

Longtime News employee rides off into the sunset

By CHRIS CLAY

Staff
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John MacKay is calling it quits. And, this time, he means it.

MacKay retired from his position as real estate manager at *The Mississauga News* in 1999 before re-joining the department about two weeks later to help oversee the transition — and he never left.

That is, until now. MacKay, who'll turn 80 in January, will finish up his more than 35 years with *The News* today.

"I've enjoyed working with all those real estate agents over the years and they're all really good people," said MacKay. "It feels good to be retiring and I have been here quite a long time."

MacKay has a long and storied history in the newspaper industry.

In 1959, he landed a job with *The Globe & Mail* before moving to *The Toronto Telegram* in 1964. He was one of four sales reps who were part of the founding team of *The Toronto Sun* after the end of the *Telegram* and, by 1975, he had joined *The News*.

MacKay remembers the years when he was pretty much working seven days a week, so cutting down to just three days a week about five years ago has been a blessing.

Asked why he kept working as long as he did, the colourful MacKay joked that it helped pay for his "scotch and cigars."

And, with full retirement just around the



After 35 years at The News, John MacKay is set to retire. Staff photo by Fred Loek

corner, he was asked what he planned to do with his newfound freedom.

"Well, I'll sit out behind my house and have my cigars and scotch," he said, with more than a touch of mirth in his voice.

The Oakville resident is also looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Doe, daughters Wendy, Sandra and Bonnie, his six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.