

Ballinger, Wood officiate at final council meetings

Mayors from two area municipalities said farewell this week as new councils prepared to begin a three-year term.

At his final meeting as Whitechurch-Stouffville's municipal chief, Tom Wood voiced confidence in the abilities of those sitting on the 1985-88 council. Although feeling there are some

tough decisions ahead, the defeated incumbent said he's sure the town's civic representatives are up to the challenge.

And Thursday in Uxbridge, Bill Ballinger proudly wore his chain of office for the last time in the Bascom Street council chambers.

"All good things do come to an end," stated mayor Ballinger, who served in the township's top post for the past five years. "But I can honestly say I've never worked with a better bunch of people. It's been a pleasure to head this council."

The chief magistrate's face turned several shades of crimson as mayor-designate Gerri Lynn O'Connor made a special presentation on behalf of the municipality's fund-raising committee for library expansion. The regional councillor, who'll officially moved into the top job by way of acclamation on Monday, Dec. 2, gave the retiring Ballinger a set of personalized licence plates reading: "X-BOSS."

PRAISE

"I'll miss you all very much," said Stouffville's Mayor Wood, who was unseated by Ward 4 councillor Fran Sainsbury in the Nov. 12 election. Wood polled 1,603 votes to finish third behind Mrs Sainsbury (2,008) and Vic Wilson (1,625).

He also praised municipal staff members for their dedication and hard work.

"I think the Town is extremely fortunate in having the calibre of people they have working for them," mayor Wood said.

Ward 6 councillor Jim Sanders spoke on behalf of council in expressing appreciation for the leadership Wood displayed after being appointed mayor to replace Eldred King. The vacancy was created in September of 1984 when Mr. King became chairman of York Region.

The former Ward 2 representative's "friendship and goodwill" was also lauded by councillor Sanders.

Mayor-elect Sainsbury took office at Council's inaugural meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Hydro bill going up

Markham hydro bills will go up 3.3 per cent Jan. 1 if the increase is approved by Ontario Hydro.

That will mean an extra \$3.60 every two months to the average residential user.

The increase is necessary, according to Bob Dyer, Markham Hydro's Consumer Service Superintendent, because Ontario Hydro has boosted the wholesale cost of power by 4 per cent. That will cost the utility about \$2 million extra in 1986.

Markham Hydro has absorbed part of the increase, \$350,000 (7 per cent), through "economy measures and tight control of costs."

For example, capital projects such as extension or replacement of power lines have been delayed — the old ones can last another year, Dyer said.

As well, a soon-to-be completed transmission centre will enable Markham Hydro to accept "stage one" transmissions from Ontario Hydro and step down the high voltage itself.

"This will save customers money since we don't have to pay Ontario Hydro to do it."

Markham power rates went up 7.7 per cent last year, but wholesale rates increased 8.3 per cent, with the utility again absorbing the difference, Dyer said that can't happen forever — "we're getting close to the limit."

"Customers can expect around the same increase in 1987," Dyer added, since Ontario Hydro has pledged to keep its increases about the same — "certainly below the rate of inflation."

Wholesale power costs account for about 85 per cent of Markham Hydro's budget.



Jo DeMasson (left) and Marion Martin of Goliger's Travel in Markham look over some of the toys that have been donated to the Markham firm for distribution by the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army will distribute the toys to needy families at Christmas.

Salvation Army aids needy at Christmas

While most families exchange gifts and enjoy the traditional turkey dinner each Christmas, there are many others that are not so lucky.

It's these people that the Salvation Army keep in mind each year.

And with Christmas just 2 1/2 weeks away, the Markham Salvation Army is already busy gathering food and toys for needy families in the Markham area.

Lieutenant Rick Shirran, of the Markham Salvation Army, explained that each year their assistance program helps families that are having trouble making ends meet. The Salvation Army provides up to 50 needy families with food hampers and toys.

"We work closely with the social worker in this area," said Mr. Shirran. "We try to provide a complete Christmas dinner (or food vouchers) and toys for the children."

He added that a number of local schools and companies also help out with food and toy drives. Included are Royal LePage in Markham, Family Trust in Markham and Unionville, Texcom Marketing in Markham and Goliger's Travel in Markham.

Money donated to the Salvation Army each year also helps pay for the Christmas hampers and gifts. Mr. Shirran said the Markham Salvation Army will have its Christmas kettles out this week.

Also helping the Salvation Army this year is Markham Dodge Chrysler who has donated the use of a 1985 van for the month of December. Mr. Shirran said the van will be used to collect and deliver the Christmas hampers and toys.

"We're very pleased. It's going very well this year," said Mr. Shirran. "We're getting a lot of support from the Markham and Unionville Kiwanis Clubs as well as from a number of individuals."

Stop sign approved

Residents of the area around Squire Baker's Lane and Tuclor Lane won't get the speed bumps they requested, but a third stop sign has been approved for the intersection.

There is already a two-way stop in place on Squire Baker's Lane at this T-intersection.

A petition was submitted to Markham Council in late summer asking that speed bumps be installed along Tuclor Lane to slow down motorists who insist on using the sloped curving street as a dragway.

Council was against the suggestion because of the damage which can be caused to emergency vehicles, but agreed that something must be done to discourage speeding drivers.

Approval of a three-way stop at the intersection was received from York Region Council and the stop sign will soon be in place.

Council sworn in

Pickering's 1985-88 municipal council officially took office at an inaugural meeting Monday, Dec. 2.

Members of the town's new council are: mayor John E. Anderson; regional councillors Bob Mitchell (Ward 1), Alex Robertson (Ward 2), Norah Stoner (Ward 3); local councillors Maurice Brenner (Ward 1), Shane Coburn (Ward 2), Wayne Arthurs (Ward 3).

The invocation was performed by Father J. Bernard Canning.

HOLIDAY ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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Economist/Tribune Thursday Dec. 26th
Display: Friday Dec. 20th 12 noon
Classified: Monday Dec. 23rd 10:00 a.m.

Weekender Sat. Dec. 28th
Display: Monday, Dec. 23rd 12 noon
Classified: Friday, Dec. 27th 10:00 a.m.

Economist/Tribune Tuesday Dec. 31st
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