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Terry Leigh

Producer of Barrie's most popular
local TV program, retires



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Mayors' Seat

Former mayors attend the opening of
the Barrie Historical Archive website



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Terry Leigh retires from Rogers



Terry Leigh, working the board at what was his control booth at Barrie City Hall. DARREN ROSKAM Photo

Barrie only has two television stations. The first, is what we remember as CKVR, and what is now a CTV affiliate. And Rogers, which has also operated with different names, in the past. CTV is overwhelmingly corporate, recycling American fodder, and produces almost nothing of its own, save for a news program which deals in soundbites, and exclusivity. I know. After running for office nine times, CTV has never treated me or the party I run for, fairly. Rogers, and specifically Terry Leigh, always has. Their election coverage is the best, because they treat all candidates equally. What a concept!

Not to talk of myself with this; I just wanted to note that my involvement in politics allowed me to get to know Leigh better, and work with him, too, over the years, when the time came to do the candidate profiles during elections. Leigh retired this past summer.



Leigh, speaking at Barrie City Hall on June 27, 2016; excerpt from Rogers

Did you ever watch *Barrie City Council* on Rogers? It is their most popular show. Mondays, at 7:00 PM. If you do watch it, then you want everything in your municipal reporting, live, as it happens. No soundbites, no dumbed-down snippets with the late evening news, or a few filtered quotes from the local fish wrappers. With *Barrie City*

Council on Rogers, you get it all. A big part of the reason why the show is so popular, was and is thanks to Leigh, who kept the action flowing smoothly, covering eleven members, every week. There is no software program that can know members of Council so well, that it could anticipate who would likely be speaking next, and to have a finger on that camera button, ready and waiting.

Sometimes over the years, Leigh had to wave a big sign at some members, reminding them to turn their mics on while they were speaking. He said that this most recent council has been "very good," about their mics.

Leigh has covered Barrie City Council meetings at Rogers for twenty-three consecutive years to this year, along with two years in the mid-1970s, for a total of twenty-five years of coverage. That



Leigh receiving standing ovation; picture courtesy of Yours Truly

included seven mayors and well more than 1,000 meetings.

The only time he missed a meeting, was when he attended his daughter's 8th Grade Graduation, instead. He did try at least, to get the school to change the date. They refused.

Leigh has also been busy with many other *(continued on next page)*

programs over the years. *10-8 with Barrie Police; Clear to Respond; Your City* and *Amazing Youth* are just some of the productions he has done, while carrying out the duties of Mobile Producer, Studio Producer, ENG Producer, Series Producer including host mentoring, Camera, Directing, Audio, Graphics, Editing and promotion at Rogers. Leigh received a Fire Safety Award from the Fire Marshall for his work on *The Twelve Days of Holiday Fire Safety*.



Leigh was recognized on his retirement by Mayor Jeff Lehman and the rest of Barrie City Council on June 27 of this year. He was presented with a mounted photograph of the City of Barrie and lauded by Mayor Lehman, himself, after which, Leigh gave a short speech.

Leigh started with a joke about wanting to go “in camera,” as he normally prefers to be off camera, making thing happen. At Council meetings, to go “in camera,” means to actually have part of the meeting in private, off camera.

Leigh referred to Council meetings as “Monday night adventures,” and they are. They may be an acquired taste, yet once you acquire a taste for them, they become a habit. You will have at least one member to follow; your own Ward Councillor. After that you will find some others that you may like or dislike, and watch them wrestle with the municipal issues of the day. Or to put it some simply, watch how they decide to spend your money, with each and every decision. That, and other reasons, and certainly Leigh’s excellent work over the years, helped to make *Barrie City Council* on Rogers their most popular program. Even if it is preempted by coverage of area curling matches.

Who is Leigh’s favourite Councillor? A “good counsel,” since “day one,” City Clerk, Dawn McAlpine.

For myself, having attended Council meetings a lot, since 2007, and, having run for public office several times since 2006, and having reported on municipal affairs for about the same length of time, I got to make friends with Leigh at Rogers and at Barrie City Hall, itself.

The little chats we would have either before or after the meetings every week, made city hall a friendly place. With Leigh retired from Rogers, and his job covering Council, it doesn’t feel the same, attending the meetings. Leigh also enjoyed this magazine. I would tell him how the current edition was going, etc., and would make sure he got the most recent edition.

When our mutual friend, Dan Dunlop, of Rogers, had an untimely passing, Leigh put together, on short notice, a collection of outtakes from his show, *Big Mouth*, to be used at the celebration of life. Nobody paid him for it. Leigh went right in and did extra work, for the good of others.

How many people these days, are that good? People such as Leigh are better than simply “nice.” They are the salt of the Earth. The best.

The people with the quietest, warmest personalities, who work in the background, are the ones you miss the most, when they leave.

Leigh thanked Council for “the suspense, the drama, the comedy and the occasional surprise ending,” and promised that even though he would be away, he would be at City Hall in spirit, at home, and watching his favourite show on Rogers TV.

Thanks for all your work, Terry,

—Darren Roskam

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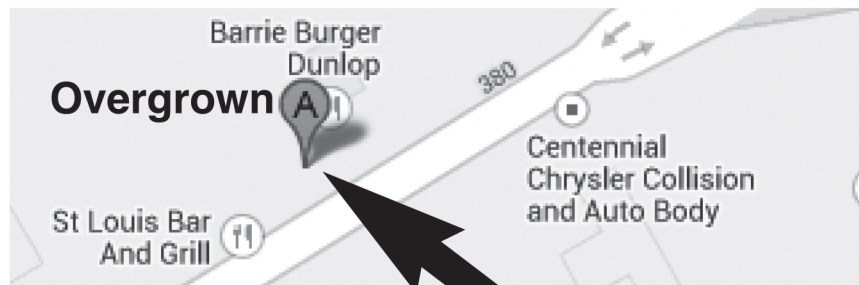
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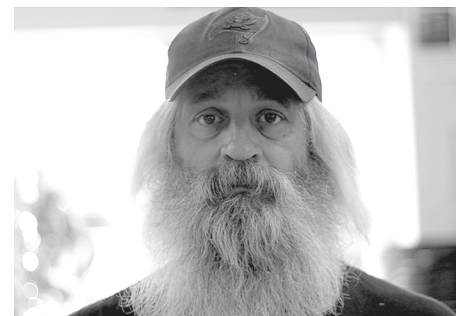


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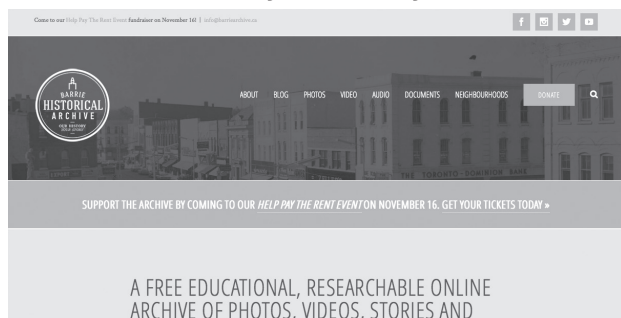
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The Barrie Historical Archive's Mayor's Seat



From left: Former Mayor of Barrie, Dave Aspden, and Barrie's first mayor, as a city, Willard Kinzie



The Barrie Historical Archive's website, www.barriearchive.ca

On September 21, 2016, Barrie City Hall was the setting for The Barrie Historical Archive's Mayor's Seat Event, which was also the launch of their archive website. And the website is the archive, itself. It has pictures, videos, stories, audio files, documents and other historical materials which are free to access. It is a non-profit started by Dr. Travis R. Doucette, and survives on donations and volunteers. Councillors Peter Silveira and Sergio Morales are sponsors.

If you want to watch Mayor's Seat, then please visit the website, www.barriearchive.ca and scroll down.



Lorraine Morgan, daughter of former Mayor of Barrie, Les Cooke (1962-1967, 1970-1972), shares stories about her late father

Current Mayor of Barrie, Jeff Lehman, and former mayors Dave Aspden; Jim Perri; Janice Laking; Ross Archer and Willard Kinzie, attended. Lorraine Morgan and Marla Bentley attended for their late fathers, former mayors Les Cooke and Bob Bentley, respectively. Carol McLuhan attended for her late mother, former mayor, Dorian Parker. Former mayor, Rob Hamilton, did not attend, and did not send anyone on his behalf. The picture of former mayors Aspden and Kinzie together, gave me pause for thought: Back in the day, Kinzie would try on his own, to bring businesses to Barrie. A few years ago when Aspden tried it, council tried to get him charged!

There is a little footage I shot myself, which I will post, later. —Darren Roskam

CROWE GUITARS? YOU CAN TRUST MUSIC PRO LOTR? SAVE 15%. GO TO PAGE 7

CLASSEE'S GREAT SPECIALS ON BACK COVER

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the Foundation
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Dec 16: JERSEY with The Video Dead and Blue Skies at War

13 years of Liquid Chrome

Liquid Chrome's owner, Jason Clairman, didn't ask me to write this. That is the kind of thing you will find in *snapd*, the chain magazine where the advertisers write the stories.

That's Clairman on the cover of the first *CROWE* we did on December 5, 2003, thirteen years ago. Since then, Chrome has expanded twice, and brought jobs to this city that have stood the test of time. They have also put on tons of shows over the years which created more jobs and excitement in the downtown that otherwise would not have been there.

Former Mayor of Barrie, Willard Kinzie, brought the *real* Colonel Sanders to the downtown for a visit. That was a cool thing to do. Clairman brought Tommy Chong to the downtown, twice. Also cool. So are Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, Busta Rhymes, B-Real of Cypress Hill, Method Man and Redman to name a few more.

Not many people do the work to do things like that. If Chrome wasn't here, it would have been a long line of one failed retailer after another, for the past thirteen years, and nothing exciting to create customer traffic downtown. And those failed stores would not have supported this magazine, either. *CROWE* also helps to make the downtown more unique. Whether you like it or you don't like it, this is a Barrie magazine, and I write about Barrie, Barrie, Barrie.

The chain media here did not do the story on Terry Leigh. I did. I took pictures, spoke to him, wrote the story and did the layout. And then it got printed with some help from Chrome. —Darren Roskam

CROWE photo album, summer/fall



From left: Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP, James Bezan, Yours Truly, and Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte MP, Alex Nuttall. Alex is doing great work with the campaign to get Maxime Bernier the leadership of the Conservative Party. Please visit www.maximebernier.com.



From left: Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth, Nina Donayre, Executive Director, Barrie Latin Resource Group, Community Wholeness Centre Director, Yolanda Gallo and Ward 5 Councillor, Peter Silveira. This was a tea party at the CWC, last month.



From left: Yours Truly and Barrie-Innisfil MP, John Brassard. Alex had one BBQ and John had two! At right is a shot of John at the second one, with a different shirt, getting ready to go into the dunk tank for charity. By that time, I had become too fat to be photographed.



Ward 2 Councillor, Rose Romita at her annual Thanksgiving Dinner which is given away for free and staffed by volunteers! Thanks, Rosie!



Ward 5 Councillor, Peter Silveira, leads council in environmental transportation, with a 250cc scooter. Now he can do all his smaller errands with next to no gasoline. The colours are red and white to match the Canadian flag. All councillors should follow his lead.



Last and not least, is a tuckered out squirrel from this summer. He's lying down on Squirrel Street, next to a residence on Grove, just like a person would. Go to the website and the video section for the footage. Brake for squirrels, always. People? Sometimes.

Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church re-opening



Master of Ceremonies, former Toronto Argonaut, Michael "Pinball" Clemons



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Chester A. Searles, General Superintendent of The British Methodist Episcopal Church Conference of Canada and Senior Pastor of B.M.E Christ Church in Toronto, Ontario



Janie Cooper-Wilson, descendant of black settlers in Oro



Oro vocal group, The Saints



Mayor of The Township of Oro-Medonte, Harry Hughes



Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell



Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte MP, Alex Nuttall; Simcoe North MP, Bruce Stanton



Simcoe North MPP, Patrick Brown



Tiki Mercury-Clarke
www.tikimercuryclarke.com

The Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church re-opened its doors to the public on August 19, 2016 thanks to the support of hundreds across Canada and the USA.

The picture at the top of this page, is from their Facebook page. All the other scenes here were shot by myself and posted to YouTube later the same day. The video is 42 minutes long, and you can get to it by going to www.thecrowe.ca and then, the VIDEOS section.

– Darren Roskam



Shernett Martin on behalf of the Vaughan African Canadian Association



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