

THE **Tanner**

NEW

Your Hometown Newspaper

Newstand price: 40¢ + GST

Volume 1 No. 2

Thursday, February 4, 1998

Wear a Red Nose on Friday, Feb. 6 Lighten Up Canada Day!

ACHILLES MAZDA
in Acton
Introducing
DON SEDDON
Over 25 Years Parts Experience to Serve Our Customers Better
357 Queen St. E., Acton
(519) 853-0200
(905) 453-8965

'Chaotic' traffic on Acton Blvd.

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

"An accident waiting to happen." That's how McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School Principal Nancy Johnston assesses the chaotic traffic situation outside the school on Acton Boulevard.

In fact, at least one student has been hit by a vehicle while crossing Acton Boulevard and there have been several close calls.

The combination of illegally stopped and sometimes parked cars, hundreds of students streaming across the road in the morning and afternoon, the number of buses servicing students and the layout of the parking lots all add to what Johnston described as a "very serious problem," with safety.

"A lot of the problems are a result of more traffic movement this year," Johnston explained on Thursday.

"There seems to be a lot more parents dropping off and picking up their kids and not all of them are doing anything illegal or we'd be able to do more about it."

"I think we need to look at a number of solutions — an eclectic approach in terms of parent education," Johnston said, adding that the Town has been asked to hire a crossing guard for the

existing cross walk at Mill Street.

The safety issue is also being studied by the Acton Kids Count Committee which is comprised of school and Board of Education officials, parent group representatives, the Halton Health Department and Town staff and local police.

"We don't have all the solutions but we are looking at moving the bus pick-up and drop-off area, building a walkway at the north entrance so students don't have to cross the parking lot to get to the school door.

Acton parent Leslie Mann, a member of the Acton Kids Count Committee, echoes Johnston's concerns about the safety issues. Mann, who lives on Acton Boulevard, won't let her kids walk to school alone because she feels it's unsafe.

"The north parking (where the younger grades enter the school) is a total disaster," Mann explained.

"There are cars parked on the grass, cars parked in the fire route and the south end parking lot is pretty bad too."

"We are trying to find a good place for the parents to drop their kids off and might suggest that they stop on south bound Churchill (Road) and let their kids out on the field so they can walk safely to the playground."



BIG CUT: Everyone got into the act cutting the huge ribbon at the official arena opening with the big shears operated by Acton Councillors Rick Bonnette and Norm Elliott as well as Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, MP Julian Reed, arena manager John Archibald, MPP Ted Chudleigh and superintendent of facilities Paul Stover. - Eve Martin photo

Acton thrilled with official opening of new arena and community centre

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

A decade of planning, praying and perseverance paid off on Sunday as Acton officially opened the new \$5.3 million Acton Arena and Community Centre.

The crowd was excited and proud and the praise abundant and well deserved during the centre-ice, ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, (skates waiting in the dressing room) was introduced to the enthusiastic crowd of approximately 600, by master of ceremonies Halton Hills Acting Administrator Janet Lunn Stewart.

"This is a top-notch facility, a facility to be proud of and to take care of," the mayor said.

"We are all owners and our tax dollars have built it and it's up to us to take pride in it's upkeep and preservation," Serjeantson said as she

stood centre ice with local dignitaries and other key players.

"This is a time to celebrate and enjoy. Have a great day," Serjeantson urged the enthusiastic crowd.

Introducing him as "Mr. Acton Arena", Lunn Stewart then called Councillor Norm Elliott to the podium.

On Elliott's list of people to thank was the former owner of the eight-acre arena site, Alfio Manarin.

"I didn't see Alfio Manarin here today, but generally speaking, those sorts of thank you's go unnoticed by the public," Elliott said, adding that the town was given a "bargain basement price" for the site because, "Manarin wanted to see something special happen in Acton."

Elliott also thanked Acton's former and present local newspaper staffer Hartley Coles.

"Hartley, your editorials always served as that little extra incentive to keep us

going and you made us aware of the feelings of the community," Elliott said.

Engineer Bill Sproule of Cochrane PBK Group, the architects, told the crowd that they had a lot of fun getting the facility designed and built.

"This is as nice a community/recreation facility as you'll find anywhere in Canada and we're extremely proud of it."

"Bill Law, the architect and designer, deserves a round of applause for his work," Sproule said.

Although everyone was glad to leave the aging, drafty Prospect Park rink, Councillor Elliott noted that the old arena holds a lot of good memories.

"For many, many years you suffered through the frustration of operating out of a community centre that was old and decrepid," Elliott said.

Never - the - less, it had a lot of history, energy and ghosts of former hockey play-

ers and figure skaters.

"I hope that the spirit from Prospect Park could move up to this facility when they brought over the ice-making machine," Elliott said.

"I hope that those ghosts were riding on that Zamboni so that we could transfer them from the old facility to this one."

Chair of the Acton Arena fund Development Committee, Councillor Rick Bonnette thanked the fund raising committee that has raised \$155,000 to date.

"Without their hard work and dedication we wouldn't have been able to raise money for upgrades, like the individual seats you're sitting on today. Acton got behind the project and we all can be proud," Bonnette said.

With that, a long gold banner was stretched before the dignitaries at centre ice. Each was handed scissors to cut the ceremonial ribbon and officially open the new Acton Arena and Community Centre.

Halton pupils tops in literacy tests

By **MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY**
The New Tanner

Halton's Gr. 3 pupils topped their counterparts across the province in the recent provincially-administered literacy tests.

Ethel Gardiner, a retired primary school teacher and chair of the new Halton District School Board, said Halton's youngsters were first in the province among the public boards and only one separate school board's

pupils equalled them.

"Our kids did exceptionally well. We're very proud of them," Gardiner says. "They were tops in reading and writing and they weren't bad in math either."

But the board won't be resting on its laurels. Testing is all very well but only if it is used to provide a basis for improvement, she says. That's the challenge now. Staff has to figure out how to improve whatever weakness in the system these tests may have uncovered.

Ask about our Toyota Grad Program

Doing It Right

1998 Toyota Tercel 2 Door

- AM/FM Cassette
- Int. Wipers
- Body Side Mouldings
- Digital Clock
- 60/40 Rear Seat
- Full Wheel Covers

Sales Event

LEASE **\$173*** plus tax

DOWN **\$1000** MRSP \$14,184

*48 MOS., FREIGHT & P.D.E. INCLUDED

or Get **3.8%** Finance for up to 60 months

GEORGETOWN TOYOTA SALES

15 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., GEORGETOWN 877-2296 Tor. 874-4276

WEBSITE at www.haltonhills.com/toyota or E-MAIL at toyota@aztec-net.com

*Based on a 48-month walkaway lease. First payment and security deposit due on delivery, based on 96,000 kms. Additional km charge of \$0.07 if applicable.