

Roy Smith, Ford Rogers retiring

Appoint new engineer, assessor

Two of Halton's senior department heads are retiring this year, and two new men have been named to take their places. Roy F. Smith, who after 48 years with Halton probably ranks as the county's senior employee, is retiring from his position as County Engineer and

Roads Superintendent; while J. Ford Rogers, Halton's assessor for the past 20 years, is retiring on June 30. The new engineer is Donald John "Jack" Corbett and he assumed his new duties in Hal-

ton on June 1. Mr. Smith is staying on to help him in an advisory capacity for the next few months, on a part time basis. Halton's new assessor is Robert Beach, who began here on February 1.

ROY F. SMITH

Working on Halton's roads since 1918, Mr. Smith has really seen Halton grow from a tiny rural community to a thriving and highly urbanized area. In those days Halton had 25 to 30 miles of pavement, while today there are 120 miles of paved highways in Halton.

Born in Trenton, he began working on construction with his father at the age of 12, and one of his earliest jobs was on the western entrance to Toronto harbor. After finishing school, he enrolled in Queen's University at Kingston and graduated as a civil engineer in 1916.

Mr. Smith engineered the construction of a sulphuric acid factory in Trenton, then took a job in the production end of the firm for two years. It was in 1918 he came to Halton as resident engineer on the new Tansley bridge on Highway 5 and he stayed to complete a new bridge on Highway 5 over the 16 Mile Creek.

When these jobs were finished he began doing consulting work for the county and local municipalities, and moved to live in Oakville in 1922. He also worked on the arch bridge over the 12 Mile Creek at Bronte.

He became Halton's first engineer in 1924 on a fee basis, and in 1930 was appointed roads superintendent and county engineer. Over the years he also did some consulting engineering work for other municipalities, mainly Milton, until he quit that practice about four years ago.

Mr. Smith is known far and wide in engineering circles. He was one of the pioneers of the County Engineers Association formed in the early 1950's, and its president in 1954. In 1963 he was honored as a 45-year member of the Ontario Good Roads

Association, and in 1964 joined the quarter-century club of the Canadian Good Roads Association after 25 years with that group. He is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario.

In community life Mr. Smith has also been busy, serving with the Oakville Home and School Association and later as vice-president of the Ontario Home and School Association. He is a former first principal of the White Oak Chapter Masons, and a member of the Scottish Rite, Merton Lodge of Perfection.

His community interests also led him to join the Oakville Lions Club and the Oakville Curling Club. He is active in St. Jude's Church. In his earlier days he was active in sports, having played goal for the Queen's University O.H.A. entry and maintaining his interests in lacrosse and baseball.

J. FORD ROGERS

A native of Northumberland County, Mr. Rogers was married in Trafalgar and moved there to farm in 1922. In 1945 Halton County decided to engage a full time assessor and he won the job over several other applicants, starting work on the first of January of 1946.

Mr. Rogers recalled the Halton assessment was only about \$32,000,000 that year, while today it is \$306,000,000.

His first office was over what is now the Bank of Commerce, Milton, and two years later he moved to an office in the Brown St. county court house. Since the new Halton administration building has been located on the Base Line he has worked from the building.

In 1946 each Halton municipality had an assessor but the county assessing system was new (Halton was the sixth county to appoint a county assessor) so he started from scratch. A form of equalized assessment was in use then but one of his first tasks was to draft a new system and practically reassess the whole county.

He recalls it was not an easy task, as there were no previous records to go on, and there were few land sales in those days on which an accurate assessment could be made. There was strong opposition to any reassessment from the farm people and much of the property was

assessed too low, he remembered.

"There have been a great many problems, and many seriously disturbed ratepayers, but somehow you seemed to be able to reason with them," he reminisced. "I don't think they all went away satisfied, but they usually accepted it more graciously when they realized we were only trying to make an honest assessment," he added.

Mr. Rogers remembered his first court of revision in Nelson Township (now upper Burlington) when there were 140 appeals to be heard.

His work has been interesting and he has enjoyed meeting many interesting people over the last 20 years. He praised the local assessors for their assistance and co-operation with the county assessing department, and said during his retirement he will look back with many happy memories of his work.

Mr. Rogers is past chairman of the County Assessors Association and of the District 12, Association of Assessing Officers of Ontario.

D. J. CORBETT

Halton's new Roads Superintendent and County Engineer was born in Tillsonburg and was educated there and in Woodstock before entering University of Toronto, where he graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree. After apprenticing for a year he was registered as a Professional Engineer.

His first work as an engineer was with Middlesex County near London, as assistant county engineer. Eight years ago, he moved to Dufferin County as County Engineer, and on June 1 he came to Halton County.

Married with one daughter, he is living at Bronte. Mr. Corbett took part in community

life at Orangeville in Dufferin as a member of the Rotary Club for five years.

A roads superintendent and engineer he will supervise a staff of 25 men in the field, the assistant county engineer Paul Stevens, engineering technician Bob Blair and two women in the office.

ROBERT BEACH

Mr. Beach, who took over his duties as Halton assessor in February, has had the assistance of retiring assessor Rogers work in Halton.

A native of Niagara Falls area, he has spent most of his life in that district. He was born at nearby Stamford Township and following his education there he attended a business school in Niagara Falls, New York.

In January of 1953 he was named assistant assessor of Stamford Township, and later Deputy Chief Assessor of Stamford. In January of 1963 when part of Stamford and Niagara Falls amalgamated, he became chief assessor. For one year he also served as assessor and building inspector for the Village of Chippawa, following the death of the assessor there.

Mr. Beach was a member of Niagara Falls Kinsmen Club for 11 years, and served one year as its president. He was also active in the city's United Appeal and served as chairman of the public service division for a year.

He was a member of the first graduating class in the assessing course at Queen's University, and is a charter member of the Institute of Municipal Assessors, also a member of the Ontario Association of Assessing Officers and a candidate member of the Appraisal Institute of Canada.

Married, with three children, he has taken up residence in Burlington.



HALTON'S COUNTY ENGINEER and road superintendent Roy F. Smith, who began working in Halton 48 years ago, retires this year and D. J. "Jack" Corbett (seated), former Dufferin County engineer, has been named to replace him.



AFTER 20 YEARS as Halton's assessor, J. Ford Rogers retires this week. He is shown here with the new county assessor, Robert Beach (seated).

Held over for study

Feel jail agreement inequitable

An agreement between Peel and Halton on the establishment of a regional detention centre ran into opposition when County Council met last week.

The text of the agreement was finally withdrawn and held over for the next meeting and discussion with the solicitor of the joint project.

Objection to the agreement was initiated by Deputy-Reeve J. Young of Georgetown. He protested the establishment of the operating board having three members from Peel County and only two from Halton. "I would fight to the last ditch for equal representation," he argued.

The deputy-reeve also objected to the formation of a Board, as called for in the agreement, to choose a site and hire an architect. He suggested it could cost the county \$50,000 to \$60,000 before the county could get out. Reeve G. Gallagher, chairman of the county's regional detention centre committee, urged members to act now if they felt the agreement was inequitable.

Deputy-Reeve F. Rogers of Burlington noted the cost of conveying prisoners from the local municipalities to the detention centre was a particular concern to his municipality of

Burlington. He stressed the site is a major factor in annual costs.

The establishment of the Board before a site is obtained drew comments from Reeve Coulter of Nassagaweya who stated his preference to the committee choosing the site before the Board is established.

He also pointed out maintenance had initially been discussed on a per prisoner day basis, while the new agreement called for costs to be shared on a population basis.

Revise Knox committees

Standing committees of the Session of Knox Presbyterian church were recently revised, and this week minister Rev. J. K. L. McGown announced the new list:

Clerk of Session, M. S. Kernighan; assistant clerk, K. P. Marshall; roll clerk, L. R. McKersie; executive committee, Rev. J. K. L. McGown; Christian education, J. Schofield; music, W. B. Bell; stewardship and missions, K. P. Marshall; evangelism and social action, T. Amis; record and publicity, S. Agnew; house, R. McDowell; ushering, C. S. Lockie; sacraments, C. S. Lockie.

ance had initially been discussed on a per prisoner day basis, while the new agreement called for costs to be shared on a population basis.

Deputy-Reeve W. Hoey of Nassagaweya stressed the importance of the location of the detention centre. He proposed the site be chosen by the committee rather than forming a Board.

The members finally concluded the subject of the agreement would be deferred until the next meeting, when the solicitor could be present for the discussion.

—Kelso continues to be a busy spot. The recent heat wave tipped mid-week attendance.

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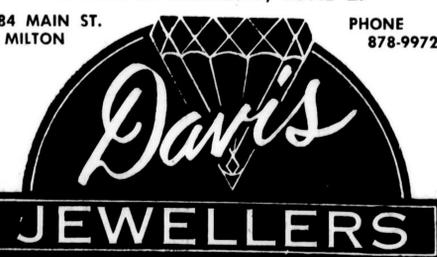
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