

J.P. Murray Allen calls extended recess

By ROB KELLY

It takes a little while to get around the tough, taciturn appearance. The questions are parried politely but in almost a monotone, with distance barricading Milton justice of the peace Murray Allen from his interviewer.

But slowly the sense of self-mocking humour trickles into the recollections of 22 years spent weighing evidence and character.

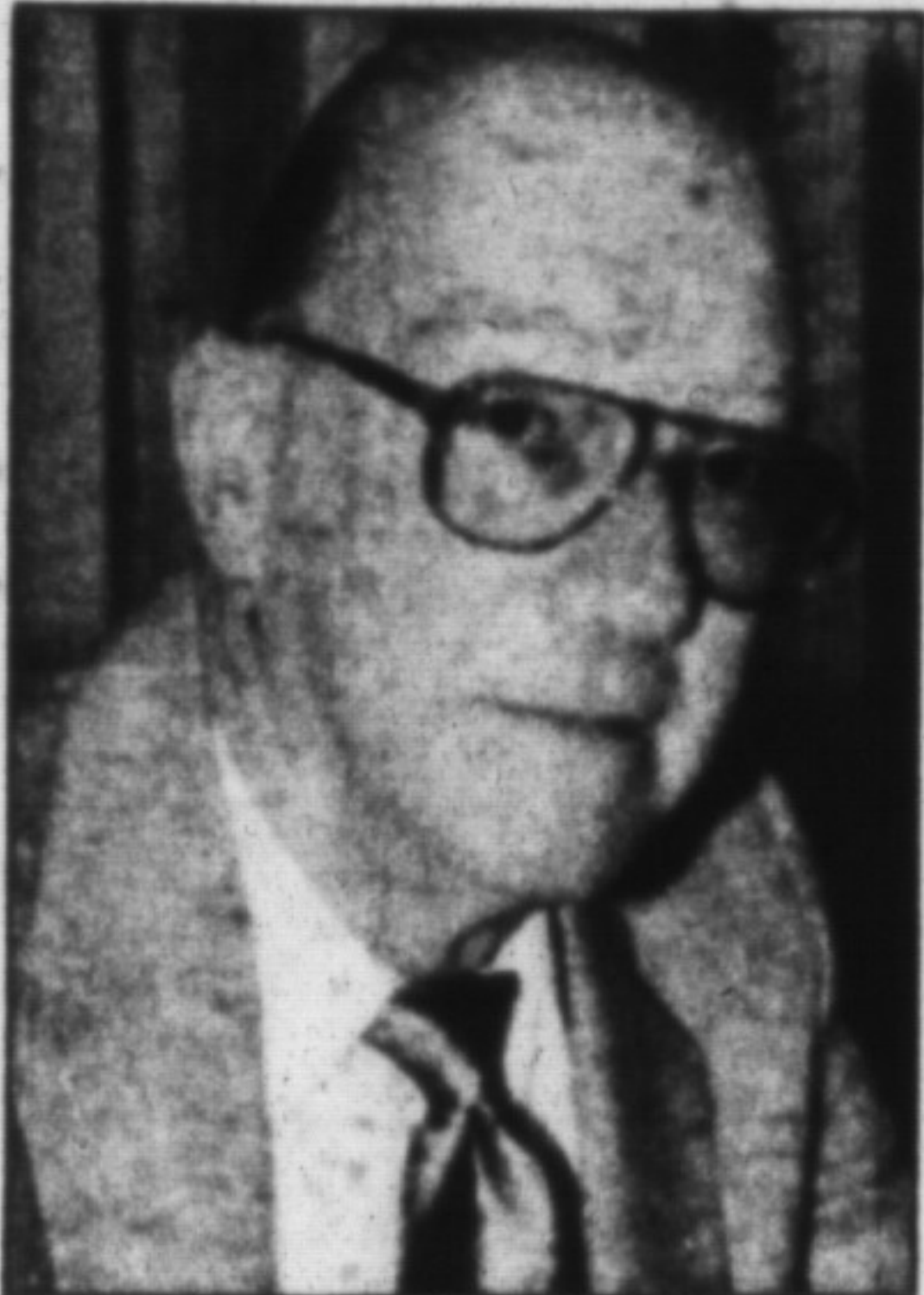
One time, he recounts, a young offender stood before him charged with underage drinking. He told the youth he was eligible for a \$10,000 fine, if the court chose to impose it.

Mr. Allen's somewhat stern courtroom mien had more than the desired effect. The justice of the peace looked behind the obviously afraid offender to see the court of fier vigorously shaking his head, "no."

Mr. Allen softened a bit, imposing a minimum \$150 fine instead. Afterward, the court officer told him when he had mentioned the potential \$10,000 penalty, the youth had wet his pants.

He retired Friday after devoting his entire postwar career to law enforcement. Prior to taking on the JP's position in Milton, Mr. Allen was an OPP constable for 13 years.

Of his work on the bench, he says, "the way I looked at it, I tried to find



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humour in whatever I was hearing in order to keep my sanity. If you took your work home you'd go bananas."

On his last day working for the province, Mr. Allen hears a full morning of cases. There are 10 on the docket. Fridays are for Ministry of Transport offences. There are people such as heavy transport drivers who, if found guilty of some offences relating to load size or fastening, can face fines up to \$100,000.

The stakes have risen considerably since he took up his position. As well as being able to slap

\$100,000 fines on people, he can saddle them with six-month jail terms. It means cracking the books to keep up. Jail terms and fines of that magnitude can put a serious crimp in anyone's lifestyle, and Mr. Allen knows it.

"The only thing I'm going to miss is the friendships. I'm not going to miss the work. It's getting more and more intense."

With a straight face, and an assurance that he means it perfectly seriously, Mr. Allen suggests an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act. It involves two new offence clauses for careless driving, "stupidity and gross stupidity. Then all situations would be covered in regard to driving."

There are some job perks to being a JP, such as the respect, the community standing. And the security. People in Mr. Allen's position do not pay unemployment insurance because, for all practical purposes, they cannot be fired.

"You have to fire yourself," he points out. "You have to do something against the law, like drinking on the bench or illegal misadventures."

Some JP's have been "fired," he admits, for behaviour that "mostly had to do with intoxicants." But even then, it must be done by an order-in-council, a direct vote of the provincial cabinet.

He didn't come to the staid and reserved atmosphere of Ontario's courtrooms through some quiet and studious scholastic program. "Lefty" Allen played Triple-A baseball and American League hockey for Minneapolis-St. Paul. He was also involved in "speedskating, softball, handball — you name it, I probably participated."

During the Second World War he served as a pilot in the RCAF, although he never saw action. He trained fliers in Canada.

After that he married the woman who is still by his side today, Nora. "My wife chased me until I caught her," he says, poker-faced. They have two children, Jo-Anne and Jerri-Lee. "I'm gifted with a wonderful woman."

He is a longtime resident of Milton. He has invariably met people he has faced in court on the street. "I've never had an altercation with anyone. They say 'hello,' 'how are you doing,'"

In 13 years on the police force, he says with apparent pride, "I never had to draw my gun." When he turned in his billy, the only marks on it were small indentations on the bottom, where his young teething daughters chewed on it.

He admits to having been sorely provoked in his courtroom on occasion.

"But you call a recess. You let him

(the defendant) cool down. And yourself."

He has never cited a defendant for contempt, although he has tossed people from the courtroom and continued the trial in their absence, a perfectly legal procedure, he noted.

He has withdrawn from cases where he felt his relationship with a defendant was, or could be construed, as too close. "It's only fair to them, to me and the public."

There are, he says candidly, "seven or eight standard speeches you give to people." Certain individuals invariably get to hear almost all of them, and that bothers him.

"If a person can get something out of even being convicted, then you get something out of that. It's when you start seeing people over and over again. You begin to wonder about that and what you can do. You become frustrated that they keep coming back to you."

The 65-year-old now former justice of the peace has no grandiose plans for his golden years. He'll help with some family summer cottage projects this year.

Next spring "I might go down and train the Blue Jays again," he adds with the hint of a smile. Second-guessing the umpires is all the judging Mr. Allen will have to do, and the only heat he'll take will be the Florida sun.

Currie 'outraged' by candidate linking her to Turner bashing

By ROB KELLY

Halton North federal Liberal Party president Joe Hewitt has come under fire from both candidates for the riding nomination because of comments he made last week concerning party leader John Turner.

Reiterating statements he made the previous week, Mr. Hewitt on Monday called for his leader's resignation. "It would be in the best interest (of the party) if Mr. Turner would step aside," he said.

He said he expects local candidates to adopt "the same type of approach the provincial Conservatives took," in the last election. Then, provincial PCs downplayed their connection to party leader Larry Grossman and even to the party.

Campbellville businesswoman Oriena Currie and Bolton entrepreneur Pierre Klein are running for the Halton-Peel nomination.

"I'm totally outraged," Mrs. Currie said, "that Mr. Hewitt would speak for me. I certainly would not disassociate myself from Mr.

Turner." Asked if she would want him to campaign with her in the riding, Mrs. Currie replied, "I think he would be an asset."

"Mr. Turner is the leader," Mr. Klein said. "He will enjoy my unquestioned support." Of Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Klein said, "he does not speak on my behalf or on behalf of the (Liberal) association." He called Mr. Hewitt's "personal viewpoint an unfortunate one."

Mr. Klein said he would "be happy to campaign with any leader of the Liberal party."

It was Mrs. Currie who hammered Mr. Turner's critics most vocally.

"I'm not ashamed of John Turner and his record. What I am ashamed of is the dissidents, who don't have a mandate, to ask the leader to resign."

The former Halton federal candidate campaigned with Mr. Turner in 1984 and has since supported him. During the intervening years, she said there has been a movement by

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Photo by JOHN WARREN

Admiring soap fans

Fans of Knots Landing's Gary Ewing crowded around the evening soap opera star when he spent an hour at Milton Mall Friday. Ted Shackelford took time to answer

questions from his admirers while he stopped in town during a promotional tour in the area.



HALTON ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD NOTICE TO HALTON ENGLISH-SPEAKING SEPARATE SCHOOL RATEPAYERS/ELECTORS RE: 1988 MUNICIPAL ENUMERATION

During the last week of April, ratepayers received by mail, a Municipal Enumeration Notice. You are required by law to complete, sign and return this notice by

MAY 12, 1988

- Please read your notice carefully. This is your opportunity to ensure
- that you are listed on the voters' list for local government elections in the Fall of 1988.
 - that you are listed in Column 4 as a Separate School supporter, and
 - that you have answered Column 5 concerning English or French language elector status.

NAME	ADDRESS	PROPERTY	DATE	LANGUAGE	SEPARATE SCHOOL	OTHER
OCCUPANT: BOB JOHN WALTER						

We urge all Roman Catholics, Ukrainian Catholics and Greek Catholics to carefully check their notice to ensure that the information shown is correct and that their school support is recorded as 'S' separate.

Call for information and assistance
Assessment Department
632-6300, ext. 146

W.C. Hawken, Q.C.
Chairman

C.G. Byrnes
Director of Education



LE CONSEIL DES ÉCOLES CATHOLIQUES DE HALTON AVIS AUX CONTRIBUABLES/ÉLECTEURS FRANCOPHONES DES ÉCOLES SÉPARÉES CATHOLIQUES DE HALTON OBJET: RECENSEMENT MUNICIPAL ET SCOLAIRE DE 1988

À la fin d'avril (toute) contribuable/électeur ou électrice a reçu par la poste l'Avis de recensement municipal. Vous êtes tenus, aux termes de la loi, de remplir, de signer et de retourner cet avis au plus tard

Je 12 mai 1988

- Veillez lire votre avis avec soin; vérifiez les renseignements qui y sont indiqués afin de vous assurer que
- votre nom soit inscrit sur la liste électorale en prévision des élections municipales et scolaires à l'automne 1988.
 - vous soyez inscrit à la section 4 en tant que contribuable/électeur ou électrice des écoles séparées catholiques.
 - vous ayez répondu OUI/ET/À aux questions à la section 5 si vous êtes francophone en vertu de la loi et voulez vous faire prévaloir de votre droit d'être des conseillers scolaires de langue française ou NON/ET/À si vous êtes anglophone et/ou voulez voter pour un(e) conseiller (ère) anglophone.

NAME	ADDRESS	PROPERTY	DATE	LANGUAGE	SEPARATE SCHOOL	OTHER
OCCUPANT: BOB JOHN WALTER						

Nous proposons vivement à tout (e) catholique y compris celui ou celle de rite orthodoxe grec et ukrainien de vérifier avec soin son avis afin de s'assurer que les renseignements fournis sur le formulaire soient corrects y compris la question de l'appui scolaire et des droits à l'enseignement en langue française.

VOUS AVEZ BESOIN D'AIDE?
Veillez communiquer avec
votre conseiller scolaire

J. André Paradis
Président de la Section
française du Conseil
335-0307 (Burlington)

Gilbert McCraw
Vice-Président de
la Section française
du Conseil 849-0860 (Oakville)

Ken Norman
Membre de la
Section française
du Conseil
877-9745 (Georgetown)