

history major at Queen's University, defeated incumbent councillor Jim Whitton for the reeve's job. Mr. Whitton is a professor of physics at Queen's. It was suggested to Mr. Willard that he had "kicked butt" in the contest.

"A very light kick," he grinned, referring to the slender 167-150 victory margin in the voting.

His decision to run for the top spot was strictly his own, "just as it was my own to run for councillor in 1988," the slim, fifth-generation islander said in an interview. He encountered a little resistance from his family when he made his opening move in 1988, but no one offered any objections this time, he said.

Nor was there any rivalry or animosity between him and Mr. Whitton.

"We just both decided to run. There's only the odd thing that's come between us occasionally, when we've voted against one another. But we generally agree on things and we've never gone for each other's throat."

Election night can be a pretty tense experience down at election central — the old town hall. But not for Steven Willard. He didn't even show up.

"I stayed home," he said. "I had to work on an essay."

He had appointed his aunt, Dorothy McGinn, to attend the vote-counting exercises in his place. But even after the outcome became clear, the winner didn't learn of it until Mrs. McGinn brought him the glad tidings, in person.

"She came to the house, walked in and said 'Congratulations, you're the reeve.' I asked her by how much? Then I started asking her who else had made it [into council seats.]"

The son of Amherst Island ferry captain Earle Willard and his wife, speech therapist Donna Willard, Steven has lived all his life here, attending elementary school on the island and high school in Nananee.

He has a brother Christopher, 31, of Harrowsmith and a sister, Laurie, 25, who lives in Kingston.

He is considering a career in

teaching, but may eventually decide on law school. He is also "not averse to" continuing his political activity, possibly even in the provincial or federal arenas. "That is, if the party would have me," he says.

The party, in this case, is the Progressive Conservatives, of

which he is a card-carrying member at both provincial and federal riding association levels.

Could these interests have any influence on his new municipal job? "Not very much, maybe a little nudge to the right, no big thing.

"I know we Conservatives are

not very popular right now," he said. "But I still support Mr. Mulrooney. I'm still with him in his trials. I know I'm one of the few."

For the record, he also supports the free-trade agreement and even the GST. "I support it insofar as it is possible to support a tax increase. I think it was necessary."

One of his main interests in the township is to assure that its development proceeds in an orderly way.

"I'd like to make sure that Amherst Island stays Amherst Island, and that it gets the right sort of development. We have a very stable community here, and that's good. But it does take a special kind of person to live here, not the sort who get all excited about our nice summers, but maybe can't take the ferry troubles that sometimes make for four-hour boat trips in winter. We are cut off from the mainland and you have to accept that there's nothing you can do about it." He will continue to declare conflicts of interest whenever wage negotiations for the 20-member island ferry crew comes before council. As a ferry captain, his father is a township employee.

Concerning the relationship at home, the incoming reeve said: "We have a tacit agreement. I tell him what I'd tell any citizen. And he doesn't want to know, and doesn't need to know. He's another islander."

Doug Perry, who spent 27 years as a municipal official in Lennox and Addington and Prince Edward counties, sends his congratulations.

"I'm really glad to see this. We badly need a good mix of the ages, qualifications and the backgrounds."

"All too often, our young people are too apathetic about getting involved. Or they are too economically occupied just trying to keep their heads above the financial waters. So good for Steven. Congratulations to him. It's great to see him do it."

Retiring Brockville mayor Clark's secretary Wilma Spracklin notes that her boss has been written up in the publication known as Who's Who?, a directory of renowned celebrities and famous deeds.

Move over, Mayor Clark.

Here comes Reeve Willard.