

Be sure to check out our Lifestyles section in next Friday's Champion. It appears every other Friday.

# New town council was inaugurated Monday

By IRENE GENTLE  
The Champion

Three more years. Though dolled up in the varied rituals of municipal office, that's the basic message delivered at the official inauguration of the new town council.

For those who attended Monday's ceremony and follow-up reception, the new council looked pretty much like the old one, with the exception of new Ward 3 Councillor Ken Keates.

The inauguration, which opened with a procession led by piper Stewart White, was a relaxed and good-humoured affair despite the solemnity of being sworn into office.

In his first public speech as a councillor, Mr. Keates asked his colleagues "not to take advantage of the rookie at the table, at least not for the first two-and-a-half years."

But his hopes were dashed by Councillor Wally Hunter. "It's hard to believe that six years ago I was the rookie around this table," he mused. "I'm not anymore. So that means you get all the committees no one else wants."

Mr. Hunter joked that his small son summed up the speech portion of the evening best when he was heard to pipe up, "I want to go home" from the gallery.

That sounded familiar to long-time Councillor Brian Penman.

"I think I've heard that speech before," he said. "But it came from Wally."

Heading into the new term, governance issues were on Mr. Penman's mind.

"I pray that discussions of amalgamation are done with sensitivity," he said.

Though in the past he had taken advantage of inaugurals to introduce his latest child, this time councillor and father of

five Ron Furik decided to stick to their current quintet, he joked.

No slouch himself in the family department, Councillor Rick Day has four children. But with only one in attendance at the inaugural, Mr. Day was inspired by the ever-closer wanderings of Mr. Hunter's son.

"I was going to ask Ron if I could introduce some of his but it looks as though I've got a Hunter," he joked.

He left the crowd in stitches when he added "maybe we shouldn't be so smart about that with what happened to Mel Lastman."

The reference was to recent allegations that Mr. Lastman may have fathered two children during an ancient, if decade-spanning, affair.

And despite being acclaimed to office, not everyone was convinced Mr. Day would make it back to the council table, he said.

"The guys I play hockey with still didn't think I'd get in," he kidded. "I think they thought someone was going to write 'impeach him' on the ballot."

Solemnity was restored when Councillor Art Melanson, after noting he hated having to follow up the showman Mr. Day, said "I'm here for another three years. It's a responsibility I take very seriously."

Though challenges in the areas of growth and governance are expected, as yet unearthed troubles are the ones keeping Councillor Cindy Lunau on the alert.

"The ones that scare me are the ones that are going to blindside us," she said.

But keeping the lid on property taxes and controlling growth are what the public care about as the town heads into its growth spurt, said Councillor John Challinor.

"These may well be the most important three years certainly in my tenure on coun-

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# A 60-HOUR WORK WEEK? LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

on proposed Employment Standards Reform.

**MYTH:**

The Government is imposing a standard 60-hour work week.

**WRONG! Current maximum 48-hour work week would remain the same. Employers could be charged for forcing otherwise.**

**MYTH:**

Other provinces have stronger protection on hours of work than Ontario.

**WRONG! Most other provinces have no maximum work week provisions.**

**MYTH:**

The Government is removing your right to overtime pay.

**WRONG! Overtime would still be payable after 44 hours. Employers could be charged for forcing otherwise.**

**MYTH:**

Employees will be forced to take vacation one day-at-a-time.

**WRONG! That would be against the law; employers could be charged for that.**

**MYTH:**

Employees will be forced to sign agreements for excess hours, overtime and vacation periods or lose their jobs.

**WRONG! That would be against the law; employers could be charged for that.**

**If an employee** agrees to work more than 48 hours per week, up to a maximum of 60, or

**If an employee** requests vacation be scheduled other than one week-at-a-time, or

**If an employee** agrees to a compressed work week,

**Then** with written consent of the employee and employer they would be permitted to do so, rather than seeking a permit from the Ministry of Labour.

**These are the changes proposed. No more, no less!**

**If passed by the Legislature, the proposed changes would allow employees and employers to structure work schedules to meet their own needs.**




**OPEN HOUSES THIS WEEKEND**

**Churchill Estates**

**Model home open**

**22 homes sold**

**9 remaining**

**Gary Thomas in attendance**

**5 km N. of 401 on Guelph Line**