

VanBrenk elected warden of Elgin

BY MARG BERRY
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

"Ladies and gentlemen, Warden Rien VanBrenk."

Elgin administrator Mark McDonald made the announcement from the rear of the Elgin council chambers, and VanBrenk, clad in the black robe of office, moved through the standing-ovation

crowd to take his place at the warden's chair.

It took less than 15 minutes for county council members to listen to campaign speeches and choose the mayor of Dutton/Dunwich as the new warden on Tuesday night.

VanBrenk was first elected to Dutton/Dunwich council 13 years ago. He served
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New warden vows honesty, dignity

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three years as councillor and one term as deputy reeve before becoming the first mayor of the newly amalgamated Dutton/Dunwich.

VanBrenk is in the nursery and apple business. He and wife Helen live at RR 1, Fingal.

Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk was also running for the warden's chair. In his speech before the election, Habkirk said 1998 had been a year when difficult decisions were made and adhered to by county council. He said he had lost some battles over the past year. "But the majority rules and that's how it is with this council." He described the council which steered the county through the first year of amalgamation as "a good working council."

Before the ballots were cast, VanBrenk promised to serve with honesty and dignity and to spend as much time as necessary to fulfill the vital role of county warden.

As he took his place at the head of the council table after the election, VanBrenk congratulated outgoing Warden Perry Clutterbuck. "I hope, with council's support, to continue building on the many achievements of 1998," he said. "As we all know, this was a year of transition and change in a



Outgoing Warden Perry Clutterbuck, left, presents the chain of office to newly elected Elgin Warden Rien VanBrenk. (T-J photo)

restructured county system. Through Perry's leadership we addressed the challenges and had a whole lot of fun at the same time."

He also thanked Habkirk for his "open and honest" approach to the warden's election.

"I have enjoyed the company of my fellow councillors immensely in 1998," VanBrenk said. "We worked well together,

never losing respect for each other and were able to find humour in difficult situations."

He congratulated staff on their professionalism and on the way they adapted to the restructured system, being able to change course and direction "at the whim of legislative change from the province."

VanBrenk pledged to nurture and build on the

relationship with the mayor and council of St. Thomas. He is in favour of the consolidation of services signed earlier this year by the city and county.

"Together we should be encouraging the province to approve our consolidation agreement in its entirety," he said. "That agreement recognizes a new way of doing business, has potential cost savings without impacting services and allows both councils to op-

erate as independent bodies. I believe our particular agreement is the first in Ontario between a separated city and upper-tier government. We should be proud of our collective accomplishments."

He noted the city and county have also agreed to examine options related to Valleyview Home for the Aged and Elgin Manor. "I am encouraged by this joint effort and trust the outcome will be based on what is best for the seniors, keeping in mind the limitations of our financial resources."

In 1999 he said he will seek face-to-face meetings

with appropriate cabinet ministers to address the serious underfunding of downloaded roads.

VanBrenk said restructuring was done in a manageable way in Elgin, and was a locally determined solution. He suggested county council should be prepared to adjust to reasonable legislative change, provided the change can be implemented in a practical way.

Clutterbuck presented the new warden with the chain of office, Lord Elgin watch and gavel.

"I look forward to serving with you," Clutterbuck said.



MEMORIAL HALL – The above picture shows the Memorial Hall located on Main Street, Dutton. It was built as a memorial to those who served in the Great War. The official opening of the new hall took place on February 16th, 1923. In the front facade a space

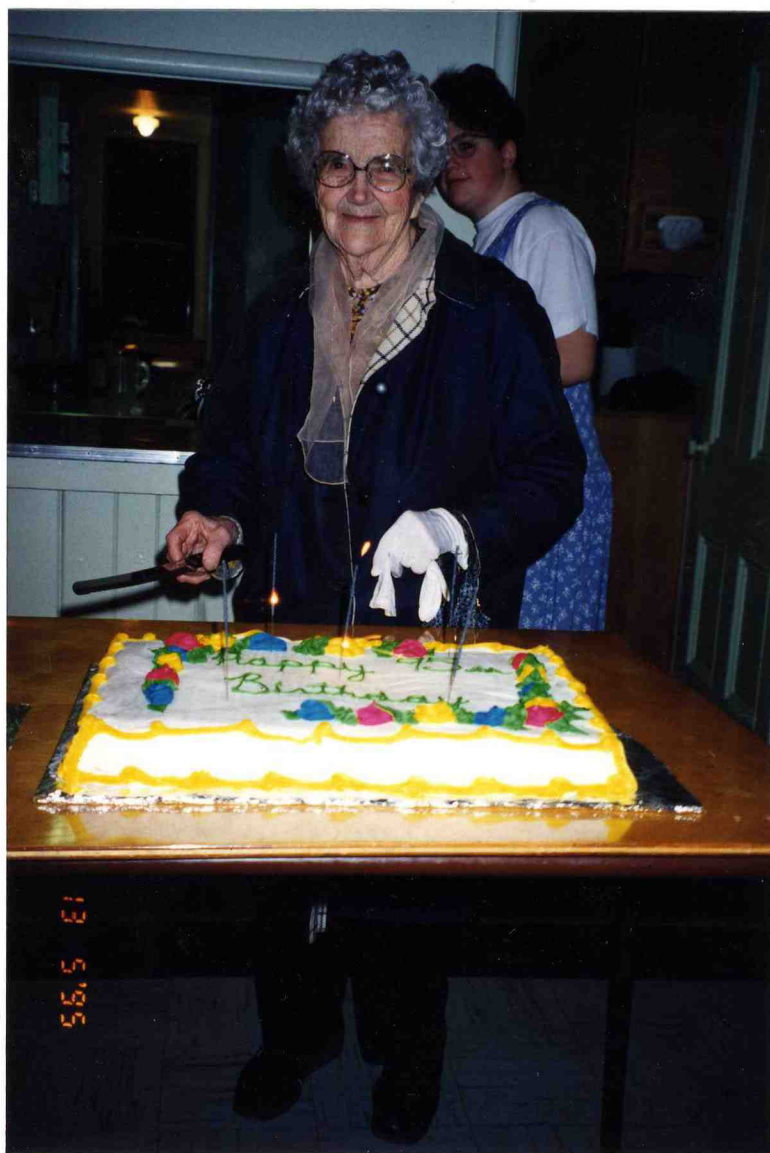
was provided for the installation of a clock. The clock never materialized for some reason. Instead the space remains boarded. The P.U.C. office was added to the North side of the hall in 1949 and the garage for the fire engine behind the hall in 1959.



A BIT OF HISTORY – Since the Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich has formed Dutton Hydro Limited, it seems relevant to take a look back over 50 years ago. The above photo depicts a presentation in 1946 to John M. Blue upon retirement as hydro superintendent after 31 years service. Front row (left

to right), Councillor G. R. Braddon, Councillor D. W. Ford, Mr. Blue, Reeve V. S. Tripp. Back row: Councillor Colin McPhail, Councillor Erie Trothen, Clerk Z. E. MacCallum and Walter Hull, who was Mr. Blue's successor.

MRS FLORENCE AVERY. At the St. Johns United Church in Dutton photo taken. On the occasion of her 95th Birthday, on 13th May. Florence birthday is on May 16th.



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GRADE 12 - DUTTON HIGH SCHOOL (1947-48) - Back row (left to right): Alexander McIntyre, Donald Murray, Donald Carroll, Bill Mollard, Jim McAlpine, Jack McMillan, Keith Marr and Angus Campbell. Middle row:

Lorraine Reddall, Fay Maxfield, Jessie McCallum, Tena Campbell, Marjorie McKillop, Janet McCallum and Annie Campbell. Front row: Iris Page, Wilma Crawford, Shirley Knight, Shirley Moore, Maxine Small, Joan McKillop and Annie Cameron. Picture was taken in May 1948 by the school Principal J.A. Bosman M.A.