

G.W. McKenzie lauds a friend

Generous with time, talents Dr. Frank Oakes praised in citation

A standing ovation followed G.W. McKenzie's address Friday night, directed at Citizen of the Year Dr. Frank Oakes. Pat McKenzie reviewed his friend's accomplishments in his profession and through his service to the community on council, school board, fair board, Public Utilities Commission and his church.

"Here, in part, is what Mr. McKenzie said. "In the year that the Chamber of Commerce celebrates twenty years of service to the Town of Acton it is fitting that they honour as their 'Citizen-of-the-Year' a successful businessman who was a charter member of the Chamber and Chairman of the founding group. In a time of rapid change with shifting values and negotiated contracts with double time for week-ends and holidays, paid vacations, sick leave and pension plans it is also fitting for the Chamber of Commerce to recognize a person who sacrificed, struggled and worked long hours responding to calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week to gain success."

"Frank was a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, an experienced

farmer and happily married before moving to Knox Avenue, Acton, in 1938. Soon he was widely recognized as a farmer's vet who took excellent care of his animal patients.

"Ben Young of Campbellville who has known Frank since 1930 recalled for me their struggle in the pre-war years to establish successful practices.

Dr. Oakes' success as a veterinarian can best be summed up in the words of a successful farmer, Ralph Denny. "Frank Oakes served this farming community well for almost forty years. He was dependable, competent, conscientious and thorough in his work. He was also very prompt in answering his calls particularly in an emergency. Frank was a doctor who was not only interested in the health of all the animals on the farm but he showed a concern and was willing to listen to the problems of his customers whether they were agricultural, municipal or personal. He was a friend. No day was too long or the hour too late to call him."

This success story began in Johnville in the Eastern Townships of Quebec where Frank was born in 1912 the



ALL TOGETHER NOW—smile! Citizen of the Year night family portrait: front row left to right Peggy Lawson, Betty Oakes, Frank Oakes, Carolyn Gregory; standing left to right Ted Lawson, Russell Gaulton, Kelly Gaulton, Eleanor Oakes, Nancy Oakes, George Oakes, Frances Gaulton, Joanne Gaulton, Ernie Gregory.

only son of Mr. and Mrs. Osmund Oakes. Eleven years later Frank and his three sisters moved with their parents to Eramosa Township, Wellington County where Frank continued his education at S.S. No. 2 Eramosa, Guelph Collegiate and graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1934. That same year he married Elizabeth Bingham, who was born in Calgary, Alberta and he moved to Milverton to establish a practice there. One year later he returned to his father's farm in Eramosa and combined farming and practising as a vet until they moved to Acton.

With Frank away on calls all hours of the day and night much of the care of raising a family, as well as acting as a receptionist in the office was Betty's responsibility which she accomplished with excellent results.

Three pools get permits

Building permits issued for Acton in May totalled \$84,646. Fees amounted to \$364. Three swimming pools were issued permits, for a total value of \$12,200. There were seven permits for residential alterations, repairs and additions totaling \$17,840. There was one for a garage for \$1,250 and two termed institutional (region and town) at \$43,400. There were two permits for commercial repairs, additions or alterations at \$5,000 and one for industrial repair, addition or alteration at \$4,950.

In the fall elections of 1939 Frank Oakes and two other successful businessmen were elected to the Acton Public School Board and thus began a community service of updating our educational facilities. Frank remained with the School Board until 1952 when the first addition was officially opened at Robert Little making it one of the most modern educational facilities in North Halton.

Also in 1940 he became an active member of the Acton Agricultural Society and served as Chairman in 1945. In 1960, the Fall Fair Board presented Frank with a certificate for meritorious service.

Frank was a charter member of the Acton Rotary Club and a strong supporter of the Anglican Church serving for many years on the

Advisory Board and Chairman of the fund-raising committee when they built the Parish Hall.

In 1953 Frank was elected Mayor of Acton. The following year he was elected to Acton Public Utilities Commission where he served for seven years including three years as Chairman. Later Frank returned to the Acton Council and served as a Councillor, Deputy-Reeve until he retired in 1972. Men who served with him, recognized him as a shrewd financial critic. Their home was always open for the social events of municipal life and you could depend on Frank to harmonize with the group during a singing or take his turn at the piano.

As Deputy-Reeve and Reeve of Acton he served on County Council and was elected Warden of the County in 1971. Throughout those years on County Council he took his work very seriously and appreciated working with, among other departments, the Manor, the Museum and the Board of Health.

By now it must be obvious to everyone present that Frank was generous with his time and talents, not only as a veterinarian, but in municipal service and certainly sacrificed himself for community betterment. Anyone who works untruly and sacrifices himself in unselfish service for others leaves a little bit of his heart and soul in the community. This residue, which can only be left behind by sacrificing yourself in unselfish service for others, links the community together and gives it

character. Therefore this honour and award tonight is the Chamber of Commerce's way of saying on behalf of the community, "Thank You Frank."

Now that he has officially retired and been instrumental in encouraging Dr. Ron Trenton to establish a practice in Acton, Frank can now devote more time to his roses, bridge, golf and travelling. We all join in wishing Frank and Betty many more years of happiness together.

Smash toys in break-in

A Church St. W. resident reported a break-in of his garage to Halton Regional Police last week.

Entry was gained by removing a couple of pieces of wood from a wall Police say. Toys were damaged and a hammer was stolen.

Town buys trucks

Halton Hills Council approved purchase, Monday, of three new trucks and a tractor for the works department.

Colony Lincoln-Mercury of Brampton won three tenders. The town is buying a four ton truck with dump box worth \$22,104.05 and a four ton truck with snow plowing equipment for \$29,501.01. In addition, a 4,000 pound express truck worth \$4,950.27 is also being purchased from the Brampton firm.

Maple Leaf Industrial Sales of Soney Creek won the contract to supply a tractor with mow mower to the town at a price of \$8,292.50.

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ENGRAVED PLAQUE citing the Citizen of the Year is presented to Dr. Frank Oakes by Chamber of Commerce president Louis Charlebois.

20 Golden Agers attend lawn party

Halton Centennial Manor, Milton, hosted the annual lawn party on Saturday, which saw 20 Acton Golden Age members attending.

A bus was provided by the Acton Lions club with members Vic Bristow and Peter Papillon assisting the senior citizens.

Because of the rain, according to Mr. Papillon the party was moved indoors where there were many booths selling arts and crafts made by the residents of the Manor. Entertainment was performing continually all afternoon, consisting of bands of residents of various senior

citizens' homes. Many also enjoyed square dancing.

Local people also got a chance to visit former town folk who are now living in the Manor, Mr. Papillon said.

\$400 in collision

A collision on Church Street Friday at 10:50 p.m. caused a total of \$400 to two vehicles. Police estimate \$200 in damage to a car driven by Rod Donaldson of Rockwood, and an equal amount to the light truck owned by Robert Cripps, R. R. 2, Acton. Police say the truck was parked on Church Street.

Beaming vet . . .

(Continued from page One) year and the school board "giving Pat McKenzie a chance" at \$1100.

He thought of jubilee year, when the mill rate was lowered 13 mills. The war years... his satisfaction as a vet. "It couldn't be done without a partner like Betty."

A 50-year Chamber member and former Citizen of the Year Fred Wright said grace.

New Chamber members Dr. Ron Trenton and Olga

Huscul of Draperies'n Things were introduced. Chamber president Louis Charlebois and vice-president, Kevin Conroy presided for the evening's program.

It was a perfect summer evening and people were able to stroll and sit outside the Music Centre to chat during the dancing.

A display of photographs was enjoyed and the hall was especially well decorated. Euro-Can Caterers served dinner.

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