

Hockley Bill

money and the cost of education, now he has changed his focus. There has been a maturity on his part in the role of a trustee. I don't bear any grudge against him. I smile now because he is making a contribution to the board like he has never done before."

Deacon feels having a sense of humor "to get over the rough spots with Bill" is a necessity. Hockley's sense of humor came shining through during a brief chat with one of his three female co-workers at Hastings County Legal Services.

"I've just told her (the female reporter) I'm being subjugated by three women and I'm a nervous wreck and she's on your side," Hockley said in his British drawl.

Tom Burnside, board chairman for three years and trustee for eight, is not without stories of conflicts he and Hockley have had. Burnside once charged Hockley with "irresponsible headline hunting at its worst." Hockley had made public comments about not knowing the exact salaries of the board's senior administrative staff.

In another situation, Burnside accused Hockley of "political grandstanding" by lashing out for 15 minutes at the "continued aspects of the school board.

"He sure does keep you on your toes," laughed Burnside in a telephone interview. "He speaks his mind and that's good. I admire him in many ways. He has a deep interest in human rights. He stands up for the underdog."

Differences between Hockley and Burnside touch on their respective military lives also. Burnside served in the Canadian Navy - Hockley in the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. "We always joke that one is superior to the other," said Burn-

side.

A strong personality and a convincing manner are traits that Hockley feels come from his hero - former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

"He (Churchill) was a man who had the right words to say to provide motivation. In the small 'p' politics we're involved in at the school board, you still have to make speeches and you have to convince people at election time. I use the Churchill approach."

Hockley admits freely to having negative character traits.

"I'm quick-tempered but not bad-tempered. I don't bear a grudge. I don't suffer falls gladly. At times I think I perceive wrongly what peoples' real concerns are. I've been told about this.

"I get a great amount of satisfaction out of what I do here (at Legal Services). You get a lot of people who lie to you, cheat you, and abuse you if they don't get what they want. But what really pleases me is seeing the right people receiving the right benefits."

Born in Suffolk, England and raised in the east end of London, Hockley led a life filled with adventure and variety.

After the Second World War, he worked as a reporter, an electrician, in the motion picture business, as a London police officer and as a detective.

On one Mickey Spillane-type incident - dubbed by the media as The Horrible Weapons Case - Hockley was tipped off to a gang plotting to rob an elderly shopkeeper. Disguised as street cleaners, Hockley and several other detectives nailed the gang before the crime was committed.

"I was the one who had been given

the information, so I got the credit. I had to testify at the trial and we had stockings full of sand and pieces of lead pipe as evidence . . . The Lord Chief Justice was a crusty old guy . . . He called me back in the witness box at the end of the trial. Usually when he called anybody back it was to give 'em a blast. So I thought to myself: What in goodfathers have I done here? . . . He gave me a commendation. I had 27 commendations when I left the police force but that's the one that really stands out."

Hockley joined the Canadian air force and came to Canada in 1955 with his wife and two children. A third child was born in Alberta. He was "forcibly retired" from the air force in 1966 after a massive reduction of personnel.

A "hobby" of Hockley's is writing letters to newspapers. This started just after the Second World War when he and his wife went to a theatre in London.

"In the foyer were a number of former infantrymen with tin cups collecting money for widows of soldiers who had been killed in Africa. It so angered me that I went home and wrote a blistering letter to the Daily Express, which had the biggest circulation in Europe. It appeared, not on the editorial page, but on the front page. From then on I had a yen for (exposing) injustice," said Hockley, emphasizing his point by tapping his index finger on a nearby table.

For Hockley, his "yen for injustice" may never end. He does not plan on retiring.

"I will never retire. I think that's terrible . . . I'd like to see a world that was united in persuing the betterment of mankind as a whole. I realize this may be an impossible dream, but I'm going to do my part."

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