

Counc. Bonnette addresses the issues affecting Acton

BY CRAIG ROSS
The Acton Tanner

In Part 2 of our four-part series, *The Acton Tanner* continues to provide an update on where Town Council members stand on issues that matter most to Actonites.

This week we ask Regional

Councillor Rick Bonnette for his political action plan on nine issues facing our community:

The Acton Tanner: Where do you stand on the issue of stalled residential development in Acton?

Councillor Rick Bonnette: "I'm definitely for growth in Acton

— it's much-needed. If this town is going to survive a recession, you would have to expect growth. We have had *some* growth with the new car wash and donut shop."

Tanner: What about the lack of an adequate arena in Acton?

Bonnette: "We are hoping to

have an announcement soon about purchasing property for the new arena. The Acton Arena is probably the Number 1 issue in town. We have been working on it for the past five or six years. The preferred site is on the north side of Hwy. 7, and we should have something within a month."

Tanner: What can you do about the depressed retail economy in Acton?

Bonnette: "We can't tell people to open up a store in Acton. Banks aren't even lending any money to people on business ventures. We used to get 50 proposals a week to open up a new business, now we get one to five a week. It's a bad business environment."

Tanner: What's your feeling concerning the lack of jobs in Acton?

Bonnette: "Banks won't lend money and companies aren't interested in buying land. I've always been supportive — I even helped a company relocate six years ago. Hopefully growth will create jobs."

Tanner: And what of the proposed landfill site south of town?

Bonnette: "We've spent over \$800,000 fighting this landfill site to date. To think of the capital projects this money could have gone towards!

"All three Acton councillors recently sent letters to Bob Rae, The Ministry of Environment, and the other two opposition leaders to support Bill 62, which tries to stop

land-fill along the Escarpment."

Tanner: What is your position on the need for a new village constable's office?

Bonnette: "There is a need, but it is my understanding that if they don't find any space by October, there still will be police presence in town. It is because of cuts in budgets that the space would have to be donated."

Tanner: The Acton YMCA is in a decrepit state. What can be done about it?

Bonnette: "I wouldn't want to see any public funds go into the YMCA. The arena is our Number 1 priority. I would like to see somebody buy the Y building and turn it into something."

Tanner: What is the future of the Acton indoor pool?

Bonnette: "I think there will always be a pool in Acton and to my knowledge, it is in no state of disrepair. Except perhaps it needs a paint job."

Tanner: What is your feeling about the loss of train service in Acton?

Bonnette: "I was instrumental in getting train service to Acton in the first place. It was put in place by the Liberals and taken out by the NDP two years later because of low passenger service. I don't buy that. Hopefully we can get a commitment out of the Liberals or Conservatives in the next provincial election."

"It was a bad day in Acton when train service was stopped."



SPARKLING SMILES: These 5 and 6-year-old Sparks sparkled up to Brownies during a recent ceremony at Robert Little. Back row, from left: Jennifer Grierson, Jasmine Hess, leader Susan Grierson, Jackie Rivers, Samantha Denenglsman, Erica Bowes and leader Lorraine Hollywell. Front row: leader Margaret Lusty, Katie Laton, Julia Niblock, Marissa Kidd and Brenna Campbell. (Doug Harrison photo)

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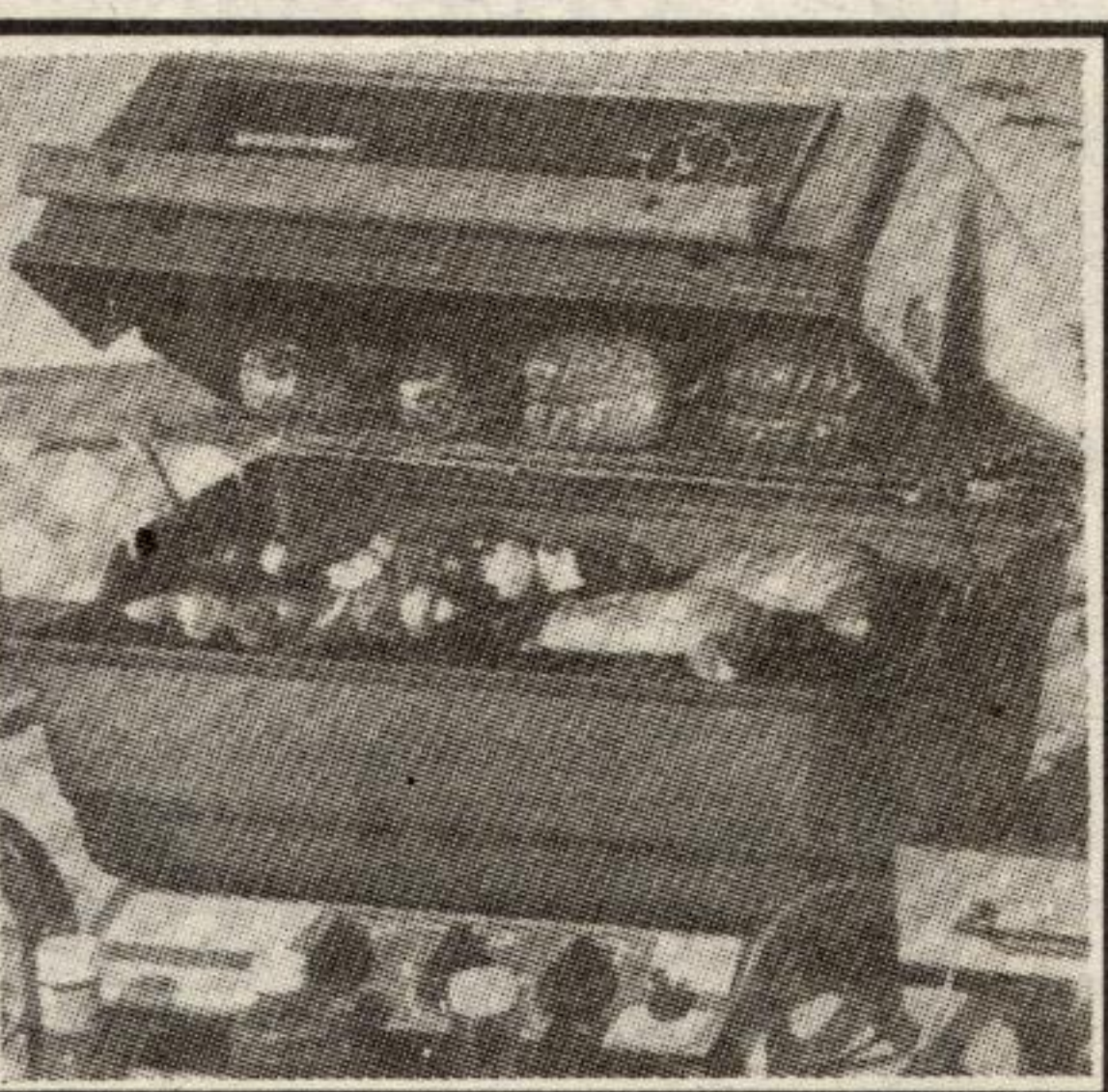
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