Brent Marshall

Brent Marshall new Town Fire Chief

Brent Marshall is the Town's new Fire Chief.

The Acton resident, who joined the Acton fire department almost 35 years ago, takes over February 19 as Chief, and Director of Fire Protection and Prevention Services.

Town Council ratified the promotion on Monday following an open competition of internal and external candidates.

Marshall has been District One (Acton) Chief since 1986, after working up through the part-time volunteer firefighter ranks.

Marshall retired as Halton's COA last year to stage an unsuccessful run for the Halton Chairman's job, vacated by the retiring Joyce Savoline.

After the municipal election, Marshall said there were "options open" to him, but he chose to apply for the Chief's job after the retirement of Bob Meads because fire fighting has always been part of his life.

"My heart has always been with the Department. Even though I was doeing other things in terms of my career, I never left the active part of the fire fighting service and continued as a part-time/volunteer," Marshall said on Tuesday.

"Now is the right time for me to be able to move from a part-time rank to a full-time professional rank," he said, adding the Department faces a number of challenges and objectives, including
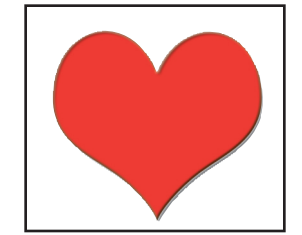
What's Inside

The prodigal son returns. Garth Turner after years in the political wilderness returns to the father's home - the Liberals. Page 14.

Acton's 37th annual Peewee Hockey Tourney attracted some unusual guests. Page 17.

Don't Forget Your Valentine on Feb. 14. Page 14

Expanded ActiVan service approved

CELEBRATING 90: Since Mae Hoare was born on Feb. 14 1917, (Valentine's Day) it may have some bearing on the fact this native Actonian has a big heart. Her many activities include delivering Meals-on-Wheels from Links2Care. She's shown here with George Hargrave, left, and Wes Fountain, right, starting out on her route.

Hope to double ridership

By Frances Niblock

Evening and weekend service, more marketing and new scheduling software – that's the plan to double ridership on the Town's recently expanded ActiVan transit service.

The Town's new transit co-ordinator, Don Clarkson, provided Town Council with a snapshot look at ActiVan service initiatives at a recent council meeting.

Although councillors balked at expanding to a full transit service last year, it improved access to public transportation and the existing ActiVan service by purchasing two new vehicles and relaxing the restrictive criteria so all seniors, and people with disabilities, may ride within Halton Hills.

Since 1981, Tyler Transport Limited of Acton has operated the ActiVan service for the Town and it was lone bidder on a new contract for 2007 for ActiVan drivers.

Council approved a $113,000 purchase order with Tyler for this year with provision for $135,000 and cost-of-living for up to three

Mae Hoare celebrates her 90th

By Frances Niblock

Acton's Mae Hoare is older than many of the Meals-on-Wheels clients that she delivers hot food to weekly as a volunteer, but her age has not diminished her willingness to help others.

Hoare celebrates her 90th birthday on February 14 – her family is hosting an afternoon reception at the Legion on Sunday (February 11) to mark a remarkable life.

Hoare never smoked, rarely drinks and credits a strong constitution and optimistic outlook for the good, long life she is living in Acton.

"You just keep happy," Hoare said about her approach to life, which includes deep roots in many community groups, service organizations and St. Alban's Church, where she's been a choir member for over 75 years.

"You make yourself useful. I certainly am not going to sit around and do nothing. I just like doing things and helping people," Hoare said last Thursday.