



SUMMER IS OVER: Some McKenzie-Smith Bennett School students shared the same sentiment when asked if they were ready and willing to begin a new school year on Tuesday. — Frances Niblock photo

Catholic Board sees a new Acton School

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

New schools are in the short and long-range future for Acton students. As the new school year opened on Tuesday, the Halton District Catholic School Board is anticipating opening a new Catholic high school in Georgetown for next September, and building a new elementary school in Acton within 10 years.

At St. Joseph's School (JK to Grade 8) Bob Soroko will be back as acting principal, filling in for Colin Simpson who is recovering from surgery. Simpson replaced the retiring Jim McGeragle in April, but became ill a month later and hasn't been back since.

Soroko, a retired principal, has agreed to fill in until Simpson returns, hopefully before Christmas.

Trustee McCauley said in the interim the school board appointed a vice-principal, Kevin Brady, at St. Joseph's, that has an enrolment of approximately 350 students and underwent a major expansion last year that doubled the size of the facility.

"We're watching the growth of students in Acton

with quite a close eye. We're looking down the road to having another Catholic school in Acton as the population grows," Halton Hills Catholic school board trustee Irene McCauley said on Monday.

McCauley said the school board is proud of its strong showing in mandatory testing in both the elementary and secondary schools.

She said 95 per cent of the students attending St. Joseph's continue in the Catholic system in high school — an excellent retention rate.

"Even though some parents don't want their children to have to leave Acton for

their high school education, a major factor in the retention rate is their Catholic faith — parents and students are committed to their Catholic faith.

This is the last year that Acton and area Catholic students will attend high school in Milton, as the new multi-million dollar Christ the King High School in Georgetown will be ready for next September.

"It will make it a lot easier for the children in Halton Hills who will finally have a school in their own municipality and be able to participate fully in school life without worrying about taking late buses home or have their parents pick them up," McCauley said.

POLICE BEAT

B&E

Under \$1,000 was stolen from an unlocked house on St. Alban's Drive overnight last Wednesday. An unknown person entered through a side door.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A promotional sign on Wallace Street for Acton's Dance Inn studios was torn down, causing \$100 damage, late Sunday or Monday morning.

CAR VANDALIZED

Someone damaged the driver-side rearview mirror of a car parked at the corner of Maria and Church Streets between 10 a.m. and midnight last Friday. Damage to the 2000 Impala that belongs to an Acton woman, is \$57.18.

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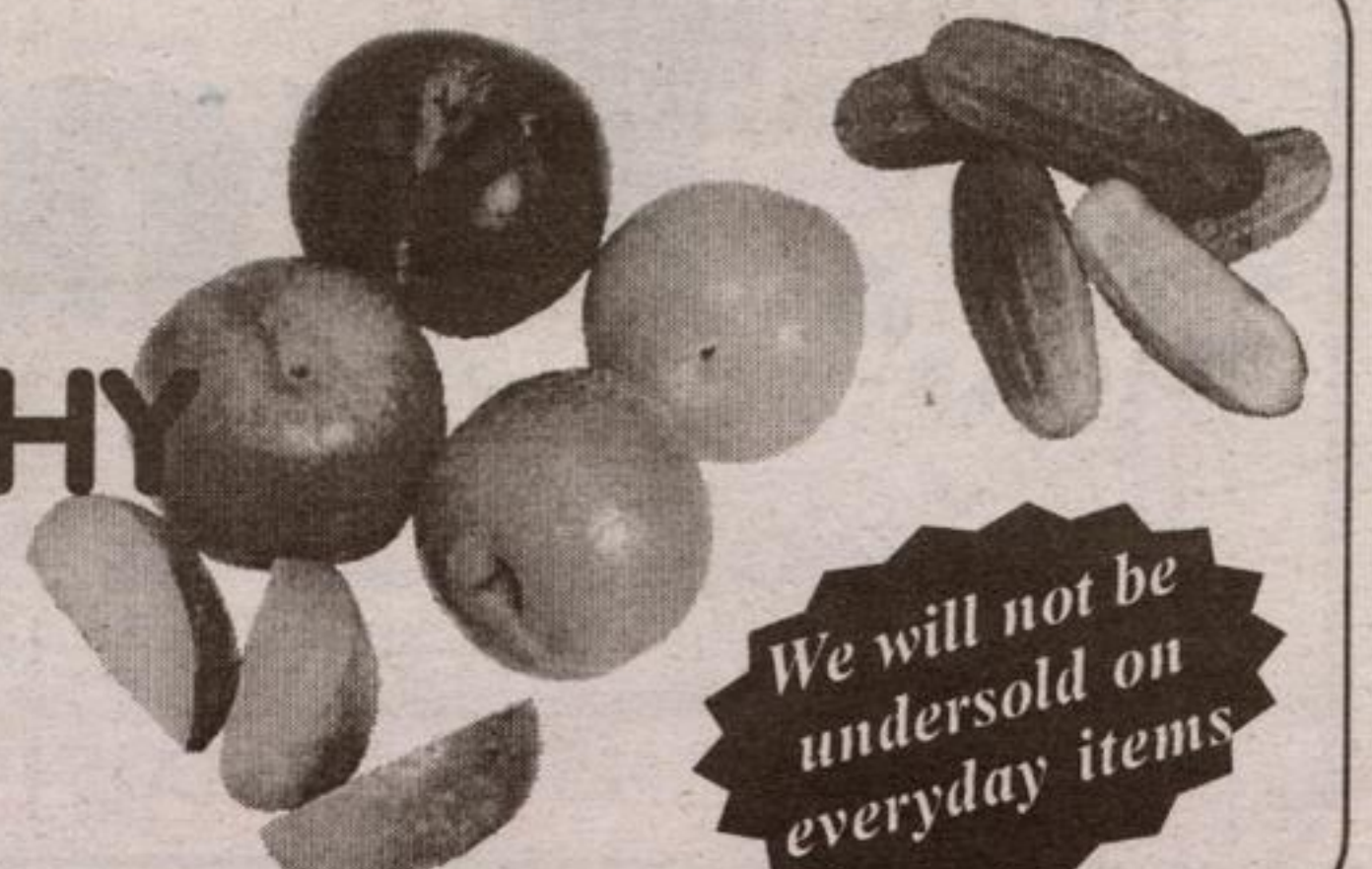
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