

Keates runs for Ward 3 council

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

In the case of Nassagaweya resident Ken Keates, absence didn't make the heart grow fonder.

Instead, a number of absences of a Ward 3 councillor from town council and committee meetings due to business commitments over the past term inspired Mr. Keates to throw his own name in for consideration in the municipal elections.

"Initially it was the fact we had a candidate in the riding that hadn't attended many of the meetings," said Mr. Keates. "I was interested in running for nine years but this was the final thing."

And a plan for the 59-year-old contender to move into semi-retirement meant the timing was right to jump into electoral waters. If elected, Mr. Keates would get a handle on issues of the day by wading through their backgrounds.

Those issues include Milton's impending population explosion.

"The development on the large scale in the town interests me," he said. "I want to preserve the rural/urban balance. How we achieve that balance is something to look at as the days unfold."

Having spent time in Brampton when that city began to boom, Mr. Keates is anxious not to see those mistakes repeated.

"I was in Brampton when Bramalea was built," he said. "I don't want that to happen here."

Mr. Keates doesn't pretend to know all the answers before winning a place at the council table. But he is interested in examining the facts and isn't afraid to try a fresh approach when warranted.

"I won't sit back and do nothing," he said. "It may be difficult, but I think change is possible. One of my mottoes is nothing is impossible."

Having moved to Milton 16 years ago, Mr. Keates plans on raising his profile in his ward through door-to-door campaigns, brochures and attendance at all-candidates meetings.

He believes an agricultural and accounting background will help him deal with the financial and rural issues facing the town.

Mr. Keates advocates using some of the slot machine revenue from Mohawk raceway to cut local tax bills.

"I think there should be some money returned to the ratepayers," he said.

Clarification

The story in the October 20 edition of the Champion said Joe Deoni, who was convicted of fraud over \$5,000, received three years probation, a suspended sentence and was ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution.

In addition, the former Catholic school trustee paid \$10,000 in restitution up front.

The Champion apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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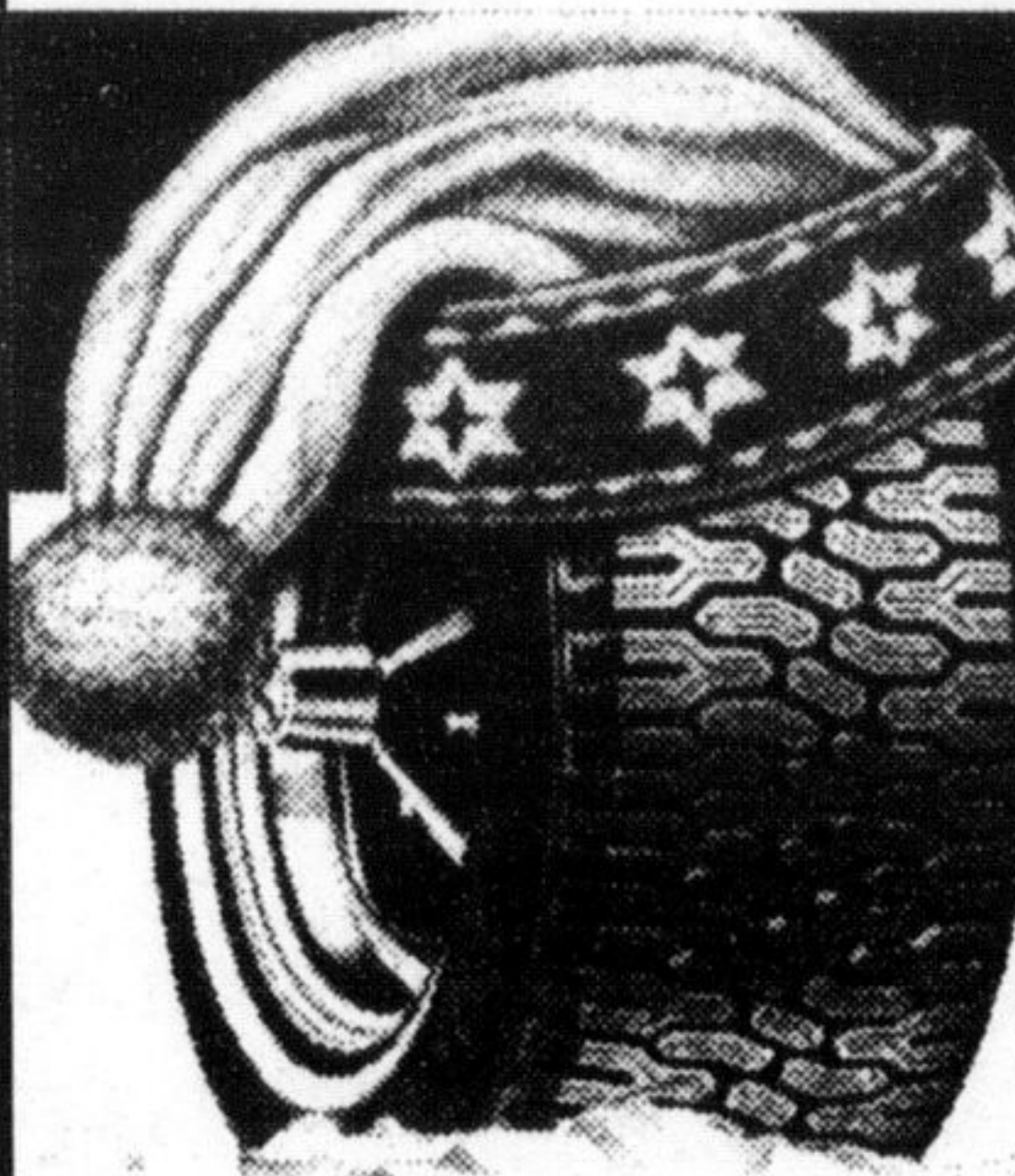
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