



A TRUNK-FULL! The Acton Seniors' Centre Committee has been a fixture every Saturday at the community Trunk Sale, in the parking lot across from the Hide House. Five committee members recently were caught demonstrating the true meaning of "service with a smile!" From left, Ron Lewis, Pat Giguere, Vic Morris, Theresa Matheson and Joan Morris. (Paul Nolan photo)

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Thank you for your support.
The ACTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Brooks both active and outspoken

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

There's no disputing Janice Brooks' feelings in supporting Halton Hills MPP Noel Duignan's Bill 62 to ban landfill sites on the Niagara Escarpment, south and south-western Ontario's source of drinking water.

"To put a wastefill site on top of the Niagara Escarpment with all the alternatives we have (i.e. recycling), is like putting a leaking nuclear reactor on an old barge in the middle of Lake Ontario," the Grade 10 Acton High student said during her speech at Queen's Park in February.

"They both would have the same disastrous results in the end: deadly ecological demise of all life-forms."

Brooks fears landfills on the escarpment will build up against the clay liner, building up so much pressure that leachings and toxins will mix into the water.

"Fish are dying in lakes now. Is this just an indication of what we're in for?" she asks, adding 85 per cent of southern Ontario residents would see their drinking water affected by landfill sites.

In September, Brooks applied through her school to attend the *Encounters Canada* program in Ottawa. During her stay, the Limehouse resident discussed politics, law and French.

"We learned that continuing French beyond Grade 9 is important; we learned what the judicial system in Canada is like and how it runs, and we were able to pose questions to MPs about the candidates in the federal election," said Brooks.

Brooks recently attended the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference in Mississauga, and in September will go to the AgriFood adventure at the Ridgetown Rotary Club, where she will learn about agriculture by visiting a number of farms.

"Through talking with older people of various career backgrounds, I get insight on what the

future will be like," the 16-year-old says of attending these programs.

And it is these programs that will prepare Brooks for life in politics, should she decide to go that route.

Although she is not of voting age, Brooks says she will seriously consider running for council in two years.

"The job is very uncertain and most politicians will go through many careers, unless they reach their ultimate goal—to get people to really like them," Brooks stated.

She added Halton Hills council

needs serious changes. Brooks feels local councillors must be more representative of the people and look more toward the future, suggesting they ask the younger people what they want.

Brooks feels Bill 62 will be passed.

"I've heard we have a fair bit of support — from the majority of Liberals and in the last report, I heard the NDP was behind it," Brooks said.

"The Conservatives have mixed feelings, but they're going by the old rule to oppose whatever the Liberals agree with."



YOUNG LEADER: Janice Brooks shows off a map of the Niagara Escarpment and her 1994 Science Fair award. (Doug Harrison photo)

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