

# Hecklers mar all-candidates meeting

By STUART JOHNSTON  
Although a lively crowd attended the Chamber of Commerce's second all-candidates meeting in Georgetown Wednesday night, it seemed much of their energies were spent heckling one another, and not the Wards 3 and 4 hopefuls.

It was a calm evening overall, but a few of the people who ventured forth to ask questions of the candidates were impatiently shouted down when their queries were either too long or too vague.

Despite the odd interruption, however, the dozen candidates vying for Regional and local seats in Wards 3 and 4 were politely received by the 300-plus audience.

## WARD 3

Regional candidates Bill Hyde and Pam Johnston began the evening, followed by local hopefuls Anne Currie, Grant Emmerson, Tom Politi and Gail Rutherford.

Each were put on the hot seat a few times by their questioners, over queries such as their positions on downtown development, the condominium proposal on Maple Ave. and a new arena for Acton.

After first confirming that no conflict of interest would exist for them as councillors through business, employment or investments in town, Whaley's Corners resident Jan Ferguson asked the candidates if they believed the Chamber's meetings were fair and unbiased.

All six replied that they have been carried out fairly, although Hyde, Rutherford and Politi noted that a three minute speech is not long enough to speak their minds. Emmerson, on the other hand, quipped "I find three minutes is too long."

Acton's Gord Chapman pressed for a firm commitment from each of the candidates that a new arena for Acton will be built in 1993, as it is presently scheduled.

But, only Emmerson would commit to the new building, while the other candidates stated it will be built only if enough funds are available.

Resident Paul Carter wanted to know their future vision of Georgetown's downtown core, and at what cost to the taxpayer.

Currie noted much of the initiatives for the area should be encouraged by the Business Improvement Area (BIA), adding the BIA pays its own way through a special levy.

Rutherford commented that she wants the downtown area to "return to its heyday," noting development will have to "play a role."

Politi believed the downtown merchants must lower their prices in order to be more competitive, while Emmerson said the revitalization is going to take "the effort of everybody."

RAIDD's (Residents Active in Development Decisions) president Ken Thorn demanded to know if the candidates will support developer Frank Zupet's proposal

to build two, 15-storey condos on Maple Ave.

All but Johnston flatly stated they would reject the application, who noted she will make her decision at council, "when all of the

facts and information are before me." Politi and Currie added they would consider luxury townhomes or other buildings of that nature, as long as it will blend in with the existing neighborhood.

## WARD 4

Regional challengers Al Pilutti and Linda Walton began Ward 4's segment of the evening, followed by incumbent Marilyn Serjeantson, local candidates Peter Norton, Ron Chatten and incumbent Al Cook.

Individual contributions to the community, qualifications for the job, development, proposals for the ward and their commitment to the Acton arena were the main questions fired at the candidates.

Rural resident Kent McClure queried the candidates on the one thing of significance that they have done for the community, politically or otherwise.

Chatten and Walton noted their volunteering efforts are of significance — Chatten through various organizations in town, and Walton recently teaching visiting Japanese students.

SEE WARD 4, page 19

## Heavy advance poll turn-out

Almost as many voters turned out to the two advance polls held this past week than the three polls held in the 1988.

Wednesday's poll witnessed a steady stream of people registering their votes at the Civic Centre in Georgetown and Acton's Community Centre. In

Georgetown, 210 people cast their ballots for municipal representatives, while 66 turned out in Acton.

Last Saturday, a total of 289 voters trekked to the polls.

In 1988, a total of 572 people registered their votes in advance.



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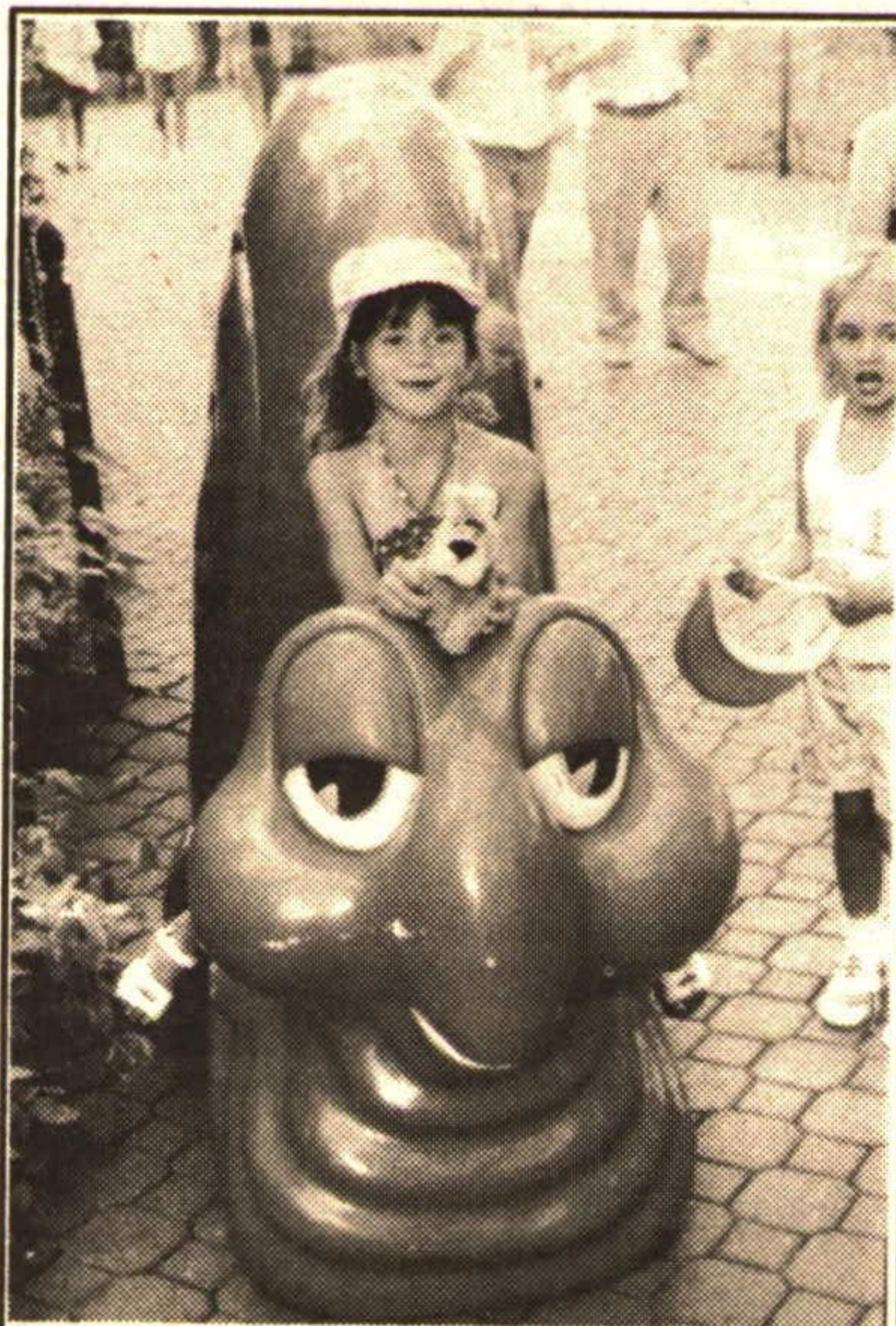
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### Acton man charged

An Acton man was charged with careless driving after an accident on Saturday near 1 a.m. According to the police report, the man didn't see a stop sign at 17 Sdrd. and 4th Line, and when he applied his brakes, slid into a large rock at the end of the T-intersection. While the car was demolished, the driver sustained only minor injuries.

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