

Town assures minorities of safety following attack

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Town councillors' anti-racism resolution has no legal effect, but its authors hope it will ease the anxiety of some following a racially-motivated attack on a Georgetown merchant last week by a former mayoralty candidate.

In presenting his motion, Councillor John Day noted that what was needed follow-

ing the unfortunate attack on Mike Wong was "light, not heat."

Day's resolution, seconded by Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie and unanimously endorsed by General Committee members on Monday night, said discrimination is not acceptable and councillors will support efforts by the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council

to help stop discrimination through public education.

Rennie said although it was not in Council's jurisdiction to pass by-laws respecting anti-social or moral behaviour of people, "discrimination is a disease that is best served by the positive education of the young and by the preventive consequences of charges lodged by the police, supported by the Human Rights Legislation."

Rennie said members of minority groups need assurance that in Halton Hills, the general public policy is they, and all other Town citizens, should be safe to live their lives without harassment, diatribe or physical attack.

"It would be a comfort to all people of every ethnic origin if this Council were to support a resolution that speaks against discrimination of all kinds and assures not only our heartfelt sympathy to people who have experienced harassment, but also to those who, because of recent incidents, do not feel as safe walking our streets as they did before," Rennie said.

Wong, with bruises on his face from the attack still visible, was in the gallery as councillors passed the resolution.

His alleged attacker, Craig Harrison, 29, of Georgetown, will undergo a court-ordered psychiatric assessment and will appear in court on July 8 for a bail hearing.

Arena field narrows

The name of the architect who will design the \$5.1 million Acton East Arena and Community Centre will be known next week.

Although the selection committee has not picked its preferred choice, committee chair Norm Elliott said the recent interviews with the five firms on the short list went "very well."

"Just about all of them said



they were happy to be part of a group of five firms of that calibre. We will be ready to take our recommendation to Council on June 10 so we can keep to this project's very tight time frame."

Plans call for Council to tender the project before the end of summer, with construction to begin in October and the opening scheduled for the fall of next year.


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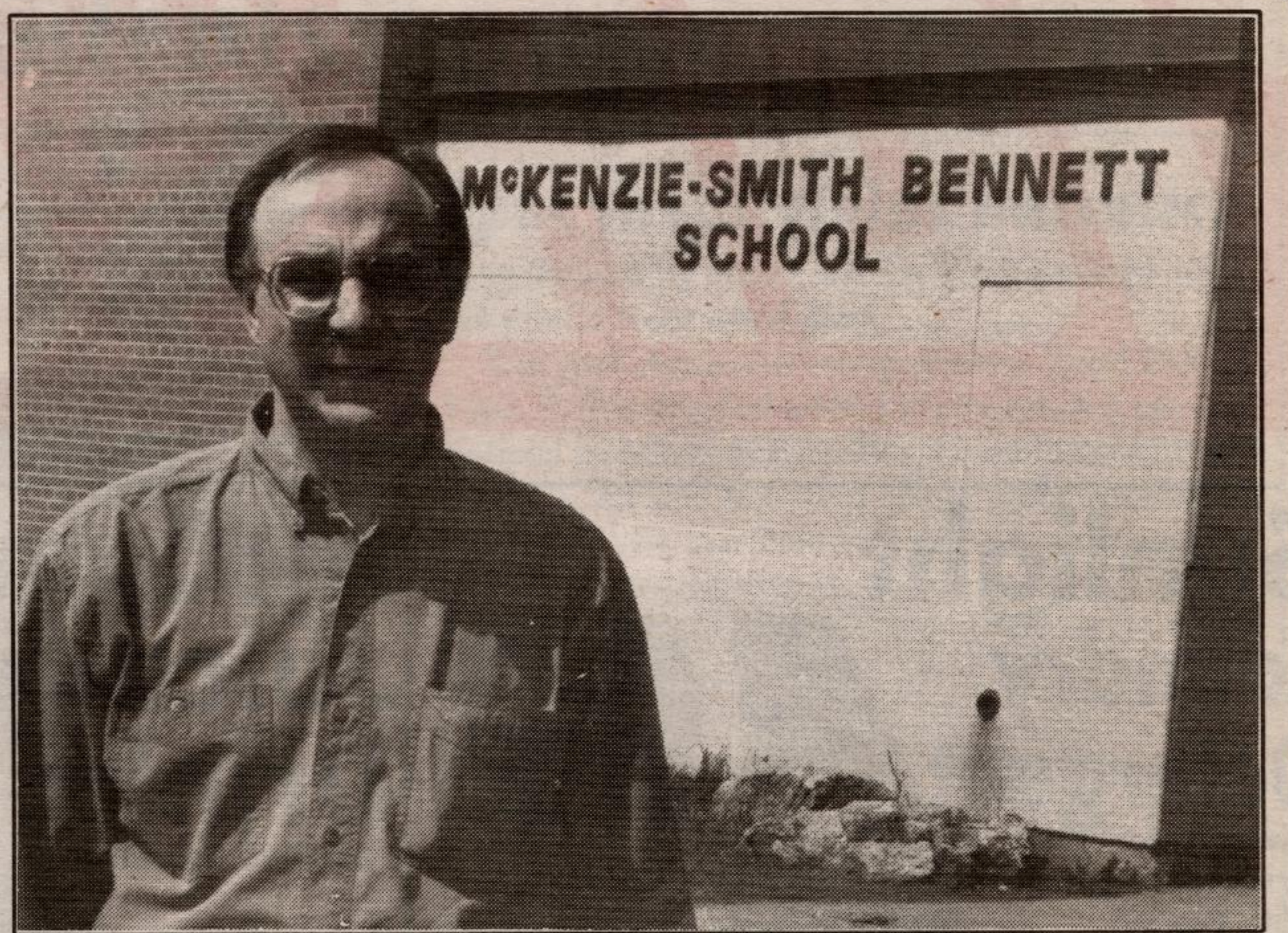
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Vice-principal Larry Ciglen, outside McKenzie-Smith Bennett school's new school sign, is retiring at the end of this school year.

MSB vice-principal retires

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
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With no regrets and a wealth of experience, Larry Ciglen is retiring at the end of June from the Halton Board of Education - leaving his last post as vice-principal of Acton's McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School.

"I've had a very rewarding career, but learning is a life-time experience and it's time for me to try something new," Ciglen explained recently.

Ciglen, who has operated Mindex Techniques, a desk-top publishing and computer training company, from his home for several years, said he wants to develop that business.

"I became very interested in computers at one of the schools I taught at and now would like to do more artistic and graphic design work," Ciglen said.

Ciglen, whose mother was a teacher, said that after teaching swimming and lifesaving as a teen in Meaford and Port Elgin,

he attended Teacher's College in Stratford and began teaching in a one-room rural school in 1961.

Two years later, he moved to the Port Credit School Board and then to the Halton Board, where he's spent the remainder of his career as a teacher and a vice-principal.

Ciglen said he will miss the students, staff and supportive Acton community when he retires, but he won't miss the regimentation.

"I will be able to take some of the seminars and courses that I had to miss because of work. I will have some flexibility now."

One of the main differences he's noticed since he began teaching is that teachers now have a much better idea of how students learn.

"We don't just try to fit a child into a mold any more, but try to mold and adapt the program to the individual student after we recognize their strengths and learning styles."

But he adds the "economics of education" are making it much harder for teachers and schools to turn out well-

rounded students.

"Nobody knows what the government is going to do about education and everyone is in turmoil."

"I know that the [Halton] Board has a renewal plan to deal with issues like staff and program cut-backs, but the status quo would mean higher taxes."

"If you're going to erode the education system it means cutting resources and staff and the little kids coming into the system will be short-changed. It may cost a lot more down the road to deal with their problems."

With a few weeks to go, Ciglen is wrapping up his busiest year ever, mainly because of the twinning of the former M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith Public Schools and because of time-consuming work on a revised report card.

"I will work right until the last day and then I will say good-bye with no regrets and a lot of great memories and friendships."

Garden contest

BY JEAN SOMERVILLE

Special to The Acton Tanner
Gardeners in Acton and area are reminded to submit their entries for the local garden contest before June 22. Every garden is special and a wide variety of categories are being offered this year.

For example, a container planting, one interesting or unusual plant or shrub, or a prize rose bush may be entered. There will be a special class is for those who have a garden plot in the Acton Community Garden. Local businesses, churches and schools may also enter their displays.

Entry forms are available from members of the Acton Horticultural Society and at several local businesses.

Plans are also underway for the second garden tour in July. Last year's event was both popular and enjoyable.

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