

Mayor Bonnette hosts a Free Skate **Singer-Songwriter James Gordon entertained all at Acton Town Hall**



By: Harry Rudolfs

You may never have heard of James Gordon, but you might know some of his songs. He wrote topical-humorous songs for Basic Black when Arthur Black had a Saturday morning radio show on CBC years ago. So, it wasn't surprising when some of the audience started singing and clapping to "Sweaters for Penguins" which is part of a true story about people knitting wool sweaters for penguins that had been subjected to an oil spill. The song and campaign were so successful that Antarctic researchers had to ask people to stop sending them.

Novelty songs aside, Gordon is a consummate musician whose shtick is primarily Canadian and Ontario history. On stage, it was himself and his guitar, or piano, or banjo, no accompanists or rhythm track—and he was captivating. The man has a golden voice and is adept on a number of instruments, and a virtuoso on the penny whistle.

Gordon is also one of the co-founders of the seminal Ontario folk band Tamarack, based in Guelph, who are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. This concert was especially timely if a bit sad as his old friend Arthur Black had died only last week. "He was just a plain old nice guy, and I noticed that the nation is kind of in mourning, too.

He represented so much to so many people."

Gordon pulled out an old Tamarack favourite, "Frobisher Bay", a story about a whaling ship that gets frozen in the ice over winter. He also sang about a tugboat on the Muskoka Lakes in "Those Tugboat Days", and trains "The CPR has taken every good man in Nova Scotia."

Especially poignant was the lachrymose ballad "Paw Pine," about Richard Pierpoint, a former slave who settled in the Fergus area and didn't have an easy time. Another touching tune "Stuart and Lil-

lian" is based on the true story of a Brantford-area couple, a truck driver and his wife, who won \$14 million in the lottery, and whose lives changed dramatically, not all for the better.

Gordon, besides being a songwriter whose lyrics are strongly adumbrated by a historical perspective, is also a folksinger turned politician who currently sits as a city councillor in Guelph. He was full of praise for the acoustics and ambiance of the Town Hall stage. Perhaps Tamarack will make a stop in Acton this summer.

FIRE REPORT

Monday, February 12

At 2 p.m. firefighters responded to an alarm activation on Queen St. E. in Acton. On scene, fire staff met with building personnel who were conducting maintenance to the alarm panel. The alarm was reset with no further concerns.

4:58 p.m. firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide (CO) activation on Tanners Dr. in Acton. On scene, fire staff entered the home and using detectors found zero readings. Due to the age of the CO detector, the homeowner was advised to have it replaced.

Saturday, February 17

At 4:07 a.m. firefighters

responded to the report of a structure fire on Highway 7. Fire crews arrived on scene quickly and found heavy smoke emanating from the attached garage of the home. Fire staff conducted a fast and effective knockdown of the fire within the garage and prevented it from spreading into the home. Contents of the garage included multiple motorcycles as well as an antique automobile of unknown value.

10:58 a.m. firefighters responded to an ambulance assist on Highway 7. Halton Regional Paramedics were on scene upon arrival. Staff assisted with patient care.

4:13 p.m. firefighters responded to a medical assist on 10 Sideroad. Fire staff provided patient care until Halton Regional Paramedics arrived.

Sunday, February 18

At 6:05 p.m. firefighters responded to an alarm activation on Fourth Line. On scene, fire staff met with the homeowner who advised that the alarm was caused by cooking. No further concerns.

Weekly Safety Message

Practice evacuating from your home blindfolded. In a real fire situation, smoke can make visibility poor and make it difficult to see your way out.

ACTON TOWN HALL CENTRE PRESENTS

JAMES ALAN

MAGIC & MARTINIS

Magic is in the air!
James Alan one of the country's premier sleight-of-hand performers is coming to town.

A delicious buffet dinner created by Chef Dale McCarthy, Martinis and other drinks will all be part of this evening of classical and modern magic.

Saturday March 3rd, 2018
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Tickets: \$39⁹⁹ per person

For more info and tickets visit: Acton Library • Acton Optical
Tanner's Pub & Grill or actontownhallcentre.ca

ACTON Town Hall Centre

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