

Decision '82

Town hall issue with AHS students

The fate of the town hall was the burning issue Monday morning when Acton High School students, some of whom can vote, met with eight of the candidates for the Halton Hills council posts of mayor, regional councillor and area councillor.

Rick Bonnette, Ross Knechtel, Esther Taylor, Vince Whelan, Dave Whiting, Ed Wood, Glen McKenzie and Peter Pomeroy attended the meeting. Bruce Cargill and Dennis Devine were absent.

All of the candidates gave three minute addresses followed by the question period. The students seemed genuinely interested in grilling the politicians, as well as asking why only Canadian citizens or British subjects can vote and why you have to be 18 years of age to cast a ballot.

The politicians, as well as the teachers, encouraged the students to urge their parents to get out and vote next Monday and talk about what they heard the candidates say at home. Several candidates observed it was one of the more lively all-candidates meetings they've attended.

Rick Bonnette

Bonnette observed there have been many changes for the good since Halton Hills was born, but some situations, like the police station not even being open on weekends, have become worse. He said he was "shocked" to see a merchant (First Line TV) spend over \$2,000 for a barricade for the front of his store and thought this wouldn't help much in the effort to bring tourists here.

The rookie candidate said he couldn't make specific promises to help the local business scene, but noting there are lay-offs, shortened work weeks and three more businesses closed just recently, Bonnette said there must be something council can do to help. He said he wants to ask local business and industry what they think should be done, feeling they've been "kicked in the face" previously.

Bonnette said the town hall restoration shouldn't be supported by tax dollars, but the groups working to save it should be allowed to try. He was concerned about it coming back into municipal hands after it is restored because then taxes would have to be used to maintain it. Once restored the building should remain in the hands of the community groups.

Ross Knechtel

Councillors and staff are the agents of the public and it's their job to purchase services like road repairs and garbage collection in the best time for the best price for the residents, Knechtel explained.

A councillor must be able to "play poker" with the councillors from Esqueping and Georgetown to obtain support for things Acton wants and needs. Doing your homework helps a councillor play the game of give and take with other areas.

Knechtel urged voters beware of promises unless they are told how they'll be accomplished and the price.

Knechtel said the last proposal to council on the town hall involved the municipality donating only the \$40,000 set aside to demolish the hall to the restoration fund, not a quarter million dollars in tax money going to restoration. He said the restored town hall could be municipal offices and save money now spent on renting space at the Y.

Eather Taylor

Taylor told the students she was one of the first people in Acton who was opposed to re-

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No, your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. That's Gary Barghoff, star of the movie MASH and for many years a member of the cast of the hit show with our own Lisa McGrath. They became friends

at the last Sportsman Show. Radar and his fiancée Katherine worked close to Lisa who was Miss Acton doors. There's a feature on the former Miss Acton on page C1.

Cemetery vandalism

Youth charged with mischief

A 17-year-old RR 2 Acton youth has been charged with mischief in connection with recent vandalism at Fairview Cemetery.

Halton Regional Police allege Jamie Allen was responsible for an estimated \$1,000 damage in the cemetery when 42 headstones were knocked over October 12 and 13.

He will appear in court on Monday, November 15.

The Acton Free Press

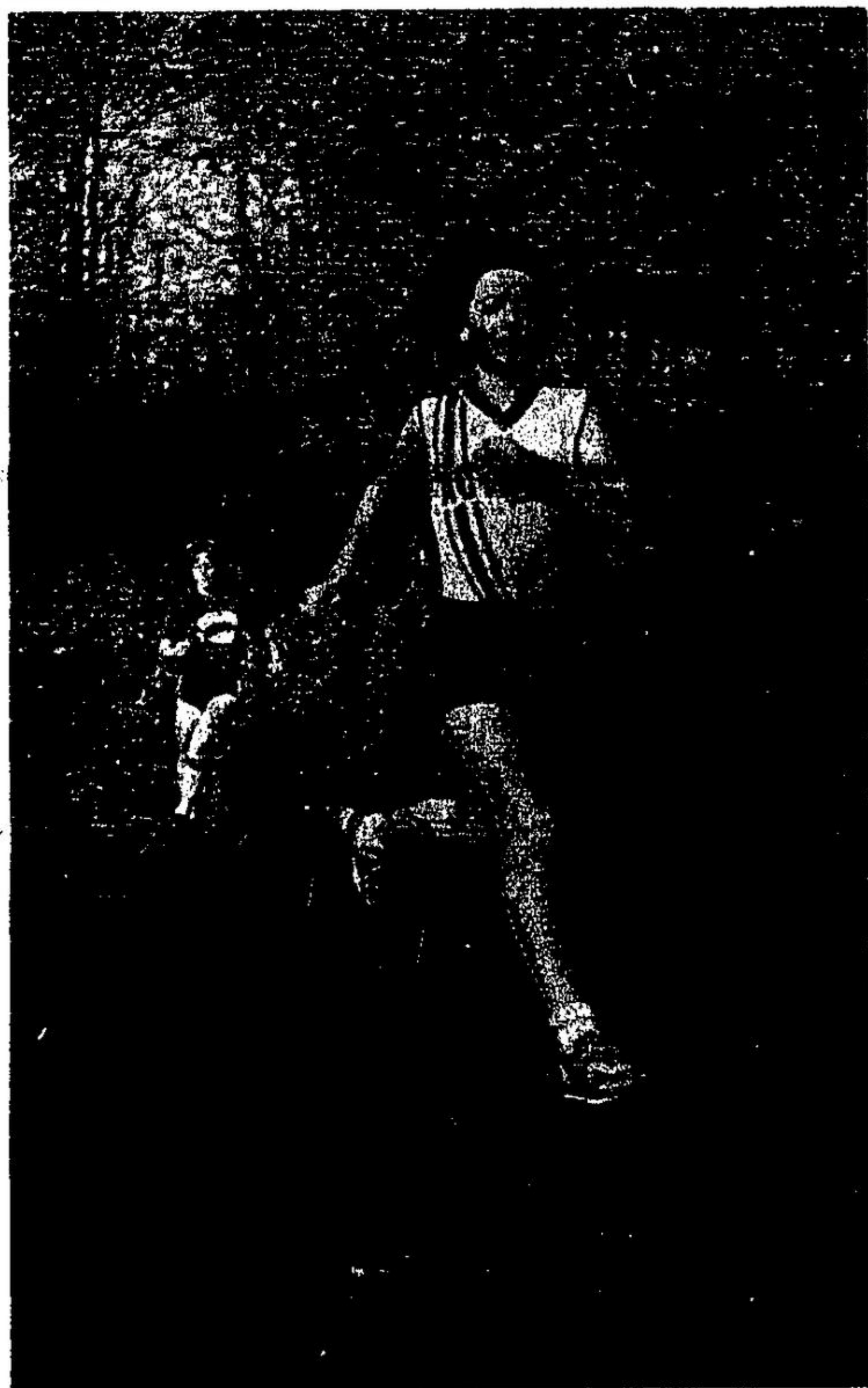


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Doreen Ursack of Acton High School took the junior girls' title in cross-country at the Peel-Halton. This Saturday she goes to the Ontario Championship at Earl Bales Park in Toronto. See story on page B1.

Aggregate Foundation's view supports tough Town stance

Halton Hills has received some additional support and possibly ammunition for the fight against the proposed aggregate land freeze of 14,000 acres.

Monday night a report from the Toronto based Foundation for Aggregate Studies, as well as comments from the Township of North Dumfries (near Cambridge), were referred to the planner for inclusion in a report due for the November 22 meeting of council.

Last week passage of a number of recommendations and comments to be sent to Queen's Park and the region suggested by Councillor Pam Sheldon was delayed pending the planner's report which should add weight to the Town's tough stance. There seems no question though, that Sheldon's recommendations and comments will be endorsed since there was considerable support at council.

The Foundation for Aggregate Studies takes a tough stand against the province on the subject of the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) "series of reports and mappings requiring the appropriation of one-half million acres of Central Ontario land for gravel mining, in direct contravention of current cabinet policy permitting municipalities to plan for land use."

Commenting on the report, retiring Esqueping councillor George Maltby said it shows Halton Hills isn't the only area "getting the shaft" and there is considerable concern about the province's actions.

While he won't be around for the "fight", Maltby urged the new council "take up the cause" and make sure "justice" prevails.

He said he didn't feel it was appropriate for Halt to leave the battle against Queen's Park in the region's hand noting while there will be strong representation from north Halton in the delegation taking Halton's stand to the province, it will be "watered down" by representation from south Halton. He said he was challenging the next council to make sure Halton Hills views are heard.

The Foundation for Aggregate Studies report states the Mineral Aggregate Policy for Official Plans contained in provincial reports and maps showing deposits has not received cabinet approval, does not conform to normal provincial planning mechanisms and isn't endorsed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as required under the proposed new Planning Act.

The report says up to 50 per cent of some areas, including Halton Hills, "are being requisitioned for future gravel mining. The policy negates any type of future residential, commercial or industrial development."

"What it means is that if you wanted to build a home on a 50 acre lot in these designated lands, it would not be permitted," Foundation chairman John Alexander said.

"Critics object that the MNR's estimated 30 per cent increase in gravel demand is grossly exaggerated. Alexander maintains "that there is no conceivable way the Province could use that much gravel in the next 18 years". He points out that the reports provide conclusive evidence that Ontario already has more than enough gravel in existing licenced pits to last well into the next century, even if the forecasts are accurate.

"The Ministry claims that aggregate (gravel) supplies are scarce, and that it is uneconomical to supply the market from a distance of over 50 miles. Yet the \$250,000 study on which these conclusions were based was later criticized as being "based on unrealistic and extreme assumptions" (Continued on page 6)



New Rev. Jean Stairs was joined by her parents, Karl and Madyline, Rev. Nancy Collett, Rev. Gerry Harrop and Rev. William Wood for the ordination service at Acton Baptist Church Sunday night. Story and a photo on page B4.

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An Acton woman is making her mark playing the flute for the Georgetown Choral Society. Story and photo on page C1.

The site plan for the new Salvation Army Citadel has been approved and the sod turning for the church costing approximately \$200,000 will take place this Saturday. See stories page 2 and C1A.

Jane Trucman and Paul Gorjup are the Acton High School commencement valedictorians. See story, including list of grads, on page 2.

District news is on page B3.

Hallowe'en vandalism was down both here in Acton and in the rural area. See stories on page 3.

The new Kingham sewers moved a step closer to becoming a reality. More on page 4.

We've a history of the credit union in Acton along with two photos from the Halton Community Credit Union 25th anniversary celebrations on page 7.

Voter turnout at the advance polls is way up. Is it a hint of things to come this Monday? Details on page 9.

Look for Friday's election special RR2



Remember war dead Sunday

Acton, Nassagaweya and Rockwood will remember its war dead at services at the three cenotaphs this Sunday put on by the Acton Legion, Branch 197.

The main service will take place in Acton starting at 10.30 a.m. when the annual Remembrance Day parade will leave the post office and march to the cenotaph. Parade Marshall is Alex Richards and the parade will be led by the Acton Citizens' Band.

The Honor Guard at the cenotaph will be provided by "C" Company of the Lorne Scots, Remembrance Day organizer Ed Footitt said.

Legion President Jim Higgins will read the Legion Charge while John Goy Sr. will read the names of the Actonians who fell in World War I and II. The Last Post and Reveille will be played by George Elliott. All will sing the hymn Abide With Me and Andrew King of Trinity United Church will deliver the Benediction.

The following organizations, Footitt said, will place wreaths at the cenotaph: Halton Hills Branch 197, Ladies' Auxiliary of Branch 197, Duke of Devonshire Chapter I.O.D.E. Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E., Rotary Club, Lions Club, Halton Regional Police, Acton Curling Club, Local P479 C.P.W.A., Local 683 W.R.W., Local 7515 U.S.E.,



Local 683 U.C.L.G.W., Optimist Club, Acton Agricultural Society, Citizens' Band, Acton Firefighters' Association, L.C.B.O., Acton Minor Soccer, Y's Men's Club, the Guides, Red Cross, McKenzie-Smith students, Lorne Scots, Boy Scout, Boys' Brigade, and Second Acton Scout Group. At the Nassagaweya service later in the day Brookville School students, the Town of Milton and Branch 197 will place wreaths at the cenotaph and at the Rockwood service Branch 197, Rockwood

Lions Club and Eramosa Township will lay wreaths.

Following the morning service at the Acton cenotaph the parade will move into Trinity United Church. After church there will be a dinner at the Acton Legion.

On Thursday, November 11, there will be a flag lowering and raising ceremony at the cenotaph at 11 a.m. to mark Remembrance Day.

The annual Poppy Week drive got underway on Monday and Friday Legion members will be going door-to-door in Acton selling poppies.

By wearing a poppy citizens not only remember and honor the war dead but help fund services for ex-servicemen and their dependents. Services include food and shelter, medical attention in emergencies and burials for children and grandchildren of servicemen. Poppy funds are also used for such things as low-rental housing and care facilities for the elderly and disabled, medical equipment for community use and medical research, day care centres, meals on wheels programs, transportation and other services for veterans and their families and donations in times of disaster. Many people who are helped by the poppy fund have nothing to do with the Legion and not everyone deserving of help receives government pensions and pensions don't help ex-servicemen and their families in times of emergency.