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# THE NEW TANNER

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## Feed mill expansion upsets some neighbouring people

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

Officials of the Halton Hills Flour Milling Inc. say that the current expansion and improvements at the Mill Street East mill will reduce noise levels, but some neighbours remain unconvinced and continue to complain about the mill's intrusion in their neighbourhood.

Even mill general manager Bruce McIntyre admits that the mill's location in a residential area is not the best, but stressed that everything that could be done to alleviate the noise is being done.

"We can't move - if the Town, prior to our expansion, could have afforded to give us \$4 million to move our concrete, steel and silos we would have gladly gone somewhere else because it's not the best place for us," McIntyre said in an interview on Thursday, adding that the

mill couldn't stay the same size and be competitive.

The expansion plan, described by Town planners as legitimate and minor, includes a 1,225 square foot addition to the main industrial building. The roof of that building is being raised to allow for a second storey and a Church Street house, now used as mill offices, will also be expanded and some site works will be done. Three new silos and an in-ground scale are being built and additional parking is being added. Two existing silos are being enclosed and a dryer bin roof is being replaced. On Mill Street the curbs are being replaced and there will be new landscaping between the curb and the building.

Neighbour Margaret Fisher-Brillinger said when she moved to across from the mill 24 years it was very small and quaint and artists used to come and sketch it.

"There's nothing left of that original mill now and the noise goes on unabatedly and that's the reality that we have to live with," Fisher-Brillinger complained in a recent interview.

"We have to live 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the noise, dust and truck fumes and can't enjoy our yards and properties. We've had so many meetings with the mill and so many promises have been made, but nothing changes."

McIntyre insists that the mill has done all that it can to alleviate the truck and noise problems.

"It's unfortunate that Margaret seems to be so hyper-sensitive to the noise," McIntyre said, adding that her home across from the mill has been exposed to more noise during construction because of its location. McIntyre admitted that there has been a lot more noise

See **MILL EXPANDS**, page 3



**THINK BOWL CHAMPS:** Students at McKenzie-Smith Bennett took second, third and fourth place honours at a recent North Halton Think Bowl Competition, designed to teach students problem solving skills. Shown here are: Front row, left to right: Katherine Hopkins, Holly Goddard. Second row: Tina Parent, Kimberly Roberts. Third row: Matt Dayman, Fourth row, Jessica Bailey, Rachel McKnight, Ashley Holman.

## Heartbreak loss for MSB cagers

The North Halton champion McKenzie-Smith Bennett Mustang Senior Girls basketball team are out of contention for the all-Halton championship following a heartbreaking 27-26 loss to East champions New Central of Burlington on Monday.

The Mustangs led for most of the game, by as many as eight points at one point, but New Central came back hard late in the fourth quarter.

"We were up by one point and with about 0.1 seconds left to go Burlington put up a shot right at the buzzer," explained Coach Dave Walker in an interview on Tuesday.

"It's questionable whether the ball was out of her hands or not - the ref seemed to think that it was out of her hands - I thought it was in her hands, but it went in and they won by one point."

Ashley Stinson had eight points in the game while Katie Smith has seven points and Meighan McIntyre had six.

"Winning Tier one was the whole cake. The semi-final was the icing on the cake and going to the all Halton final would have been the candles on the cake. This was the most successful basketball season ever for McKenzie-Smith Bennett and the whole team deserves to be proud," Walker said as he praised the team for their heart and commitment.

The Mustangs advanced to the North Halton championship with a hard fought two-point win over W.I. Dick. That win paved the way for the girls to go on to the final with Sam Sherratt. After losing two games to Sherratt the Mustang girls rallied and took a 31-16 win to advance to the Halton semifinals.

## Not too late to register

Although the lottery deadline has passed for the Town's spring and summer activities and the spring aquatics programs, its not too late to register as applications will now be dealt with on a first come, first serve basis for programs that have openings.

The Town's 67-page community activity and service guide arrived at Acton homes last week and it's jammed packed with programs offering fun and fitness.

"We don't try to be all things to all people, but we try to fill in the gaps where services aren't available from other providers," explained Joy Thompson, the Town's Manager of Recreation Services in an interview on Friday.

"We want to ensure, on a global community perspective, that the residents have choices to participate in a variety of programs," Thompson said.

## MSB problem solvers tops

When it comes to solving problems some students at McKenzie-Smith Bennett have all the answers. Three teams from the school recently competed in the North Halton Think Bowl competition and came away with a silver, a bronze and a fourth place finish.

The Think Bowl competition is designed to help students face the future with confidence and to take a positive approach to problem solving.

Students are presented with a problem - the junior team tackled what can be done about the number of people becoming addicted to the Internet and computer games - and given three and a half hours to try to come up with practical and workable solutions.

Working in teams of four, the students identify the problem, brainstorm solutions and then present their solutions in the form of a skit with props they have designed.

"The students walk into

the competition with no idea what their problem to work on might be and we've trained them how to come up with solutions," explained McKenzie-Smith Bennett special education teacher instruction Libbie Keller in an interview on Friday.

"After they've studied the problem they come up with a list of solutions and then they have to judge those solutions to determine if they are practical and long-term and then explain how they would carry them out."

Th two junior teams, consisting of Liz Lewis, Laura Stevenson, Catherine Wilkinson, Beth Clayton, Heather Atkinson, Amanda Campbell, Gillian Brunelle and Synnoeve Stockinger, placed 4th and 6th out of 18 teams from North Halton at the recent competition in Milton.

MSB hosted the seniors' Think Bowl competition and the problem they had to deal with was:

"How to deal with the great deal of stress on today's

youth that leads to depression, migraines and social problems."

The senior team of Rebecca Lewis, Dawn Stevenson, Hayley Green, Sarah Looenga and Sarah Lewis placed fourth out of eight teams. The senior team of Matt Dayman, Rachel McKnight, Jessica Bailey and Ashley Holman won bronze medals for their efforts. The team of Holly Goddard, Kimberly Roberts, Katherine Hopkins and Tina Parent finished in second place. "Besides the problem solving skills the competition teaches group dynamics and cooperation," Keller explained.

"The Think Bowl competition was designed to have some academic competition that allowed problem solving. It involves writing, reading, analytical thinking, art work and presentation skills."

Both the second and third place senior teams advance to the All Halton Think Bowl Competition next month.



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