

## Holmgren changes plea to 'guilty'

Heather Holmgren surprised everyone Monday when she changed her plea to guilty in her trial for manslaughter and the aggravated assault of infants she was baby-sitting in her home.

Holmgren, who was raised in Georgetown but moved to Acton with her husband and 2-

year-old daughter, admitted to defence lawyer Peter West that she did cause fatal brain injuries to Daniel Spencer in January of 1993. She also admitted to the assault of another child in her care two months later.

The 32-year-old's trial will continue in Milton tomorrow (Thursday).

## Downtown core, industrial park are themes at election debate

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Incumbent Ward 1 Councillor Norm Elliott feels Acton is almost home on some long-standing capital projects, and he wants residents to let him to shut the door.

Elliott says this next term in council will be like "coming home from a long trip."

A nine-year veteran on council, Elliott has spent his entire tenure attempting to get development and a new arena moving in Acton.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are almost home. It's been a long trip," Elliott, 50, announced to approximately 200 people gathered for the All-Candidates Meeting at Acton High on Thursday night.

"For nine years, I've shared with Councillors Bonnette and Rennie a sense of total frustration that surrounds the issues of a new arena and the lack of development.

"In spite of years of budget constraints, lack of commitment from council and no specific site for an arena, we soldiered on ... we are almost home."

He said a new arena is the No. 1 priority of the '95 capital budget. "What remains," he noted, "is for the 1995 council to officially approve the project.

"I want to finish the job I started nine years ago, so please let me make that final trip into town."

Rennie seeks re-election be-

cause he too would like to see the "distinctively Acton issues he's actively been working on, completed."

Namely the development in Acton East, the completion of a community centre-arena, the search for a final location for a seniors' centre and the upgrading of the downtown business core.

Third candidate Rebecca Drotos, a six-year Acton resident and currently a stay-at-home mother, feels Actonites would get the best of both worlds if she was elected.

Drotos, 31, said she would be proud to serve with either Elliott or Rennie and feels what she has to offer is a perspective lacking on council in general.

"A perspective of family and community from a woman's point of view. I've done a lot of day-care and worked at several high-tech companies. I think my perspective — one for launching into the future — is a valuable one, together with enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

"By electing me, you can have the experience and networking that's available through one of the incumbents, and you also have my perspective to balance and enhance your representation."

The candidates also discussed Acton's downtown core and the town's industrial park.

"It is important to recognize that a lot of people who live in

Acton don't shop in Acton," Rennie stated. "The future of Acton is in the tourism industry. The BIA's intent is to beautify the downtown, make it the kind of place to visit and make it the centre of tourism in Ontario."

Elliott maintains it will take a partnership with the BIA, Chamber of Commerce and Action for Acton to bring vitality to the town.

Drotos agreed with Rennie, saying the economy will falter and tourism will be non-existent if Acton people don't shop in Acton.

Meanwhile, *Tanner* contributor Hartley Coles questioned the three on the future of the industrial park, "which looks appalling."

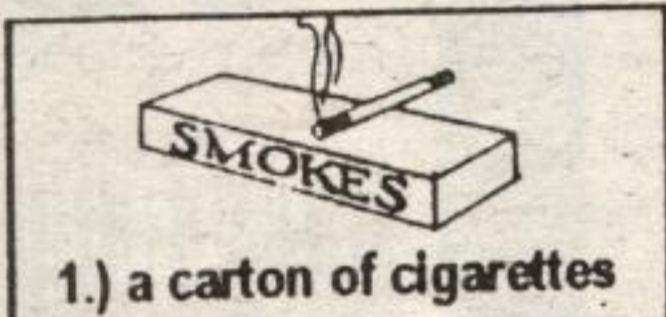
Elliott responded by saying the issue is not a simple one and that the whole area needs a focus.

"The industrial park in Acton is kind of out of the way," he responded. "It's out of sight and to some people, it's out of mind.

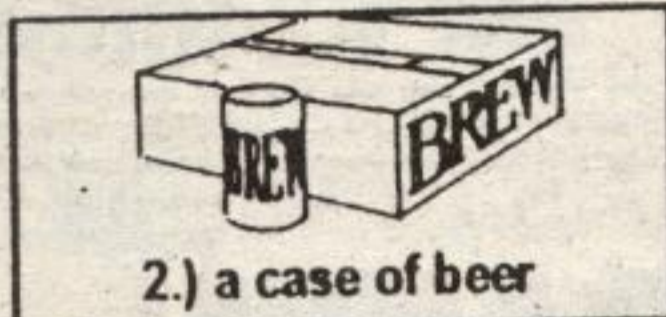
"I will admit we haven't done enough as a Town in that area."

Elliott, a 20-year broker for Spriggs Insurance, suggested working with landowners in the Commerce Crescent area and encourage them to clean up the park.

Rennie, an Actonite for 25 years, noted that the area is private land, so "we can't just move in and do what we want with it." He stressed that Acton's future is in tourism, not the manufacturing industry.



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