

Acton reeve Dr. Oakes Halton Warden

Acton Reeve Dr. F. G. Oakes was unanimously declared Warden of Halton County Tuesday at Halton County Council's inaugural meeting at the county buildings in Milton.

He defeated Milton Reeve Ron Harris, Milton Deputy Reeve Percy Barr and Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. Anna MacArthur in a four-way race. Mrs. MacArthur and Don McMillan, her deputy voted for Mrs. MacArthur. Mr. Harris and Mrs. Barr voted for themselves. All others voted for Dr. F. G. Oakes.

33 years' service

The election as Warden is the high point in 33 years of public life for Dr. Oakes. He served 13 years on Acton School Board and four of those 13 years was chairman of the board. He served as mayor of Acton in 1953 and from 1953 to 1965 he served on the Hydro Commission, for three years as chairman.

He served two years as councillor, two years as deputy reeve and two years as reeve of Acton. He is in his second term as reeve.

Born near Sherbrooke, Quebec he moved to Ontario 33 years ago. He received his high school and college education in Guelph as well as part of his elementary education.

Fair board

For 20 years he was a member of the Acton Fall Fair Board and a one time chairman of that board. He is an active member of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Acton.

In his remarks as Warden Dr. Oakes recalled last year when the big issue was regional government and the county council held many special meetings to deal with it. "In March 1970 the province put it in the mothballs and it will stay there until after the next provincial election," he predicted.

He told members they could activate the matter at any time but said he recognized the mixed feelings on council.

Successful department

He spoke briefly about the success of the new department of social and family services in the county and said he expected the council would deal with the matter of representation on the council during this year.

Judge Allan B. Sprague, Halton County Court Judge conducted the declaration of office and swore in the members of the council and later officiated as the new Warden took his oath.

Rev. Harry J. Dawson of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Acton conducted invocation.

Election speeches

Each of the members seeking election spoke briefly. Percy Barr was nominated by Reeve Jim Swanborough of Burlington and Deputy Reeve Harry Barrett of Oakville.

He said he had been classified as a dark horse and had been criticized for not declaring himself before Christmas. He said elections should be more discriminating and noted if

elected he would not promise anyone any particular jobs.

Ron Harris, nominated by Deputy Reeve Don McMillan of Nassagaweya and Reeve Tom Hill of Esquesing, said the criteria for electing a Warden should be examined. He said the turn system is no longer fair except for the man whose turn it is.

No housekeeping

He said he would promise full time to the job and noted he had three years to show his ability. "This won't be a housekeeping year. We'll have to push regional government right away or have those powers promised under regional government given to the county — such as police, garbage and fire protection."

He urged meetings be held where mayors can attend even without a vote because this, he said, would help with communications.

Childs method

Mrs. MacArthur used the opportunity to criticize the method of electing a warden. She said it should be a secret ballot. She said she hoped the council would continue as the smooth running body it has been for the last two years.

She noted a need for better communications between committees dealing with a common problem. She called for big and small communities to work together. "A man running a big community doesn't necessarily have his head screwed on any better than the one running a small municipality."

She said she expected the only vote for her would be her own.

More seasoned

Dr. Oakes told members he had served on just about every committee and members had time to know his ability or lack of it. He recalled declining nomination last year because he wanted more seasoning and said he felt he was well qualified for the job this term.

Clerk-Administrator Garfield Brown conducted the election. Noting six former wardens in the overflowing audience, he referred to them as the senate and suggested "the senate might be able to solve the problem about how to elect a warden."

Former wardens on hand were Allan Day, John Milne, Bill Hunter, George Leslie, Herb Merry and George Currie. Mr. Day presented Warden Oakes with the chain of office which he had worn in 1970.

New members

Seven of the 14 Halton County Councillors are new this year. They include Reeve Allan Masson and Deputy Reeve Harry Barrett of Oakville, Reeve James Swanborough of Burlington, Reeve Rick Morrow of Georgetown, Deputy Reeve G. W. McKenzie of Acton, Deputy Reeve Don McMillan of Nassagaweya and Deputy Reeve Russell Miller of Esquesing.



DR. FRANK OAKES, Reeve of Acton and well-known veterinarian, was elected Warden of Halton at Tuesday's inaugural meeting of County Council. Retiring Warden Allan Day of Oakville, left, hangs the chain of office on the new warden in ceremonies at the county buildings, Milton.—(Staff Photo)

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Sixth Year. — No. 29

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1971

Sixteen Pages — Fifteen Cents



ACTON BUSINESSMAN Roy Goodwin was elected to head Acton Chamber of Commerce for the next year at the annual meeting of the Chamber Wednesday at the Dominion Hotel.—(Staff Photo)

Elect R. Goodwin Chamber head

The "keys of office" were turned over by president John Shadbolt to newly-elected Chamber of Commerce president Roy Goodwin at the annual election and installation of officers held last Wednesday in the Dominion hotel.

Without a gavel, the symbol of office was the key to the Chamber post office box.

Roy Goodwin defeated Mike de Jong in his bid for the presidency. Mr. de Jong has served the Chamber as secretary a number of years and returned to the board as a director this year.

Officers installed

Officers were installed by mayor Les Duby. Paul Nielsen returns to the Chamber as first vice-president; he served previously as president and director of the Chamber. Moving up on the board of directors to second vice-president is Allan Eastwood.

Secretary is Don McDonald and treasurer will be Chester Anderson.

Directors selected were John Secord, Don Dupuis, Kevin Conroy, Fred Gordon, Mike de

Jong, Bob Davis, Sydney Lamb and John Rol.

Auditors are Del Cook and Bill Mullin.

In accepting the presidency Roy Goodwin expressed his appreciation to the past officers for the work during the year and the hope that the same spirit of activity would continue during his term of office.

Objectives

He said one of his first objectives would be to make a thorough solicitation for funds to meet the cost of the past and future Christmas lighting program. He thought by concentrated effort the costs of the program could be met.

Another project the president envisions is the re-activation of the agriculture committee and paid tribute to the work that Nino Braida in past years had performed in this field.

President John Shadbolt in his report of the past year's activities said the Chamber was "involved in more varied and many more events than ever before." He said that 1970 had been a good year. "We might have lost a few dollars but the

concept of the Chamber is not to make dollars."

He said the activities of the Chamber had been more social than previously. He recalled that previously the Chamber had had a reputation "for being square." During his term of office the Chamber had tried to get away from that image and it had culminated in the very successful New Year's Eve dance.

Projects undertaken

He listed some of the projects undertaken by the Chamber which included an attempt to standardize Christmas store hours; high school students learning merchandising through decoration of the store windows; introduction of a news letter designed to give members Queen's Park thinking on some of the legislation passed; the Citizen of the Year dinner and award; repainting the signboards at the entrances to town.

Mr. Shadbolt reported the Chamber had had two very successful meetings with Rud Whiting, the local member of parliament, and Alf Hales from Guelph.

Profit on show

The September sportsman's show was highly successful in that this was the first year in which a profit had been made. He felt the show could be developed to provide much greater good for the town.

The co-operation of the other service clubs in putting the show together was very much appreciated by the Chamber. The ability of all groups to work together showed that much could be accomplished. He hoped that more of this type of co-operation can be generated in the future.

He reported briefly on the briefs the Chamber had made to council on the industrial park.

66 members

Also reporting to the annual meeting was Allan Eastwood who gave a resume of the various activities of the year. Mike de Jong gave the membership report indicating there were 66 members of the chamber. He said some of the "better paying" members had not renewed their membership.

Paul Nielsen reported on the activities of the committee on the parking problem.

Specific role

Mayor Duby in his remarks while installing the new officers congratulated the Chamber on their every attempt to help the town. He hoped the Chamber could continue the spring clean-up campaign to help improve the appearance of the town.

He looks on the Chamber of Commerce in the specific role they have to play and not as a dissident ratepayers group.

The centennial year for the

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They could have danced all night

A set of guidelines for the use of the Nassagaweya Township Hall when it is rented will be prepared, Councillors agreed after Deputy Reeve Don McMillan reported on one recent rental.

A teen-age dance was held in the hall under the sponsorship of a Hamilton group. When the caretaker arrived the next day to clean up she found some of the teenagers had slept there. He emphasized that he didn't recognize any of the "guests" as township residents.

He suggested that they clean up their spaghetti lunch and let out and be reported on problems, but he called for some control and guidelines on the use of the property.

Fire strikes farm home second time

Fire struck a house in Nassagaweya for the second time within two months Sunday night in almost the same manner—sparks from the chimney igniting the roof.

Twelve-year-old Bernd Von Cube turned in the alarm after noticing the fire while feeding ducks. He saved the house from more serious damage November 14 in a similar fire by dousing flames with a fire extinguisher.

This time Sigmund Von Cube and the family confined damage to a two foot square hole in the shingles at their farm home at Lot 23 on the First Line, Nassagaweya.

Acton firefighters made the 10 mile run to the house but the family's quick action had the fire out when they arrived.

Damage was estimated at about \$30.

George says no

People underestimate the power of the rib. According to the Scriptures, God took a rib from Adam and as a result today we have Eve.

Friday night, the Hon. George Kerr ended speculation that he might run for the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservative party by stating he considered the idea but decided against it.

Fight monster

The official version was that the Halton West M.P.P., a popular pollution fighter, was going to devote his time to fighting the pollution monster.

But the real reason might be that he broke a couple of ribs skiing and this affected his decision. At least George said they might have, anyway, when he addressed 100 members of the Halton West PC Association.

Many of those who attended weren't there to "rib" George, though.

Some of them brought signs backing Kerr as a candidate. But George said spearheading the anti-pollution drive would be his most important task over the next five years and the audience had to agree.

Delegates named

Elected as delegates to the Feb. 10-12 convention in Toronto for Halton West are David Coons, Davis Smith, Mrs. Audrey Ryckman, Mrs. Grace Freilton, Mrs. Gerry McMillan, John McLean, Les Preston, Peter Lush and Gordon Hampson.

Andrew Frame, an executive member in the Hamilton Association and Burlington Reeve James Swanborough, a candidate in the last federal election, also have votes at the convention.

Education bill stuns council

A January bill for \$39,400 from the Halton County Board of Education stunned Nassagaweya township councillors Monday. They faced the decision of whether the township should borrow the funds or whether they should delay payment until tax revenues are received, in which case the Board would charge interest.

Councillors finally agreed to pay the account and borrow the funds themselves.

Twice a month bill

Bruce Lindley, the Board's superintendent of finance reviewed that last year requisitions were forwarded to the council twice each month for payment on the 15 and 25th. He reported this was satisfactory last year and the Board would continue the same policy this year.

Until the budget is set the requisitions are on the basis of 1970 apportionments.

Councillor Cal McIntyre noted that in months when the Board receives provincial grants the requisition could be almost nil.

No consultation

Clerk Campbell Thompson suggested the method of requisitioning last year had been agreed on but he had not felt it would be continued in the new year without further consultation. He wondered why the requisitioning could not be done quarterly.

In background

When Senator Keith Davey was a guest on the TV show Front Page Challenge Monday night, a reader tells us the front page of the Acton Free Press was plainly showing in the background. Senator Davey headed the committee which investigated the mass media.

Icy road conditions problem

Esquesing roads superintendent C. E. "Bud" Snow admits he is baffled about what to do to alleviate the problem of icy road conditions in the township, conditions Deputy Reeve Russell Miller described as "terrible."

Mr. Snow and members of council have been plagued by phone calls from residents in all parts of the township protesting hazardous conditions on roads.

Use up sand

Mr. Snow told council Monday night, the township roads crew has never stopped sanding since the first snowfall and has already used up two thirds of their supply of sand. Yet, Mr. Snow says keeping roads in condition has never been as great a problem in the eight years he has been with the township. Rapidly changing weather is cited by Mr. Snow as a possible reason for the difficulty.

Mr. Snow said three of the five trucks used for sanding were out of order for one particular day, but other than that they have been operating well.

Clerk-treasurer Delmar French read letters, requesting road conditions from ratepayers Harold Ritchie and Mrs. T. J. Rees and a letter from Fourth Line resident Mrs. Marjorie Thompson, claiming her husband's car was forced off the road, because the township snow plow failed to move over.

Mr. Ritchie, an employee of the town of Mississauga, also appeared at the meeting and told council this is the fourth winter he had had to put up with poor road conditions.

"Maybe longtime residents of the township don't have to get out to go to work, but there must be hundreds who have to," he claimed.

Referring to the township's proposed construction of a new fire hall, Mr. Ritchie queried "What good's a fire hall, if the truck can't get out?"

Mr. Ritchie said he knew the township received grants for road maintenance from the Department of Highways, but Reeve Tom Hill reminded him the Department pays only 50 per cent of Esquesing road maintenance, while it pays 65 per cent of road maintenance in Erin township.

"Why is that?" Mr. Ritchie asked.

"Because we're not a depressed area," the reeve replied.

"Sometimes I wonder," Mr. Ritchie countered.

Suggests use salt

Reeve Hill did agree however, road conditions in the township are hazardous. Purchase of a load of salt to be used on the roads was suggested by the reeve. The reeve claimed sand

applied to the roads is just using on top of the ice.

"I'd sooner see us use our budget to make the roads safe in winter and put up with the chewin' from ratepayers in the summer," Reeve Hill commented.

Questioned by councillor Dick Howitt what plan of attack he uses in sanding township roads, Mr. Snow said trucks sand hills and intersections first, then straightaways. Erin township doesn't sand roads at all, Mr. Snow added.

Use washed sand

Councillor Len Coxie wondered

Ballinafad girl injured snowmobile - car mishap

Guelph OPP told the Free Press Wednesday that charges are pending as a result of a collision between a snowmobile and a car which occurred in the early hours of Sunday morning at the intersection of the Fifth Line and Five Sideoad, Erin township.

Operator of the snowmobile, Karen Shortill, 17, of Ballinafad was taken to Georgetown District

hospital, where she was treated for abrasions to both legs and left shoulder. She has since been discharged. Damage to the snowmobile was estimated at \$300.

Driver of the car, Robert Fuller, 18, of Erin township escaped uninjured. The Fuller car received an estimated \$30 damage.

Constable Farthing, Guelph OPP is investigating.