

Acton native commands Royal Dragoons

Raised and educated in Acton, Lieutenant-Colonel David Grahame took command of the illustrious Royal Canadian Dragoons in Lahr, West Germany, June 22.

Taking understandable pride in the occasion, even though they're an ocean away, are Grahame's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Grahame of Mason Blvd., brother Philip of Church St. West and sister Carole (Mrs. Stan Norton) of RR 1 Georgetown.

With his assumption of command over the 101-year old cavalry regiment, Grahame also came in line for a promotion: he became a full colonel July 10. Grahame, his wife Sharon, and the couple's three daughters now live in Lahr, a West German city whose Oberbürgermeister, Werner

Dietz, attended the change of command ceremony.

Grahame's military career began in 1959 when he became a trooper RCAC. He subsequently served with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in Calgary, the 8th Canadian Hussars in Petawawa and Egypt and the Ontario Region Headquarters in Oakville.

Grahame returned from Command and Staff College in Pakistan in 1973 as a staff officer at Individual Training Headquarters in St. Hubert, then joined the Dragoons three years later as Officer Commanding B Squadron. In 1978, he was posted to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, serving in two directorates.

Prior to assuming command of the Dragoons this year, Grahame attended a

French language course in Ottawa and St. Jean.

He assumes command of the internationally-known Dragoons from Lieutenant-Colonel D.M. Dean, since also promoted to Colonel, who is now stationed to Kingston's National Defence College.

Founded in 1883, the Royal Canadian Dragoons proudly carry on traditions dating back before the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759, when young Quebec gentlemen formed two volunteer cavalry troops.

The regiment was earlier known as the Corps of Volunteer Cavalry, the Quebec Volunteer Cavalry and the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars.

The Dragoons served initially in the Cana-

dian northwest before sending a detachment to the South Africa campaign at the turn of this century. In World War I, Dragoons fought in France, and in World War II in Sicily and Italy before moving into north-west Europe. The residents of Leeuwarden, Holland, annually celebrate the 1945 liberation of their city by the Dragoons.

The regiment now has independent squadrons in Korea, Cyprus, Egypt and Germany.

The elaborate change of command ceremony June 22 featured reviewing officer Brigadier-General R.J. Evraire and regiment colonel Brigadier-General Jean-Prospere Gautier. The event called for a week of base celebrations, including mess dinners for the officers, warrant officers and sergeants and a dance for all ranks.



COLONEL DAVID GRAHAME

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Policeman subject of complaint

While details are not available to the public, Halton regional police have confirmed that one of the force's 14 officers involved in the July 4 confrontation at Acton's four corners is the subject of a formal complaint.

Insp. Ken Laidlaw of the Halton police complaints division acknowledged Monday that one formal complaint has been filed stemming from the late evening-early morning incident outside the Sit 'n' Bull Tavern. Eleven people were arrested on charges ranging from assaulting a police officer to liquor infractions.

Laidlaw explained that police policy prevents him from revealing the names of the officer or the complainant cited in the formal complaint filed with police last week by a private citizen.

Police confirmed last week that nightsticks were used against rowdy citizens by some of the 14 officers summoned to the scene from Acton, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville. Two of the accused and one officer were reported injured.

The disturbance broke out after a patron of the Sit 'n' Bull had to be forcibly ejected by bar staff and police. At least 30 people stood by on Mill St., some throwing bottles and breaking a window valued at \$700.

Laidlaw told this newspaper that the force launches a "stringent internal investigation" upon receipt of such complaints. The district police commander reviews the complaint, hears the accused officer's side of the story and makes a recommendation to his staff inspector. The inspector then decides whether the officer should be cleared of any wrongdoing, in which case the details do not become public, or if the officer should be publicly charged.



BIRTHDAY GIRL

Surprise! Louise Simpson celebrated her 91st birthday last Tuesday with all her friends at Village Manor Rest Home. Mrs. Simpson, originally from England, received cards from her sister Roale and other friends and family and shared a big birthday cake with everyone at the rest home. She moved from her home in Burlington to Village Manor seven years ago. Everyone at the home affectionately calls her "mother".

Water restrictions are no longer necessary

Acton is off the hook as far as its summer water supply is concerned.

Halton region had already placed advertisements in the Free Press warning that residential water use might have to be restricted this summer if conditions are dry.

Regional councillors recently received a virtual guarantee, however, that adequate water is available along the Fourth Line, where test drilling has been going on for almost two months.

Meeting behind closed doors, members of the regional public works committee hammered out details of an agreement with four property owners, one of whom will ultimately be paid for a site selected for a new water pumping station.

Councillor Dave Whiting told this newspaper that staff are now predicting an early fall end to the search for more water, although they had initially expected the search to continue through the fall. Quick resolution of the agreements with landowners was a major factor in speeding up the process, Whiting said.

The new pumping station is expected to provide the 150,000 extra gallons per day Acton needs to complement its existing supply of about 850,000 gallons a day, Whiting said. Provincial criteria for municipal supplies require double the amount actually used, he explained, so the search continues for another million gallons per day.

Inside

Helping police officers get their reports in writing. R.R. 3 Acton resident Karen Jakob has come up with a new book. See page A2.

Acton High School counts eleven Ontario Scholars among its graduates. Page A3.

A visit to the Ontario Agricultural Museum, page A5.

No consensus on cemetery plans



Town engineer Bob Austin says council must make a decision soon about the future development of Fairview Cemetery, or at least about its wooded areas, already showing signs of deterioration for lack of proper grooming. Consultants last week hosted public meetings to unveil their two suggested options and welcome other ideas.

The Town obtained only a handful of verbal comments—and no clear consensus—at public meetings last week on long-range proposals for Fairview Cemetery.

Fewer than ten residents dropped by the Acton library Thursday afternoon and evening to view two diagrams depicting different options for Fairview's future development.

Consultant Bruce Cosburn of the Markham firm Cosburn-Giberson Consultants Inc. told this newspaper that he and Town engineer Bob Austin fielded a few questions, explained some ideas and invited residents to comment in writing about the plans to council.

Austin will submit a report on the meetings to council, which will ultimately decide between one of the consultants' two suggestions or an alternative.

While some of the residents who attended last week's meetings were primarily concerned about the cemetery's continuing maintenance, Cosburn said, others were interested in the fate of the substantial pond area in Fairview's northern extension.

The consultants have suggested two approaches: one would see the pond filled in and topped with a \$15,000 picturesque gazebo that would serve as a focal point for a new pattern of internal roads.

The other would see the pond retained and expanded, with its surrounding scrub area cleaned up.

Other comments noted at the meetings concerned the proximity of grave sites to

neighboring homes, Cosburn said. Those in attendance offered no clear preference for either of the consultants' suggested options.

Central to the Town's planning for the cemetery, Cosburn pointed out, will be the maintenance and development of treed areas, which currently pose a problem. The Town must ensure that areas needed for future forest development are not designated instead for sale as plots, he said.

In the consultants' Concept A, about \$30,000 worth of fill would be dumped in the pond, pushing the suggestion's overall price tag to \$185,000. That figure is roughly \$42,000 higher than the estimated cost of Concept B, but represents a lower development cost because it would enable the Town to create more plots for sale.

Juveniles suspected in sulphur fire

Sulphur piled on a loading dock at Holly Industries on Eastern Ave. caught fire Sunday. The fire department suspects juveniles were involved in the incident as a book of matches was found at the scene.

Stars check out concert site

Canadian legend ready to rock

A self-proclaimed "legend in his spare time", Rompin' Ronnie Hawkins leads an impressive roster of stars into town August 4 for the first Acton Rock 'n' Roll Fest at Prospect Park. Also booked are two other certified music legends, Bo Diddley and Long John

Baldry, as well as Toronto's hot Paul James Band and others. Full story in Newsmakers inside. In this first in a series of profiles of the musicians headed our way, reporter Mark Holmes talks with "The Hawk" himself.

by Mark Holmes

There aren't many people who could be considered a living legend, but Acton is going to be graced with the presence of a man about as close as they come to being one.

Ronnie Hawkins is a man who has wandered over much of the four corners of the world as a musician and songwriter, living a life filled with the exhilaration and tragedy of the rock and roll business.

Personality and charisma surrounds Hawkins, who seems to be forever entertaining everyone within earshot.

As he sips a glass of tomato juice he peers from behind tinted glasses and begins to sing one of his unpublished songs about a woman of questionable virtues. By the end of the song, both Hawkins and the audience of four are rocking with laughter. The moment is indicative of Hawkins' outlook on life.

Despite losing nearly all of his personal assets in a failed business attempt in London, Ontario, early this year, the once-wealthy Hawkins remains optimistic about everything he does.

"I'll work and pay off my debts and start over again," said Hawkins. "I've got a few irons in the fire and I'll certainly be keeping busy."

Hawkins went on to explain that after a few local gigs, he'll be going out west to perform in the Klondike Days celebration in

Edmonton. Then, after the Acton concert August 4, he'll be working on a movie being produced by the same people who made "Porky's."

Again Hawkins went in a detailed description of some of the funnier scenes in the movie and, in moments, his infectious laugh had infected everyone sitting at his table.

Hawkins, or "The Hawk", as he likes to be called, is residing near Peterborough.

He described himself as a musician who's never lost touch with the grass roots of rock and roll.

Perhaps Hawkins is most famous for his association with such top name artists as The Band, Bob Dylan, Crowbar, Janis Joplin, the Full Tilt Boogie Band, John Lennon and Kris Kristofferson (and the list goes on), but in his own right, he's become just as well known.

Hawkins, though born in the U.S., is said to be the man who brought rock and roll to Canada. Hawkins has produced his fair share of hits and with upcoming television and recording dates, he won't be just on the verge of international stardom for much longer. He'll be there.

Hawkins said he's looking forward to playing in Acton, describing the Prospect Park site as beautiful.

"I think raising money for these boys to play hockey in Norway is great," said Hawkins. "I'm happy to be doing something that will give the team a hand in achieving their goals."



Ronnie Hawkins and Paul James Band will be two of the star attractions at the Rock Fest '84, Aug. 4 at Prospect Park. The two performers will be part of an eight-band billing which also includes international stars Bo Diddley and Long John Baldry. As well the Backbeats, Grottybeats, the Paul James Band and Pearl City will be performing both modern rock and roll and hits from the '50s and '60s.