



WHAT DO YOU SEE: At his office on Thursday morning, Acton optometrist Dr. John Pond tested Olivia Burden (4), an MSB student. In an effort to detect sight problems at an early age, Halton's Junior Kindergarten students are being offered free eye examinations and prescription glasses. Parents can book an appointment with their local eye doctor.
 — Denise Paulsen photo

Youth survey
 Halton youth are getting fatter. Obesity rates are

Town Digest

on the rise and it's a complex problem which requires a lot of "intensive resources" to reverse, according to Halton's Medical Officer of Health. The Halton Youth Survey found that youths are less physically active than four years ago, a finding that Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville blamed on computer video games.

The survey also found that alcohol use, including binge drinking, has decreased since 2006, and while the number of students who have tried smoking is down, the number of current smokers is stable at 13 per cent of Grade 10 students.

One Oakville councillor said the survey finding that one-quarter of Grade 10 students smoke pot an "absolutely scary" statistic.

Development extension

Despite 16 years of planning approval extensions, the owners of two properties in Henderson's Corners, at Trafalgar Road and 22 Side Road in Limehouse,

will have another six months to complete development applications

with the Town.

Council approved another extension to the September 30th draft approval deadline in the Henderson's Corners rural cluster for the Bosnjak and Pension properties, on the east side of Trafalgar Road, north of 22 Side Road. The Pension development consists of eight residential lots, one commercial lot and a proposed road. The Bosnjak development also includes eight residential lots, a storm water management block, a block held by the owner and a proposed road.

While the properties have a history of draft approval extensions, Planning Director Bruce MacLean said they will "keep the developers' nose to the grindstone" so they can reach subdivision agreement.

Regional/Ward two Councillor Jane Fogal, who noted traffic in the area is "very dangerous" asked staff to look at traffic safety after hearing there are no plans for a turning lane into the developments.

Town cuts needed to pay for MSB land

The sale of five surplus acres at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School to the Town was all dollars and cents for trustees and staff at the Halton District School Board, but it left local politicians "livid".

"School boards only have one option to generate funds, and that's through the sale of surplus lands," Steven Parfeniuk, the Board's Superintendent of Business said in a press release on Friday, adding the Board's capital spending plan must identify accommodation needs and funding sources.

David Euale, the Board's new Director of Education, said the deal preserves land for community use and meets requirement to be fiscally prudent.

"How is this a good deal?" asked Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette

on Tuesday, suggesting Town programs and services may be cut to come up with the \$1.3-million purchase price.

"The 5,000 Acton people who signed a petition to the Board not to sell the land were ignored by the bureaucrats, and later the trustees," Bonnette said.

In defence of the sale, the Board said that at 15-acres, MSB is the largest elementary school site in Halton. The land ratio for elementary schools is one acre per 100 students, and there are approximately 680 students in JK to Grade 8 at MSB.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers 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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