

Old Saint Nick's here on Saturday



There may even be a few flakes of snow to greet Santa Claus who arrives in Acton in style this Saturday, November 19 with a big parade starting at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school on Acton Blvd. at 1p.m. The parade winds its way through downtown Acton on Mill St., turns north on Main St. and west on Knox Ave. winding up at Prospect Park.

Thousands are expected to line the route to greet the jolly old gent and see and hear the six bands, parade chairman Bill Spielvogel says will be marching along with numerous floats from schools, service clubs, business and community groups.

Theme for this year's parade is "Christmas in Toyland."

Acton Firefighters Association organizes and sponsors Santa's annual parade with Bill Spielvo-

gel heading up the event, a job he has done for over 20 years. He's counting on the community again this year to start off the Christmas shopping season with the usual high spirits and joie de vivre.

Spielvogel says he enjoys the job despite the headaches that go along with organizing the parade. It is especially heart warming when he sees the smiles on the faces of the children lining the parade route.

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What's Inside



Acton remembered its war dead and toasted its veterans. Page 12-13.



Guelph/Eramosa has a new mayor with the election of Rockwood's Chris White. Page 15.



Brent Marshall's bid for the Regional Chair is fouled by strong Carr vote. Page 3.

Bunny's back in mayor's chair

Voter turnout down

Ward One
 Acton
 35.30%

Ward Two
 Rural
 29.39%

Ward Three
 Georgetown
 31.98%

Ward Four
 Georgetown
 30.15%

Halton Hills
 turnout 31.60%
 12,144 voted out of a total of 38,436



EASY WIN: Incumbent mayor Rick Bonnette celebrated his easy re-election with his wife Josey at the Civic Centre on Monday night before joining his family and supporters at a victory party in Acton. — Frances Niblock photo

Trounces Rob Heaton by 8-1 margin

By Frances Niblock

A school board nail-biter provided the only real suspense for Acton's political scene on election night — while the results were slow in coming at the Civic Centre, when they did, it was quickly evident that incumbent Mayor Rick Bonnette would easily defeat challenger Rob Heaton, and that Acton's Brent Marshall could not beat NHL goalie, MP and MPP Gary Carr for Halton chairman's job.

Bonnette, who trounced Heaton by an 8:1 margin with 88 per cent of the vote, said he expected to "do okay" but knew not to get over confident.

He thanked the councillors and public who worked hard on his re-election campaign and said his first job is to meet with the council-elect.

"The next job will be to get a list of all of the committee to see which ones they like to sit on, and then I'll put that list together," Bonnette said, adding he hopes they will hit the ground running after the inaugural meeting in December.

Continued on page 2

Buyer's market for Acton homes

The Acton housing market has cooled off — sales of existing homes are down and prices have softened —

but the market is still "good and stable" according to a survey of local real estate agents.

Toronto Real Estate Board statistics support the agents' view of the market with October 2006 house sales down 25 per cent, to 65 from 87, over October last year in the area bound by the 401, the Halton Hills-Wellington boundary,

Winston Churchill Road and the Halton Hills-Milton boundary.

Year-to-date house sales are down 5.8 per cent, with 824 changing hands so far this year, compared to 874 last year.

During that same period, the average price of a resale house jumped 7.6 per cent to \$332,598, and the median price increased by 8.5 per cent to \$310,000.

In October, the average resale house price was \$330,288 and the median

price was \$314,000 up 1 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively over October last year.

Royal City Realtor Damian Nikic said things have changed since a year ago when every third deal involved a multiple offer — a bidding war.

"It's turning from a sellers' to a buyers' market. The market is still healthy, but people have to understand that prices can't always continue to go up,"

Continued on page 2

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