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'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1996

INSIDE THE HAUNTED PUMPKIN...



The Ontario Works program, called Workfare, begins in Halton Region
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All entries for the Historical Halloween Hunt must be received today to be eligible for the draws on Halloween night!
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Needed in Acton: new businesses so more people can shop locally
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Need to find a registered massage therapist in town? Well, now we have one!
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Eramosa Township Councillor Cathy McIntyre resigns mid-way through her term
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Recent Ministry of Education paper suggests phys. ed classes in high school not be compulsory
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MSB school land not to be sold

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

It looks like the soccer fields at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School will not be sold by the cash-hungry Halton Board of Education.

Top Board staff didn't include the 7.4 acre parcel of land between MSB and Churchill Road on the list of

five surplus properties they suggest the Board should sell.

The Superintendent's Council recommends the sites - 60 to 80 total acres - be sold with six existing schools to help reduce Board operating costs by \$24 million in the next three years. Closing the schools will save \$2 million a year through

lower heating, lighting and maintenance costs.

Four Burlington schools could be closed at the end of this year with two in Oakville and one in Milton. Both Speyside and Wrigglesworth Schools, which the Board doesn't use, will be sold.

Although the sale of Glen Williams P.S. is no longer

being considered, the news isn't quite as positive for Limehouse which remains on a list of possible closures if trustees vote for a higher school utilization target.

No teaching positions will be lost by the moves but there will be some reductions in the number of principals, secretarial and custodial staff.

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Ethel Gardiner noted that the recommendation to not sell the MSB land included the words "at this time."

"They simply don't believe there's a market for that land at this time," Gardiner explained on Saturday.

"I'm just delighted that the consultant and administration took into account what communities were saying."

MSB school council chair Joanne Stevenson said they are "relieved" that the surplus land will not be sold.

"It's a relief, but since the recommendation also says

'not at this time' we know that this issue hasn't gone away," Stevenson said.

Town staff said sale of the MSB land would have impacted at least four or five of the playing fields and the remaining site could only accommodate the redevelopment of two or three intermediate-sized fields.

Town staff noted the Board made its plans in isolation, without assessing the broader impact on the community and suggested a group be set up to discuss the Board's plan and initiate on-going discussions with the Board.

Trustees were briefed on the proposed report on Monday and are expected to make final decisions on land sales and school closures in December. Nov. 18 to 21 has been set aside by the Board to hear public delegations and the Board travels to Acton on Tuesday, Nov. 19 for a meeting at Acton High.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Grade 2 McKenzie-Smith Bennett student Todd Speakman and sister Meagan, who's in Grade 1, created this prize-winning jack o'lantern for a school contest last Thursday. Remember to watch out for all of the excited ghosts and goblins tomorrow night! (Karen Wetmore photo)

Still time to give to United Way

Haven't had a United Way canvasser come to your door and ask for a donation yet? Don't worry. It's not too late to make a donation to the umbrella organization that raises money for 19 community agencies.

In fact, Campaign West chair Elly Tuitman will make it very easy for you to help.

"If there's anyone who did not get canvassed at home or at work, call me. I'll gladly come to them to pick up their donation," Tuitman offered in an interview on Monday, just days before Thursday's official wrap-up of the residential campaign.

This year's campaign goal is \$220,000 - a \$10,000 in-

crease over last year's goal, which was not reached.

"Everyone has been generous and I know that with the retail sector, anyone who has money to give is making a generous donation," Tuitman said.

"I heard a good campaign phrase - I think it was from the Toronto United Way but it will work here. It said that the United Way is you and you should make sure that a little of you is in the total," Tuitman said, noting that Acton residents have always donated generously to the United Way campaign.

If you would like to donate or want more information, call Tuitman at 853-3896.

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