

Mayoral candidates face voters

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Serjeantson said the mayor is the best ambassador a town could have "to help them (potential businesses) through the complicated process. If anything I could do as the mayor—bring the right people to the table, to help the process, to make people comfortable to encourage them to develop, that's what I would do."

In response to a question, how would an Acton native represent Georgetown, Bonnette said he has been active, politically and personally, supporting the Georgetown community. A former Georgetown business owner and sports enthusiast, Bonnette said he has been involved with committees focused solely on Georgetown facilities and twinning of the Alcott Arena.

"If I only represented Acton, I guess I won't be a long-term mayor, will I?" he said.

Conversely, Georgetown/Norval candidates: Serjeantson said she has a strong background in Acton, Gastle said she enjoys the diverse community of Halton Hills and Day said he's heard that 'Acton is left out' and he would ensure that everyone is equal in this "community of communities."

All candidates agreed that a bylaw on smoking in public places should be fair to everyone and that provincial government should make it Ontario-wide law.

Similarly all candidates said that more emphasis should be placed on educating the public on the cosmetic



John Day and Kathy Gastle collect their thoughts while waiting to respond.



Rick Bonnette responds to a question while Marilyn Serjeantson listens.

use of pesticides. Both Bonnette and Gastle supported the town's policy while Day said he had a conflict of interest on it. Serjeantson doesn't use pesticides on her lawn.

On rural garbage, Serjeantson said it should be looked at again, Bonnette and Day both said they would abide by the majority of surveys which seem to be predominantly negative. The collection of recyclables — it's a "done deal" said Day; it will prolong the life of the landfill site by 47 years said Gastle and Bonnette pointed out the thousands of tax dollars that would be saved through collection rather than usage of depots.

One questioner asked if Bonnette's position opposing transit in Halton Hills is based on a desire to keep ethnic population out of this community.

"I'm against public transit because we're facing a 10 per cent tax increase folks and we can't be adding new programs. It has nothing to do with race, colour or creed," Bonnette said to loud applause.

The three other candidates all said a big bus transit system is not affordable but that perhaps other avenues can be looked at such as taxi scrips for seniors and youth.

Other questions focused on the openness of council meetings, protecting groups faced with higher user fees, solving the downtown Georgetown parking problem and proposed Georgetown fire station.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Municipal election notebook

Acton residents are invited to an all-candidates meeting focused on candidates for mayor, Wards 1 & 2 regional and Ward 1 local this Sunday.

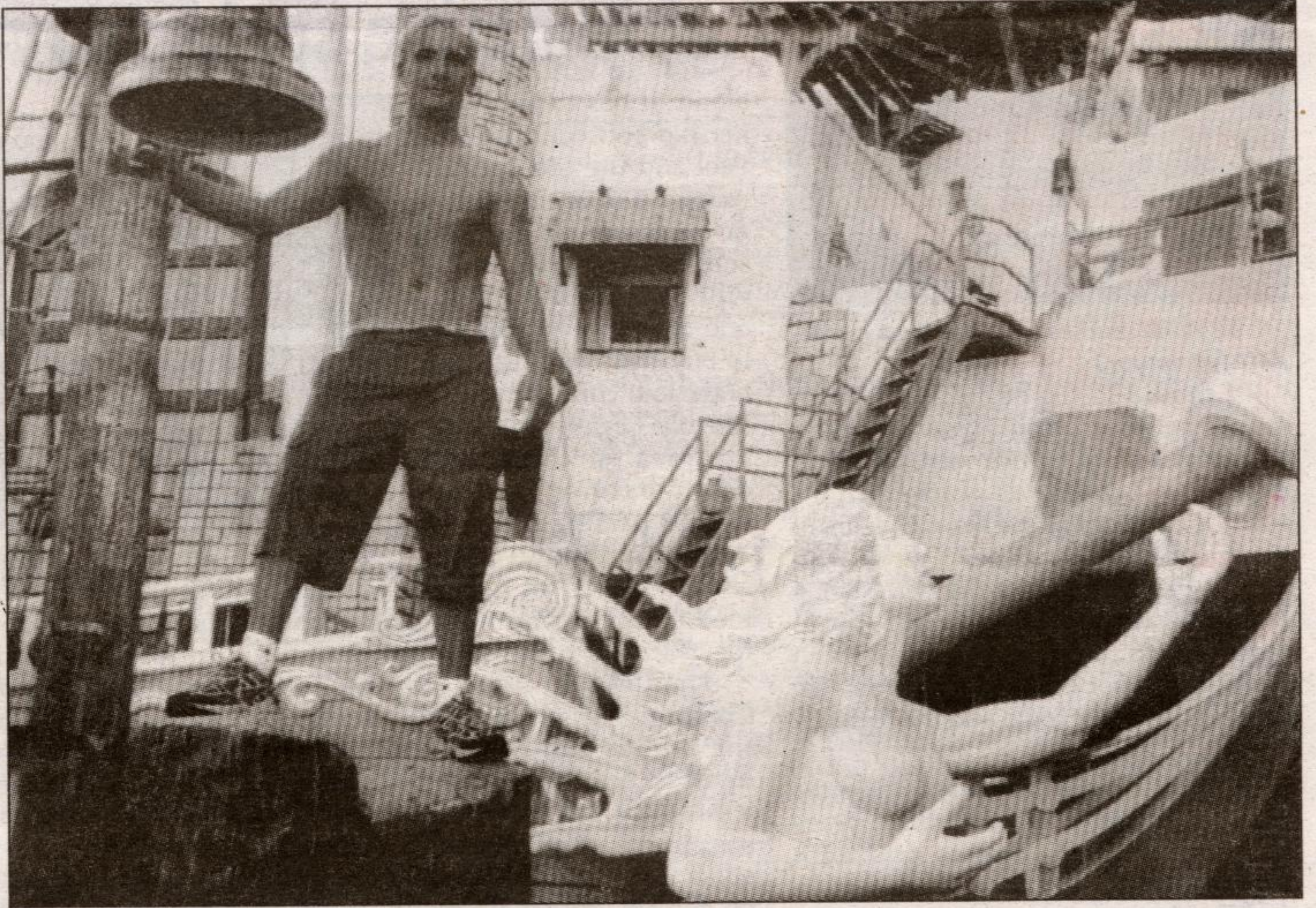
The event, hosted by the Acton Seniors and the Rotary Club of Acton, will be held at the Acton Arena at 7 p.m. It will feature speeches as well as a question and answer period.

Jack Carpenter will moderate the evening, which will conclude with coffee and an opportunity to mix and mingle with the candidates.

The Town of Halton Hills will be holding two advance polls for the November 10 municipal election.

The first advance poll will be Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the second will be Wednesday, Nov. 5 from noon to 8 p.m.

Polls will be set up at four locations on both days—the Halton Hills Civic Centre, the Georgetown Market Place, the Acton Legion and the Acton Arena and Community Centre.



Nick Baker stands aboard the ship created for the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino's Sirens of TI show. The Halton Hills resident is performing in the Las Vegas show which opened Saturday. Included in his performance (inset) is a 30-foot dive off the ship's mast. Submitted photos

Georgetown man makes a splash at Vegas' latest, greatest spectacle

Nick Baker doesn't mind being told to take a flying leap. In fact, he's making a career out of it.

Baker is playing a key role in Las Vegas' newest show—*The Sirens of TI*—which debuted at the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino Saturday. The show is a redesigned, sexier version of the casino's *Battle at Buccaneer Bay*.

Baker got his start in a pirate show after submitting an audition tape to Canada's Wonderland four years ago. During that time he also performed in the park's high dive show. Since then he has performed at Legoland in California, a high dive show at Busch Gardens in Virginia and Holiday World in Indiana.

But this summer, Baker's biggest disappointment turned into his biggest break. Baker was to perform a fire dive in a show in China but the show was scrapped because of SARS. Suddenly finding himself without a job, Baker went to Las Vegas to stay with friends who were performing in another show at Treasure Island. Baker didn't hear about the *Sirens* show until the night before the final audition and even then it was by invitation only. Through connections he managed to get in touch with the stunt co-ordinator and got an audition.

In addition to reading lines, the audition included a swimming and diving test. He got a callback and finally got word that he was in.

"I had no idea how big this show was or who the director was or what his credentials were," Baker said of Kenny Ortega, who directed and produced the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2002 Olympics. "I've never had to audition before. It makes me feel

like I've really earned my spot. But at the same time, you can't act like you deserve it."

Baker's performance includes a 30-foot leap off the ship's mast into water being churned by wave machines. All the while performers also have to contend with explosions and smoke.

"You have to be really aware of your surroundings. The ship's like a big playground but it's a dangerous playground. It can be dangerous if you don't pay attention."

Baker said all the performers look out for one another to make the performance as safe as possible.

Baker plays Eros, a young virgin boy who falls under the sirens' spell and is lured over to their ship. A battle ensues to get him back and in the end one of the two ships is sunk (you'll have to go to Vegas to find out).

"It's one of the most technically innovative shows," Baker said. "There's lots of pyro, water cannons. It's a lot of fun. We're all really lucky to be involved with this show."

Baker said Saturday's debut, with a celebrity-filled crowd as well as members of the media on hand to critique the show, was the most important performance.

"It was basically a one-shot deal to impress everybody and we did it. Up until that performance we hadn't had (a rehearsal) where everything worked but it all came together."

The crowds were also an indication the show was a success. Baker said an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people took in each of the three half-hour performances.

"At one point I was up on the ship's mast and I looked down the strip and it was just an endless sea of people."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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