

Town offers to buy MSB land

'It's a fair offer' - Mayor

By Frances Niblock

The Town will back up its fervent desire to save parkland at the McKenzie-Smith Bennett School site by making an offer to buy a portion of the property that the Halton District School Board declared surplus and offered for sale.

Although the Board

voted to sell 2.5-acres of the school site, the Town's offer is for 6.2-acres to ensure the issue is settled, once and for all.

In a closed door meeting on Monday, Town Council voted to make a formal offer to the board of education for the property that it needs to sell to be eligible for provincial money for new schools.

"I can't say what we're offering at this stage of the game," Mayor Rick Bonnette said on Tuesday, adding it would be a "fair offer."

Earlier, when it was suggested by school board officials that the Town should purchase the property if it wanted it, local politicians pointed out that the Town of Acton already bought the land more than 50 years ago.

When asked about the change in approach, Bonnette said, "What choice do we have?"

"The Mister (of Education) didn't want to intervene. I guess we have to save the school board from themselves. What would we do if we lost those three soccer fields and (the) ball diamond and there's no place to find them in town," Bonnette said, adding despite their "anger and frustra-

tion" their backs are to the wall and they will make an offer, so someone else does not.

Bonnette said the decision to make an offer is just the beginning of the process.

Melissa Secord, chair of the MSB parent council, applauded Town councilors' difficult decision, saying it is great that the Town stepped in.

"I know that it's a difficult issue because the

town bought the land before and questions why it has to buy it again, but 5,000 names on an Acton petition show that people want to save that land for recreation," Secord said on Tuesday.

"I guess the Town decided if someone was going to save the land it was going to be them and we urge the trustees to work with the Town and approve the sale," Secord said.

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Grandfather inspires fundraising for Heart and Stroke Foundation

By Frances Niblock

Inspired by a grandfather with heart disease, Acton's Becca Maset is a very successful fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

The 11-year-old Grade six student's latest event was a bake sale at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School last week, which raised approximately \$265. With another bake sale at her mom's workplace and with donations made on her website, Maset hopes to raise \$500 for heart attack and stroke research.

"When my Papa was sick in hospital with pulmonary edema, I asked my step-dad what I could do to help and decided that I could raise money for research," she said last Thursday, adding she's a registered fundraiser with the Heart and Stroke Foundation with a campaign called "It Inspired Me."

"We had fun with the bake sale - my friends came over and helped me bake, and my Gramma came over so I got to spend time with her. It makes me feel good when people donate and it makes me happy to be helping," Maset said, adding her grandfather is very proud.

"He said - he was in the hospital (when) I told him and he said 'Becca, you're going to make me cry,' but he was over the other day and he's a lot better now."

Maset's website is http://heartmonth.heartandstroke.ca/site/c.jhLOKYPDKqF/b.5205025/k.8730/Canvass_onlin



HEART & STROKE FUNDRAISER: Becca Maset, a Grade six student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School held a very successful bake sale last week, one of many fundraisers Becca has staged for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, in honour of her grandfather who has heart disease. - Submitted photo

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