

Acton rallying against MSB sale....

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stops to talk about the issue and up on Churchill Road we're starting to get little save MSB signs appearing in windows. Every store you go into and everywhere you stop, it is the topic of conversation," Somerville said, adding that it is an uphill fight.

"Well, you know, our (school board) trustee voted for it. We didn't have a chance to be able to look at the issue ahead of time. The last time this came up nine years ago, our trustee (the late Ethel Gardiner) told us that it was coming

up and that she was opposed to it, giving (the decision) a chance to be changed," Somerville said.

Somerville also questioned an earlier comment from Acton trustee Garry Ockenden, who voted in favour of listing part of the MSB site as surplus, that there might be provincial cash for the Town to use to buy the land.

"I had our staff check and there isn't any money - whoever buys it might be able to give the Town cash instead of land for parkland, but there's no money to help buy it for the

Town," Somerville said.

On Tuesday, Ockenden said he was under the impression that there was some provincial money available, but added, "if there isn't, then there isn't" adding he would talk with Board staff to clarify the issue.

Ockenden said he's received approximately 100 e-mails - he is trying to answer every one - about the proposed MSB land sale, all of them in opposition to the plan.

"People are upset. It's an emotional situation and I'll just deal with it as it goes," Ockenden said.

When asked if the Board might reconsider it's decision Ockenden said, "To be honest I can't say, but the Board definitely has to listen to the community when they speak and I'm sure the community will be delegating the Board at some point in time."

The 15.4-acre MSB, site is larger than the average school site of between six and seven acres and the Ministry of Education has instructed school boards to sell off surplus property in order to be eligible for money for new schools. The

Halton Board has not determined yet how much of the MSB site might be severed and sold. The MSB site is one of eight properties that the Board deemed surplus at its January 7 meeting.

In an e-mail Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town is rallying against the proposed MSB sale, just like it did nine years ago when the issue galvanized the community.

"There is much going on in Acton as many people have stepped up to the plate to fight for this land. There is a rally on this Monday, car decals, signs in windows, Facebook and lots of other things happening. The community has come together just like it did nine years ago and there is more of them as our town has increased by 30 per cent since then," Bonnette wrote on Tuesday, adding a caution to anyone considering buying the MSB land.

"...There isn't any water allocation for this land and this Town council will not be in any hurry finding any services for this land. So, it is developer beware," Bonnette said.

The decision by Trustee Ockenden to list part of the MSB site as surplus may come to haunt him according to Melissa Secord, chair of the MSB school council.

"He will have to account his vote in the court of public opinion," she said, noting school council sub-committee has been struck to fight the Board's decision.



MSB NOT FOR SALE: 5 year old Sloane Boorman, a Kindergarten student at MSB displays the poster she made to help in the fight to save the land at MSB School. This photo was posted on Facebook in a group formed for members to join and help fight this decision. - Submitted photo.

BRANCH No. 197 **LEGION NEWS** By James Hayes P.R.O.

Comrades,

The Winter Horseshoe Tournament played last Saturday, under terrible conditions, was nevertheless enjoyed by all who took part.

The weather man was not kind and the players, and I, think webbed feet would have been an asset. I know the day will be talked about for years to come.

The winners were Anna Marie Lowin & Mark Newman. Runners up were Keith Andrews & Teresa Uiterwyk. Third place went to Amy Newman & Glen Wilkinson, and fourth to Colleen Tobin & Connie Bath.

The support the troops raffle on Saturday afternoon raised \$360 for the fund.

"THE NEWFIE BALL"

The Newfie Ball last Saturday night was a big success and an education to those who have never seen a Newfie shindig before. The support the troop fund was increased by a further \$700, thanks to the generous support of those in attendance.

Membership: Chairman George O'Donnell has arranged an Initiation Night for Friday, Feb. 27. Members for Initiation will be advised.

Sports: Zone Euchre. There will be a play-off at the Branch on Saturday, Feb. 28 for teams wishing to go to Zone Euchre on March 21.

Yours in comradeship,
Jim Hayes, Branch P.R.O.

Ladies Auxiliary News

Our February meeting was well attended. Thanks ladies for braving the cold night.

Two new members were accepted in our Auxiliary. Initiation will take place at our March 5 meeting.

Appreciation Night is Saturday, March 21. Please let Sue Poulsen know if you are attending.

Saturday, March 7 Zone Euchre is held in Acton. Anyone interested in playing contact our Sports Officer, Marg Bromby.

Yours in Comradeship
L.A. President
Annamarie Lowin

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