

# Board to decide fate of Acton's public schools

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

The chair of the Halton District School Board is urging Acton residents to "be informed and be involved" as the Board grapples with closing schools because of excess student spaces.

While trustees meeting last night (Wednesday) were expected to remove Acton District High from the list of schools to be studied for closing or consolidation, both McKenzie-Smith Bennett and Robert Little public schools are operating under capacity and in an interview Sunday Board chair Ethel Gardiner, who taught at Robert Little for 19 years, said she wouldn't hazard a guess about what trustees might do.

"I think that Acton is in a very unique position," Gardiner said.

"It's far away from Milton and Georgetown in terms of transporting students and neither facility can handle all of the students from both schools," Gardiner said, adding that money spent on improvements at both schools in recent years could help convince trustees not to look at closing them.

"Neither school will hold all of the children in Acton and it's the furthest community north and it would mean

a whole lot of travel," Gardiner said when asked to make a case for leaving the Acton schools out of any review.

The current Ministry of Education rated capacity (MRC) at Robert Little school is 484 students and the projected enrolment in 2002 will be down by 134 students to 350. At MSB the capacity is 709 and the enrolment is projected at 625, or 84 students under capacity. Looking at the Acton schools in a cluster the MRC is 1,193 and the projected enrolment total is 975 or 218 students below capacity for both schools.

The Halton Board has about 6,773 more student spaces than students and if it doesn't decide how to cut that excess by December 1, it will forfeit the ability to get grants to build new schools. If enrolment figures don't match capacity the Board also loses the ability to charge developers lot levies on new housing developments to help pay for new schools sites.

Gardiner said she thought that Acton High school would be safe, even though

it is operating under capacity, because it is a community high school and there's no where else to send the students with Milton and Georgetown high schools being full. The Ministry of Education's rated capacity at Acton High is 663 and the projected enrolment is 558 students.

"It could be that no schools will close at all but I really believe that accommodation in this county is in a mess and it's our responsibility to get it straightened out," Gardiner said.

Gardiner said an attempt to close schools two years ago in Halton was a dismal failure.

The capacity issue will be discussed at a special Board information session at Georgetown High school tonight (Thursday). Another meeting will be held at Acton High school on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m.

"I'd like to see people get out to meeting and be informed and be involved," Gardiner urged.



## LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197

On Saturday, Nov. 14 buses have been arranged to take anyone wishing to go to Casino Rama. Your bus trip, a meal at Rama and a meal back at the Branch is included in a flat fee of \$10 per person. The buses will be leaving the Legion parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and returning at 5:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend must sign up by Nov. 8 at the branch dinner tickets for the annual Remembrance Day Dinner

are now available at the Branch at a cost of \$5 per person.

The annual Acton Seniors' Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:15 p.m. Meal tickets this year are \$2 each and go on sale Monday, Nov. 2 at the Legion or at Halton Hills Furniture Store. Proceeds from dinner will be donated to various charities' Christmas baskets.

## Celebrity Quiz

Many people are famous for their accomplishments. Test your knowledge of celebrities by taking this quiz. Circle the answers you think are correct.

- This U.S. president abolished slavery.
  - George Washington
  - Thomas Jefferson
  - Abraham Lincoln
  - John Adams
- This woman was a movie star until she married the ruling prince of Monaco in 1956.
  - Grace Kelly
  - Ingrid Bergman
  - Princess Diana
  - Julia Roberts
- He was the first person to walk on the moon.
  - Buzz Aldrin
  - Neil Armstrong
  - John Glenn
  - Alan Shepard
- This Soviet political leader was the last president of the U.S.S.R.
  - Boris Yeltsin
  - Konstantin Chernenko
  - Leonid Brezhnev
  - Mikhail Gorbachev
- This physician showed that cowpox virus was an effective vaccine against smallpox.
  - Edward Jenner
  - Jonas Salk
  - Albert Sabin
  - Bruce Jenner
- This man, who believed in passive resistance, formed the foundation of the U.S. civil-rights movement.
  - Mahatma Gandhi
  - Martin Luther King Jr.
  - Malcolm X
  - Bobby Seale
- This explorer believed that the world was round, not flat, and attempted to reach Asia by sailing west from Europe.
  - Henry Hudson
  - Ponce de Léon
  - John Cabot
  - Christopher Columbus
- This rock 'n' roll singer, whose hits include "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Don't Be Cruel," greatly influenced American popular culture.
  - Chuck Berry
  - Prince
  - Elvis Presley
  - Jerry Lee Lewis
- This English novelist is known for such works as "Oliver Twist," "Nicholas Nickleby" and "Great Expectations."
  - Charles Dickens
  - Ernest Hemingway
  - George Eliot
  - John Steinbeck
- He was one of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.
  - Robert Peary
  - Sir Edmund Hillary
  - William Dickey
  - Hudson Stuck

## TIME LINE 1843

- \*AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOJOURNER TRUTH BEGINS HER REFORM MISSION.
- \*GERMAN ASTRONOMER SAMUEL SCHWABE DISCOVERS THE SUNSPOT CYCLE.
- \*THOUSANDS OF SETTLERS BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR WAY WEST ON THE OREGON TRAIL.
- \*THE SECOND SEMINOLE WAR ENDS IN FLORIDA.

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## new word LIMBER

ABLE TO MOVE OR BEND EASILY

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## KIDS' CORNER

## SPORTS FACT

IN A RELAY RACE, TEAMS OF FOUR ATHLETES RUN SEPARATE DISTANCES, CALLED LEGS. AS A RUNNER FINISHES A LEG, HE OR SHE PASSES A BATON TO THE NEXT RUNNER. THE BATON MUST BE EXCHANGED WITHIN A DESIGNATED ZONE.

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## HOW THEY SAY IT IN...

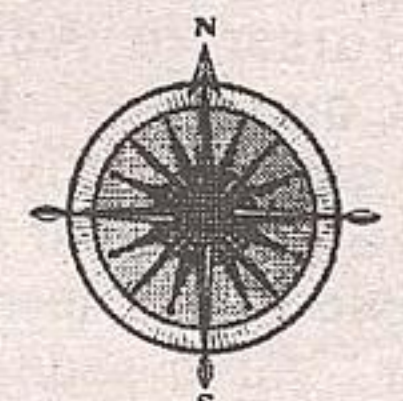
- ENGLISH: ROCK
- SPANISH: ROCA
- ITALIAN: RÒCCIA
- FRENCH: ROC
- GERMAN: FELSEN
- LATIN: SAXUM

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