

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

From the management and staff of

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Eighth Year. — No. 26

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1972

Twelve Pages—Fifteen Cents.



AFTER SERVING Acton for a total of 50 years, Reeve Frank Oakes (right) and Councillor Jack Greer are retiring from municipal politics. The pair of veteran politicians were presented with engraved cufflinks at a farewell party at the home of Reeve-elect Pat McKenzie last week. (D. Gibbons photo)

Recognize 50 years' service as Oakes and Greer retire

Reeve Frank Oakes and Councillor Jack Greer retiring from municipal politics, following service that totals over 50 years, were honored by colleagues at a social evening at the home of Reeve-elect Pat McKenzie after last Tuesday's council meeting.

Mayor Les Duby and Councillor Bill Coats presented the retiring pair with specially engraved cufflinks in appreciation of the pair's long and faithful service to the town.

"It was quite a blow to us all that Frank had to make one of the most serious decisions of his life and not run this time," Mayor Duby said in reference to the reeve's recent illness.

The mayor also paid tribute to Councillor Greer, who he said has given him valuable service on municipal affairs many times during his term as mayor.

Reeve Oakes said he regretted not being able to participate in this year's election, but added he knows now he did the right thing for his personal benefit.

"I've dealt with many fine groups of people and I appreciate the association I've had with everyone. All in all they stack up to a wonderful group of people," he said.

Included in the retiring reeve's 33 years of municipal service are terms on Acton school board, Acton Hydro Commission, town council, county council and a year as Halton County Warden in 1971.

Councillor Greer also said he is very happy with the relationship he has had with councillors during his terms of service.

"I saw an awful difference in councils today, compared to 20 years ago," he explained referring to his recently completed term.

"Maybe 20 years from now it will be just as difficult a ball game for some of you fellows. I would have liked to run again, but I really didn't have the health to see another term through."

In jest

In jest, the retiring councillor mentioned he thought he could have beaten Councillor-elect Bill Yundt, a local pharmacist.

"I just would have told him I wouldn't bring him anymore prescriptions and I'm sure he'd have dropped out of the race right away. He knows I'm the one that keeps him going," Councillor Greer joked.

On behalf of the present council, Councillor Coats had a final small message he has learned from working with the retirees.

"You win a few, you lose a few," he said, "but you always remain the greatest of friends."

Photographs of past councils and special events attended by the pair, along with several mementoes, decorated the McKenzie home recreation room for the get-together.

Two car Boxing Day crash fatal for Hillsburgh woman

A Boxing Day morning collision on Wellington County Road 24 (Seventh Line) north of Ballinacree, has claimed the life of a Hillsburgh area woman and left two others in hospital.

Hinda Tobias, 21, R. R. 2, Hillsburgh, was pronounced dead at the scene, after cars driven by Norman Tobias, 36, and Frederick Boulton, 33 of Glangarry Avenue, London, collided.

Mr Tobias remains in Kitchener-Waterloo General Hospital with internal injuries. His condition is listed as critical.

Passenger in the Boulton car, Bonnie Boulton 26, was treated at Guelph General Hospital for a broken ankle. Mr. Boulton was treated for minor injuries at the same hospital and released.

Damage to the front end of the Boulton car was estimated at \$1,200. The Tobias car received an estimated \$2,400 damage to the rear end on the right and left sides.

The collision occurred at 11 a.m. Con. R. W. Bordon of the Guelph OPP detachment is investigating.

Christmas fire guts home child's cries alert family

Council appointments:

Council accepted committee recommendations and approved reappointment of the following incumbents to boards for 1973 at their final meeting last week.

George Lee, Ted Pratt, Fred New and Rev. Harry Dawson were reappointed to Acton Library Board for 1973.

Reappointed to parks and recreation committee for three year terms were Diane Spielvogel and Gil Malcolm.

Vic Bristow was reappointed to planning board and Jim Lindsay to committee of adjustment, both for three year terms.

Retiring Reeve Frank Oakes was appointed to serve as Acton's representative on the Halton County Museum Board. He replaces Kay Dills.

Council postponed appointment of a representative on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority until the new year.

Warden's dinner overshoots budget

Some members of Halton County Council feel Warden Jim Swanborough went overboard on the expenditures involved in putting on the 1972 Warden's Dinner.

Acton Reeve Dr. F. G. Oakes pointed out five items on the December accounts that resulted from the Warden's Dinner. Council approved accounts totalling \$3,806.35 at the December meeting of county council. The budget for the dinner for 182 guests was \$1,500.

Overspent

The following accounts were passed: \$3,105.58 for the dinner held at Burlington Golf and Country Club; \$95.73 for printing; \$489.64 for gifts presented, \$21 for flowers and an unspecified account for \$94.40.

Clerk Garfield Brown assured members of council the county would have a surplus at the end of the year (as it has had in other years) and money could be taken from the surplus to cover over-expenditures on the Warden's Dinner.

Four youths face charges

Four area youths have been arrested and charged with theft, following the disappearance of a newspaper vending box from Milton and another from Acton some time late Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

The four were arrested by Guelph Police early Tuesday morning and returned to Acton and Milton for questioning. A police spokesman said investigation was continuing but it appeared the total amount of money stolen was less than \$50.00.

Our Readers Write

Freeman decides against recount

To the Editor:

I would like to take advantage of your columns, to explain to the people of Esqueping Township the position of the recount requested by myself, in respect to the December 4th election for Council.

I had originally said that I would not request a recount, as we were trying to place new faces on council and as my nearest opponent was a new man, I would be willing to let him have a try to see what he could do. After considerable pressure from

Fire almost completely gutted the top storey of one of the Rockwood district's oldest homes on Christmas day during a family holiday get-together.

The stone homestead of Charlie Keane on the Sixth Line, Eramosa, had the top storey gutted by flames. It took the Rockwood-Eramosa fire brigade seven hours to bring it under control.

Alerted by baby

Alerted by the cries of a one-year-old baby boy taking an afternoon nap in an upstairs bedroom of his grandfather's home, the boy's father rushed upstairs to find the crib in flames and the room filled with smoke.

Grabbing the child and taking him downstairs, Mr. Keane's son-in-law attempted to return upstairs but the fire had advanced and heavy smoke curtailed any efforts to restrain its spread.

The Rockwood-Eramosa Fire Brigade were summoned at 4.30 p.m. but, on arrival, could not enter the upstairs area of the house.

They finally conquered the blaze seven hours later at 11 p.m., leaving the upstairs in a demolished condition but with the roof still intact with only charred windows on the outside showing signs of the inner devastation.

Chief Carl Meadows of the fire brigade examined the property thoroughly on Tuesday but cause of the blaze has not been discerned. Fortunately the baby was rescued within minutes and escaped with only two burns.

Three members of the Rockwood-Eramosa brigade suffered minor cuts fighting the blaze.

Driller, drillee mark birthdays

Mayor Les Duby and dentist Dr. Leonard Embrach celebrated their birthdays together last Thursday - for the length of an appointment! The mayor had some gold inlay work done to celebrate and the staff added their "many happy returns of the day" to the men on both ends of the drill.

The mayor went on to spend his day at a CORDC meeting in Toronto and back home through the fog for planning board.

Short week

With another holiday right on the heels of the last one, the Free Press again asks for early copy for advertisements and news next week. The office and plant will of course be closed next Monday, New Years Day. Display ads, greetings ads, classified ads and news stories and personals should be in at the office by the end of the week if possible.

Cruelty to animals is charge

Christmas weekend was quiet in town, according to Acton police. Their accident and occurrence record books don't have a single entry for December 25.

Incidents were minor, other than one reported December 20 and another Tuesday.

Cruelty charge

As a result of a complaint, a local person was charged last Wednesday with cruelty to animals. Investigating police discovered a dog with six pups which had died, believed due to exposure and malnutrition.

On Friday, Dec. 22 a person was charged with causing a disturbance on Mill E.

Minor accident

There was one accident and it was minor. It occurred when one of the two cars involved was backing into a parking spot on Mill E. Damage to the car driven by Maurice Staley, Acton, was estimated at a minimum of \$60 and to the car driven by Robert Ballentine, Esqueping township, \$8.

Despite fog and slush there were no other accidents reported.

Better plate market says bureau operator

By Dave Pink

Passenger car licence plates are selling better this year than in 1971, indicated Acton licence bureau operator Edwin Watson.

As of December 16 this year, the count was 103, compared with 92 last year. Snowmobile licences remained steady at 208.

Mr. Watson was unable to give a reason for this year's trend but mentioned the opening of another

licence bureau in this area could affect Acton's final totals.

This year's Ontario licence plates have three letters and three numbers. The 4,000 plates issued from the Acton office will have either DRR, DRS, DRT or DRU, with numbers ranging from one to 999. This year's plates are the same color as last year.

Fees are \$40 for an eight

cylinder car, \$32 for a six and \$23 for a four. A motorcycle licence costs \$15, snowmobile \$10 and trailer \$5.

Mr. Watson is urging people to buy their licences early and avoid the last minute lineups. He also suggests that applications and insurance be completely filled out and signed.

The licence bureau and Watson's Music moved earlier this year to its present location at 3 Elgin St.



LICENSE ISSUER Edwin Watson, right, processes an application from L. & L. Ford sales manager Phil Cloke, at the Acton office. Mr. Watson says demand for new plates is better than last year but the great majority of the 4,000 plates issued in Acton have yet to be purchased. —D. Pink Photo