

Clerk reports on community

(Continued from previous page) list. Then, of course, there is the matter of error, as we at the town office are not by any means, infallible, nor is the printer, and it is for this reason that the voters' lists are printed and advertised, and citizens are requested to check the lists to make sure they are on the list.

Each year we advertise in the local paper and distribute copies throughout the town in different stores for the convenience of the public in checking them, but it seems the majority of people do not do this, so that on election day when they go to vote and find their name is missing from the list, a great deal of confusion ensues and the citizen is quite often irate that his name has been left off.

I would strongly urge that citizens take a few minutes each year to check the voters' list and make sure that their name is there.

Our election procedure, which is laid out by the Ontario government, makes the town clerk the returning officer of the municipality for the purpose of municipal elections, and he is charged with the responsibility of preparing the voters' list, convening the nomination of candidates and operating the election, all as part of his regular duties.

An oddity in the voters' list act precludes the clerk from voting in the municipal election while he holds the office of clerk, except to cast the deciding vote in case of a tie in any of the offices being contested.

Fortunately, I have never been put in this position and I certainly hope that I never will be, as I am of the opinion this puts the clerk in a very difficult position.

You probably have read quite a lot in recent years of regional government and are no doubt wondering what it means and what will it do for me as a taxpayer.

The whole concept of regional government is simply to provide a broader tax base from which to receive tax funds to provide the services required, the idea being that a larger area will provide greater assessment and more important, will spread the industrial assessment over a wider area so that those municipalities with low industrial assessment will benefit from the larger municipalities.

Professional consultants have recently completed a study of Halton and Peel Counties and it is expected their report will be made to the provincial government some time in August for their consideration.

All of the operations of the municipality are controlled by the provincial government in a long list of statutes, with the main ones being the Municipal Act and the Assessment Act, but there are many, many others which set out what you may or may not do.

It has been our endeavor over the years to maintain a progressive and up-to-date office, in order to provide you with the most efficient service at the cheapest possible cost.

Equipment-wise, we are in good shape and it is our belief that keeping our equipment modern and employing modern methods of accounting, we are able to provide you with fast and efficient service at moderate cost with a minimum of staff.

However, we do have one complaint and that is the inadequacy of our quarters. We are still operating from the same location, with the same amount of space, that we had when we had a population of 1,800 people and to say the least, it is very difficult to operate efficiently in such cramped quarters.

To finish off these remarks, I would like to try and explain the word "administrator" as it applies to our operation.

A few years ago, with the size of the municipality being small, all elements of the operation were small and council

members had the time to oversee the majority of the work and they were continually on the job themselves with the town foreman etc., to see that the work was carried out according to council's wishes.

As the town grew, services had to be expanded in all areas and council members were just not able to carry on in the old established way, so that a new method of operation had to be considered; then, too, the town took over the water and sewer departments from the Public Utilities Commission and the personnel and the services had to be integrated with the rest of the town force.

The decision was made that we should have a town administrator, who would work directly with council, who set policy in all matters, and it would be the duty of the administrator, to see that this policy was carried out in the several departments involved, by advising the department head of council's wishes, discussing the matter with him and proceeding to correlate the work.

It was council's decision that the clerk was best suited for this job, as he was in constant touch with council and the dif-

Playground facilities good for picnics, boating, fishing

A review of the past and a look into the future gives an outline of Acton Parks Board.

Acton Board of Parks Management, one of the older committees of Council serving the citizens of Acton, had its inception in May, 1956. Members of the original board were Mayor Tyler, A. Irwin, C. Rognvaldson, R. R. Parker, H. M. Coxe, G. Barbeau (chairman) and Mrs. G. Fryer.

ferent areas of town operation, so that the town clerk was named town clerk - administrator and he was charged with the responsibility of carrying out his duties as clerk, but in addition he would be responsible to see that council's policy was carried out in all phases of our municipal government.

I have endeavored to explain the operation of the town and how it works in simple language and in some detail, so that you will have a better understanding of your town and I trust that I have succeeded, at least in part.

Through diligent efforts of Parks Board members over the years since its inception, the Town of Acton is able to boast of one of the most beautiful and serviceable parks in all of Halton County. Prospect Park, located on the north-west side of Acton and picturesquely surrounded on three sides by the waters of Fairy Lake, is capable of lending itself to almost any situation.

The park has been the home of Acton's famed Fall Fair since the fair's beginning in 1913, and over the years has hosted many a championship baseball series and today is one of three parks in Halton County able to offer night baseball under the lights.

To residents of Acton and district, the park offers swimming, boating, picnicking, various summer sports and all in a setting of magnificent natural beauty. The development and maintenance of all of this has been the responsibility of the Acton Board of Parks Management.

Some of the board's major accomplishments have been the installation of dressing rooms and change stations, beach development, installation of boundary - line fencing, control and maintenance of the wading pool, lake clearing and general park beautification.

In this year 1966, as well as continuing to develop and maintain Prospect Park, the Parks Board has broadened its horizons to include development of park land in Glenlea subdivision and it is the hope of the board to hold an official open-



GEORGE WILLIAMS
Chairman

ing of Glenlea Park in conjunction with Canada's Centennial celebrations in 1967.

Development here will include seeding, grading, tree planting and installation of swings and slides supplied through the auspices of a local service club.

The Acton Board of Parks Management would like to take this opportunity to invite the people of Halton and neighboring counties to avail themselves of Acton's fine park facilities and to point out to Acton residents that a special invitation will be coming their way shortly in the form of a car sticker that grants free park admission to Acton residents for the entire summer season.

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Town Office Manager Joe Hurst and Mrs. Joan Harrison set up town's billing machine

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