



# Santa Claus star of Saturday's parade

Know who's coming to Acton on Saturday? Why, Santa Claus, of course. He's the star of the annual Firefighters' Santa Claus parade this Saturday, November 18. There'll be bands and floats and the Weatherman may even include a few flakes of snow. Theme for this year's parade is "21st

Century Christmas," chairman Bill Spielvogel says. It's slated to start at 1 o'clock sharp from the McKenzie-Smith Bennett middle school grounds on Acton Boulevard. Bands and floats will proceed down Mill St. to Main and then to Prospect Park. There are generous prizes for floats entered in the parade including \$100

for first overall, \$50 for each first in the school category, and \$50 for first commercial, first service club and first other. Acton Fire Fighters' Association sponsor the annual parade which also marks the official start of the Christmas festive season.

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## What's Inside



**The Last Post: Remembrance Day ceremonies at Acton cenotaph Saturday attracted hundreds. See Page 10 for story and photos.**



**Another calender: This time it's the hockey moms prepping for photos. See photo on Page 5.**



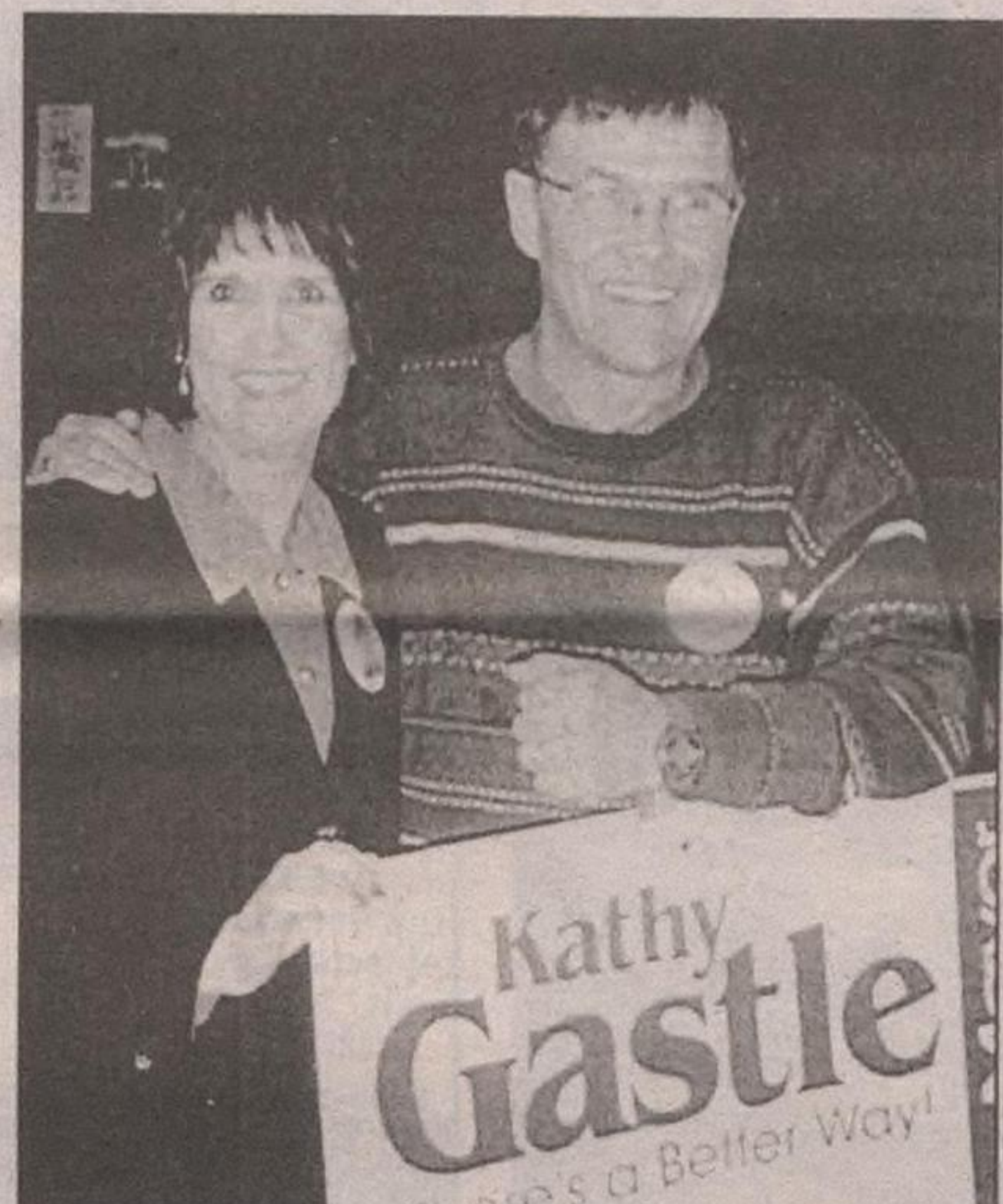
**Rockwood citizens marked Remembrance Day with ceremonies at the cenotaph on Main St. See photo on Page 8.**

**WEEKLYCHUCKLE**  
Casey and Flanagan, two salesmen, were swapping stories over a drink. Casey said: "Did you get many orders today?" Flanagan said: "I got three - get out, stay out and don't come back!!"

# Gastle edges Marilyn for mayor

## 500 vote margin in tight race Mon.

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner



**MAYOR-ELECT:** It was a close race, but former Ward 2 Councillor Kathy Gastle, shown at her victory party with her husband, George, unseated three-term Halton hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson in Monday's municipal vote - Frances Niblock photo

Halton Hills voters were ready for a change at the top. With a 500-vote margin (6,016 to 5,516) former Norval Councillor Kathy Gastle unseated three-term mayor Marilyn Serjeantson in a close race that generated just 39.2 per cent voter turnout. (All results are unofficial.)

Gastle's former ward mate, Councillor Kevin Kuiack, was also turfed from office and all of the other incumbents who ran had no trouble getting re-elected. Gastle, a nine-year council veteran who took 46 per cent of the popular vote to Serjeantson's 42 per cent, didn't come to the election headquarters at the Civic Centre, but instead, accepted congratulations from Serjeantson over the phone. At her boisterous victory party in a former Norval church hall, Gastle, who said she felt confident of a win, added it was too soon to say

what her first job as mayor would be. "I'm just so pleased with the support from Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing and their confidence in me that I can lead Halton Hills to new heights of excellence in the next term of office," Gastle said, adding she invited Serjeantson to her party, but she "chose 'not to come.'" Serjeantson, who said she's very proud of her accomplishments in office, was understandable subdued as she accepted condolences from the small crowd watching the returns. "I feel really sad that I lost. I loved my job," Serjeantson said adding she regrets spending too much time on Town business when she should have been out campaigning. Serjeantson, who said she planned to take a couple of trips, laughed that she'd taken out private unemployment insurance offered through a bank last month, and now will see if they'll pay. Robert Heaton, a former Town councillor, took 11.5 per cent of the popular vote. **WARD 1 & 2**  
Ward 1 & 2 Councillor Rick

## Pheasants slaughtered

A knife and the head of a pheasant were left in a pen by an unknown suspect(s) who killed the rest of the flock at a Regional Road 25 property some time between 10 p.m. on November 5 and 4 p.m. on Nov. 7. Police say an unknown number of birds were killed and don't know if the other carcasses were left behind or how many survived. The property owner also told police that someone had used a knife to scratch the right side of their car, a 1985 Mercedes, while it was parked at the Speyside Store on October 28.

## Windows smashed

Police are re-interviewing a witness who saw a man breaking car windows and throwing garbage cans around at Acton Motors just after midnight on Friday. Police questioned a sus-

*Continued on Page 3*

# Arena costs mean higher taxes?

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

It will take a higher than expected tax increase, higher user fees and cutting the capital reserve fund to an "unusually low balance," but that's the price Halton Hills Council feels it must pay to twin the Alcott arena in Georgetown. Urged by five delegations representing thousands of ice users, Council, at a special

meeting last week, awarded the \$1.8 million over-budget project to the same company that built the Acton arena and renovated St. Joseph's School, Melloul-Blamey Construction of Waterloo, the revised low bidder. The total cost for the ice pad, lobby and minor renovations to the existing arena is \$5.8 million, a number that shocked and surprised most councillors who asked staff

for a list of changes that wouldn't alter the scale, function or operation of the project. Twenty-two reductions were identified resulting in \$300,000 in cuts. In order to pay for the additional cost Council will take on \$1.2 million in additional debt, changes the ice user fee formula to raise an extra \$50,000 in annual revenues and increase property taxes by 1.2 per cent, or at least \$9

more for the taxpayer with a home valued at \$185,000. Acton Councillor Clark Somerville questioned the treasurer's "alarm bell" over taking \$300,000 from the capital reserve fund. The reserve was \$2.8 million three years ago and has dropped to the "lowest level it's been at quite a few years" at \$650,000 this year Treasurer Ed DeSousa said, adding there will be *Continued on Page 2*

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