

"Zorra" Is The Name And Matheson The Mayor

The election in the new municipality of Zorra was not decided until early Tuesday morning. Voters in the north-west section of Oxford - North Oxford, East Nissouri, West Zorra Townships as well as Embro and Thamesford selected "Zorra" as the name of their municipality which will be put into formation on January 1st. "Zorra" had 1,440 votes to 1,126 for "Thames" and 626 for West Nizorra.

Three Way Race

Reeve Robert Matheson of West Zorra Township won in a three-way race for mayor in the new municipality, defeating Reeve Hartwell Baigent of North Oxford and Deputy-Reeve Mac Robson of East Nissouri. Deputy-Reeve Robert Blair of West Zorra was selected as councillor-at-large, which includes participation as a county councillor.

Area members of the new Oxford County council to take office in January include the following from Zorra:

Mayor - Robert C. Matheson, 1,632, Hartwell Baigent 1,001, Mac Robson 566.

Councillor-at-Large (one elected) - Robert Blair, 1,370, Robert Manzer, 811, James R. Patience, 603, James Muterer, 359.

Council (Ward 2, Thamesford, two elected) - Harvey Beaty 428, Ted Nancekivell 325, A. A. (Tony) Kelly 267.

Council (Ward 3, south of East Nissouri, one elected) - William Foley 231, Donald Weir, 172, Donald Smith 123.

Council (Ward 4, north of East Nissouri, one elected) - David Slater 300, George Worte, 112, W. F. Glen King, 69.

Board of Education

The two elected in Zorra for the Oxford County Board of

Education included N. Bruce McLeod with 1,663; Wes Wallace, 1,355. The two unsuccessful candidates were Dr. John Dingwall, 1,120; and Audrey Gordon 784.

Gordon Gregory Named Clerk - Treasurer Of New Zorra Township

The Township of East Nissouri, along with the Townships of West Zorra and North Oxford disappear into the limbo to time on January 1st, 1975 as the brand new Township of Zorra replaces the three old Townships in Oxford County. Kintore, on Highway 19, will thus no longer be the Capital City of East Nissouri with the headquarters of the new Township going to the former North Oxford office, a short distance out of Ingersoll toward Thamesford on Highway 2. Quarters for Township officialdom were rented in both East Nissouri and West Zorra while the North Oxford building was the property of that municipality.

Residents of the former East Nissouri Township plus the

many in St. Marys and area who know Gordon Gregory, the present Township Clerk-Treasurer, will be pleased to learn that Gordon retains that office in the new Township of Zorra. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer will be Ward Harrington, formerly Clerk of West Zorra Township while Donald Reath, formerly Clerk of North Oxford, will be Tax Collector.

For the information of those who might have business with the new Township Council of the new Township of Zorra after the first of the new year, Council will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Remember the location after January 1, 1975 will be on Number 2 Highway, just west of Ingersoll.

Nov 20/74

System starts in 1975

Oxford OKs restructuring

By WAYNE MACPHERSON
Free Press Woodstock Bureau

WOODSTOCK — Restructuring of Oxford County government into a two-tier system was approved by Oxford County council and Ingersoll council Tuesday for implementation Jan. 1, 1975.

Woodstock council approved the restructuring plan May 16.

County council supported the new area government proposal on a 23 to 16. The Ingersoll vote was 4-3.

Warden Perry Sibbick, reeve of Blenheim Township said: "It is one of the biggest decisions in the history of Oxford County."

Reeve William Ducklow of Tavistock, chairman of Oxford area government implementing committee said legislation for the new system is expected to be introduced before the provincial government in June. Elections have been planned for Oct. 7 in

the eight municipalities emerging from the existing 18, Woodstock, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg will be urban centres with five rural municipalities being formed with amalgamation of smaller municipalities.

"I think we would be making a mistake if we had voted it down," Reeve Ducklow said. Perhaps in a year or two, he said, the county would have had to go through the same procedure again—"then probably a study by the province, with little input by the county-elected people."

Oxford restructuring, he said, "will probably be a format for the other counties in the province. Oxford has been looked upon as the leader of restructured counties."

He said at least 10 counties now are considering restructuring or are undergoing similar studies.

Reeve Ducklow, a former Oxford County warden, predicted provincial acceptance. He quoted Donald B. Irvine, parliamentary as-

sistant to Ontario Treasurer John White, minister in charge of restructured counties, that it would be based on the decisions of Oxford County, Woodstock and Ingersoll councils.

The minister, Reeve Ducklow said, also invited the opinion of existing county council member municipalities, nine of which have opposed restructuring.

Municipalities opposing restructuring at the local level are: Blandford, Dereham, North Norwich, South Norwich, East Oxford, West Oxford and West Zorra Townships, Beachville and Embro.

Deputy-Reeve George Davis of South Norwich Township, who voted against restructuring, said following the vote: "The efforts of the whole council should be put towards the betterment of the rural area. I

(Please turn to Page 4, Col. 4)