

School property policies studied by Town

The pending sale of surplus land at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School to the Town prompted Halton Hills Council to initiate a study to review the role of school sites in the community, and to determine if existing land use designations for school sites are appropriate.

In an update on that study, Meridian Planning Consultant Nick McDonald briefed councillors on the first two phases of a five phase study at a recent meeting – phases that reviewed background information, identified issues and offered several options for policy or regulatory issues regarding schools in town.

McDonald said the intent of the study is to determine what land use

policies and regulatory framework should be adopted for lands where there are existing schools, to determine how best to deal with lands identified as potential school sites and to determine what kind of land use planning process should be adopted if the whole or part of a school site is to be declared surplus.

The report presents five land use options for discussion, with varying levels of flexibility that the school board or purchaser of a school property has with respect to alternative land uses on a school site. The most restrictive land use would only allow school or permitted uses while the least restrictive would allow a range of residential uses, with con-

ditions that could include design, layout, density, height and configuration.

During questioning, several councillors expressed frustration that when a school sells a surplus property it must be offered at fair market value, regardless of how much the site cost to begin with. McDonald said it would take legislative changes to allow for flexibility.

Ward two Councillor Bryan Lewis, noting that the consultant suggests the Town hold a public meeting on the options this fall, said he had a tough time understanding how the public would have any interest, how they would get “warm and fuzzy” about the issue.

McDonald said Coun-

cil’s challenge is to make an informed policy decision that benefits the community and not focus on one school site.

“Because then we would lose the whole context of what we are trying to accomplish and then you’d get a lot of people out...I don’t think you’d be able to get to a point of making a decision on how to establish principles and criteria for how to deal with schools throughout the Town,” McDonald said, adding once they establish principles and criteria, then they can deal with site by site issues.

No date has been set for a public meeting in September to get comments and questions on the school site land use planning study.



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BY JULIE CONROY

I hope everyone enjoyed celebrating Canada Day. As usual the fireworks were spectacular. The firemen put on the usual excellent show and this year the weather cooperated. We are lucky that people who live in Acton are always willing to support a worth while occasion.

Last Tuesday was the first Tuesday afternoon Movie Matinee at the Centre. I understand that next Tuesday it will be the excellent *Julie and Julie*, featuring Meryl Streep.

Check the bulletin board for up coming movies. I will try and list them each week.

What a great way to meet friends, and enjoy a cool drink or a cup of coffee, while watching the movie.

If you are considering becoming a member please drop in the Centre and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat to the person on the desk. Membership is usually \$20 per a year, starting on December 31. Memberships are always renewed in December. If you should wish to join over the summer or fall we have a monthly pro rated fee which is for the remaining months and \$20 for the following year. July and August, there is no charge.

The card players will still be meeting every Thursday, and Fridays is always busy between the shuffle board, lunch and bingo. If you wish to join us for lunch you must be a member and add your name to the list by Wednesdays. (A phone call will do it) It's nice to have someone else prepare lunch on a hot day.

Maria tells me there was one lady joined the art group last Wednesday afternoon. Maria is not giving her usual instructed classes but they are helping one another with ideas, and encouragement.

The Fundraising committee and the LTF have a triple draw running at the moment. The winners have the choice of either a black and white pencil drawing by Fern Jory, a needlepoint picture by Renate Staufenberger or a knitted Afghan by Joyce Marrows. The winning numbers will be drawn at the September Social Dinner.

Marg Bromby, Frances Hogenbirk and I enjoyed playing in the OCAO Golden Horseshoe tournament at Oak Gables just outside Ancaster last week. We met some very nice people; many were from the Ancaster Seniors Centre which has 1,300 members.

There was a full bus for Rama last week and Ruth tells me the 50/50 was won by Vi Krispen. The winner of the birthday prize was Tony Callacci, and in the lucky seats were Mary Van der Sanden, Edith Mc Eachern, Jean Pratin, Dorothy Yelland and Beryl Clegg.

The sign up sheet is now up for the September 27 trip to Mohawk. I had not that realized that during the Spring and Summer months the menu is slightly different and they feature chicken and ribs rather than the peel and eat shrimps at the salad bar and roast beef, but I am assured they are both on the September menu.

The weekly Friday 50/50 was not won this week.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."
St. John 4:23 KJV

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