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HOMETOWN PAPER, NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS!

Citizens (and students) to vote on name

BY DOUG HARRISON & PAUL NOLAN The Acton Tanner

At a parent group meeting in the M.Z. Bennett library on Monday night, rural Milton Trustee Tim Kingsbury announced that a flyer, which he will fund, will be distributed to all Acton homes next week for residents to vote on a new name for McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett schools.

He added, following the meeting, that this flyer, which will also be handed out to the 575 students in both schools, will be the sole basis for the name change, unless "I got two names which would be absurd to go by."

Kingsbury also pointed out that anonymous suggestions will be considered void, so as to not cause a problem with stuffed ballots.

Since the beginning of the summer, Acton residents have been free to phone or fax the Campbellville resident to offer their suggestion of a school name. As of Monday night, 172 people had responded to Kingsbury's plea, 37 McKenzie-Smith Bennett or

Bennett-McKenzie-Smith.

Other names that have surfaced through the summer include Acton Public School, Sir Donald Mann, Gary Dawkins and Thomas T. Moore.

"I'll tell you now," Kingsbury told The Tanner, "if Sir Donald Mann didn't have a park named after him, that would have been the name."

However most residents interviewed by this newspaper over the past two months have indicated a strong opposition to the potential names Sir Donald Mann and Acton Public School.

After Monday's meeting the trustee stood by his earlier statements that, regardless of Tanner stories to the contrary, Sir Donald Mann and Acton Public School still are favoured by a substantial number of local residents.

Kingsbury said he was unable to provide names of those citizens, since Sir Donald Mann or Acton Public School supporters have been reluctant to make themselves known. He also was unwilling to per cent of whom preferred either provide any names for The Tanner to contact regarding their prefer-

ences.

published a survey of 12 prominent long-time residents and educators. There was strong opposition to the Sir Donald Mann and Acton Public School names, with McKenzie-Smith-Bennett (or a derivative) being favoured by 10 of 12 people. Gary Dawkins was favoured by the other two.

Kingsbury, 35, told the meeting

of some 60 parents, teachers, par- vember. "But I'm not feeling pretty Two weeks ago The Tanner entgroup members and Acton trus- good, so I looked for an alternatee candidates that, by just four votes, Bennett-McKenzie-Smith was the favoured name.

"If 150 of the 172 people had said one name I would be happy, but there wasn't a clear-cut majority," he reported, adding permission has been granted by Halton Board members to defer the name controversy to at least early-Notive way (to determine a name)."

A father of one son, Kingsbury said the picking of a school name has bothered him as a process. "This (mail distribution) is the only way to do it.

"I just don't want to be the Acton trustee who helped out in Acton facilitating a name that people aren't happy with," he said.

No time for referendum

Town clerk Janet Lunn Stewart said there is not enough time to arrange for a referendum on the school naming issue because the Oct. 13 trustee vote is what is known as a "new election," commonly called a by-election.

"A new election requires Ontario Municipal Board approval before a question could be put to voters," Lunn Stewart explained in interview on Monday.

Lunn Stewart said the Board of Education would have to pass a motion asking for a referendum and outline the wording of the question, along with several suggested names.

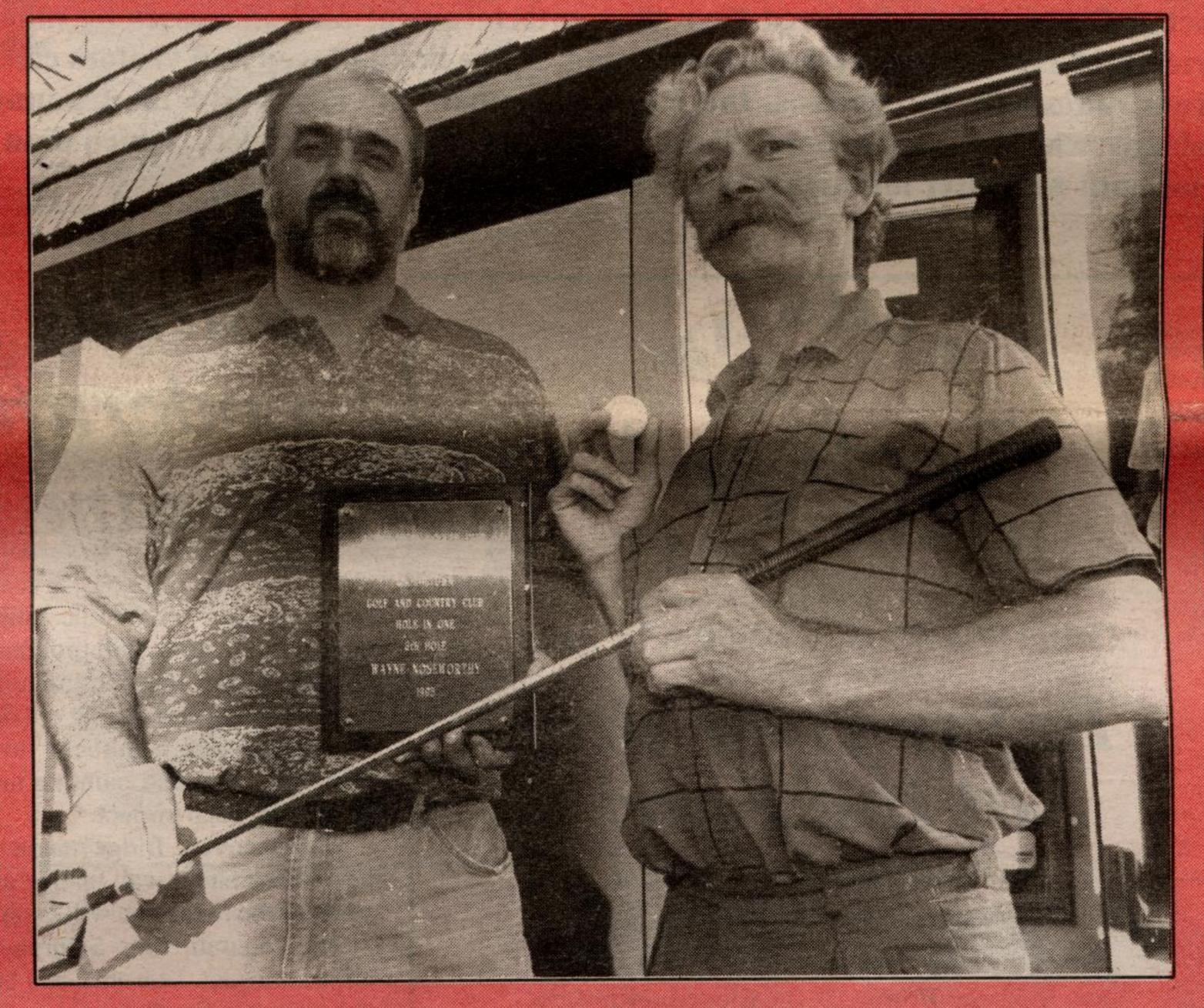
That would then have to be ap-

proved by the Ontario Municipal Board, a process that could take four weeks.

"Once I get that approval I would have to publish the question for three consecutive weeks, the first appearing no later than one month prior to the start of the election.

"My ads would have had to have started Sept. 27 and there's just not time, unfortunately," Lunn Stewart said.

A referendum question would have added some additional costs (for advertisements and testing) to the estimated \$40,000 price tag for the by-election to fill the vacant Ward 1 and 2 seat.



TOURNEY ACE!

Golfer Wayne Noseworthy, right, recently was presented with a plaque in recognition of his hole-in-one during this summer's 16th annual Acton Villa Soccer Club golf tourney. Tournament Director Carl Fisker, left, reports that some 56 golfers competed at this year's event, which was held at Georgetown Golf Club and sponsored by Acton IGA and local businessman Ted Edmundson. Wayne hit his ace on the eighth hole. (Eve Martin photo)



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