

Forever YOUNG

# Mayor Finley honoured for 28 years of service

First elected in 1977, Bill Finley has a long list of service to his community including a stint as County warden

By Vince Versace  
Staff Writer



Alnwick-Haldimand Mayor Bill Finley recently received a long-standing service award for his years in municipal government.

**ALNWICK-HALDIMAND** - Twenty-eight years of municipal politics sure can fly by if you are not careful, says Alnwick-Haldimand's mayor.

"It has been interesting but sometimes you do not where the time has gone," says Mayor Bill Finley.

The Ontario government recently recognized 19 municipally elected officials from Eastern Ontario with long-standing service awards and Mayor Finley was one of the recipients. To receive the award an official must be serving on council and have accumulated 25 years of service as of Jan. 1, 2004.

"When I started I was a councillor and it was just Haldimand," recalls Mayor Finley. "I was encouraged to run by a Grafton

once was a time I knew every farmer between Colborne and Cobourg but there has been a shift, closer to the lake, from an agricultural economy."

One of the more contentious community issues occurred about 20 years ago when the municipal council supported the establishment of a liquid natural gas company north of Grafton.

"There were a lot of mixed emotions over that and it split the community," says Mayor Finley, a former warden of Northumberland

County. "It ended up at the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) and was defeated. I do not lose any sleep over it though. The council felt the benefits outweighed the detriments."

Complaints about the pressures of public life Mayor Finley has heard over the years have not bothered him.

"In most cases, the public has been very good," notes Mayor Finley. "It seems though it is only going to get more difficult because of the increase in costs for municipalities to deal with."

lady named Dorita Bryson. She said I was a young man she would like to see run for council."

Mayor Finley was elected as a councillor in 1977. In 1979 he decided to throw his hat into the mayoral race and he has been mayor ever since.

Over 28 years of public service Mayor Finley has seen many changes, not just in his community but Northumberland.

"There have big changes," he says. "There

**Mileage rates increased for council, township staff**

The cost of doing business in Cramahne Township has gone up. Council voted; this month to raise the mileage rate paid to staff and council members from 37 cents to 42 cents per kilometre, effective September 1.

The increase reflects the increase in fuel costs. The increase might have been greater had Councillor Marc Coombs not stepped in.

Mr. Coombs wasn't disputing increased costs but didn't feel that Cramahne had to have the highest rates in the County of Northumberland.

A staff report from the Cramahne Township clerk-administrator's and treasurer's offices recommended 45 cents per kilometre based on information collected by chief building official Natalie Moroz-Cornell. At a recent building officials meeting she had polled those present. The rates paid ranged from 39 to 45.5 cents.

COLBORNE CHRONICLE Oct. 20/05

**MCLAREN, CURTIS PATRICK**

Passed suddenly on October 17, 2005 at age seventeen, in Markham.

If a life lived can be measured by the depth and breadth of human spirit and by the love one person holds for all others, then Curtis has lived an infinite life in his mere 17 years.

Born August 10, 1988, he overcame numerous heart operations, complications and medical challenges. A devastating stroke December 25, 1998 challenged him to learn to walk and talk all over again. He rejoiced in his focus on being normal and healthy. He proudly shared with his family numerous awards for courage, determination and respect. An accomplished one-handed magician, a creative touch with video and digital media, and an open and apparent appreciation for mankind allowed his strong sense of self to impact on all.

Much loved youngest son of Patti (nee Colborne) and Dr. Stephen McLaren of Markham, brother of Laura and Robert; cherished grandson of "Granny" Lois Colborne of Port Hope and "Grandma" Marjorie McLaren of Cornwall. Comfort waits in the arms of "Papa" Gord Colborne and "Grandpa" Lyle McLaren. His many aunts, uncles and cousins will hold him in loving memory. He will truly miss his friends, classmates and teachers.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 20th from 1-4 and 6-9 pm at Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, 8911 Woodbine Avenue (3 lights north of Hwy 7), Markham (905) 305-8508.

Funeral service will be held on Friday, October 21st at 11 am at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 143 Main St. North, Markham, with Reverend Wes Denyer presiding.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Curtis may be made to Markham Stouffville Hospital, The Hospital for Sick Children, or your local community hospital.

Curtis, your laugh, engaging smile, love for life and all its joys will be embraced, held forever in our hearts and always remembered.

**600 DEATH NOTICES**

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**BAKER, CHARLES LESLIE "LES"**

At Northumberland Hills Hospital, on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, age 74 years. Les Baker, of Brighton and formerly of Cobourg, son of the late Arthur E. Baker and the late Molly (Dwyer). Loving husband of Hazel Norma (Hamden). Dear father of Brenda and her husband David Chapman of Colborne. Dear brother of Esther Cooper of Metcalfe, Frances and Ray Simms of Michigan, and Ray and Sheila Baker of Winchester. Predeceased by his sister Della Scullion. Sadly missed by his grandchildren, Katie, and her fiancée Tim Williams, Sarah and her husband Tom McMurry, and great grandchildren, Paige and Olivia. The family received friends at the Walas Funeral Home, 130 Main Street, Brighton on Friday from 7-9pm. and Saturday from 1pm. Service was held in the funeral home on Saturday, October 15th at 2 o'clock. The Reverend Thomas Walton officiating. Interment Salem Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Palliative Care Unit would be appreciated by the family.