



Former councillor George Early watches the election results with Jim and Ila Ferguson and Reeve Milt Stevenson at the Horton Sportsplex Tuesday night. Fer-

guson led the polls for councillor, followed by re-elected councillor Judy Campbell and Joe Gauthier. Deputy Reeve John Doering was also re-elected.

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Two new councillors in Horton

by Wanda Blimkie
Mercury reporter

There are two new faces on council but no major upsets in Horton township.

Deputy Reeve John Doering had an easy win over Dave Bennett while newcomer to politics Jim Ferguson led the polls for one of three councillors. Councillor Judy Campbell was re-elected by a comfortable margin while the fight for the third position was up for grabs, between Joe Gauthier and Jamie Larone, until the last vote was counted.

Although Larone was leading in the early returns, Gauthier ended up the victor by 10 votes. Gauthier stated afterwards he didn't know if there would be a recount but Larone would be entitled to one. Councillor Bob Kingsbury went down to defeat, as did Horst Walter in his first election bid.

The final totals were Deputy Reeve Doering with 750 votes to Bennett's 365. The vote for the councillor candidates ended with Ferguson 957, Campbell 594, Gauthier 460, Larone 450, Kingsbury 403 and Walter 181.

The voter turnout in the township was about 50 per cent. Of the 2,235 eligible voters, 1,115 persons cast their ballots. There were three polling stations, polls 1 to 3 (RR 3) was at the fire hall, poll 4 (RR 1) Horton school and poll 5 (RR 6, RR 1, Thompsonhill) at Clark Eady's residence.

Bittersweet election

Reeve Milt Stevenson, who was acclaimed, closely watched the results come in at the Horton Sportsplex

where candidates and their families gathered.

Stevenson stated his biggest regret was losing Kingsbury and termed him the hardest working member of council. Kingsbury carried a heavy load for the past three years, heading the Waste Management, Recycling and Fire committees, and his defeat is a tremendous loss to council.

On the plus side, the reeve is pleased experienced council members Doering and Campbell are back to balance newcomers Ferguson and Gauthier. He feels it will be a good working council and will establish committees based on capabilities and personalities.

Campbell stated she was looking forward to another term to finish the jobs already underway. Her workload included the Official Plan, VON board of directors, Home Support Program and Property Standards By-law.

However, Campbell notes every member of council is involved in everything concerning the township.

Ferguson stated it felt good to have the support of township residents and he hoped he could live up to it. He plans to work with council and will take whatever committee appointments the reeve gives him.

Gauthier, who noted deceased councillor Gilmour McGregor gave him the incentive to run for council, also appreciates the opportunity the voters gave him. As a former fire fighter, he would like to work on the fire and roads committees.

Doering was not in attendance due to a business meeting in Quebec City.

Kingsbury extended his congratulations to the new council and expressed appreciation for the support he received during his term.

The election victories and losses were bittersweet for Stevenson, as well as the township's present and former elected officials, who remembered their colleague, councillor McGregor, who died Sunday with his funeral services scheduled for 2 p.m. today.

McGregor served on council for a total of 12 years, although not consecutive terms, and had earned the respect and support of ratepayers, friends and neighbors.

"Gilmour was not a high profile councillor but he was well respected and did well at the polls. He voted, by proxy, in the advance poll because it was something that was very important to him," Stevenson stated.

McGregor served with three Reeves, Tom Smith, Norm Eady and Stevenson. Over the years his council appointments included the Horton Recreation Committee, Renfrew County Veterinary Association, Victorian Order Nurses Board of Directors and the Big Pine Committee, the forerunner of the tourist association.

Former councillor George Early recalled serving on council with two McGregors at different times, Gilmour and his father Robert, a long-time councillor who passed away 19 years ago.