

# Halton Sheriff Andrew Frank retires after 13 years' service



HALTON SHERIFF ANDY FRANK  
With ceremonial robes and sword

**By Bob Burtt**  
Probably one of the most colorful "characters" to ever hold the position of sheriff of Halton will retire to a life of leisure after 13 years on the job come Jan. 1, 1971.

Of the eight sheriffs to hold the office since 1856, only three have served longer than the current sheriff, Andrew W. (Andy) Frank.

Mr. Frank's tenure as a sheriff was preceded by careers in the building industry, fruit farming and real estate where he specialized in the sale of farms.

**Man of many talents**  
A man of many talents and a wide variety of interests, Mr. Frank once played in a three piece band on a regular Saturday night program broadcast over CKOC. For two years during the 1930's the band that included himself, his father and his sister Mrs. James Evans entertained each Saturday for a half hour. Known as the Sobusters, the band was one of the favorites in the district.

"We played country music, the same kind of music Don Messer plays," Andy notes with a touch of nostalgia and a twinkle of pride. He's an expert violinist.

**Serves writs, documents**  
The duties of the sheriff include administering civil law. His department must serve all writs and documents concerning matters to be dealt with in county and supreme court.

Perhaps one of the more unpleasant duties of the position would be dealing with repossessions. Operating on a judge's order the sheriff or one of his workers is called upon to confiscate goods or properties in civil matters.

Understandably enough, some of the people Sheriff Frank, or any sheriff for that matter, would come across in the course of business wouldn't tend to be the most pleasant chaps.

**Likes people**  
Even after 13 years of dealing with all sorts of people Andy claims he hasn't met anyone in whom he couldn't find something he liked. This ability to see good in even persons rejected by society has served Andy Frank well during his tenure as sheriff.

By law it is the sheriff's duties to be responsible for persons charged with an indictable offence once they reach the door of the courtroom.

**Two murder cases**  
During 1967 Halton County Courts dealt with two murder cases. During the trials, which may run for weeks, the sheriff and his staff must see that the jury is actually removed from their regular environment and secluded until the termination of the trial.

During the trial newspapers are censored before going to jurors, and phone calls only to constables are allowed. Even meals are ordered through constables of the sheriff's department.

**Resigned after hanging**  
Since 1856 Halton has had eight

sheriffs. Legend has it that the first sheriff Levi Wilson resigned after only three years on the job because he was required to make arrangements for a hanging and the task bothered him so much he decided to quit in favor of another line of work.

He was succeeded by Crawford McKenzie who served from 1859 to 1862 when he was relieved by Matthew Clements, the uncle of Russell Clements, a resident of Milton today.

Since then Dr. Sam Webster, Gordon Brown, William Hampshire and William Robertson held the office. The last hanging in Halton was in 1876.

**Small office**  
Recalling the shabby small office he worked in at the old county building on Brown St. Mr. Frank noted there was just himself, his deputy and a secretary Mrs. Hansen 13 years ago.

Clebert McDowell served as Mr. Frank's deputy until 1964 when Mac Sprowl was appointed, and until today he holds the job. Mrs. Hansen retired in August of this year.

**Best staff ever**  
Today the sheriff operates out of the county buildings on Base Line Road Milton in spacious quarters and has a staff of four secretaries, a deputy and 14 court constables retained on a per diem basis.

"I'm retiring with the best staff I've ever worked with," the sheriff noted proudly. He indicated his success at the job is greatly attributed to great support from police and the Halton Law Association.

**Busy retirement**  
While Mrs. Frank has work lined up far enough ahead that Andy thinks he'll be busy for at least a year, he plans to devote more time to his many and varied interests.

"I want to devote more time to music, do some fishing and enjoy the things I haven't had time for," he said.

As a member of Halton Heights Golf Club, the Milton and Burlington Lawn Bowling clubs, an avid card player and an elder at St. Paul's United Church the veteran sheriff won't have to look far for something to occupy his time.

**Lives in Milton**  
A resident of Nassagaweya for 47 years and Milton for five years, Mr. Frank lives with his

wife Elsie and their son Field at their 1, ylla St. Milton home. He is the father of four children, his son held in college and married daughters Jean, Joanne and Donna.

Back in 1967 Sheriff Andy enjoyed a wonderful vacation trip to British Columbia where he met up with his "namesake" — an Indian Chief named Andy Frank. The two had become acquainted through a mutual friend and Chief Andy showed Sheriff Andy some wonderful hospitality during his visit to B.C.

**Ring in New Year**  
Andy has offered his name as a candidate to ring the bell at Milton town hall New Year's Eve to ring in the new year.

"If I do it, it will be my first job as a retired man. After all my years in music I'll have the touch," he quipped, adding that he would expect the town maintenance men to oil the pulleys first.

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## Celebrate Christmas in 1890's tradition

If you want to celebrate your Christmas in the 1890's tradition, it's not as difficult as you might think. For the top of the tree, you can cut a star out of gold construction paper. You can also cut chains from the same paper to string along the branches. Or if you prefer, make your strings of popcorn and cranberries.

Then you should have loads of cookies, candies, and gilded nuts. Star-shaped cookies, gingerbread men, and Beech-Nut sours — hard candies that capture the turn-of-the-century flavor — any of these would do just fine.

You can put the sours in little transparent bags and attach them to the tree. You can also use the candies to stuff gifts and fill stockings with. And if you want a real Gay Nineties touch, you can just fill a dish with sours and keep it standing on a foyer table for your Christmas guests.

**Gay Nineties**  
Also, your Gay Nineties Christmas wouldn't be complete without at least a half dozen cornucopias on your tree. To make these, simply take colored construction paper, preferably gold and silver, roll it into a cone, and attach the ends together with masking tape.

Then you punch two holes in the top rim through which you thread a piece of red or green string. With the string you attach your cornucopia to the tree, and once you fill it to the brim with candies, you have a delightful (and tasty) Christmas decoration.

Then, if you want to go all the way to make your Christmas tree an old-fashioned one, you can try to locate some 1890's toys to put under it. Say a hobby horse, carousel — or maybe a Teddy Bear.

## Yuletide carols from far and near

A part of the Christmas celebration in America is the singing of yuletide carols. We hear them from groups of carolers outside our doors, from choir lofts in our churches as well as radio and television. The Christmas season is enriched by favorite carols.

Early settlers from European lands brought us three of our favorite carols, "Away in a Manger" from Germany; "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" from England and "Cantique do Noel" from France. "Adeste

Fideles" belongs to no country; however, it has been translated into 119 different languages and dialects.

Composed by Sears  
"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" was composed by Edmund H. Sears, an American in 1849. In 1850 Dr. John Henry Hopkins Jr. composed "We Three Kings Of Orient Are". Dr. Hopkins was an American. The writer of "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" in 1868, Phillips Brooks, was an American too.



**Merry Christmas**

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