Dawkins P.S.? Bennett-McKenzie-Smith? Or McKenzie-Smith-Bennett?

While the latter title was the clear choice of an *Acton Tanner* survey conducted last week among 12 parent group leaders, longtime Acton residents and former and present educators, an official decision won't be known until the Halton Board of Education's first school year meeting on Sept. 14.

Public opinion does appear to be swaying. Two weeks ago, Milton School Board trustee Tom

Kingsbury reported that Acton Public School and Sir Donald Mann were the leading choices. But by the end of last week Kingsbury admitted that McKenzie-Smith-Bennett was the No. 1 choice of citizens.

Here are the comments of our survey participants:

Irene Birrell (former chair, McKenzie-Smith's *Parents Encouraging Participation* group): "My first choice is McKenzie-Smith-Bennett. My second choice would likely be Acton Public, but I do think that name may be a slight to Robert Little."

Rosemary Black (Robert Little teacher): "Gary Dawkins, Mr. Smith and Mr. McKenzie were certainly highly-thought-of educators, so I think it should be McKenzie-Smith-Bennett. Minnie Bennett was also a special, unique lady in Acton for years. I will forever associate those names to that building."

Hartley Coles (long-time resident): "I think I'd go with Gary Dawkins. He was fairly prominent, local, and took an active part in Acton events. The school should be named after someone involved in education."

Chris Dolliver (past chair of P.E.P.): "McKenzie-Smith-Bennett is my first choice. I would

encourage keeping the existing names. If the school was to retain another name, with McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett wings, I think it wouldn't be too many years before those names would be lost."

George Elliott (former professor, University of Guelph): "I like Bennett-Smith. Sir Donald Mann really did nothing for the town, other than the fact he was born here and his parents lived here. Even Acton Public School would have some historic connotation."

Ena Gibson (former Robert Little and McKenzie-Smith teacher): "If they start changing names, is the history of the existing names worth nothing? Some people say McKenzie-Smith-Bennett is too long, but Queen Elizabeth Park (Oakville) is six syllables, too. I went to the Board years ago to get the existing names approved."

Susan McPhail-Job (Acton trustee candidate): "I like Bennett-McKenzie-Smith. We already have a park named after Sir Donald Mann. It can't be Acton Public, because it's not the only public school in Acton. Gary Dawkins would be a good choice, too."

Mark Rowe (archivist, Esquesing Historical Society): "McKenzie-Smith-Bennett are three well-remembered names. All were hard-working and were involved with

education. I would hate to see those names replaced. Acton Public definitely should not be chosen, because there already was one."

Kathy Sanford (former Robert Little and McKenzie-Smith teacher): "I don't want the McKenzie-Smith-Bennett names to disappear, and I would fight it. I can't see throwing out years and years of dedication. I think the library should continue to bear Gary Dawkins's name."

Brian Smith (son of the late Elmer Smith): "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."

Mac Sprowl (former member, Esquesing Township School Area Board): "I would favour Bennett-McKenzie-Smith and the Dawkins name in there as well. Demoting the existing names is not a great idea. It's like winning an award and having it taken away."

Joanne Stevenson (co-chair of P.E.P. and M.Z. Bennett's Actively Involved Parents groups): "My personal opinion is to go with McKenzie-Smith-Bennett. It is a mouthful, but it's better than M.Z.-M.S., which is how they were referred to last year."



Corrie's Hair Place

21 Mill Street West, Acton
Phone: (519) 853-3461

Would like to welcome
Denise Watterson
to our staff!

Denise has been in the
business for more than
10 years, working
mainly in Toronto.

Good luck to Willie in
your new venture!



Just Married!

Mark Andrew Staley and Christine Ann Phillips were united in marriage on June 10, 1995 at Powassen United Church, Powassen, Ontario.

Congratulations to the
happy couple!



MONSTER MUSHROOM!

Craig Lockwood, left, and pal Justin Lockerbie, both 12, discovered this nine-pound mushroom while roaming the wooded areas around Bovis Park last Wednesday afternoon. The giant fungus sits one-foot high and measures two feet across. (Doug Harrison photo)

September is Big Brothers Month

Come and visit our
new location in Acton
at McKenzie-Smith
Middle School starting
in September, or call us at:
(519) 853-5902

Bruce & Rhoda Shoemaker

As former owners of Shoemaker Funeral Home Inc., we wish to thank the people of Acton and surrounding area for the confidence placed in us during our 40 years in funeral service.

Thank You.

Best wishes to our successors
Nick Larter & Ian Pasmore of Trillium Funeral Services