

'Epitome of a gentleman' Ross Knechtel dies at 89

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Ross Knechtel was a gentleman who loved his family, music, learning, his church and helping others. During his three-terms as an Acton councillor, Mr. Knechtel garnered a reputation as a calm and well-prepared politician who never lost his temper.

Mr. Knechtel, 89, died suddenly last Wednesday at The Ellridge in Guelph, where he had lived since leaving Acton almost nine years ago.

"Ross was the epitome of a gentleman," recalled Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette of Mr. Knechtel's work as chair of the former Acton Social Services and Information Centre and his six years on Halton Hills Council from 1978 to 1982.

After realizing Acton property owners were paying as much as 25 per cent more in taxes than their fellow Halton



Ross Knechtel

Hills residents in Georgetown, Mr. Knechtel championed the market value assessment system of property taxes which equalized taxes.

Eldest son and namesake, John Ross Knechtel of Guelph, said music and sing-

ing played a large part in Mr. Knechtel's life - less than a week before his death he performed a demanding 14-song concert with the Silver Tone Choir - and there was lots of singing at his funeral.

Mr. Knechtel was born and raised in Toronto and following overseas service with the Canadian Air Force, he joined Crown Life Insurance, working his way up to vice-president of personnel. He moved to Acton a couple of years before retiring in 1976.

Son Ross said his dad was known as an honest politician. "He was not interested in any self gain whatsoever. He wanted to do the best job possible for the people he was representing, but I don't know what led him to politics," Knechtel said on Monday. His father loved to travel, collect and polish rocks, play bridge, sing in two choirs, and was an avid astronomer, the son noted.

Mr. Knechtel, beloved husband of the late Iva Fields, leaves three sons, Ross, Paul and Tim and their wives and seven grandchildren, brother Willard and beloved companion Helen Woodside and her family.

A memorial service was held on Saturday at Dublin Street United Church in Guelph.

Council wants firm dates...

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people involved and ask if it will be a couple of years or three months before safety improvements are made. Staff will report back.

New faces at board

There are six new faces at the table of the Halton District School Board and one of the five returning trustees has served less than a month so trustee orientation is a big issue as the new term begins.

As well as bringing the new trustees up to speed, senior staff is looking at the administrative structure and will shuffle staff before Christmas because two key superintendents are leaving to take positions with the Ministry of Education.

Kit Rankin, who was responsible for program for the past eight years, takes over as director of the curriculum and assessment branch of the ministry as of January 1.

Paul Anthony, a 27-year board veteran who served for the past five years as head of human resources, has already begun his new job as director of standards for the Ontario teacher testing project.

SENIORS' REC. CTR.

By Dot Redekop

About 95 people came out for our Christmas dinner on Friday. The hall was beautifully decorated thanks to Adriana and helpers. The entertainment was by One Man Band who did a great job as usual. The buffet was catered by Cocktail Catering. I hear the raspberry cream pie was out of this world (good).

Ted Chudleigh was there and gave us a cheque for \$4,000 the result of his golf game. Terri Jackson, Kathie Gastle and Clark Somerville attended. Once again, thanks Ted.

I will have the list of prizes and winners in my next column.

Mary Papillon had two mooners on Thursday after-

noon playing bid euchre.

We have wound down all our extra activities for the year but our regular ones are still on. We are closed Dec. 25 to Dec. 29 for holidays.

We have a trip to Rama on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Don't forget the first Wednesday in January is our evening euchre at 7:30. Merry Christmas everyone.

Credit Union accepting donations

The Halton Credit Union is accepting donations for Christmas food hampers for the needy.

Staffer Cathy Munday said donations of canned goods can be left at the Acton branch until Dec. 22. Then contributions will be taken to the Salvation Army to add to their hampers.



CRUISE CONTROL: Lucky Cheryl Sawa of Georgetown will spend her first anniversary on a plush Caribbean cruise after winning the grand prize in the recent United Way of Halton Hills raffle. Campaign Chair Chris Miller made the presentation. - Frances Niblock photo

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CONTEST RULES: Do your best to solve the Teaser below, write in your name, phone # and answer, turn it in to Acton Pharmacy and you'll be eligible to win a Gift Certificate (Prescriptions excluded). Winners selected by random drawing from all correct entries.
 (You must be 18 years of age or older to win)
 Entries must be turned in to Acton Pharmacy before closing December 22nd.
 FIRST CORRECT ENTRY DRAWN WILL BE SCRUTINIZED BY HARTLEY COLES (He knows everything)

A Christmas Caroler's Nightmare?
 Below are some Christmas songs written in a slightly different form. On a separate sheet of paper, write down the actual song titles in order and attach it to his teaser with your name and Phone # on it and turn in to Acton Pharmacy.

1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis
2. 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
3. Minuscule hamlet in the far east
4. Ancient benevolent depot
5. Adorn the vestibule
6. Exuberance directed to the planet
7. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizin
8. Monarchical trio
9. Yonder in the haystack
10. Assemble, everyone who believes
11. Hallowed post meridian
12. Fantasies of a colourless December 25th
13. Tin tintinnabulums
14. A dozen 24-hour yule periods
15. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour
16. Homo sapien of crystallized vapour
17. I merely desire a pair of incisors
18. I spied my maternal parent osculating a round a man in red
19. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy
20. Aloft on the acme of the abode

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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