

## Board land sale questioned

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

With no Acton schools on the Halton Board of Education's closure hit list, Acton parents who attended Monday night's public input session on the Board's accommodation plan centered their questions and concerns on the proposed sale of surplus Board property.

In order to save \$2 million in annual operating costs the Board is considering closing eight to 12 schools and surplus land.

Almost half of the McKenzie-Smith Bennett Middle School site — a section facing Churchill Road between Peel Street and Norman Avenue may be on the market.

Board site guidelines call for eight-acre Kindergarten-to-Grade 8 schools and the MSB site is 15.4 acres, leaving a surplus of 7.4 acres which could be sold.

Board Superintendent of Facilities Gerry Cullen assured the McKenzie-Smith Bennett parents that their concerns about loss of the land, which includes several soccer fields and a ball diamond, would be taken into account.

"The land issue is one that the municipality is concerned about because obviously it has an impact on the community use," Cullen said, outlining that if the Board approved the sale it would first be offered to preferred agencies — those funded by the Province, and then to the public.

Cullen said even though the group was told that the proposed grade re-configurations to Kindergarten-to-Grade 6 and Grade 7 to graduation would not be considered in Halton Hills, Acton parents still had concerns.

"They didn't let go of the grade configuration issue — they still wanted to discuss whether the Board might phase it in at some point, but it's far enough off in the distance not to be anyone's priority tonight," Cullen said.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I think that this is a classic example of something that needs to get approved so that we can get on to get it fixed."

— Norm Elliott,

Acton Councillor, Page 8

### DID YOU KNOW?

• Next time your foot falls asleep, you'll know to call it taresthesia.

• In England long ago, if people had something to stew about, it was good, clean fun. A public bath was called a *stew* during Henry II's reign.



### BUSINESS OF THE MONTH!

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce chose *The Acton Tanner* as its business of the month for September. In front, holding the sign received from the Chamber are Lynne Buscher, Karen Wetmore and Joanne Stevenson. Middle row from left are Elaine Petkoff, Eve Martin, Rick Butler and Trish Henry. In back are Paul Nolan, Hartley Coles and Jamie Harrison. (Linda Hayes photo)



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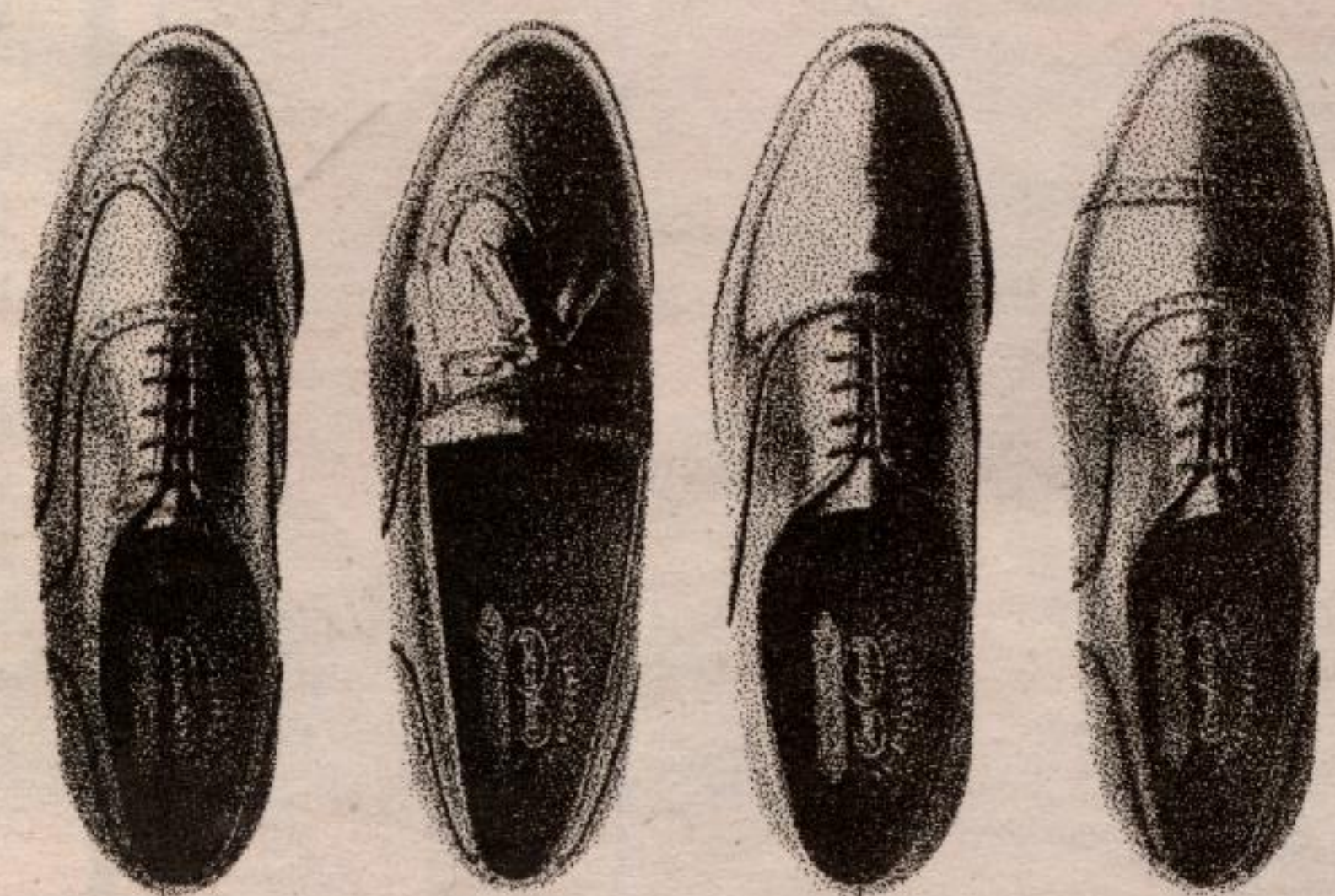
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### VOICE MAIL ARRIVES AT THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS NOW GETTING THROUGH TO US IS A SNAP

Effective today, September 25, 1996, The Town of Halton Hills has a new, two-tiered automated telephone and voice mail system to give you faster access to the person or department you need. Callers with rotary phones or those who don't want to talk to a machine, may call the regular number 873-2600 and speak to our receptionist.

Otherwise, we encourage you to call your party directly by dialling our new voice mail number 873-2601, followed by the extension of that person.

You'll get a quicker response and can choose from a variety of options offered in an easy-to-understand voice. If you don't know the extension of the person you are calling, an alphabetized directory is available. If you are still not convinced, then our receptionist is always available to answer your questions.

If the person you are calling is away from the phone, you may leave a message.

The Town of Halton Hills went to a voice mail system, because we want to enhance our communication with our customers, increase our accessibility and message reception. Callers can now leave confidential messages 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff can retrieve their calls 24 hours a day, from any location.

New features are always being recommended to be added to our system. For example, we will provide pre-recorded messages about recreational and special events, booking of facilities and ball fields, scheduling inspections and other activities.

We encourage you to call us and find out just how easy the Voice Mail system is to use and how it helps us to provide you with better service.