

The issues that affect us: Part 3

BY CRAIG ROSS

Special to The Acton Tanner

This week Councillor Norm Elliott responds to the issues that concern Actonites in Part 3 of our four-part series. In past editions we have offered the responses of retiring Mayor Russ Miller and Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette.

Here are Elliott's responses to eight questions concerning the issues facing our community:

The Acton Tanner: What do you have to say about stalled residential development in Acton?

Councillor Norm Elliott: "We have people ready to build, and we're sitting here being subjected to yet another three-week hearing. We're waiting and hoping that

common sense is going to prevail and that the provincial government is going to allow us to proceed. I'm frustrated."

Tanner: And what about the proposed arena in Acton East?

Elliott: "We've been delayed for a number of reasons. The town had budgeted money for land acquisition. I'm hoping when the location question is resolved, we'll be able to work towards the approval of the project, hopefully in 1995."

Tanner: What solutions do you see for the depressed retail economy in Acton?

Elliott: "Acton suffers from its small size. We need development. We have a long-range plan to fo-

cus on economic growth in Halton Hills. The Economic Development Committee is trying to make it attractive for industry and commercial operations to re-locate — we have to create an environment in Acton that is going to attract business."

Tanner: What about the lack of jobs in Acton?

Elliott: "The whole Canadian economy has a lack of jobs. When you have a population of 6,500 to 7,000, and a large portion lives here and works elsewhere, you're not going to have a lot of jobs. We have to be able to attract business people to create jobs."

Tanner: Do you think Acton needs a new village constable's office?

Elliott: "I don't think we need a full-time office staff as far as police are concerned. We need money to spend on police, not on offices. Most police officers have radios and respond quickly, and if there was evidence of a problem with police responding, then we have something to deal with. We need to spend money on police equipment and the right number of officers, rather than rent for an office."

Tanner: What can be done about the decrepit state of the YMCA building in town?

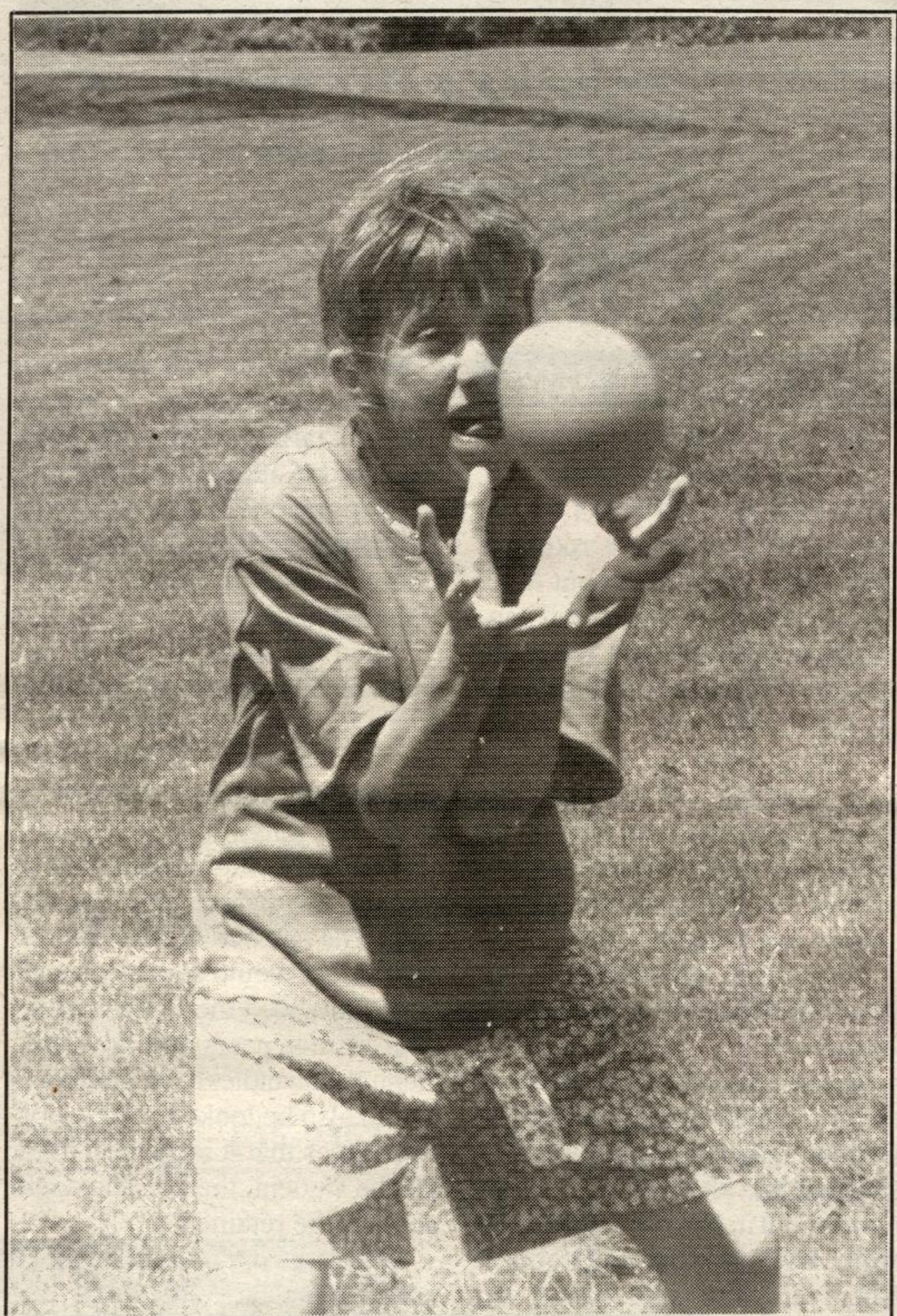
Elliott: "The building was falling apart 30 years ago. It would cost roughly \$500,000 to repair, and we want to spend our money on more urgent things. If people have legitimate ideas to make it a usable building that will not require tax dollars, give us a call."

Tanner: Where do you see the future of the Acton indoor pool?

Elliott: "The pool's done wonderful service for the community. As long as the pool is maintained, it will be in Acton. People got the wrong idea when they read that the Acton pool will be closed."

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

Elliott: "The decision to kill rail service once they started it was unforgivable. They say there wasn't enough ridership, but what did the province do to encourage it? I don't know whether it will ever be restored or not, but it's in the hands of the provincial government."



GOOD HANDS!

No way was Ruth Eddolls, 12, going to let herself get wet during the Water Balloon Toss as part of Sunday's Youth Picnic Day at Knox Presbyterian Church. (Doug Harrison photo)

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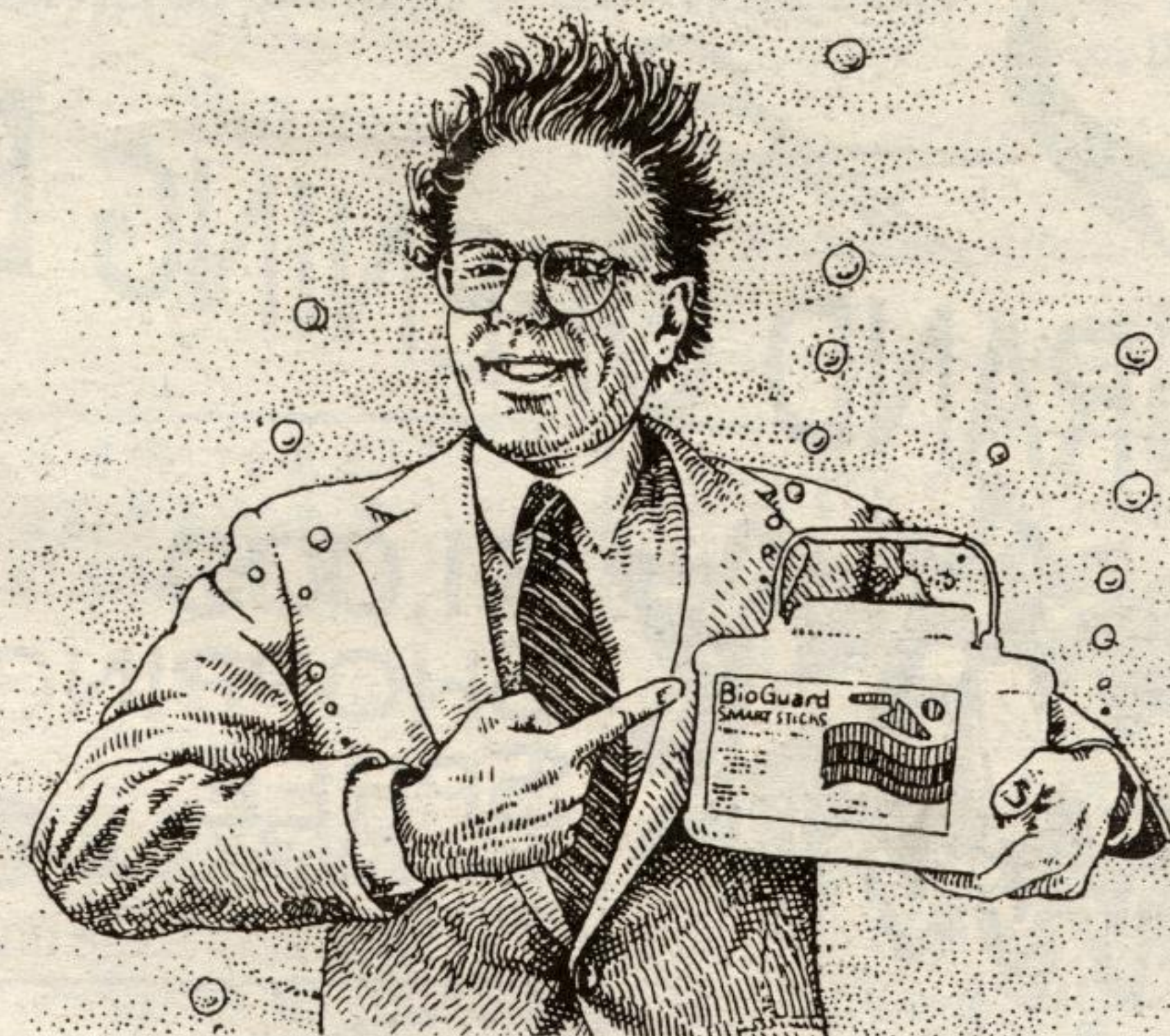
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