

Warden's banquet has definite flavor of 'roast'

By Eileen Argyris

It was the banquet for the Warden who is not to be.

Saturday night at the Big Apple, politicians from across the county gathered with friends, family and co-workers of Doug Galt to wish him well as he leaves the county's top spot.

Although regret was expressed by all of the evening's many speakers, the overall tone of the evening was upbeat, more like a roast than the traditional warden's banquet.

Galt resigned as warden Tuesday, May 4, after having resigned as reeve of Cramahe Township the night before.

He was ordered by Ontario's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Rita Burak to give up the warden's job because of a "real or perceived conflict of interest" between the county post and his profession as head of the agriculture ministry's veterinary lab in Brighton.

Time taken away from his regular job to attend to political duties was also cited as a factor in the demand for his resignation.

Galt said he was voluntarily resigning as reeve because the

Late paper next week

Due to the holiday, Monday, May 24, next week's *Colborne Chronicle* will reach readers a day late, on Thursday, May 27, instead of Wednesday.

Have a wonderful -- and safe -- holiday weekend, and enjoy Apple Blossom Tyme, May 22.

Special issue inside this week

Inside this week's *Colborne Chronicle*, you will find a special tabloid supplement entitled *Take A Tour Through Apple Country*.

This supplement has been designed with Apple Blossom Tyme in mind and will be available at tourism information booths throughout the area during this tourist season. It is free to all our subscribers inside their May 18 *Colborne Chronicle*.

restrictions his employer, the provincial government, wanted to place on him would have made him, in his words, "a lame duck."

When Galt learned that he was going to have to leave the warden's chair, plans for the traditional warden's banquet had already been made. It is customary for the municipality from which the warden comes to have a banquet in his or her honor during the warden's one-year term. Normally politicians from across the county are invited to be present, and this warden's banquet was no exception in that respect.

Northumberland MP Christine Stewart was among the speakers. She told Galt that not only his rights, "but the rights of all of us," had been infringed upon by the enforced resignation.

Her statement provoked a hearty round of applause.

Stewart had said at the time of Galt's announcement that forcing him to resign was contrary to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Northumberland MPP Joan Fawcett said she had come to bring greetings from the Province of Ontario, but, she admitted, "I don't suppose you give two hoots about the Province of Ontario right now."

Her remark was greeted with loud cheers.

Colborne Reeve Walter Rutherford had been appoint-

ed to bring greetings from the county and he pointed out that Doug Galt's leadership will be missed at the county.

Rutherford added that the "worst part," of the year, the budget process, was over, and said it was a pity that Galt was not to be allowed to finish his term, which would normally have ended in December.

Other speakers included Galt's longtime friend, Jack Honey; his daughter, Alana; Port Hope Reeve Gloria Spence-Schlegel, who nominated him for Warden, Cramahe Deputy Reeve Stu Oliver, Cramahe Councillors George Blyth, Howard Whaley and Jim Williams and past county wardens Joan Chalovich of Cobourg, Ken Ferguson of Brighton Township and Bill Petherick of Seymour.

The county's current warden, Don Clarke, who was acclaimed after Galt's resignation, was present but did not speak.

Galt himself made a lengthy address in which he thanked members of the county and township staffs, fellow council members, the press and his family for their support, both while he was in municipal politics and upon his resignation.

Although the occasion could have descended into sadness or bitterness, it was obviously

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Humor -- Former county warden, Doug Galt, appeared relaxed at Warden's Banquet Saturday night with his wife, Catherine. The evening turned into a kind of roast for Galt. Photo by Eileen Argyris

cle, Tuesday, May 18, 1993

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... last Saturday night, resigning county warden and memento of his contribution to the township. Coun. bird to his wife, Catherine. Photo by Eileen Argyris

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events leading his reseller coaster ed the fact d as warden to dispose of age in this s to buy a nd then he ark consti- rceived con-

d conflict of ly Galt's sig- asking the y to consid- rn and soy umberland by the poor t year, that al posts.

But Deputy-Reeve Walter Broegemann of Alnwick Township said he had a solution.

He presented Galt with a pen which, he said, held disappearing ink, so that Galt could sign letters to the provincial and federal governments and his signature would not appear.

Gift presentations were made to Galt and to his wife, Catherine, by the Cramahe Township staff and council.

Present for the special occasion were the Galts' three daughters, Alana, Laurel and Darcy; Doug's mother, Florence Galt and Catherine's mother, Margaret Lounsbury.

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