

## Says Kingham Rd. parking still a concern for residents

To the Editor, Town Council, Kingham Road residents, Having spent hours speaking with various Town departments about the pathetic parking situation, a workable solution or proposal has been attained for Kingham Road.

Removal and recessing the curb nine feet back for the top of Greenore Crescent to the

town pumping station, increasing street lighting and opening it up to the 12 hour parking would meet the need and criteria necessary as per Bob Butrym. (As submitted to The New Tanner last week.)

Parking on the corner as is, on this under-width eight-metre road is hazardous. Two buses negotiating the curve at the same time could spell

disaster.

As I suggested a couple of years ago, the whole road should be widened due to safety concerns and loss of road due to snow accumulation. Last winter, tape measure in hand, 14 feet of usable road was all that existed. The Town responded by issuing a letter to every household to switch their vehicles to the other side of Kingham for a night to gain back road width, as the snow was plowed and taken away.

As our children age and new residents arrive the typical two car family has been replaced with three and four. Green space for parking and extra spots are non-existent.

Being taxpayers of an over populated half a kilometre area, we seek your assistance.

Thank you,  
Stephen Grasby.



## Board chair urges Acton to get behind saving land

Dear Editor,

I would like to provide a bit of background around the possible disposition of approximately three acres of property at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School, and assure the people of Acton that I will work as hard as I possible can to protect the access to that property.

Ontario School Boards are tied to a funding model which leaves much to be desired in many areas; one of those being accommodation. The province dictates that we run every school in Halton at 100 per cent capacity, and that we carry no surplus pupil spaces before we receive grants to

build schools. We have huge growth areas in Halton where schools clearly are needed, and we have no way at the present time to generate revenue in order to build schools. Part of the problem is that this, and past school boards refused to close underutilized schools.

The Ontario government requires all boards in the province to file a capital strategic plan which sets out a plan to accommodate students for the next 20 years. CN Watson and Associates Ltd., an independent consulting firm has prepared for the Halton District School Board such a plan. It recognizes that the population of Halton will nearly double in the next 20 years and that we will need 33 new elementary schools and eight new secondary schools to deal with that growth. The plan calls for the closure of schools with surplus capacity, the introduction of Junior Kindergarten centres, and the disposition of surplus board property, among other things. Rest assured that I did not bring the sell of the McKenzie-Smith Bennett property to the Board; it was simply part of that report.

The linking of the two schools in 1995 has caused these schools to now be considered as one school. The funding formula also sets out the size of sites for schools;

thus McKenzie-Smith Bennett is now considered to have a larger site than it needs to accommodate a play area for the children who attend that school.

It is required by law that our Board provide adequate accommodation for all students in Halton. While it is not the responsibility of the Board to provide community recreational facilities any more than it is the town's responsibility to build schools, I think we have a shared responsibility here to the children of Acton. There is every indication that the town and the Board will work together to try and address your concerns.

I am pleased that the people of Acton are making their voices heard. I would suggest that you:

lobby the town as well as the Halton District School Board

petitions are everywhere in Acton - sign one.

delegate the Board and town council. (Board meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month. Written requests for delegations should be submitted to the Director's Office. Call Gail Gortmaker at 878-8451 for more information.)

write letters to me, asking that they be distributed to all trustees. I will be happy to do that.

please assure your children that their playground is not going to disappear. If the worst happens and the three acres are removed from the 15.4 acres, there will still be room to play. Let's not worry the children.

In the meantime, I have been collecting information - I have met with the Board staff, the mayor and town staff, and I will continue to work toward a solution. At this time, the disposition of this property is not a "done deal". Board approval is required for every school to close, and every property for sale. The timelines for this process are at present not determined.

However, I look forward to having the two bus loads of people from Acton arrive at a Board meeting to present your petition. Good for you!

Yours truly,  
Ethel Gardiner,  
Chair of the Board

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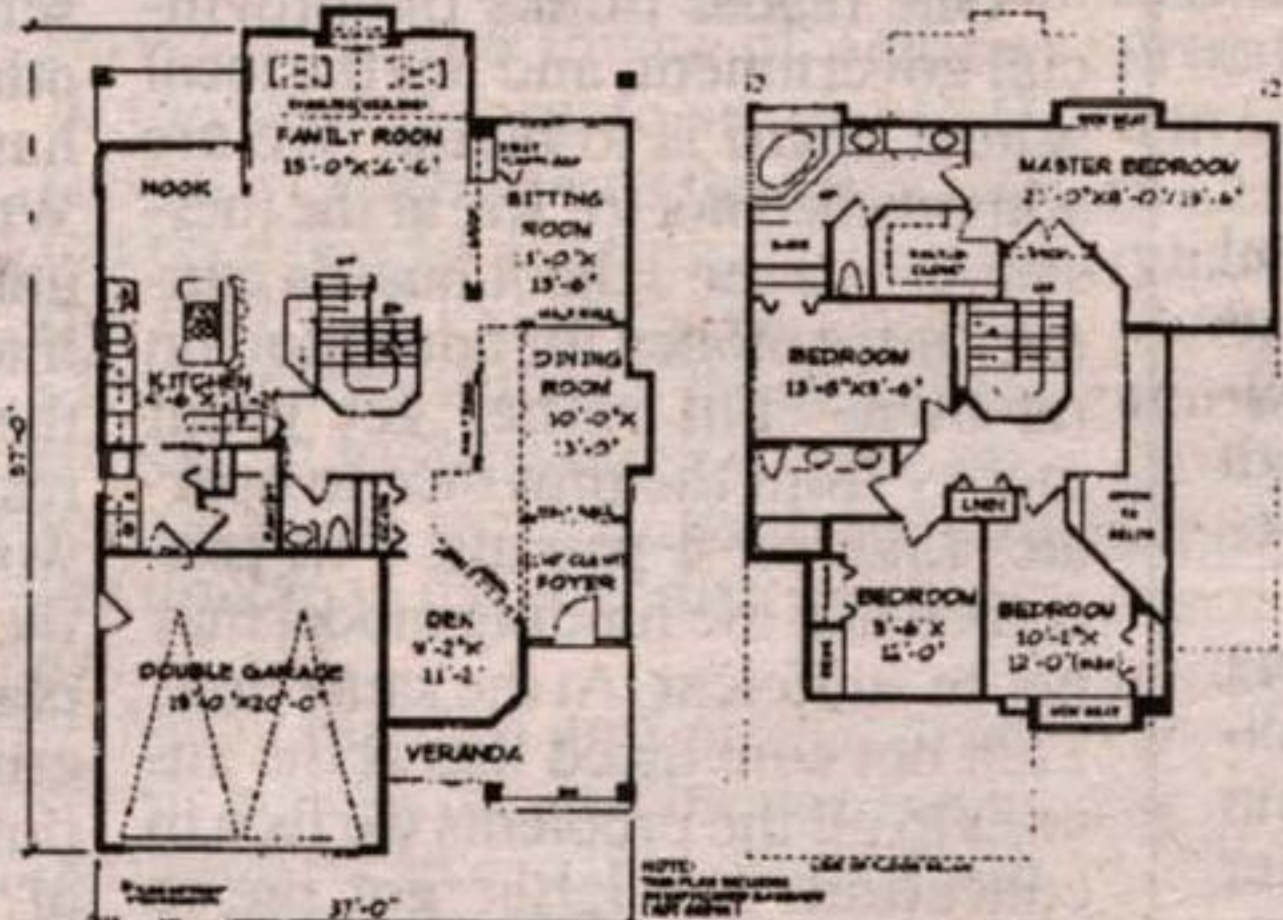
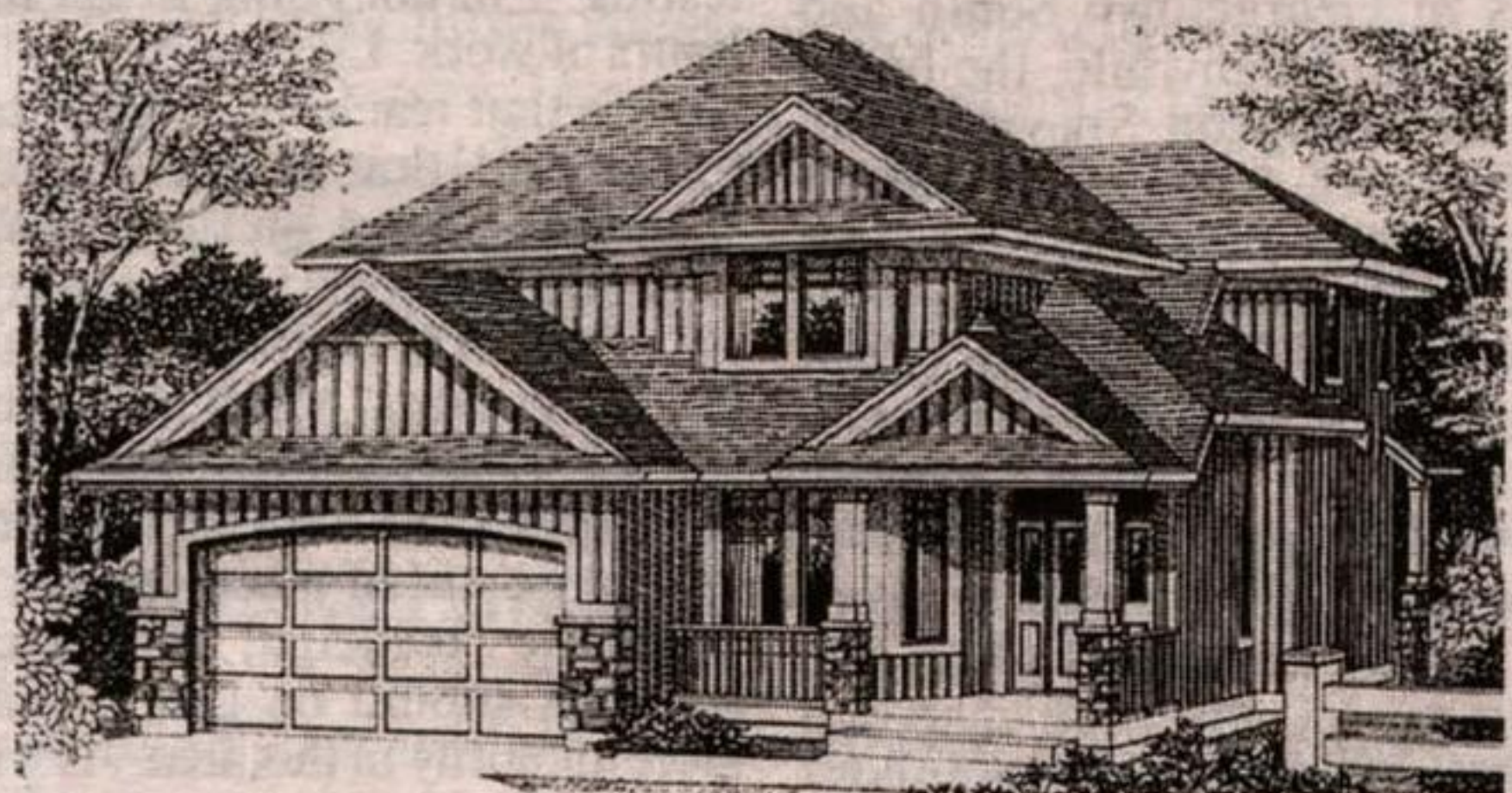
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