

Mayor reviews year for ratepayers

A general report has been prepared by Mayor Les Duly on behalf of council for ratepayers, and follows in full. Since council was elected for a two year term, there was no nomination meeting this year at which reports were presented.

With my best wishes to everyone for a happy and prosperous 1968, I sincerely hope it will bring you some degree of satisfaction with the Town of Acton operations, when it completes its first two year term of office for council.

Many benefits have already become evident under the new system, and most important of these, is the additional 50 to 60 days of continuous administrative operation, usually lost, or at least hampered by lack of direction between nomination time and the first committee recommendations following inauguration in the new year.

Evidence of this continuing operation is shown in the approximate \$1200 deficit by budget figures, as we move into our 1968 job of work.

Centennial year, 1867, has been an exciting and rewarding year for your council, your rate payer, and the Town of Acton in general, as it must have been for every Canadian, and every community across the nation. Without elaboration, may I thank everyone who has shown an interest, and given their co-operation and support, to whatever programs we were able to carry out in this past year of joy and celebration, that has left us all with something more than we had before.

The desire to be creative has given us two new fine buildings, and the spirit of the festive year gave us many opportunities to make new, and renew old friendships.

Since Acton will be having a Centennial of its own in six years' time, I would like to encourage all of our citizens to keep this uppermost in their minds and perhaps, we can carry the momentum of 1967 into 1973, when the responsible people of the day, can plan a fitting "Old Home Week" celebration, that will complement the history of our town.

There will be no changes in the operations, or committees of council as we go into the second half of our present term; with the exception, that we will have a more active personnel committee, that will be dealing with the procedural and other by-laws, and, of course, deal with the demands, resulting from negotiations, due to the certification of our work force with the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

As usual, your council, of which all members are rate-payers like yourselves, will be doing all that is possible to control the 1968 mill rate, and still do the job for which you have made them responsible.

With the knowledge that you have been kept well informed through the press-media, of all council deliberations, I do not intend to go into any great detail in this report. However, I do appreciate this opportunity to focus your attention on several items of general interest.

HOUSING

The greatest single need in our town, or any other community in the country today, Residential building permits

increased by over 100% this year, but in spite of this and its related problems, we are still not solving the need in its most required area. Council is, however, making a serious attempt to promote low cost housing, geared to income, and similar low cost accommodation for our senior citizens.

INDUSTRIAL BALANCE

With our Industrial Park, land designated for this purpose, council has made application to be classified a designated area, with a need for industrial development.

It is also my hope that our 1968 budget will allow some modest road and service development by council, into our industrial land to make it more attractive to our continuing inquiries by companies, with an interest to build and operate here in Acton.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The most related problem to industrial development has been our lack of pollution control facilities. After three years of much work and coping with provincial dept. requirements, we will finally be calling tenders early this year, for our new plant addition, which will take another two years to complete after construction begins.

FAIRY LAKE IMPROVEMENT

The full benefit of the dredging

the proper equipment, required to carry out a sound land-fill program.

The matter of incineration by approved burner methods, is proving too costly to consider further, and with the possibility of regional controls in the not too distant future, I feel we are well advised to proceed with land-filling.

These are the most involved matters we have to deal with, but it is only a portion of the problems that will be on our agenda for 1968.

Parking facilities around the ugly head, due to traffic changes early next year, and tests are now being carried out to determine the validity of the suggested criteria.

The serious question of additional school construction, when it is justified, going to expense coun-

cil much concern as to how it should be handled, due to the change in legislation related to the Board of Education.

It could be a matter of proper timing where financing is concerned.

Many more matters of equal concern will be dealt with by your council in the coming year, and I have every confidence that all council members will give all items of business the most thorough study and consideration in order to resolve them in the best public interest.

In closing, I wish to thank you, the clerk-administrator, staff and work force for their co-operation with sincere personal efforts during the past year, and a deep appreciation of all who are in part time public service, on all boards and commissions.

Open tenders

Esqueusing makes another attempt to negotiate fire agreement

Esqueusing Council will make one more attempt to negotiate a fire agreement with the Town of Georgetown before proceeding with plans to build a fire hall and form their own brigade for township Fire Area No. 1.

Seven tenders for the proposed fire hall were opened at the inaugural meeting Monday ranging in price from a low of \$28,892 to a high of \$46,667.50 but no decision was made.

Reeve George Currie asked if it was wise, in the face of what's coming (regional government), to build a fire hall in the township. "We might never use it," he commented. "In two years it might just be a building to look at."

Deputy-Reeve Tom Hill was not impressed with the reeve's argument. He cited figures and problems Georgetown faced which would keep costs spiralling higher. "Where does this leave Esqueusing?" he asked.

He referred to press reports quoting the mayor of Georgetown as predicting a paid brigade would be the next step there. "The question foremost in my mind," said the deputy-reeve, "is can the township of Esqueusing afford to pay for fire protection from Georgetown?"

Mr. Hill estimated the cost of a serial ladder at \$65,000. Councillor Bob Lawson said his thinking was similar, however, it was impossible to project what lay in the future. Halton East M.P.P. Jim Snow told

a meeting fire protection soon would be a county project rather than a municipal. He could see duplication in Georgetown and Esqueusing's expansion where one effort would do better.

Councillor "Pat" Patterson told council they could not predict the future of the township on heresy. "I don't say regional government is not coming," he cautioned, urging council to consider the taxpayer. "The people who pay are entitled to the best protection -- not when regional government comes but in 1968." He felt the 45 per cent Esqueusing paid to Georgetown could be manipulated at will.

Councillor Lawson referred to the increased Georgetown assessment - estimated to be \$3 million - as contributing to costs but doubted the township increased at the same ratio. He thought the 45-55 per cent agreement could be negotiated on a more equitable basis.

Council reviewed their experience in 1967 when Georgetown insisted Esqueusing bear 45 per cent of the cost, comparing it with the 13 per cent paid to Milton Fire Area which, however, was based on assessment.

Further discussion included cost of another truck, availability of manpower on a 24 hour basis, which Councillor Lawson doubted, and a phone service.

Councillor W. Leslie told the meeting a township fire brigade was successful in similar set-up nearby.

The deputy-reeve said he would be willing to go along if the fire committee finds they can get a better deal with Georgetown. Councillor Patterson also felt the committee should have an estimate of the Georgetown budget.

Upshot of the discussion was a motion which passed unanimously authorizing the committee of the Esqueusing Fire Area to meet with the mayor and fire committee of Georgetown to see if any arrangements can be made.

EBENEZER

Choir, U.C.W. elections

Ebenezer U.C.W. held their annual pot-luck luncheon at the church. After a varied meal had been enjoyed by 20 people, Rev. Russel Finlay took charge of the installation of officers for 1968, as follows:

Past president Mrs. Malcolm Moffat; president Mrs. Donald Joss; vice-president Mrs. Earl Ward; secretary and press reporter Mrs. Ronald McLean; treasurer Mrs. Keith Moore; pianist Mrs. Wm. Early; supply secretary Mrs. B. D. Young; manse committee chairman Mrs. Murray Hayward; cradle roll - Mrs. Horace Blyth; visiting committee chairman Mrs. Malcolm Moffat; flower committee chairman Mrs. Art Diamond; good cheer chairman Mrs. Ward; Nominating committee chairman Mrs. John Henry; representative to Official Board Mrs. Joss; representative to Board of Stewards Mrs. Moffat; auditors for 1968 Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Kitching.

Ebenezer choir hold their annual meeting at the manse. Rev. Russel Finlay was in charge of the election of officers, which resulted as follows:

President - Mrs. M. Hayward; secretary treasurer Doug McLean; librarians Mrs. John Kitching and Mrs. Helst.

Sue Ward is to continue as organist, with Mrs. Early as assistant organist and assistant choir leader. John Kitching is to continue as choir director.

Mrs. Finlay served lunch after which voices were raised in a harmonious sing-song. The evening closed with "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" for Rev. and Mrs. Finlay.

George Thomas is making good progress in St. Joseph's Hospital.

The Church Annual Meeting is to be held Jan. 16, at 8.30 p.m.

OBITUARY

Funeral service in church today for Rev. R. A. Brook

A retired clergyman, Reginald Arthur Brook passed away at his home, 98 Longfield Road, Acton, on January 8. The Rev. Brook and his wife moved to Acton nine and a half years ago.

After Rev. Gordon Adams left the United Church, Mr. Brook acted as interim minister for three months. When John May was interim minister before his ordination, Mr. Brook again fulfilled the duties of an ordained minister for the congregation. He was a member of session, and willingly assumed any church duties required. He had become well-known and respected during his stay here.

The family had lived previously at Bluevale, Hensall, Blyth and Milvorton.

He is survived by three sons and a daughter, Kenneth Brook,

Galt; Howard Brook, Toronto; Ralph Brook, Perth and Ruth Gaston, Toronto, and seven grandchildren.

A brother and sister are living in England.

Mr. Brook was born January 6, 1891, and came to Canada from England in 1910. He married in 1915 and his wife L. May survives him.

He graduated from Montreal's United Church Theological College.

Funeral service is in Acton United Church on Wednesday, January 10 (today) conducted by the Rev. G. Turner, the Rev. W. Rogers and Rev. George Watt representing Presbytery.

Burialbearers are George Bowman, Bob Hart, Orwell Johnston, Bern Velhuis, John Allan and Jack McGeachie.

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