

Halton Hills celebrates the Queen's long reign

The Town of Halton Hills, in partnership with the Halton Hills Public Library and The Monarchist League of Canada, held a ceremony on Wednesday (Sept. 9) to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 63-year reign as Canada's longest-serving monarch in modern times. The event drew more local residents than expected, forcing the ceremony to be moved from the Helson Gallery to the John Elliott Theatre.

"We had set up 60 seats but so great was the turnout that the ceremony was quickly moved to the John Elliott Theatre," said organizer Byron Thomas, of the local Monarchist League. "Instead of 60 people our final count in the theatre was approximately 300. What a great turnout and show of support for the Canadian Crown!"

Thomas, who served as Master of Ceremonies, had nine special guests. These included: former Halton Hills mayor Kathy Gastle, Halton Catholic School Board Trustee Mark Rowe, Rev. Steve Boose from Knox Presbyterian, Canon Rob Park from St. George's Anglican church (both churches rang their church bells that day from 11:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. in hon-

our of the Queen as did all military chapels across Canada); MP Michael Chong, Halton Hills Regional Police Inspector John van der Lillie, Halton Hills Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Morrison, Acting Mayor Councillor Ted Brown and RCMP Staff Sergeant Major Robert Akin. The soloist was Dr. Lou Darcie and pianist was Hayden Evans.

Three Colour Parties, numbering 20 members in all, from the Georgetown and Acton Royal Canadian Legion Branches and the Georgetown Knights of Columbus attended.

"This ceremony was a joyous and happy celebration of thanksgiving," said Thomas. "And, this was a Canadian celebration honouring the Queen of Canada now being our longest reigning monarch of modern times."

The Town of Halton Hills had sent a congratulatory letter to Buckingham Palace, proclaiming its loyalty to the Queen. A reply was received: "The Queen has asked me to send her best wishes to you and all those participating in the celebrations for a most memorable and enjoyable day," Christopher Sandamas, Chief Clerk to The Queen.



Milton-based RCMP Staff Sgt. Maj. Robert Akin stands at attention during the ceremony Wednesday afternoon at the John Elliott Theatre to mark the occasion of Queen Elizabeth II becoming Canada's longest reigning monarch in modern history. Also in the photo are Acting Mayor Ted Brown and master of ceremonies Byron Thomas. Photo by Eamonn Maher



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