



YIKES! M.Z. Bennett Grade 5 student Raven English, 10, couldn't believe the sight when the bridge her and other students built collapsed in the school library last Wednesday after holding 3,102 grams of weight. The competition was the conclusion of a class unit on bridges. (Doug Harrison photo)

Bonnette-Hilborn showdown fizzles at candidates' debate

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

While the advanced billing rivaled a George Foreman title bout to some, Round 2 in the heated Regional Councillor battle — Rick Bonnette vs. Jean Hilborn — never materialized at the all-candidates forum at Acton High Thursday.

In a somewhat surprising move, incumbent Bonnette neglected to spar with candidate Hilborn in either his opening or closing statements following their heated exchange at a debate in Georgetown. Instead, he preferred to highlight his strengths, covering 12 years of council, 10 at the Regional level. Years spent, he says, with Acton's best interests at heart.

"A couple of years ago I was instrumental with the Market Value Assessment, which probably could have crippled this town, and I took a leading role throughout the Region to make sure Region-wide Market Value Assessment didn't happen," Bonnette explained to about 200 Acton area residents at the meeting.

He also pointed out he worked to set up a volunteer ambulance group in town and padded its im-

portance by revealing Acton has more volunteer ambulance drivers than Georgetown.

Bonnette said he wants to be on council when a new arena is built, to see this promise, and the issue of development in Acton, fulfilled.

Hilborn, an administrative assistant for New Vision Homes in Toronto, smartly grabbed the audience's attention concerning her push for better policing in town with an effective personal experience. She thanked police officers for their alertness in attending to her after an auto accident between segments of the Georgetown all-candidates meeting.

"I was fortunate that the police were able to respond so quickly. This does not always happen. We do not have our fair share of policing (in Acton)," she told the audience. "As Regional Councillor, I will fight to get our equal share."

As a two-year executive member of POWER, who also sits on the Halton Housing Authority board of directors and has been involved with ASSIC, Hilborn said she will fight to get more Regional services available to Acton.

Bonnette, meanwhile, warned

the next three years will be the most critical for Acton.

"This future council will need experience to see solid budgeting, maintain present services and see important capital projects, such as the arena, followed through," Bonnette concluded.



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Santa's parade still needs more floats

For more than 10 years, Bill Spielvogel has seen youngsters' faces light up like Christmas trees when they spot a jolly old elf at the rear of the Santa Claus Parade.

"I thoroughly enjoy it," the Bower Avenue resident said while paying a visit to *The Tanner* Thursday. "It's for the kids. We send the fire trucks first, so the kids know Santa Claus is coming."

Although Spielvogel recently attended a retirement dinner for Acton Firefighters — who sponsor the parade — honouring his 32 years of service, the 59-year-old is hoping "the boys" will allow him to continue his post as parade chair.

"I'll probably do the parade until

I kick the bucket or until they fire me. They haven't yet!

"I think we'll have a good parade this year. Santa is anxious to visit Acton again."

However, float entries are coming in slowly and donations are needed. Spielvogel says he's nowhere near the mark of donations from last year's parade, which cost about \$3,700 to run.

Spielvogel says he will deliver an application to anyone interested in entering a float. For more information, call him at 853-2924.

A total of seven marching bands already are booked for the parade, to march through town on Saturday, Nov. 19.

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