

Town pulls no punches over school board handling of MSB land sale

By Frances Niblock

On the advice of its lawyer during a closed door discussion, Town Council did not detail its plan to try to counter a Halton District School Board decision to sell 2.56-acres of land at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School.

Clearly frustrated, angry

and disheartened by last week's Board decision, several councillors voiced their concerns in no uncertain terms at Monday's council meeting, including Acton Councillor Jon Hurst who was uncharacteristically blunt when he accused Board staff of being "less than forthright" with trustees who

were "unsupportive" and ignored promises made to Acton that linking the two schools to form MSB would not adversely impact the community.

Hurst said trustees appeared to make their decisions with no respect or fairness for others, only being interested in their own ward and schools.

"It is disappointing that our Ward 3 and 4 trustee (Gillian Tuck-Kutarna) would choose to vote for Georgetown over Acton, rather than voting for Georgetown and Acton," Hurst said, adding that the 5,000-name petition against the sale "might as well have been written on toilet paper."

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary said he felt "betrayed" by the school board that had an obligation to honour the good faith promise it made nine years ago not to sell the MSB land but didn't even consider it.

Quoting Winston Churchill, O'Leary said it was not the end, or even the beginning of the end, but the end of the beginning.

"Because we are not going to let this go."

Mayor Rick Bonnette, who said the councillors had to get their comments off their chests, said the Board "shunned 10,000 people" of Acton with its decision, noting that the money from the sale of MSB land will be just a "drop in the bucket" to the Board that is facing a \$17-million capital shortfall.

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Admission Fees

Youth	\$ 2.00
Adult	\$ 3.00
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* A maximum of 4 persons and must include one adult 18 years of age or over. Regular admission fees apply to any additional persons.



Monday

7:00-8:00 am	Lane
7:30-8:30 pm	Leisure/Lane

Friday

7:00-8:00 am	Lane
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Tuesday

9:00-10:00am	Lane
9:00-10:00pm	Lane NEW!

Saturday

8:00-9:00 am	Lane
2:00-3:30 pm	Leisure

Wednesday

7:00-8:00 am	Lane
7:30-8:30 pm	Leisure/Lane

Sunday

2:00-3:30 pm	Leisure/Lane
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Thursday

9:00-10:00 am	Lane
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have fun
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Recreational Swimming Passes

Monthly	Yearly
Youth \$ 16.93	\$ 102.06
Adult \$ 32.38	\$ 194.30
Family* \$ 52.74	\$ 316.23

* Siblings of the same immediate family and their parents/guardians (max. 2 adults)

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Geothermal system may heat and cool new library in Acton

Bore hole test results expected tomorrow (Friday) will determine if the earth 500-feet below the proposed parking lot of the new Acton library is suitable for a geothermal heating and cooling system for the \$2.3-million 9,000-square-foot facility.

Jane Diamanti, Director of Library Services, said a geothermal system could cost between \$220,000 and \$250,000 and would pay for itself in 25 years.

She said they are currently looking at financing options – including a Green Municipal fund grant/loan to pay for the system – and prepare a report for Town Council once the feasibility tests results are known.

"All of the materials in the library and going to be environmentally-friendly and a geothermal system would promote green technology and help get off the grid and demonstrate conservation measures in a large building," Diamanti said on Monday.

She said they will also do bore hole testing at the Georgetown library expansion site to determine if they could "pull heat from the ground" to heat and cool that facility during renovation/expansion work.

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