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News

Digest

**GST protest**

At the council meeting Monday night council supported a motion put forward by Councillor Rick Bonnette stating the town is opposed to proposed changes to the GST.

The changes will result in GST being charged on certain supplies to municipalities, including the sale of electricity, which were exempt in the past. The change could cost the town about \$15,000 more in annual utility costs.

Council also supported requesting a delay in implementation of the change until 1997. The resolution is to be forwarded to Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed, and to the federal Minister of Finance, Halton Region, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

**Henderson to be honored**

The residents of Acton will honor George Henderson as their Citizen of the Year at a special dinner this coming Friday evening (May 24) at the Acton Legion. For ticket information call Doug Fread at 853-0239.

**Signs installed**

A motion passed by council Monday night will result in No Stopping signs being installed as soon as possible on Pearl Court and Somerville Rd. in Acton. Councillor Gerald Rennie put forward the motion as a result of concerns raised by residents adjacent to Acton High School who say students are creating congestion on the streets with cars near the students' chosen smoking area. The stopping prohibition is to be effective Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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## Acton schools officially united

### New era begins for McKenzie-Smith Bennett

By JANET BAINE  
Staff writer

Two of Acton's public schools are officially united to become McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School.

An open house took place Tuesday night at the school to mark the official joining and about 800 people attended, said principal Chris Logan.

"We breathed a big sigh. Everything is done and the celebration is done," he said. Renovating while the students were in school presented some headaches, but no major problems and no injuries to staff or students.

McKenzie-Smith Public School was a Grade 6-8 school while M. Z. Bennett was a Kindergarten to Grade 5 school. The two schools stood side-by-side on Acton Blvd. and, after consulting with the community, a decision was made by the school board to join them.



Turning them into one school saved in administration costs, and there is a preference for JK to Grade 8 schools among educators.

The \$700,000 renovation began last August and was completed Feb. 6, Logan said. Included in the construction was an upgrade to the library, setting up a Junior Kindergarten classroom and a relocation of the creative applications room (for computers and other resources) and a new main office.

Since JK has been canceled because of funding cuts, the JK classroom will be turned into a self-contained primary junior life skills classroom for children with learning disabilities or those who are physically challenged.

"The JK class is ideal, because of the washroom facilities and there's lots of manipulative material which will be used," Logan said.

Trustees Ethel Gardiner and Tim Kingsbury as well as Paul Anthony, superintendent for the Halton Board said a few words during Tuesday's ceremony.

"It was a lovely evening. The school looked wonderful," Gardiner said after the event. "In some cases it could be difficult for two schools (to join) because they have



Students, families and staff each had a hand in making ceramic tiles which now hang in panels in the new hallway which is central to McKenzie-Smith Bennett School in Acton. From left are art teacher Barbara VanSickle and students Charlotte Tribble, Kyle Wrigglesworth and student council president Lindsay Almand.

been around for so long. But the people of Acton did it exceptionally well."

The open house included student tours of the renovation and new hallway linking the two parts of the school. The link was dedicated to the memory of Valerie deBraum, an instructional assistant who died suddenly in April. Co-workers decided to dedicate the link to deBraum after consulting with her husband and daughter. She had worked in both former schools.

"The school motto is "we care about

kids" and Val was probably the best personification of that motto I've ever seen," said Mary Robinson, a special education resource teacher.

The open house included performances by the concert band, Grade 5 choir and jazz band as well as a poetry recitation by Grade 1/2 classes and a medley of Canadian folk songs by Grade 3/4 classes.

A tree was planted by the parent group outside in memory of the children who died in Dunblane, Scotland earlier in the spring.

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