

BONTER, Bill



Bill Bonter (left) gets a "turkey" from Chris Lockyer during the roast.

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Bonter gets a 'roasting' -- all for a great cause

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By CHRIS MALETTE
Staff Reporter

AMELIASBURGH — The Bonter name has long been well-associated with this township.

Saturday night, the Bonter name was mud.

At \$30 a plate, more than 75 township residents, politicians and former township officials took part in roasting Reeve Bill Bonter.

But, it was all in fun and it was all for a worthy cause. The coffers of the township's Roblin Lake Park fund was enhanced by the admission fees and it was almost pure profit for the evening, as food and other items were donated by township residents and employees of Ameliasburgh.

But, a red-faced Bonter had to endure some sly verbal slaps in the name of raising money for

the cause.

County councillor and Deputy Reeve of Hallowell Township Chris Lockyer presented Bonter with a somewhat malnourished 'turkey' he said was purchased from the county's "road budget."

"Looks more like road kill," cracked MC-MP for Prince Edward-Hastings, Lyle Vanclief.

Long-time family friend and Tory booster Arley Kerwin called him "little Billy Bonter" and said he could be "a little sneaky."

Eban James noted that the event, held in the community hall built in 1874, was in fancier surroundings than when township founders used it.

"I looked at the renovation budget for this place," said James. "You've gone crazy."

Other roasters included township councillor and chairman of the township recreation committee Roy Pennell, former Reeve Dan Brady — armed with reams of one-liners — and deputy clerk Gail Frost.

Frost let the cat out of the bag that Bonter recently "began home renovations without a building permit." Township officials made the reeve toe the line, quickly, she noted.

Bonter gave as good as he got, however, including returning zingers from wife, Diane.

He even took aim at the venerable Bonter name, noting he doubts the Bonters had roots to the United Empire Loyalists.

"More like opportunists looking for free land," he laughed, referring to Bonters who settled here in the early 1800s.