

A year of success, rewards, some disappointments

By Bob Burt
For Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur, 1974 was a year of successes and rewards. In an interview recently the mayor reflected over the happenings of the year 1974 and spoke of the highlights and the disappointments she faced as the town's chief magistrate.

On the positive side of the ledger, Mrs. MacArthur is pleased with council's ability to get along together and to mould the urban and rural sectors of town into one cohesive unit.

She said that while councillors spoke out as individuals, there was no bitterness at the council table and differences of opinion weren't carried beyond the council chambers.

Milestones
Completion of the Milton

Central Library and the Milton Memorial Arena were both projects initiated by prior councils but completed by the 1974 administration. Both serve as milestones in the town's development.

The mayor noted that aside from the major "soft" services constructed, "hard" services to which previous councils had committed the town were carried out to the best of council's ability.

While many projects were carried out during the year, the mayor suggests the council hasn't been able to forge ahead the way it would have liked to because of many holdups that occurred as a result of regional council being introduced.

The mayor expressed disappointment in several areas. The Forest Grove sewer project is one job that

had been held up as a result of regional government. Tenders for that project will be let early in January.

Disappointed
The new municipality was formed and some departments were amalgamated and new ones set up with minimal staff increases, the mayor said. Lack of progress in connection with the industrial park north of Highway 401 and in connection with the addition of the third phase of the pollution control plants were major disappointments.

The mayor indicated that the second phase of the plant still isn't operating properly. "I'm disappointed at the fact the region has been unable to get the plant working efficiently, let alone looking at the expansion of the third phase,"



Anne MacArthur

well as adequately providing for the new subdivisions.

"It has always been my contention that the people who use facilities should pay the bill."

In the mayor's eyes expansion of the town is a must. She feels industrial development and additional residential development will be necessary if taxpayers aren't going to be overloaded meeting existing commitments.

Steady growth
While the mayor doesn't advocate a rapid rate of growth, she does see a need for continued and steady growth in accordance with the rate set out in the official plan and leading to an ultimate population of 28,000.

"There's no way the citizens that are here now can support two arenas, a large

library and other recreational needs as well as paying for transportation facilities and meeting other needs," she said.

"One of the goals the mayor speaks of is restoring roads and sidewalks in the older, established parts of town as for them. If at all possible, senior citizens should be freed of the education tax."

"Some of our senior citizens are so proud, but they are having a very difficult time of it. Council must be concerned for them," she felt.

Commitments
While pleased that council was able to control the level of tax increases this year, the mayor said she was concerned that with the commitments the town is faced with, the same couldn't be

done next year.

The industrial residential assessment ratio is all out of whack and must be brought back into proper perspective, she said.

Board planning has been done and the official plan is well on its way. Mrs. MacArthur is optimistic that real progress will be made in redeveloping the central business district.

"I sense a determined effort on the part of the merchants to participate, contribute and get the wheels moving," she explained.

"There has been some talk about the post office moving to facilitate expansion," the Mayor said, but she feels the expansion of the post office at its current site represents the key to redeveloping the central business area.

Some consideration has

been given to eventually expanding the municipal complex to include the area where the post office now stands. Mayor MacArthur feels that such a development will never come to pass or that the town will never come to need such a facility.

Grant
A provincial grant for \$3,977.77—the final payment towards completion of the Scotch Block Dam and Reservoir—has been forwarded to Halton Region Conservation Authority, Halton East MPP Jim Snow announced this week.

The project is located in the Town of Halton Hills. The project involved the acquisition of considerable land and the construction of a dam

on her first year as mayor with mixed feelings. "Locally I finish a day and really think we've accomplished a lot, but then I go down to the region and regionally I feel we're getting nowhere. I come back from there feeling despondent."

"I'll start another year at the region full of ambition and heart and with a strong desire to get the best I can for the people of the town of Milton," she concluded.

Masson reviews region's first year

Sees Halton shaking off its growing pains

By Bob Burt
It was a little more than a year ago when Allan Masson set up shop in the county buildings on Steeles Ave. in Milton as the first regional chairman in Halton. With him he had just an acting clerk Garfield Brown and a secretary Susan Jacobs. The region now operates out of rented headquarters in Burlington and has about 900 people in its employ.

In an interview recently, Chairman Masson outlined the trials and tribulations he and his 24-member council encountered during the first year of operation.

Most of the first year was spent in developing new departments that had never functioned on a regional scale before, hiring new department heads and taking over functions that had been formerly handled at the local area level.

In turmoil
For onlookers, the region was the scene of turmoil during the early months as new departments were being formed and old ones revamped.

The process was hampered considerably by some

councillors who in an attempt to keep the regional staff in check, bucked progress and from time to time sidelined plans.

Conflicts between local area governments and the region also highlighted the early months of Halton's regional government. Masson claims regional politicians have improved as their knowledge of what the region is all about has increased.

He suggests fences have been mended and relationships between the region and the area governments have improved as well.

CAO is big help
Masson claims council's decision to go through the better part of the year without a Chief Administrative Officer also hampered progress.

Ernie Reid was hired to do that job only a few months ago and according to Masson, Reid's experience in regional government in Sudbury and Thunder Bay has proven valuable in Halton.

Work has begun on the official plan and Masson says the job will keep the planners busy during the coming year. He hopes the document will be done within the three year



Allan Masson

that is apt to dominate headlines intermittently through 1975. Masson sees that as a service that must be coordinated throughout the region, but not necessarily taken over by the region.

He notes that Oakville and Burlington both run bus services. Milton runs a limited service and Halton Hills has no bus service. According to Masson Halton Hills council isn't interested in having the service introduced.

Masson said he was optimistic that GO train connections could be made to serve the people of Milton. He sees the need for co-operation between the various municipalities in the region to organize bus routes and schedules so that passengers could cross political boundaries and traverse the region without a great deal of inconvenience. From a regional point of view, transportation services that now exist in the region are chaotic, he says.

Big project
The addition of a laundry to Halton Centennial Manor will be a major project and is estimated to cost more than half a million dollars.

Public transit is an area

Joint venture
The chairman is optimistic that the region can be in permanent offices. Headquarters before the current council's term of rental ends in two years' time. He noted the region was considering co-operating with other government agencies in a joint building venture. The provincial government has given the region a good reaction in that regard.

Masson sees the possibility of a District Health Council being introduced in Halton during 1975. The chairman said there had been some suggestion that the province would have liked to have done that during 1974.

Human Services Council will do that job as part of its role, once it is set up and operative.

During 1975 Masson sees expansion of pollution control plants as a priority item that must be dealt with before the region can expand its housing stock to any degree. Pollution control plants in all four area municipalities are at or over capacity now, he noted.



CHURCHILL COMMUNITY Church orchestra played at the Christmas services held at the Christian Reformed Church.

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Edgar Lidkea dies in Guelph

Edgar Wallace Lidkea of 240 Mill St. E., died in St. Joseph's hospital in Guelph on December 18 following a lengthy illness. He was 68 years old.

On May 18, 1934, he married the former Katharine Michaud in North Bay, the place of his birth. Nineteen years ago Mr. Lidkea and his family moved to Acton. In November of 1967 he retired after 43 years of employment in the office of C.N.R. in North Bay and Toronto.

Prior to his illness, Mr. Lidkea was active in the Y's Men's Club, Walker Lodge and was an elder and choir member of the Trinity United Church. He also served for five years in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War two.

Family
Mr. Lidkea is predeceased by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lidkea of North Bay, a son David, four brothers, Howard, Clifford, Willard and Bill and a sister Essie. He is survived by his wife, two children, Jean (Mrs. M. J. Middleton) of Germany, Randy of Owen Sound, and grandchildren, Scott, Susan and Sean Middleton of Acton and Drew Lidkea of Owen Sound.

Funeral services were held at Trinity United Church on December 20 with the Rev. Eric Nelson officiating. A Masonic service was held the evening of December 19.

Interment was at Fairview cemetery with pallbearers nephews Jack Lidkea of Dundalk, Harold Lidkea of Kitchener and Bill Lidkea of St. Catharines. Jack McGeachie of Milton, Bill Benson and Bill Wilson of Acton.

Honorary pallbearers were Billy Middleton, Neil Bowles, Charlie Leatherland, Stuart Reed and Pete Turkosz, all of Acton.

Church Services

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Churchill Road North
Minister: The Rev. A. Walter Fosbury, B.A., B.D.
124 Tidesy Avenue
Phone 853 2386
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
11.00 a.m.—Worship and Church School. Sermon Subject: "The Place of Prayer"
Friday, Jan. 3rd
8.30 p.m.—Session Meeting. Happy New Year to All!
The Church on the Hill is an interdenominational congregation, ministering to the needs of the community.
All Welcome

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
(Churchill Rd. and Hwy. 7)
Minister: Rev. J. Corvers
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
Sunday Worship Services at 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Pre-school Sunday School during the morning service. Sunday School during the afternoon service.
You Are Welcome

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
177 Maple Ave., Georgetown (A Fellowship Baptist Church)
Pastor: Rev. Robt. C. Lohnes Associate Pastor: Rev. Don Corrie
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship
6.30 p.m.—Evening Fellowship
Thought—Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.
A Friendly Welcome Awaits You.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
1872—Anglican—1974
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Dr.
Rev. Leonard Ewing
Rector
Director of Music Mrs. Frank Oakes
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist
10.30 a.m.—Sung Eucharist
Unto us a child is born. O come let us worship.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.—Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
9.45-10.30 a.m.—Minister's Confirmation Class for Teenagers.
11.00 a.m.—Church School for Beginners, Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 8.
11.00 a.m.—New Year worship service. Sermon theme: "The Greatest of all the Years!" (Babies and toddlers cared for in nursery). Everyone most welcome.

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
80 Mill Street East, Founded 1842
Pastor: Mr. Das Sydney B.Sc.
Church Phone—853-0860
Pastor's Phone—853-1834
THURSDAY
7.00 p.m.—Choir practice
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Church Service.
Advance Notice, Watch Night Service New Year's Eve.
Everyone Welcome

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill R. E.D.
Rev. S.M. Thomas, Pastor
853-2715
Tuesday, Dec. 31
10.00 p.m.—Watch Night Service showing sound motion colored film, "Sounds of Love", featuring Corrie Ten Boom, also Maria Van Trapp and Dale Evans—witnesses for Christ in a world of sham.
Thursday, Jan. 2nd
6.00 p.m.—Crusaders
8.00 p.m.—Christ's Ambassadors
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service
7.00 p.m.—Evening Evangelist Service
ALL ARE WELCOME
Excellent free town Bus Service for children and adults to and from Sunday School on the "All Red Bus." Also Rural pick-up. For information phone 853-2715 or 853-0766.
Matthew 1, vs. 21 "And she (Mary) shall bring forth a son and thou shall call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sins."

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TRINITY CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. W. Eric Nelson, M.A., B.D.—Minister
Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D. Director of Music
Sunday, Jan. 5, 1975
10.00 a.m.—Public Worship
10.00—Sunday Church School
Everyone Welcome

BAHA'I FAITH
You are warmly invited to attend a fireside discussion every Friday evening at 8.30 p.m. Phone 877-3497.
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Management and Staff wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year

ANOTHER YEAR is ending, and it is time to discard any unpleasant memories and to save only the happy ones to take out and enjoy at quiet moments. And then to hope we may bring happiness to others during the year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

May the coming year be filled with all the good things in life for you, your family and your friends. We thank you for your patronage during the past year and we look forward to serving you throughout the "New Year"

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