

Many challenges for justice of peace

He doesn't know exactly how many justices of the peace there are in Ontario but whatever the figure, Bob Hart of Orville Rd., is one of them.

On January 15, 1970, the life underwriter was appointed to the office "in and for Halton County" by the Lieutenant-Governor. As his job, he may take information, issue warrants and grant bail.

He does NOT perform marriage ceremonies, as so many fictional characters in American movies on television do, though a j.p. in the States may do the job.

History

Mr. Hart's job stems back to England in 1327, when Edward III wanted "good and lawful men" appointed to keep and maintain peace in the country. In 1344, the keepers of the peace were given the authority to work with lawmen to maintain peace, arrest and imprison offenders and hear and determine lawbreakers. In 1360, the name was changed to justice of the peace.

To Canada

In 1763, the office was brought over to Canada with the introduction of English criminal law in Quebec. It eventually made its way to Ontario and other parts of Canada.

Paid on a fee basis, the job of justice of the peace, in most cases, is part-time. Depending on the individual, several hours a day can be spent on the job, or a stint once a month.

Mr. Hart is in the Acton police station every morning going over the cases, arranging bail and summonses.

The Acton justice of the peace pointed out that each legal document he signs must be perfect, with his name and title, or the case can be thrown out of the courts. Mr. Hart said he has had this happen a few times, because he left off his title. He said he was upset about this because all were drug cases.

To better define the justice of the peace, one must know the structure of the courts, and where a j.p. comes in, what is under, and what has authority over him.

Structure

Before anything is possible in the courts, offences must be committed. Indictable offences, depending on the degree, are sent to a preliminary inquiry, where a magistrate or a justice of the peace presides. These cases would be offences described as indictable by the Criminal Code and other federal statutes. Some indictable offences will go to a summary trial.

An offence which has gone to the Summary Trial, may go to the Preliminary Inquiry. However, it can also go directly to the Court of Appeal, which is one step away from the Supreme Court of Canada, which is the highest court in the land.

An offence which has gone to the Preliminary Inquiry has a number of options. It may take one route, which would be to go to the High Court of Justice, through a grand jury to the Court of Appeal, to the Supreme Court of Canada. Or it may take its second and third options: through a grand jury to the General Sessions of the Peace, by a judge and jury to the court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada or to the County Court of Judges, Criminal Court, where a judge alone presides. From here it goes to the Court of Appeal and on to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Summary Conviction offences, offences against the Criminal Code and other federal statutes and all offences under provincial statutes and municipal by-laws. These go to the Summary Conviction Court, where a magistrate or a justice of the peace presides. From here it can take two routes. One would be to the County Court, where a judge alone sits, on to the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, or the other route, to the Supreme Court of Ontario, where the judge usually sits alone, to the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. There is a path for every-

thing to reach the Supreme Court of Canada, but all must go to the Court of Appeal first.

Of all the steps up to the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa, the justice of the Peace sits on just two of them. It may not seem like much in the maze of the

with the character of the applicant and his standing and reputation in the community in which he lives. Whether or not he has a knowledge of criminal law is not very important.

It is reported in the Justice of the Peace handbook that



BOB HART, a life underwriter by profession, is the justice of the peace for Acton. Next week marks his sixth anniversary of the part-time job.

structure of the law, but, considering all j.p.'s are laymen, in a sense, it is important.

Special report

The McNair Report about the Ontario Justices of Peace states, "In an effort to insure that only persons of good standing and reputation in the community and men of the best character only, are appointed, a layman, before being appointed must be examined in regard to his qualifications for the office by the Judge of the County or District, in which the prospective justice of the peace resides, and he can only be appointed if the judge finds him qualified and so certifies."

The report goes on to say, "I am reliably informed that on these examinations, the judges are only concerned

many j.p.'s do not think justice has been done toward them. J.p.'s receive word of the appointment, receive a copy of the Justice of the Peace Act, a set of Revised Statutes of Ontario and are qualified keepers of the peace.

Because they are chosen for being a law-abiding citizen, they might not know about courts, the criminal code or bail. Almost everything has to be learned, sometimes by trial and error.

The job of the justice of the peace is one of responsibility and challenge. It would take reams of paper to describe all of its aspects.

Bob Hart has accepted these responsibilities and challenges and in the past six years, has overcome obstacles and learned many things.

Dittrich family leaves Inuvik

Acton friends hear each Christmas time from Douglas and Jean Dittrich and their family, who are now at Inuvik, N.W.T. His mother Mrs. Laura Dittrich has visited them in the north quite often.

This year's letter contains news of a move.

Christmas 1975

This will be our 14th and last annual newsletter from the North. After visiting the parish in early November, Doug accepted the position of Rector of St. George's Church, Kamloops (Diocese of Carleton) in the interior of southern British Columbia. We expect to leave Inuvik December 30.

Kamloops is a busy centre of around 60,000 people at the junction of the North and South Thompson Rivers, about halfway between Calgary and Vancouver. It was 35 F on November 3 at Inuvik when Doug left. 4 1/2 hours later he arrived at Kamloops, the warmest place in Canada that day at 74 F.

Since our arrival in the North at Frobisher Bay in June 1962, there have been many interesting events and experiences. It has been a privilege for us to serve God here during a time of rapid change for the native peoples. There have been difficulties too, including the loss of our son Keith last year, but we will look back on the years with many good memories. Having lived all their lives in the Arctic, Ruth (12), Christina (10) and June (4) should have many new experiences in 1976.

Land claims

During the past year Doug has continued to work on various projects with the local native people. It has been an important year for them. The Eskimo and Indian organizations have been preparing for land claims negotiations with the Federal Government. On March 3 Judge Berger began hearings on the possible impact of building a natural gas pipeline down the Mackenzie River Valley. This inquiry is still in progress and is expected to take several more months.

Doug completed six years as Secretary of Northern Games (two full-time). This year's annual Games were the largest to date with 30 northern communities participating. All the family were able to go to Fort McPherson in late July to attend the Games. Immediately after, Doug went with a contingent of local dancers and athletes to the Eskimo-Indian Olympics at Fairbanks, Alaska.

The construction of the oil pipeline across Alaska is having a tremendous influence on the State. From the social point of view the sudden economic boom is having many negative effects.

Games

A group of young native athletes from our area participated in the Canada Winter Games in southern Alberta last February. This was the first time traditional Eskimo games had been demonstrated at the Canada Games. Doug has been serving on a committee preparing for similar presentations, along with other native crafts and skills, in the Arts and Cultural Program at the Olympics next summer in Montreal.

Last April Doug accompanied six boys on a five-day visit to Frobisher Bay where they put on demonstrations of Eskimo games at Tomik Tyne, the annual spring festival. Prince Charles was the guest-of-honour. It was an exciting time for Doug as this was his first visit since we left Frobisher in 1967.

In addition to Northern Games, Doug's other main responsibility has been as Secretary of the native Friendship Centre, and for the past year as project manager for the new building. This summer more logs were brought down river from Fort Simpson for its construction. The building will be 88' x 56', of large rough-hewn logs.

In September, at Yellowknife, Doug was one of the speakers at the first of a series of conferences on regionalism in Canada sponsored in various parts of the country by the Committee for an Independent Canada.

In March Doug ran for Territorial Council as candidate for the electoral district of Inuvik. Although he did not unseat the incumbent, Tom Butters, Doug enjoyed the experience and provided an interesting contest when there might otherwise have been an acclamation. The N.W.T. Council is now a full-elected body of 15 Councillors. However it is still a long way from being a legislature with provincial-type responsibilities and authority.

Inuvik weather can be severe. Doug was away in January when there was furnace trouble at our mobile. Jean and the children had to move out for a night until repairs were made, at -55 F.

Keeping the crime out of Christmas '75

With the Christmas season fast approaching, some persons will be on the prowl while you are enjoying the festivities. The Ontario Provincial Police have a few crime prevention tips to help make sure that you do not lose in a Christmas rip-off.

Remember, out of sight-out of mind. Put your Christmas shopping in the trunk of your car, and lock your car while you shop.

Many homes are laden with expensive Christmas gifts. Protect them. If you are away from home over the holidays, leave one or two inside lights on. Before you go out, make sure you lock all of the doors

and windows, and have a neighbor keep a close eye on your home.

Purse problems

Every woman's purse is a gold mine at Christmas. Ladies! You too can practise crime prevention. Keep your purse with you all of the time. Do not leave it on store counters, or in shopping carts where it can easily be stolen. You have to keep a tight hold on the purse strings in more ways than one—hold onto it tightly, and do not let it hang open.

The Ontario Provincial police extend season's greetings and hope you have a very safe and happy Christmas.



THE VIRGINIA REEL found its way into the season's festivities by children at the Dublin W.I.'s program held at St. Alban's hall.

Sheridan launches mid-year program

Sheridan College has launched a program for business students who wish to commence their post-secondary education at mid-year rather than the traditional September starting date.

This February-entry arrangement has been developed to integrate with the semester system which is becoming increasingly popular in Ontario secondary schools. Up until now students who complete their high school in January have had to wait until the following September before enrolling in Business Administration.

Subjects for Business Administration include accounting, math, economics, English and liberal arts. It is possible for students to complete three years into 2 1/2, with additional credits obtained during second and third years, and earn a diploma in Business Administration after successful completion.

"This program is a valuable opportunity for students who would otherwise have to delay their post-secondary education until the next September," observes Dave Tinker, Head of Business at Sheridan. "It's equally important and attractive to persons who may be already employed and are anxious to broaden their marketable skills."

The Business Division welcomes applications from

now until Feb. 2, 1976. Fees will be half of the normal full-year amount (\$125 plus \$30 student activity fee). Students registering by this date are eligible for financial assistance under the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

Enquiries should be directed to David Tinker, Business Division at the Oakville Campus, Trafalgar Rd.

No EMO

Wellington county council has withdrawn its support for the Emergency Measures organization. The service, which costs about \$23,400 a year, will cease at the end of this year.

Eramosa township reeve Bill Adsett told county council cities are well set up for emergencies with police and fire departments but rural municipalities need such a service.

To All The Citizens of The Town of Halton Hills

I would like to wish all of the residents of the Town of Halton Hills: a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy prosperous New Year.

Thos. J. Hill, Mayor
Town of Halton Hills

NOEL

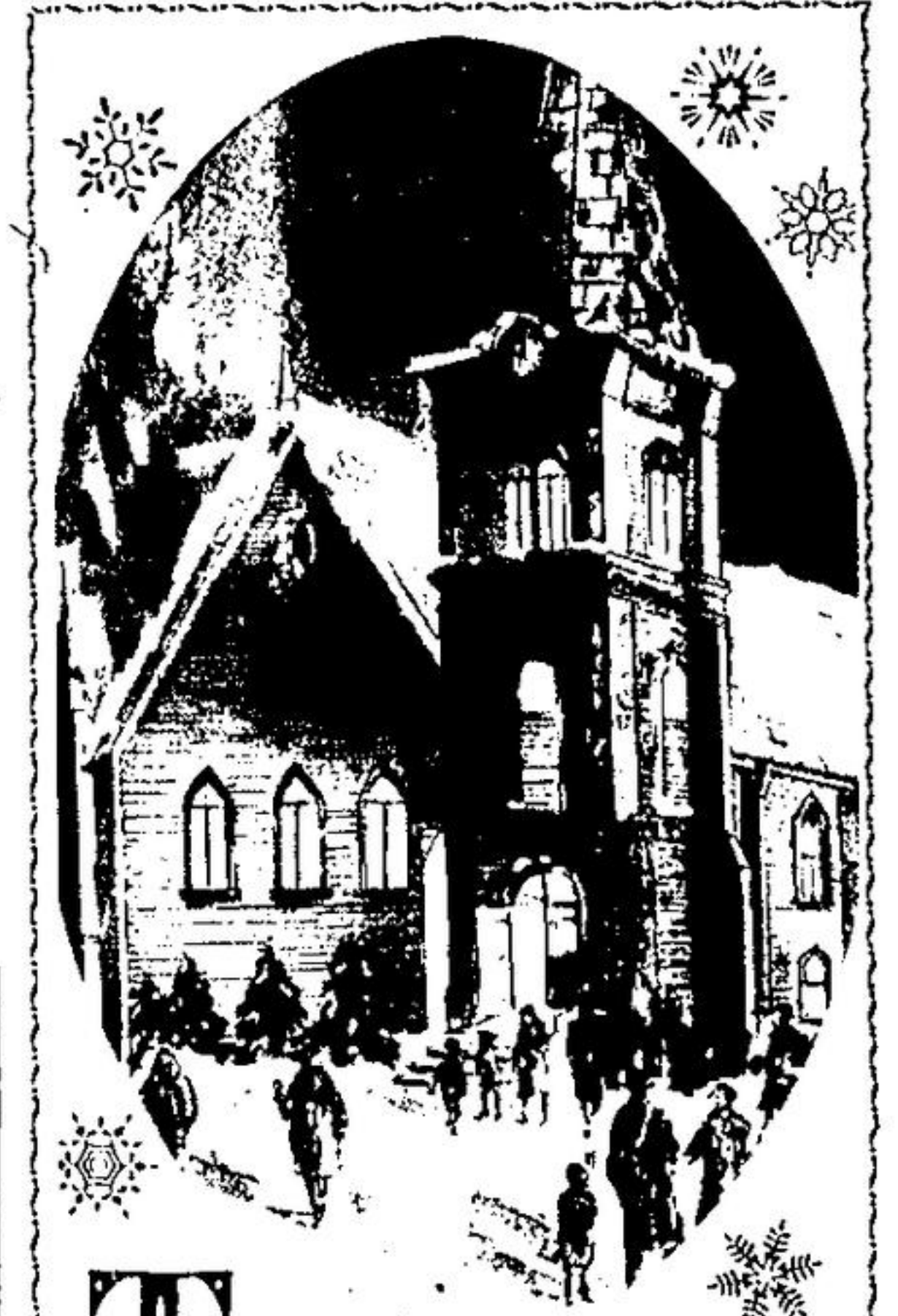
A long time ago the first Adoration was in a manger. Now, we add our voice to the joy of the world... to all men, and especially you, our heartfelt wish for happiness on this Noel.

F. L. WRIGHT

were delegates from all over the North. As Secretary, and sometimes acting Chairman of the Inuvik Education Advisory Committee this year she had quite a bit of responsibility. She has attended meetings on curriculum content, employers' requirements and other subjects.

May the peace of God be with you at Christmas and in the coming year.

Doug & Jean Dittrich



Merry Christmas

Some words from Santa simply to say, "Have a wonderful holiday!"

Thanks!

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

As you worship with your family at Christmas, may the true spirit of the season greatly bless you. Sincerely, we extend our greetings.

FROM
Management and Staff
FOODLAND STORE

Joy AT Christmas

During this joyous holiday we would like to express sincere thoughts that this should be a blessed season for all. To our wonderful patrons, thanks.

DAN KOCIUK, JOHN BUGALA and STAFF

HALTON HILLS COLLISION

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that brings Happiness, Goodwill and Peace throughout the

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