NEWS

Changing of the Georges

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STAFF WRITER

The changing of the guards at Northumberland County last week was a changing of the Georges.

Northumberland County Warden Percy Township Reeve George McCleary donned the chain and robe of the warden's office, taking over the gavel and responsibilities handled by Colborne Village Reeve George Boycott for the past year.

Mr. McCleary was acclaimed after the only other candidate for the position as head of county council, Haldimand Township Reeve Bill Finley, withdrew his name.
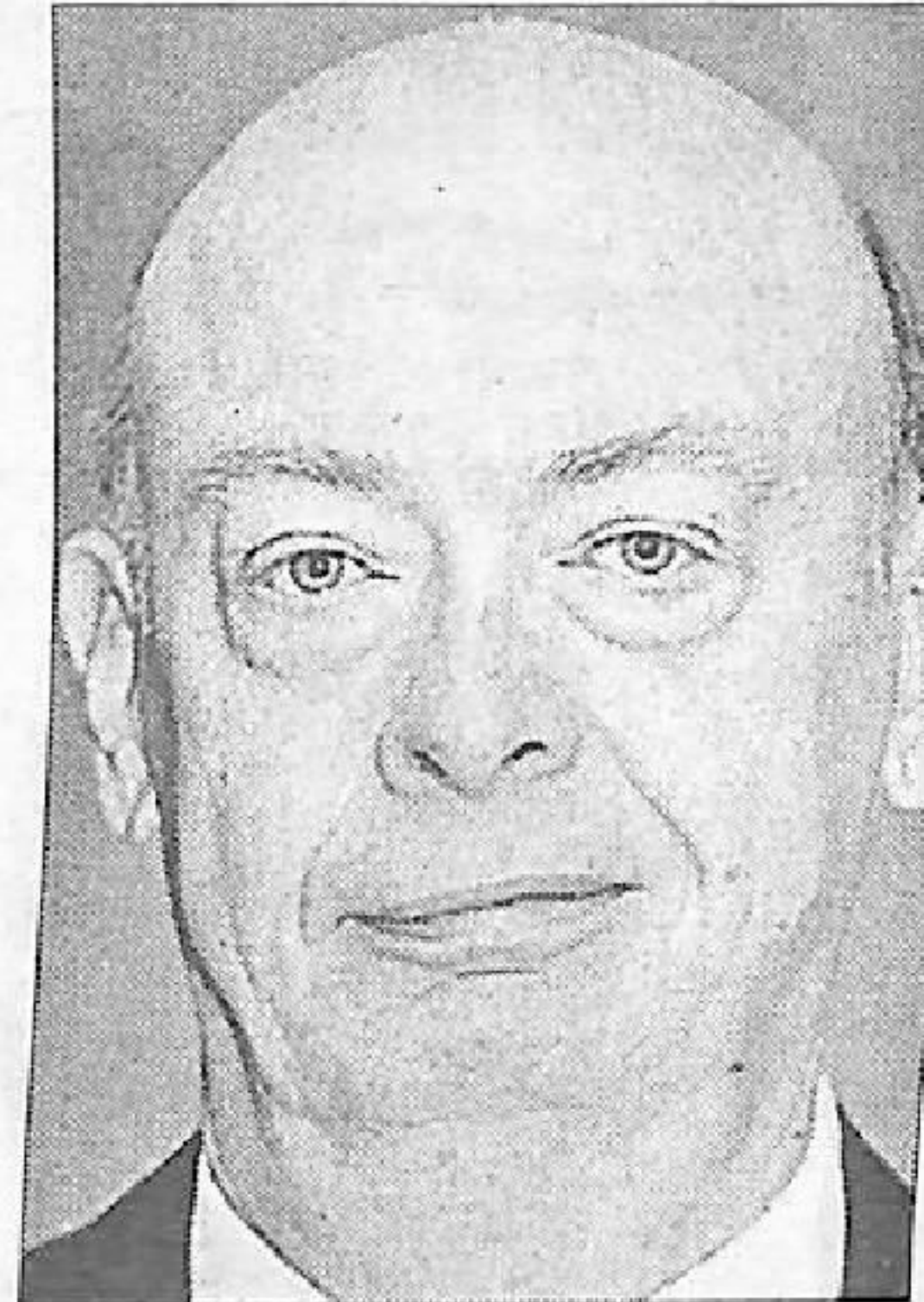
Mr. Finley said he did not have the time this year to take on the tasks of warden, but wanted to address council on the significant issues facing councillors during the next term.

Urban and rural municipalities must work together dealing with downloading of services, streamlining waste and coping with the fallout of the new market value assessment system.

And he expressed support for Mr. McCleary as he leads council in these tasks.

Warden McCleary told councillors that the number one task "will be to continue to search for financial resources to carry on our present level of service without increasing taxes."

Like Mr. Finley,

he called for a greater level of trust and co-operation in order to achieve county goals.

"I feel we need to turn the corner and put negative comments and innuendoes behind us," he said.

The in-coming warden complimented the county staff on past efforts and urged that municipalities work with the county to tackle common concerns such as the Y2K computer-dating problem of 2000.

Mr. McCleary described the warden's role "as a facilitator of county activities involving all levels of government" preferring to rule by consensus.

The warden's first task was to strike a set of new committees on which he will sit together with various other members of the 13-member council.

Those committees and members are as follows:

Committee of Management for The Golden Plough Lodge retirement home:Bill Pettingill (chairman), Bill Petherick and Stu Oliver.

Waste Services Committee:Ian Angus (chairman), Bill Finley and Joan Chalovich.

Corporate Services: George Boycott (chairman), Howard Sheppard and Fred Holloway.

Social Services Committee: Ron Smith (chairman), Ken Oliver and Tammy Archer.

Ad Hoc (former) Wardens' Committee: Joan Chalovich (chairman), George Boycott and Howard Sheppard

Northumberland County (Historical) Book Committee: Howard Sheppard (chairman), George Boycott and Bill Pettingill.

New Northumberland County Warden, George McCleary , Reeve of Percy Township.

Merger meetings continue

The groundwork meetings for the amalgamation of the two municipalities of Colborne Village and Cramahe Township continue.

Tuesday, December 15, a sub-committee met with members from the two municipalities.

On January 5, the Operations committee will meet at 7 p.m. in Colborne. On January 14, the transition board consisting all 10 presently-serving municipal council members will meet 5 p.m., at the Cramahe Township Municipal Building at Castleton.

Accident kills two

Two people are dead and a third woman is in serious condition after a midday collision in Percy Township last Friday.

The drivers of both vehicles, Sandra Williams, 48 of Castleton and Charles Strong, 68 of Norwood, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Northumberland OPP report that Mr. Strong's wife, Doreen, was transported to Kingston for medical treatment.

They said that the collision occurred at the intersection of County Road 25 and the Dutch Line Side Road, just south of Hastings.

The Northumberland Technical Traffic Collision Investigators and Identification Units are working with the Campbellford OPP detachment to investigate the cause of the accident.

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