

OUR READERS WRITE:

Supports chief, brigade

163 Jeffrey Ave.,
Acton, Ontario,
Jan. 8, 1974.

To: Editor
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:
Please find enclosed a copy of the remarks I made to the Council of Halton Hills Monday Jan. 7 while council were discussing and resolving the issue that has developed concerning our Fire Chief.
Mr. Mayor and fellow Councilors:
Many opinions have been expressed concerning the matter under discussion. We have had excellent fire protection in the past and I'm convinced every councillor wishes it to continue. Too much emphasis has been placed on certificates. In the field of education I have seen highly qualified people fail miserably in positions of responsibility that required them to co-ordinate and supervise people. This leadership quality greatly increases when

you work with volunteers.
I wholeheartedly support a volunteer fire brigade for our town. In the past we have had an excellent volunteer fire brigade in Ward 1 under Mr. Holmes's leadership and supervision. After his appointment as Fire Chief by a majority of council I have deplored the actions of one councillor to force his resignation. I respect a councillor's right to initiate change as outlined in our procedural By-Law however I doubt his ability to do so after observing his immaturity and lack of self-control. I believe Mr. Holmes deserves a public apology.
This appointment was never in my estimation a political one but rather an appointment of an experienced Fire Chief qualified to co-ordinate a volunteer brigade. However to help resolve the situation I am willing to support the amendment to name two District Fire Chiefs.

G.W. (Pat) McKenzie,
Regional Councillor Ward 1

Clean up for centennial year

R.R. 2 Acton.

Dear Sir:
I have read your paper ever since coming to Acton 1 1/2 years ago. Everyone seems to be lost for a good Centennial project. Well, sir, I have an excellent one, which won't cost the towns people of Acton anything just the people involved, who are making all the profit and putting out nothing in return!
Get the slim landlords of Acton, to clear up and repair the broken down hovels for which they are gouging steep rents, in one instance three rents for one, not fit for human habitation. They are a disgrace to the town and I personally feel ashamed when I have visitors here, who ask "Don't tell me they allow people to live in those places." Outside and inside they are a disgrace to any community in this day and age. What are the Halton County Health people doing allowing people to rent dumps like this. No proper plumbing, staircases falling away from walls, broken windows

no paint inside or out since date of construction (circa 1800) from the look of them.
I have mentioned these places many times to older residents, who immediately clam up and like the proverbial ostrich stick their heads in the ground and just hope it will go away. Ask the people who have come here in recent years, who these people are, and they will soon tell you, they have nothing to be afraid of and aren't related to anyone here whom they might get into trouble.
Ex-Mayor Duhay said he hopes the town will clean up for 1974, which is mentioning but not detailing what I have written here. I am sure, now we have Regional Government, that something will be done about these places. Come on, Acton, get after them and make them obey the law of common decency, and take their rents from well maintained and clean premises which will be a credit to this town, and not the disgrace it is today, at the start of our Centennial Year.

'Concerned Resident'

Acton firefighters speak out

Acton Fire Fighters Association
Acton, Ontario
January 7, 1974

To the Mayor and Council
of Halton Hills
Gentlemen,
During the recent controversy concerning the Halton Hills Fire Chief there have been certain statements made by some members of council to the press, which we as firefighters find most disturbing. We feel that our views on these matters must be brought to your attention, and we trust given due consideration.
First on the Subject of Chief Holmes:
We are quite disturbed with the way our Chief has been maligned. He applied for the job in good faith, it is a pity this faith was violated.
The Acton Fire Department has long enjoyed a reputation as an efficient, well trained and effective group of men, always willing to perform whatever action is required in firefighting as well as all other functions of the department. Mr. Holmes has headed this Fire Department for the last 13 1/2 years; we feel our record alone must say something about the qualifications of the man as a very capable and competent leader. We feel it is unnecessary to carry on with this subject as anyone who cares to take the time can find the statistical proof of our record in public files.
Secondly: The Acton Firefighters have always enjoyed the faith, trust and cooperation of the citizens of Acton and

District. It would be impossible to properly serve the community without this confidence. It now appears, from reported statements in the local press, that there are members of council who have absolutely no faith in Volunteer Firefighters; indeed one member was quoted as saying the "lives and property of the community would be endangered with a volunteer as Chief of Halton Hills."
You can understand it would be impossible for us as a Fire Department consisting completely of volunteers to continue without the confidence of all members of council. Certainly if the "Town Fathers" do not have confidence in us how can we expect the citizens to rest easy.
If these facts are correct, regrettably we must ask you to appoint a member or members of council to meet with us, so that we may immediately commence to phase out the volunteer service of the Acton Fire Department. We trust that we will be replaced with more qualified professional men. If, however, these facts have somehow been misconstrued and all members of council do have confidence in the volunteer service, we would request that the public be made aware of these feelings. We request that a vote of confidence by all members of council be given as much publicity as the adverse comments have been given.
We trust that this matter will be dealt with at your earliest possible convenience, that the situation may be resolved.
Signed by all 29 members of
Acton Firefighters Association

Change in ministry for family at Inuvik

Now on temporary leave of absence from the parish ministry, the Rev. Douglas Dittich and his wife Jean send out their annual Christmas letter from Inuvik. His mother, Mrs. Laura Dittich, here shares her copy with interested friends in Acton and district. Mr. and Mrs. Dittich have four children; Ruth, 10; Christina, 8; Keith, 6 and Jane, 3.

Box 1596,
Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E D7D

Christmas 1973

We, as well as many of you who receive our annual newsletter, find that time seems to fly by. Our years in the North have been filled with activity, but it is hard to believe that this is our 12th Christmas letter to our family and friends.
For Doug the year began with a short visit to Sachs Harbour in mid-January. 45 degrees below and a brisk wind make one realize that all the modern innovations in the North have not changed the Arctic climate one little bit!
We were saddened in February as Bishop Donald Marsh of the Diocese of the Arctic died following a car accident in England. Bishop Marsh ordained Doug both Deacon and Priest and we served under him for five years at Frohisher Bay. Doug conducted a memorial service on February 11. The Bishop had lived at Aklavik for a time and many people here remember him. He dedicated himself to the work of the Church in the North for 45 years. His example and work are a testimony to his love and concern for the Eskimo people.

TV arrives
On the day the Bishop died we were introduced to live television via the ANIK satellite; not only in contrast with communications when Bishop Marsh came to the Arctic in 1926, but also an unthought-of development when Doug first travelled with him in the North in 1959. All day television is somewhat of a mixed blessing. Some programs can be confusing or misleading for people with limited English and who have little or no experience of life outside the North. There are no northern-oriented or produced programs as yet.

There was some lively community discussion early in the year on the abortion issue, with the local clergy all coming down on the side of the "right to life" groups. We have had some very good entertainers in Inuvik this year, including Anne Murray with John Allan Cameron, the Irish Rovers, the Vancouver Radio Orchestra, and the R.C.M.P. Band.
On April 30 Doug left for the Anglican General Synod. On his way to Regina he was able to see a bit of Saskatchewan for the first time. The meetings of Synod occupied eight days. He found the whole experience of General Synod both valuable and enjoyable. This was his first time as a member of the national decision-making body of the Church. After the

report of the Task Force on the North was presented, Doug had the opportunity to speak to Synod and offer some of his views on northern work. We are optimistic that many of the recommendations of the Task Force approved by Synod will soon be implemented and that increased support for the Church's work in the North will be forthcoming. The newly-formed Primate's Council on the North has already had a couple of meetings.

Visitors

In January we welcomed Dorothy Robinson, a longtime churchworker in this area, on a visit to the parish. She has spent time in Israel and Uganda since leaving Inuvik in 1964 after more than 20 years in the Arctic. Every year we have had so many visitors that it is really impractical to try to name them all. This year we had interesting chats with Lois Robin of Church House, Toronto; Flo Whyard of Whitehorse; Hubert Schuurman, a friend from our Frohisher days; Mel Watkins, the N.D.P. "waffler"; Hugh Faulkner, the Secretary of State, and the Dutch ambassador, to mention only some of those who visited Inuvik in 1973. In June Doug officiated at the annual Flat Sunday thanksgiving service at Aklavik.

On July 19, leaving Keith and Jane in the care of Inuvik friends, we flew to Vancouver via Whitehorse. The following day we took the ferry to Victoria and had a weekend there. Doug and Jean flew to San Francisco for a four-day Church-sponsored program at a centre in Oakland. We had little time to absorb the California sunshine, but did enjoy the motel's swimming pool. On the one free day we rented a car and saw what we could of the San Francisco Bay area, riding the famous cable cars, driving across the Golden Gate Bridge, as well as navigating some of "Frisco's steep hills. What an experience that was!

By August 1 our family was reunited in Inuvik and we looked back on an eventful two weeks.

Northern Games
Doug became very busy with the organizing of the 4th annual Northern Games, held for the first time outside Inuvik, from August 17 to 20, at Fort Good Hope. It was another hectic weekend but, again this year, a very successful gathering of native people from many parts of the North sharing their traditional skills, games and dances.

In October the Northwest Territories Council held a session in Inuvik. It was an opportunity for us to watch

our legislators in action.
Doug is taking a temporary leave of absence from the parish ministry and on September 19 we welcomed the Rev. George Young from Toronto Diocese to take over the regular parish work. Doug still assists at some of the services and also expects to be holding communion services in other settlements from time to time. He is now able to give more time to projects he was already involved in, including the Northern Games cultural development program, the native friendship centre, and alcohol education.

We have moved out of the rectory, our home for the past six years, into a new 60' x 14' three-bedroom mobile home about half a mile away. What a job of sorting and packing we had! We are now settled in and adjusting to this new experience. Doug shares a downtown office. After having a study in the house for the past 11 years this is a change for all of us.

Sharing Ministry
Quoting a few lines from "Sharing Ministry" (Resource Kit 4, a booklet published by Church House) may help to explain the basic idea behind what Doug is doing. It refers to the St. Jamestown Ministry, a community action project to apartment residents in the centre of Toronto. Who would ever have thought we would be comparing Inuvik with downtown Toronto!

"Traditionally the church has ministered to people and their individual needs. Only rarely does it attempt to alter the status quo, to change the structures of society so that some problems are potentially eliminated. In the St. Jamestown Ministry there is an effort to create new structures, perhaps weaken or eliminate others, with a view to improving the society we live in.

"Certainly the church will continue to help and to care for individuals. One way, however, of doing that is to show people how they can help themselves. Helping fledgling organizations to establish themselves, making older organizations aware of new areas for concern and action are ministries just as appropriate as the traditional



MILTON FIRE BRIGADE was called to the home of Fred Herensberger, 15 Sideroad near Speyside early Sunday morning when a garage burst into flames. Lost in the blaze were a '72 Plymouth and a '69 Ford pick-up truck. Milton detachment of the OPP say the fire may have started in the car's block heater. (Photo by S. Dills)

Call inquest Feb. 5 in snowmobile death

Christian ministry of doing those things for individuals. In fact, in many situations today, it is the only effective way of responding to current needs."
Among other things Doug continues as a member of the Library Board. He is helping to co-ordinate the special cultural activities to be held in conjunction with the 3rd Arctic Winter Games at Anchorage, Alaska in March of 1974. Early in December Doug was up to Fort Providence for a cultural and recreation conference sponsored by the Indian Brotherhood of the N.W.T.
AA meeting
The weekend this is being written Doug is attending sessions of Inuvik's first Alcoholics Anonymous roundup. He has been listening to some local people speak of how they have attained sobriety and also regained their faith in God. Abuse of alcohol is prevalent in Arctic communities and it results in degradation and death. It is gratifying to hear of the progress of a new A.A. group established only eight weeks ago in another Delta community.
There are many ways of sharing the Gospel of Christ, and we pray that our work is being used by God for His purposes.
Wishing you and yours every blessing for the new year.
Doug & Jean

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CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Council coverage role for cable T.V.

Dear Sir:
With the advent of cable TV and the implementation of regional government, I think one of the requirements necessary before a Cable TV company received its licence should be coverage of Regional Council meetings.

Let us see our elected representatives in action! Let us see who stands up for what, and why. Such coverage could only lead to better government.

William A. Johnson

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