

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Bonnette makes history

The myth that no Acton resident could ever be mayor of Halton Hills was shattered Monday night when Rick "Bunny" Bonnette won a four way mayoralty races by a sizeable 1,000 vote margin.

Bonnette didn't capture the vote by any slight-of-hand, magic or promises he knew couldn't be kept. He waged a clear, sober, conscientious campaign that promised Halton Hills voters he would be a steward of their resources and hold taxes in line.

With 21 years of municipal politics under his belt, both at the local and regional level, he has a good grasp on the issues, didn't try to skirt them with vague solutions.

There's no doubt his campaign was helped when ex-mayor Marilyn Serjeantson entered the fray in the last few minutes of qualification time. She obviously drew votes away from incumbent Kathy Gastle and challenger John Day. Nevertheless the combined votes for both women candidates did not reach the tally Bonnette racked up. It left some to wonder if this was not a signal that voters favoured a male mayor after two women held the mayoralty reins.

John Day, who was runner-up in the balloting waged an active, aggressive campaign, and had 12 years of municipal council service to back it up. His campaign was blighted by rumors of connections to powerful interests, which he vigorously denied but it may have hurt his chances.

Day campaigned hard in Acton promising the perceived neglect felt in the community, would be solved in an administration under his guidance. Clever stroke but voters in Acton went unabashedly for the hometown Bonnette, a fact Mr. Day acknowledges when he said, "Acton scuppered me."

Mayor Kathy Gastle's low key approach in Acton, where she obviously knew there was dissatisfaction with the Town's administration, wasn't helped when it was disclosed she had spent \$10,000 on a new chain of office. There were other complaints, too, about the new Gellert Community Centre, being erected over 20kms and 25 minutes from Acton residents.

Voters obviously thought her vision for Halton Hills was too rich for their blood. They remembered that \$500,000 couldn't be found to renovate the old Acton Arena while over \$11.1 million was available for a community centre beyond their reach.

Of course an entire council was involved, not just Kathy Gastle.

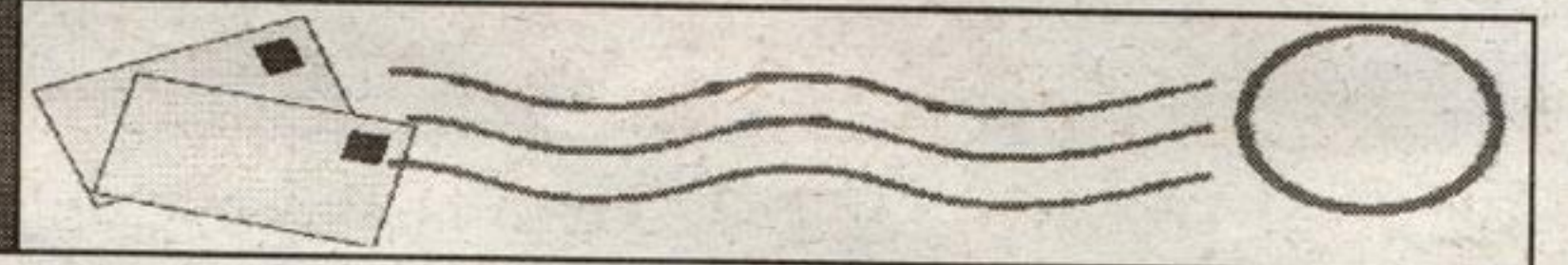
Marilyn Serjeantson's attempt to get into politics again was certainly a factor in the election. But voters who admire and like her energetic personality perhaps thought she has lost her contact with politics and gave her less than 10 per cent of the votes.

In any event congratulations are due to Halton Hills new mayor Rock Bonnette, He made history by being the first mayor of Halton Hills from Acton in the first 30 years of the amalgamated municipalities of Acton, Georgetown and Esqueving Township.



ONE IN A MILLION: The East Coast Crafter, also known as Gordon Singleton, had a large display of ornamental Christmas angels for sale at Acton High School's Craft Show and Sale this past Saturday. - Angela Tyler photo

Letters



Acton great place to shop

To the Editor,

Well, at long last! We now have a great place to shop.

By this I mean the Giant Tiger Store, everything you need for Christmas or any other occasion they seem to have it.

Going in this store is such fun, the staff go out of their way to make you feel comfortable without pressuring you. Whenever you need something they will find it for you.

They stock everything you

could get without having to go out of town.

Good luck to all of you although I am sure you will be a roaring success, pardon the pun.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Bloye, Acton,

P.S. The prices are great, too.

Cell phones interrupt service

To the Editor,

It was wonderful to see so many school children at the Remembrance Day Service at the cenotaph in Acton today, (November 11).

They are our future and need to know the sacrifices that were made for our freedom and our peace. Education is the only way. Hopefully they will never know by experience.

It is also hoped they will learn to have respect not only for the sacrifices, service but especially for the three minutes of silence, and unlike some adults in attendance will have enough

cognizance to either turn off their cell phones or leave them home on their dresser.

I would like to think "they know not what they do." Have they ever felt overwhelming pride at the singing of O Canada or the heart wrenching at the playing of the Last Post? If not,

more pity them!

Three minutes, 180 second of silences. Is that too big a price to pay for freedom and for peace and even the right to have a cell phone ringing during a very solemn occasion?

Respectfully, yours,

Betty Cole

Apologies for omission

An article on The New Tanner's editorial page of October 30 about the demolition of the old building on Main St. N. which housed a telephone ex-

change, Royal Canadian Legion and rest home stated the home was originally operated by Katherine Kelly but "stricter

continued on page 7



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