

Bill 62 receives Royal Assent

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Bill 62 passed by a vote of 63 to 6 and received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature Thursday at about 9 p.m., just before the spring session ended.

The NDP, Liberals and a majority of Conservatives supported the bill, which ends landfilling on the Niagara Escarpment. The six who voted no were Conservatives.

MPP Noel Duignan and POWER spokesperson Barbara Halsall, who was at the legislature for Tuesday's committee of the whole debate as well as the third reading, are delighted.

"It's a victory. I think we've done something wonderful for other people along the escarpment as well," Halsall said. She said it has saved taxpayers in Halton Hills a tremendous amount of money since there won't be an environmental assessment of Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) proposal. While Duignan said RSI's plan to put garbage in the Acton quarry is now dead, Halsall was more cautious.

"RSI can still go to court on this. It is not over and done with yet," she said. But she thinks Bill 62 "has saved RSI a tremendous amount of money," because they would have had to pay for the environmental assessment, but would have lost.

Walter Graziani, president of RSI, doesn't think that way, however.

"We're very disappointed that it was passed. It is unfair and unjust. There has never been legislation like this passed in the province and in the country before," he said. "We're not certain (if we'll go to court). We don't know what our options are." No one from RSI was at the legislature, but they did tune in to parts of the debate on television, he said.

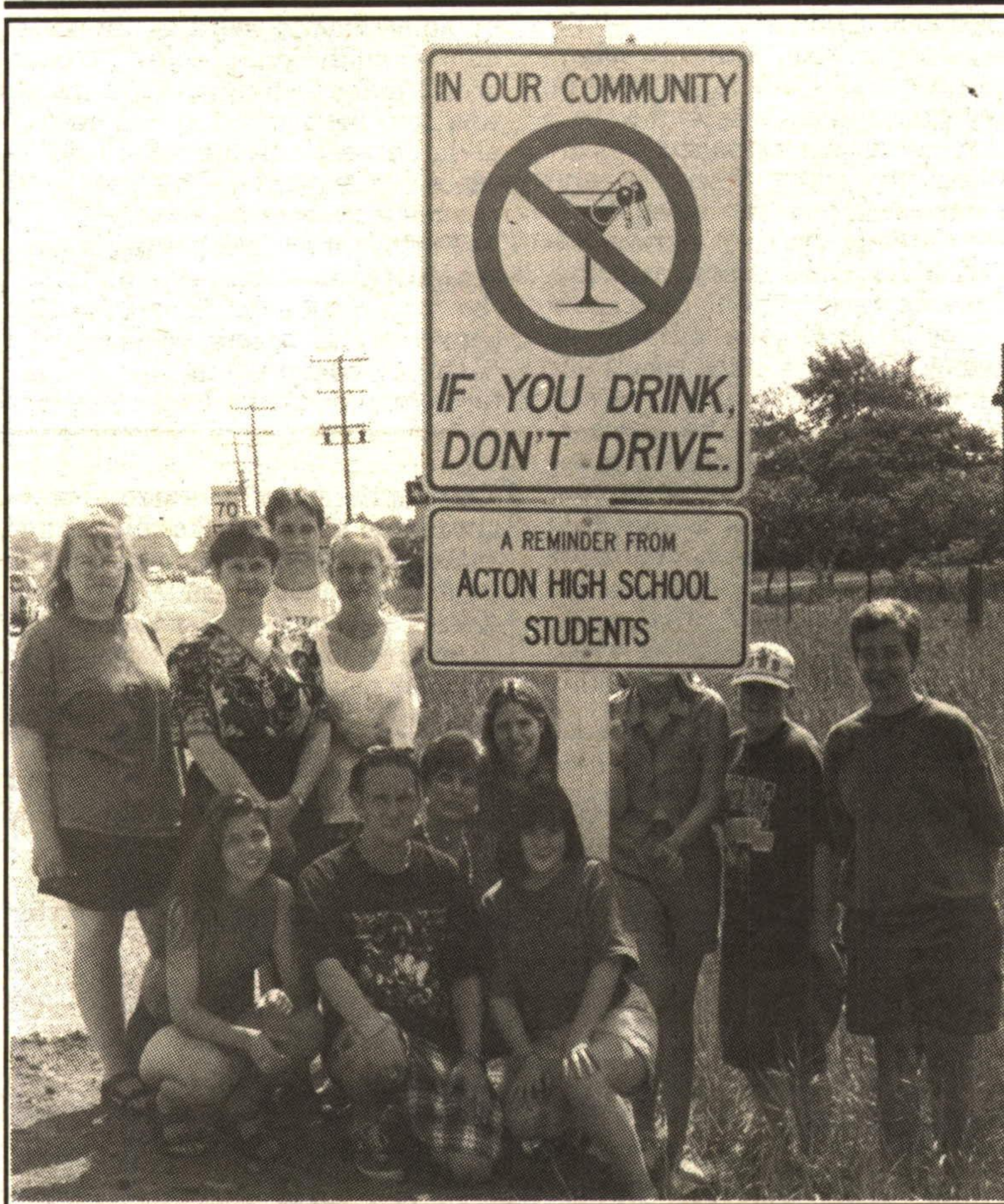
The bill was introduced by MPP Noel Duignan on Earth Day in April 1992 at the urging of POWER members. Because private members bills rarely make it through the process, Duignan said he

thought it was a long shot. But once the bill made it to committee hearings in February, he knew it had a fair chance of getting through and becoming law.

POWER was formed seven years ago over this issue and will likely continue to work in the community

to raise awareness about environmental issues, but the group needs to meet to decide what new direction it will take, Halsall said.

"I really hope that some of the people attacking us along the way realize what we've done for the community," she said.



Students support cause

Acton has two new anti-drinking and driving signs located at entranceways to the community (Hwy. 25 and Hwy. 7) thanks to the student council at Acton High School and the Town of Halton Hills. The two shared the costs of the signs, about \$300 each. The student council raised the money through various activities held at the school throughout the year. Pictured around the sign on Hwy. 7 are several members of the the student council and school principal Joyce Bradley.



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