



NEW EXECUTIVE OF the Chamber of Commerce was elected Monday night at the annual meeting. Newly elected president Jake Kuiken holds the charter. Front row left to right treasurer Ian Nunes, first vice-president Kevin

Conroy, president Jake Kuiken, past president Louis Charlebois, secretary Janet Fleming; back row directors Elmer Dunn, Marlene Steckley, Cory Van Merkestein, Marg Towler, Dave Swetman.

Jake Kuiken heads '78 Chamber slate

Jake Kuiken was elected president of the Acton Chamber of Commerce at the annual general meeting Monday night in the music centre.

Others on the executive: first vice-president Kevin Conroy; second vice-president John McNabb, secretary Janet Fleming; treasurer Ian Nunes; directors Marlene Steckley, Elmer Dunn, Cory Van Merkestein, Dave Swetman,

Marg Towler, Ed Wood, John Allinson and Paul Hardy.

Dave Swetman presented the slate as prepared by the nominating committee and with two nominations from the floor, the executive positions were filled speedily.

Mrs. Towler, Mr. Allinson and Mr. Hordyk are new to the board.

Mayor Tom Hill administered the oath of office to Jake Kuiken and Kevin Conroy.

Past president Louis Charlebois said he thought his two years in office had been good ones for the Chamber. He mentioned initiating the Business Improvement Area whose results are evident with "a lot more to come."

The Citizen of the Year dinner, town hall meetings,

parking, and councillors' public meeting were also highlights of the year. "We promoted Acton to the best of our ability."

We know the potential Acton has to offer business and industry, Mr. Charlebois said, pointing out the presence of region business development commissioner Bill Marshall who will use his expertise to attract new industry to Acton.

Incoming president Jake Kuiken appealed for support. He thanked Mr. Charlebois and his wife Flo, who was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Councillors Marks and Doby were at council, but councillor Pat McKenzie was introduced.

Flowers were presented to secretary Janet Fleming, and she in turn presented guest speaker Ric Morrow with a framed print of the sketch of the town hall.

Julian Reed, MPP, spoke briefly. He and his wife Deanna were special guests. Region business development officer Bill Marshall and his wife Joanne also attended.

Teresa Hanley catered for the dinner. Veteran Chamber of Commerce member Fred Wright, who will be 85 years old next week, said grace.

Over 40 attended.

Region presses for HRCA spending cuts

Halton Region's Administration Committee wants Halton Region Conservation Authority to chop another \$75,000 off its budget as well as reducing the increase in administration costs from seven per cent to five per cent.

That request was made even after HRCA General Manager Murray Stephen told the committee the budget submitted is a bare bones budget.

The total budget for the authority stands at \$2,615,953 and of that, administration accounts for \$439,320. On top of the \$2,990,953 an additional \$383,662 will be spent on special projects that are levied back to benefitting municipalities.

Burlington Councillor David Coons said there were items included in the budget for fencing, paving, a double garage and miscellaneous items that he felt could be re-considered and possibly deferred until another year.

Councillor Carl Erikson said he wouldn't support cuts of that nature because they were things that the public would benefit by, but he was concerned with a seven per cent increase in the administration budget.

Both cuts were eventually recommended by the committee.

The committee, prompted by Mrs. Munro, recommended that the authority reconsider the five per cent contribution but still cut the budget in other areas to show a net reduction of two per cent in administration costs and \$75,000 in programs and development projects.

The Liberal Caucus Task Force created by Opposition Leader Stuart Smith to study local and regional government in Ontario is holding a hearing at the E. C. Driev School, Milton, tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m.

The Task Force will be examining the duplication of services in local and regional areas, cost effectiveness of services, ways of making

Gas pump

One of the gas pumps at Toth Motors on Guelph Street was knocked over in an accident Saturday afternoon.

Police estimate there is about \$100 in damage to the car driven by Guenter George of RR 2 Rockwood.

Damage to the gas pumps comes to about \$2,000, police say.

Wires

Faulty ignition wires under the dashboard are blamed for a truck fire last week, according to Halton Hills fire Chief Mick Holmes.

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now, and greater efficiency.

He said he had read in the press about a return to Acton as it was. The change was in the best interests of citizens here. Councillor McKenzie wrote truthful things to Ontario treasurer Darcy McKeough, Mr. Morrow stated.

There were similar complaints in Metro Toronto in the early 1960s; now most people recognize Metro government as an excellent change. We will look back on Halton in the same way.

When there is no differentiation between north and south, costs in Acton will be lower than they would have been. He cited the cost of

water, sewage plant, police and social services.

Toronto is growing so powerful, the only way to protect local government is by coming together in larger units. Our old system could not cope, and this is the only way to protect local government.

Keep your minds open. Give your elected officials a chance to do their job, he challenged.

It's your region and your town. Acton is as much a town as it ever was.

He was asked several questions from the floor. One questioner said Actonians feel the initiative has been taken from them. Another

asked how much taxes would increase; another mentioned the petition with 2,000 signatures asking for a review of regional government and asked, for instance, if street names would be changed. Another asked his opinion of a suggestion that Actonians could withhold their taxes until a review takes place.

Inconclusive answers were shared by others as well as Mr. Morrow. He said it is not yet known how much taxes will increase. He said a meeting will be held Feb. 15 to decide if water rates will be equalized. It's the only way Acton would not receive a large increase. Street names will likely not be changed because it is too costly.

The region does not collect taxes but the mayor, hearing the suggestion to withhold taxes, growled "sell the property!"

"That's what they think of the voters," a listener quipped.

Referring to the Acton reaction to regional government Morrow said "separation is a word that doesn't work well with me. I prefer co-operation and studying the facts."

"Your town is a product of the citizens," Mr. Morrow concluded. Councillor McKenzie speaks strongly for Acton. I will do my best to have costs shared throughout the region.

"The town of Acton can be whatever the town of Acton wants to be."

Mr. Morrow has shown strong, effective leadership as regional chairman, said regional councillor Pat McKenzie as he introduced the chamber's guest speaker. Mr. Morrow was born in London, attended R.M.C., Kingston, graduated in commerce and economics, was in the Air Force and is now a captain with Air Canada. He, his wife and two daughters live in Georgetown. He entered politics in 1968 as a Georgetown councillor and was reeve; in 1974 he was elected regional councillor and last January he was elected regional chairman.

Under his leadership, the budget will be completed in January, with a modest 4.8 per cent increase, Mr. McKenzie praised.

Both cuts were eventually recommended by the committee.

The budget includes provision for \$325,000 expenditure on the Roseland Creek channelization in Burlington and \$200,000 for the Burlington Beach strip project.

Other major projects included \$400,000 for the Appleby Creek Channel in Burlington, \$75,000 for the Halton Hills Channel, \$277,000 for the Milton Channel and \$3,600 for the erosion protection work at Kelso, Scotch Block and the 16 Mile Creek valley.

Of the total budget Halton's share amounts to \$884,000. The cost of the operation is shared by the province, Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton. Excluding special projects, the cost of operating

the authority is up by 5.1 per cent this year.

Authority staffers came under attack from Burlington Mayor Mary Munro for not allowing a five per cent contribution towards the cost of work to be done on the Appleby Creek. The five per cent share usually levied over the entire authority amounts to \$9,000 in this case.

Mr. Stephen said the decision was made by the executive committee. He said members felt that the project couldn't be included in the

Society meeting Monday

The Acton Agricultural Society will be holding their annual meeting next Monday January 23. The meeting includes the election of officers and a presentation of the annual report to all those present.

The meeting will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. and is open to the public.



TOWN HALL picture is presented to guest speaker Ric Morrow by Chamber of Commerce secretary Janet Fleming Monday.

Hearing today

The Liberal Caucus Task Force created by Opposition Leader Stuart Smith to study local and regional government in Ontario is holding a hearing at the E. C. Driev School, Milton, tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m.

The Task Force will be examining the duplication of services in local and regional areas, cost effectiveness of services, ways of making

local government more accountable to the citizens and alternatives to the present system.

The findings of the Task Force will be used to develop Caucus policy and are expected to be made public by mid-March 1978.

Representatives of the Actonians for Action committee are planning to attend.

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