

# How much is MSB land worth?

By Frances Niblock

Now that there is a willing buyer and a willing seller, the big question is what is the value of surplus land at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School.

Apparently preliminary talks between the Halton District School Board and Town of Halton Hills have occurred at a staff level, but formal negotiations have not begun.

On Friday, Town CAO Dennis Perlin said he had not heard from Wayne Joudrie "formally or informally" but hasn't "bugged" the Board's Director of Education as trustees only voted days earlier to open negotiations with the Town for the land.

Acton Trustee Gerry Ockenden said he believes both sides have appraisals

for the land, and although initially the Board offered only 2.5-acres for sale – a thin strip along Churchill Road – trustees accepted his motion to begin negotiations on the Town's request for 6.2-acres.

"I just hope that it works

**"I just hope that it works out in the end," Ockenden**

out in the end," Ockenden said.

"Once I realized that the land was going to be sold, my major concern was to try to minimize the amount of acreage that was going to be lost. Now that the Town is showing interest in making it into an actual park area, I'm pretty happy about

that too, to be honest with you," he said.

On Monday, Wayne Joudrie, the Board's Director of Education said they are investigating whether both sides can agree to a third party to help reach a deal, or if they are close enough to a deal that negotiations could begin.

"The good news is, thanks to (Trustee) Gerry Ockenden's motion, the Board has freed us up to negotiate for more than 2.5 acres, up to the 6.2-acres, pending that we have enough space to do the work we need to on the school property, from the school perspective," Joudrie said, adding the Provincial regulations governing the sale of surplus land allows for a 30-day negotiating period.

## Drivers still distracted

The Halton Regional Police Service continues to find people disobeying the new Distracted Driver Legislation. Halton officers have been diligent since February 1 looking for drivers talking on their cell phones even though the law prohibits it. In total for the Region of Halton, police have laid 245 charges since the grace period for operating a wire-less communication device or any hand-held electronic entertainment device ended on January 31.

In Burlington, an officer observed a female driver talking on her phone while she was driving. As she approached an intersection the light turned red but the driver never touched her brakes as she went through the intersection on the red light, narrowly missing a west-bound vehicle.

"Its scenario's like these that create recipes for disaster, said Sergeant Brian Carr."

Under the Distracted Driver Legislation, the

fine for the offence is \$125. There is also a surcharge of \$25, making the total fine \$150. Upon conviction, drivers will also lose three demerit points.

Remember to eliminate all driving distractions that includes cell phones, eating, drinking, changing a CD, fiddling with radio dials, talking to a passenger, experiencing emotional distress, minding children, personal grooming, looking at billboards or even other vehicles on the road.



## SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS

Many of the students at Acton Jiu-Jitsu were on hand to show off their skills to the visitors and family that joined them Saturday morning as the club celebrated 10 years of business at its Mill street location.

– Nancy McLelland photo



## ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

BY JULIE CONROY

I must start off with an apology. Missing from the Acton Seniors Centre's 2010 board members picture in last weeks Tanner was Bev Jones. Sorry Bev, that will teach you to go on holiday.

All members who celebrate their birthdays during February and March should expect a phone call shortly inviting them to the Birthday tea on Tuesday, March 16 at 2 p.m.

Have you got your ticket for the St. Patrick's dinner on Wednesday, March 17? Juke Box will be providing the entertainment, and anyone who heard them before, knows how great they are. Tanners Restaurant will be creating a truly Irish dish. Beef Stew simmered in Guinness. And of course, there will be delicious desserts, fresh fruits, and lots of door prizes.

I know this is a long way off, but we are planning another joint dance with the Georgetown Seniors Centre. It was such a success last time we felt we should hold another. It will be on Friday, June 4 during Seniors Month. If anyone would like to be on the committee give me a call. We have booked the Acton Legion and the same disc jockey as last time. Everyone enjoyed the variety of music

he played and it wasn't too loud, so you could either dance, enjoy listening to the music, or even talk.

The fund raising committee was busy planning the upcoming Spring Bazaar last week. They are hoping that lots of people use their various baking talents and bring in lots of baking. We always sell out really early, and it would be great if we could have the tables filled to overflowing like several years ago. Donna Rowley has offered to store baking in her freezer if you would like to contribute, but might not be able to on the day. Bev and Donna said they were even willing to pick it up if necessary. I know it seems like a long way off, but time flies.

We will have a Granny's Attic and a paper back book table again this year, so if you are spring cleaning, or down sizing please keep us in mind. The only problem is we have absolutely no storage space, so items would have to be kept until the first week in May. The Bazaar is on Saturday, May 8.

There is still room for a couple more people for the Dinner Theatre at the Mohawk Race track on Saturday, May 1. (This is a new venture for Mohawk and is

before the track opens for the season) The price includes the show, dinner, gratuities and the bus.

We are also going to Mohawk for the races on Monday, June 21. You can enjoy the races, a great buffet dinner, and take a little flutter on a horse that takes your fancy. Some people prefer to try their luck on the slots after dinner. Both sign up sheets are hanging in front of the front desk.

If you would prefer to enjoy some Barbershop entertainment, we have seats reserved at the River Run in Guelph for Friday, March 26 when you can enjoy the Royal City Ambassadors. Betty and I are arranging this one together.

All three trips will be using a Tyler school bus.

At Thursday afternoons Bid Euchre, Betty Brewer had the first mooner followed shortly after by Elma Braida.

Friday lunches seem to be running fairly smoothly. They have had to limit the amount of lunches they can serve to 40, so if you are interested, get your name on the list early. You don't have to come to the centre to get your name on the list, you can phone 519-853-5951 and ask the person at the front desk to add your name to the list.

It was a beautiful cold sunny morning last Friday and 12 members of the Hiking club were excited about their planned walk along part of the Guelph Radial railway trail. They headed to the Town Line and walked on the well marked trail west towards Guelph. I understand there is a high hill there and the view is incredible.

The 50/50 was not won this week, which is the first time for several weeks. The money next week should be around \$150.

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