

Four reps walk out of county council

A-County restructuring (07-13)
P.H. Guide
Sept 28/78
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By James Cutting

Four representatives from three of the four western area municipalities of Northumberland County walked out of the September county council session on Wednesday immediately after a resolution to provide greater representation and votes on a fairer population basis was soundly defeated 25 to 10 in a recorded vote.

Leading the walkout was Hamilton township reeve Lloyd Williams. He was followed by deputy-reeve Albert Emond, Cobourg deputy-reeve David Purvis and Port Hope deputy-reeve William Wyatt.

REEVE QUANTRILL REFUSED TO WALK OUT-

Hope township reeve Howard Quantrill, who supported the Williams-Purvis motion to have county council implement Section 27A of the Ontario Municipal Act to provide fairer representation and allocated votes, refused to walk out with the rest of the western area members.

Reeve Quantrill, remaining behind, said he was asked to walk out with the other trustees, but told them that he thought that it was a childish idea.

Quantrill said that he had voted yes on the resolution because his council had voted that way.

Three of the western area representatives were absent for Wednesday's vote of county council, including Port Hope reeve V. A. (Mike) Vosburgh; Cobourg reeve Boyd Hendry and Hope township deputy-reeve David Gray.

DISPARITY IN REPRESENTATION

Reeve Lloyd Williams in introducing the resolution cited how the Canadian and British electoral system tradition was based on representation by population.

He noted that the eastern and northern area of the county has a population of 28,198 and 21

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URBAN REBELLION-Four representatives from three of the Western area urban municipalities walked out of Northumberland County Council

on Wednesday afternoon.

Taking part in the walkout were: (from left) Hamilton township deputy-reeve Albert Emond, Cobourg deputy-reeve

David Purvis; Port Hope deputy-reeve William Wyatt and Hamilton township reeve Lloyd Williams.

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SEPTEMBER 28, 1978.

four walk out of county

Representatives and 28 votes at County Council while the Western four municipalities have a population of 25,231 with only eight representatives and county council.

The larger municipalities currently have two votes per representative but there is still a wide disparity in representation between residents living in the western half of the county and those living in the eastern half of the county.

Williams contended that the facts of rightness of the resolution speak for themselves. He said he failed to see why residents of Alnwick township should have triple the representation that representatives of Gores Landing and Harwood have.

Williams contended that the implimentation of Section 27A wouldn't correct all of the inequalities. He noted that if it was implimented the western area would have eight representatives and only 42 per cent of the votes at county council while the eastern area would still retain 58 per cent of the voting strength, although they would lose two representatives.

Williams said the western area would have a greater degree of representation than it has at present.

PURVIS SUGGESTS DISMANTLE COUNTY UNLESS MORE VOICE

Cobourg deputy-reeve David Purvis who asked for a recorded vote warned that if this county council couldn't accept representation by population, then he really didn't know what to think.

are not in favor of fairer representation then I think we should dismantle the county," he said.

"If you defeat this (resolution)," he said, "you do so at your peril. You may win this round, but we will win the next."

TOWN AGREES TO COUNTY PLANNING SUBJECT TO SECTION 27A

Port Hope deputy-reeve William Wyatt presented a resolution from town council agreeing to accept a county planning area providing that county council would agree to greater representation under the terms set down in Section 27A of the Ontario Municipal Act or some fairer representation.

Wyatt said that Port Hope was concerned that although it has 12 per cent of the county population it only has eight per cent of the voting power at county council.

Colborne deputy-reeve Norman Hickey said that personally he believed in it (section 27A), but questioned if something happened after one year to the reeve, who could fill the vacancy? (Colborne would lose its deputy-reeve if section 27A was implemented). Hickey, who is completing his second year as deputy-reeve at County Council, cited his own inexperience in his first two years on the township council. "I don't feel Colborne would be

For we in the town of Cobourg have sat by for six years for a million dollars in studies to be conducted. If you

council session

adequately represented," he said.

Reeve Williams noted that County Council would be reduced in membership from 28 to 26 and from 48 votes to 31 votes.

Hickey told County Council that Colborne Council had voted against implementation of section 27A.

Hamilton township deputy-reeve Albert Emond said he liked to be used fairly as a representative of County Council.

WARDEN WALTER RUTHERFORD UPSET BY VOTE AND WALKOUT

Northumberland Warden, Walter Rutherford, the reeve of Colborne who didn't vote on the resolution, commented that he thought county council had discussed this matter previously.

"I really don't think it was really fair," he said. "I think this matter should be given a great deal of thought and not just be pushed under the covers."

He urged county council members to keep it in mind and discuss it. "It is a matter that has to be discussed," he said.

Brighton township reeve Reg McCann commented that he understood from the county planning committee that this matter was going to be worked out.

McCann pointed out that the

urban municipalities get a road rebate and have greater use of the Golden Plough Lodge.

Murray township reeve Harry Lafferty said he thought county council should do one thing at a time. "I really don't think that those that walked out are missing very much," he contended.

Reeve Quantrill commented that he had sat here at County Council for 11 years and he didn't think the County had been unfair to the western area. He noted that two wardens had come from the towns in that time. "I think we have been very fair with them," said Reeve Quantrill. "I really don't think they have been abused. We do have a great deal of people in the County Home from the towns, while the people from Murray township don't benefit much from it."

Peril of Paulines

The Guide on Monday incorrectly stated that Mrs. Barbara Gray, a new Justice of the Peace from Hope township, had received her certificate from Ontario lieutenant-governor Pauline Jewett. That should have been Ontario lieutenant-governor Pauline McGibbin. Pauline Jewett was a former Liberal MP for Northumberland in the 1960's and is now making her second attempt as a federal NDP candidate in British Columbia.

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