



MARIA STREET BRIDGE into Acton's Crescent figured prominently in last Friday night's nomination meeting where a hearty debate on the structure's past, present and future brought raised voices and outspoken opinions into the night's proceedings. Contractors were due to start work on a new bridge last week, but informed council that lack of steel will hold up the work start date. Estimated cost of a new span is \$72,000. Of this amount the town will pay about \$15,000.

Over 200 in Hall

Lively Debate Caps Local Nomination Night Meet

Acton's annual nomination meeting, attended by over 200 citizens, was enlivened Friday night with a round-out of give and take talk, some serious and some light, but well-under-pinned by a base of facts and figures on the year's municipal progress from Council, Public Utilities and School Board elected officials.

As nomination period closed with 37 names proposed for 1956 public office, many of those names to later withdraw, the meeting chose J. Creighton to conduct proceedings to follow W. Coon, W. Middleton, Dr. F. Oakes and G. A. Dills were also proposed for the chairmanship but these men withdrew in favor of Mr. Creighton.

Mayor E. Tyler first quoted Acton's growing assessment, increased by \$325,000 this year with some \$325,000 to be added from the supplemental just-as-projected residential building materializes.

In the subdivisions, most of the Glenora sewer work is complete, he said, and a start has been made on Lakeview, Cobble Hill works have been completed. The Mayor noted that by the town doing the labor on these works, some \$11,000 had been saved off the engineer's estimates.

Handtopping was done on Willow St. the Mayor recalled, and he added brief recommendation for a new type of paving process investigated. He touched on new sidewalk laid and referred to the scattered but extensive storm sewer and drainage work undertaken in the year. The speaker also noted

the school creek cleaned and added this job is planned to be fully completed by the end of the year.

On the town's water situation, Mayor Tyler explained a reserve well had been brought into use but more water supplies will be required. Other possible searages have been tried this year, he continued, and when these proved unsatisfactory, supplies from other sources will have to be sought. He also spoke of the need for a greater storage capacity. A half million gallon tank was mentioned.

Dealing with the new Maria St. bridge, subject which later animated the meeting, Mayor Tyler reported the contract has been let and the town has been assured of an 80 per cent grant from the Department of Highways. The estimated cost is \$72,000, he said, but the town's share will amount to about \$15,000.

"There has been some argument about whether or not the town should take on this work," the Mayor said. The town, he explained, has an obligation to those families in the Crescent who pay taxes and are entitled to fire protection, truck service and a proper entryway. He added that if there was a question about the town's responsibility in the bridge, it was doubtful if the Department would be paying 80 per cent of the cost.

The Mayor urged support for an affirmative vote on the Bond Bill question on the December 5th ballot. He pointed out the \$500 annual grant is not enough to meet the bond's needs and suggested a half mill grant would provide \$1600. This money is needed, he said, to allow our bond to mature.

On the civic centre, the speaker said personally he was not inclined to vote yes for the town taking on a \$200,000 expenditure of this kind now, notwithstanding the need if the figures were around \$150,000 he might be more partial, he said.

After touching on the method of new sewer installation payment, how half goes on the tax bill and half charged in rental rate, the Mayor spoke directly of the newly-formed ratepayers' association which had lately raised criticism and inquiries. He said he was pleased to see the groups formed but added "with proper control the Acton Ratepayers' Association will be an asset to the town, if it gets out of hand, it won't."

On the town's financial disposition, he quoted figures to bear out how Acton's municipal debt compares favorably with Milton and Georgetown. Where the town has a per capita debt of \$261, Milton's is \$278 and Georgetown's \$248.

He also focused attention on a recent ratepayers' meeting where the industrial promotion effectiveness of Council was questioned. Taking exception to reported decision of his contention that it takes years to get a new industry, the Mayor cited efforts by local individuals and groups, the Chamber of Commerce included, which have been at work hard and long to interest new industry and provide sites for potential location.

Referring to the remark made at this same meeting about the smell from a local industry, "That industry," he observed, "pays a lot in taxes. Their money is still good." Concluding, the Mayor reflected it had been a "good year" financially. Forseeing the need for a larger staff and works department to tend the town's spreading operations, he paid tribute to the public employees and the work they are handling.

Reeve J. Hargrave, roads committee chairman, stood as the speaker. The Mayor subsidized the considerable more work than the usual maintenance had been done on roads this year. The Third Line hollow has been filled, he reported, and the hollow at the Wallace St. entryway filled.

Mill St. has been widened, the Reeve continued, and parts of Willow and Brock Ave. treated with permanent hardtopping. New sidewalks have also been laid on Mill St. and on the Cemetery Hill. At a cost to the homeowners in that area of \$4,295, sidewalks were installed in Warren Grove following request by those residents.

Reeve Hargrave also spoke of the varied storm drain work and catch basin repairs undertaken about town. Before taking his seat he revealed that Acton's dump will likely be filled by next spring. At that time, he said, steps will have to be taken to find new lands for this purpose.

Councillor A. Irwin, next called by Chairman Creighton, reported on the subdivision sewer extension works undertaken by Council. The saving effected and the employment of local labor on these works. At the Lakeview subdivision, Councillor Irwin suggested the town hoped to save more money through use of transit pipe for the watermain installation.

As Councillor Irwin moved to sit down, S. McIsaac took the floor with questions about Council's efforts to alleviate the drainage problem on north Main St. Reeve Hargrave replied an asphalt trench had been installed to the creek to prevent the water from flowing over the property of Mr. McIsaac and his neighbors' lands. He said the trench worked "reasonably well." Councillor Irwin added the project was not entirely completed.

Mr. McIsaac said the gutter did not go at all. In fact, he offered he was now worse off than before. He also said he didn't believe he should have to hire a lawyer to get satisfaction from the town over his predicament.

Parks Chairman Weick, after reporting a fence erected to protect the park bathing area and a new backdrop for the ball diamond bought by the town, added this all cost money but it was known the arena and park return little revenue.

W. Middleton and C. Bradley both stated their belief that the parks committee had done a commendable service in doing much of the work themselves. Mr. Middleton said that any expense on the park could never be measured in the pleasure it brought to local and out-of-town users.

Finance Chairman C. Lindsay referred fondly to the estimated surplus of \$900 shown on the prepared balance sheet, earlier distributed to the meeting. He briefly reviewed the statement, noting a few expenses over the budget, but considered that most departments heaved well to their budgeted amounts.

Councillor Lindsay said the \$900 would in all probability be nullified by the end of the year, to leave the year's financing at about the break even point. All in all, he surmised, Council and the citizens could find satisfaction in the year's monetary operations.

Public Utilities Commission chairman Dr. F. Oakes delivered a lengthy report. He first expressed satisfaction in the function of a five-man Commission, constituted for the first time this year following a public mandate to enlarge the body on a 1953 ballot.

Viewing each department, he turned first to hydro and outlined the 1955 policy of expansion and extension of the system. He broke down the items of cost involved in the recent \$35,000 P.U.C. debenture issue. Those included larger and more transformers, rural annexation equipment costs, more line installation. Most work was involved in the two new subdivisions and the debenture will underwrite half the system costs in each of these developments.

The Chairman recounted how some 90 new homes have been serviced or prepared for service in the new subdivisions, in addition to some 30-odd new homes in the Cobble Hill area and older part of town. He also touched on the Commission's street lighting policy of steel standards in the new developments and the decision to put poles back of the house lines in these areas. Joint use of poles is being arranged with the Bell Telephone Co. he further reported.

Chairman Oakes also revealed the Commission had paid \$1100 for a used life ladder truck and had purchased a post-hole digger, also used, at a cost of \$250 to induce efficiency and speed in pole installation.

While speaking of the seemingly satisfactory current rate structure, the chairman was asked to explain the kilowatt charge method to domestic consumers. This he did handily.

Acton's growing water consumption was dealt with by the P.U.C. chairman. He endorsed the Mayor's assertion that additional water resources will have to be found, as well as greater storage capacity. Explaining how water is wasted on week-ends through lower consumption and lack of sufficient storage, but is drawn on to the near limit on week days, chairman Oakes stressed "it is not good to be operating so near this borderline."

Concluding, the speaker referred to an estimated \$1700 deficit on sewer operations. He suggested, however, that council may see fit to offset this with part of an \$8000 surplus in waterworks operations. A. J. Lee rose to congratulate Dr. Oakes on his report. He opined that his report "made other reports look silly."

Public School Board Chairman W. Wolfe, remarking that he wasn't sure how his report would be rated, took the floor to report on the Board's year. He paid tribute to the work of the trustees, the principal and staff members and the Home and School Association through the year and noted the school, with 20 rooms in full capacity, has a total of 668 enrolment.

He referred to the Board's purchase of eight and a half acres, at a cost of \$1850 per acre, to provide for additional school facilities at some future date, when required. He publicly thanked T. Seynuck, from whom the land was purchased, for the "reasonable manner" of his dealings with council and the board over the sale.

Quoting figures, the board chairman said the school's operational cost in 1955 was about \$31,500, of which the ratepayers provided \$49,000. He foresaw no surplus in the treasury.

Acton taxpayers were told by Mr. Wolfe that of the total mill rate, 21.87 mills were for school operations. "This is a big bite out of the taxes," he commented, adding that it represented 31.2 per cent of the rate. However, he concluded, "the money was well spent."

Deputy Reeve E. Foulth reported briefly on County Council in the year. He mentioned the defeat of the consultative committee motion, opposed by Acton, which was to be set up to examine the North Halton High School District Board. He also referred to the pension plan instituted for county employees this year.

All reports delivered, Chairman Creighton called on Mayor Tyler to announce his intention to stand or withdraw his nomination. B. D. Rachin stood at this point to question the Mayor's reason for

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Newspaper Ads Help Economy, Employment

The impact of newspaper advertising on the community economy was described recently by Julius Ochs Adler Jr., director of Canadian advertising for The New York Times, who addressed a Progress Club luncheon in Toronto.

"The press plays a vital role in the economy of any community through its advertising columns," he said. "These provide its factories and its merchants with a constant market for their goods and their services. In this way they help make for an expanding and a strong economy."

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