

Rev. 'Bob' Matton dies walking near his home

By Frances Niblock

Hundreds of people, including a large contingent from Acton, attended funeral services for former Acton minister the Reverend Dr. Robert (Bob) T. Matton on Monday in Hamilton.

Reverend Matton, 54, suffered a massive heart attack last Wednesday night while out for a walk with his wife Lois near their Hamilton home.

He is survived by his wife and children Rita, Jane and Daryl, a Canadian soldier who flew home from Afghanistan for the funeral.

A former high school teacher whose first church was in Saskatchewan, Reverend Matton moved his family to Acton in 1995 when he



MINISTER REMEMBERED: Funeral services were held in Hamilton on Monday for former Acton resident, the Reverend Dr. Robert T. Matton who served at Acton's Trinity United Church. —Submitted photo

accepted the charge at Trinity United Church.

He also served a two point charge at United churches north in Alma and Drayton and then served at the Binbrook

and Blackheath United Churches in Hamilton. The Mattons moved to Hamilton in 2005.

Recently Reverend Matton returned to school at Humber College to study to become a funeral director.

In 2004, the Reverend Matton received his Doctor of Divinity degree from McMaster Divinity College. His thesis dealt with the presence of the Spirit in congregational dynamics and the practice of stewardship.

The three ministers who spoke during the funeral service acknowledged Reverend Matton's efforts to improve working conditions for clergy by supporting a move by the Canadian Auto Workers to include clergy in their rank and file.

Record attendance at fair...

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the Fair's success. Medland said that Education Day on Friday was a hit — parents and teachers said it was well organized and well run with 1,000 Acton school kids enjoying the farming exhibits and games.

73 babies in show There were 73 babies entered in the Baby Show, and with 75 sponsors, each entrant received a gift. Although there was a thin crowd for the Miss Acton contest, Medland said it was "adequate" but there weren't as many people as they would have liked.

Ten local young women entered the 45th edition of the Miss Acton pageant that saw 16-year-old Justine Martin crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair.

"We had lots of new exhibitors for Homecrafts — we always like to see new names come out," Medland said, adding that it was the 50th anniversary of Homecrafts so they invited the first Homecraft president, Erma McEnery, to a special ceremony with other Homecraft presidents.

Homecraft volunteers also entered a float in the parade — it featured Fair Board president Frank Hanes dressed as a carrot.

Medland said the Western horse show was so well received that they are planning to expand it for next year, and there were 140 pulls for the highway truck and garden tractor events on Saturday — events that drew large appreciative crowds.

Medland said there were no incidents at the beer tent and only excitement when the Zipper ride broke down early Saturday night, stranding riders for up to 10 minutes. Midway staff operated the ride manually to bring the stranded riders to the ground. No one was hurt and everyone who was stuck on the ride received a free sheet of tickets.

Medland said the volunteers who make the fair happen will take a break for a couple of weeks, and begin planning for next year's fair in October

Fire Report

Barbecue smell

Acton firefighters found that a propane barbecue and not a natural gas leak was to blame for an odor detected at a residence on Regional Rd 25, south of 10 sideroad, at 6:01pm on Saturday

Dead battery

Acton firefighters responding to alarm activation at 34 Longfield Road found that a dead battery in the smoke alarm had caused it to sound at 11:39

on Saturday night.

Staff put a new battery in the detector for the homeowner.

At 9:07pm, firefighters responded to a call about a fire beside the train tracks running by Robert Little School.

They found the smoke was from a fire in the backyard of a Main St residence, the homeowner had a permit.

Help not needed

The assistance of Acton firefighters was not required when they responded to a call at the Acton Fall Fair about people trapped on the Zipper after it broke down at 9:30 on Friday night.

Midway staff manually operated the ride to bring riders safely to the ground.

Firefighters were summoned to 40 Main St. South when someone smelled natural gas. Crews found that gas was leaking and they stayed on scene until Union Gas arrived to make repairs.

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