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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1995

## Reps warned: We live in 'toxic hot spot'

#### Report, POWER lawyer agree - Acton dump not dead yet

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK The Acton Tanner

Town councillors want protection yer follow up on the issue. from unacceptable proposals for waste disposal.

The move to ask staff how to protect the Town was prompted by Barbara Halsall, past-president of the group Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER). Halsall warned that the change in government at Queen's Park could lead to a removal of the ban on incinerating garbage, a repeal of a bill that bans landfilling on the Niagara Escarpment and repeal of the legislation that set up the Interim Waste Management Authority, the organization charged with finding solutions to the garbage crisis in the GTA.

Halsall quoted a report by former Metro Councillor Richard Gilbert, now a waste management consultant, in which he said that the Acton quarry could still be used to dispose of Greater Toronto Area (GTA) waste or ash from incineration.

"Gilbert and POWER's lawyer believe there is a distinct possibility that Bill 62 could be repealed and the Acton quarry could be used for a dump," Halsall told Council on Monday night.

Reclamation Systems Incorporated (RSI) attempted to get Provincial approval to use the quarry for a dump and although the proposal was rejected by a joint hearing board, the proposal is not dead. "The sooner we get RSI off the

she urged Council to have its law-

Halsall warned that if the Interim Waste Authority (IWA) process is stopped, there will be a crisis.

"Halton was originally screened out from receiving Metro waste as part of the IWA plan. If that is removed we will no longer have that protection."

In arguing that Council should fight any move to provide energy from waste - incinerating garbage — Halsall pointed to a report outlining health problems that environmental pollutants from incineration can cause.

"A report by Health Canada's Laboratory Centre for Disease Control maps out toxic hot spots; Halton Hills is considered a toxic hot spot, with some cancer rates more than 25 per cent above the provincial average," Halsall said.

Halsall said the report indicates that for men, bladder cancer in Halton Hills is 25 per cent above the provincial average and for women, lung and breast cancer here are also 25 per cent above the provincial average.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott noted that Council was already on record as saying it would not be a willing host for outside waste.

"I don't care what government is in power, the issue is not a partisan politics issue, it's something that nobody in this Town or Region wants to see happen. I

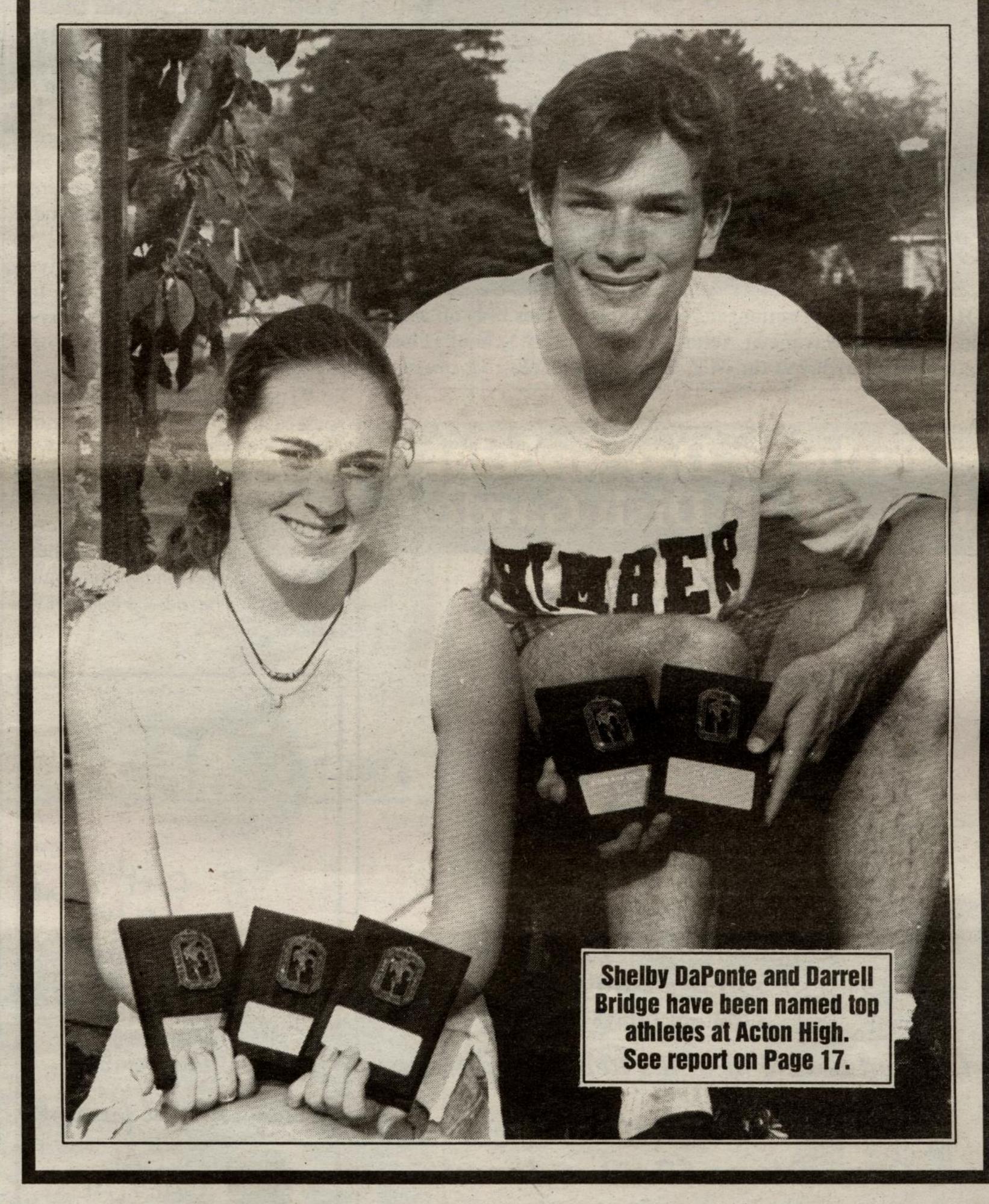
books the better," Halsall said as think we ought to get on record as receive the report from Gilbert Town staff and solicitors for a soon as possible with the new government so they know exactly where we stand," urged Elliott.

Council passed a resolution to

outlined in Toronto newspapers.

Council referred the issue of GTA garbage and incineration to

and the Ontario cancer reports report and recommended strategies to protect the Town against unacceptable waste management disposal proposals.



### Kids' singer will visit

will dazzle young and old alike at the Public Library's kick-off to its summer reading program.

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