

Candidates vye for council, hydro, school board



CYRIL BISHOP
for Council



ORVAL CHAPMAN
for Council



BILL COATS
for Council



JACK GREER
for Council



PETER MARKS
for Council



EARL MASALES
for Council



GARNET MCKENZIE
for Council



BILL WILLIAMS
for Council

Reeve, deputy acclaimed

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hundred thousand dollars... \$300 per head. With the advent of the new school board, school indebtedness amounting to about \$550,000 will be assumed by the new board to go into the "big county pot."

In his two years on county council he was chairman of agriculture and E.M.O., on the board of health and on the finance and assessment committee.

He explained the board of health had been told to amalgamate with Peel but Peel preferred to go alone. He concluded saying he was sure Ted Tyler Jr. would also enjoy the work at county level.

Unfortunately our facilities do not permit us to offer all courses available at the secondary level and some students find it necessary to attend other schools to obtain the education they desire. The Acton District High School Board is required to pay tuition fees for these students. During 1967-68 these fees amounted to \$29,967.

As of September 1 - 20 students expressed a desire to attend an Occupations course at General Brock School in Burlington. Fees for these students for September to December 1968 will amount to approximately \$7000.

For high school board, Chester Anderson reported the school has a present enrolment of 468, an increase of only seven from the previous year. Of this number 162 are from the townships of Evesham and Nassagaweya being transported by bus. The bus routes cover a total of 198 miles daily. Cost of transportation for 1967-68 is \$17,264.

Courses available are five year Arts and Science, four year Arts and Science and four year Business and Commerce.

The staff consists of 26 teachers including principal and vice-principal as well as three secretaries and three custodians. 1968 budget is estimated at \$382,500. Of this amount approximately \$242,000 is received as provincial grants with the remainder obtained from tax levy, approximately 65% from Acton, 24% from Evesham and 11% from Nassagaweya.

With member Tom Watson in Nassagaweya for nominations to the county board, Mr. Anderson reviewed his colleague's qualifications—five years in the RCAF; 14 years on public school board, six as chairman; four years on high school board, two as chairman.

FOR THE HYDRO commission, chairman Ted Tyler Sr. said this was the best report he had ever been able to give, with the new building in operation and the commission in a good financial position. 1967 revenue was \$341,071.78 and expenses \$300,494.49. To date in '68: revenue \$267,629.22; expenses \$244,075.72.

Bank balance at the end of September was \$34,205.17. A new substation will be required at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

The biggest expense is to Ontario Hydro for power, totalling \$221,921.27 in 1967 and \$188,166.72 to the end of September this year. In 1968 the cost of power was increased six per cent. "We were one of the few municipalities who didn't find it necessary to increase the cost to our customers."

"Last week we were advised that our cost had been increased again—this time 4.6 per cent. We feel, at this time, that the Commission can absorb this additional increase without increasing your hydro rates." Acton's rates compare very favorably with other nearby centres.

They installed 73 water heaters in 1967 and 69 so far in 1968. They have purchased a "Ditch Witch", billing machine and new service truck. The gang is kept to a minimum, and equipment keeps down the cost of labor.

Dr. Oakes commented it was indeed creditable if they could manage to absorb the increase without raising rates.

Questioned about Glenlea street lights, Mr. Tyler said many people believe lights are the decision of hydro, but actually the commission acts only on council instructions. He said the question should be referred to the proper person on council.

This produced a laugh when the responsible councillor turned out to be the commission chairman's son, Ted Tyler Jr. explained the budget for lights is just about all eaten up. Lighting in subdivisions will be improved under the new subdividers' agreement.

FOR PUBLIC school board, chairman Cyril Bishop expressed pride in the two schools. In 15 years the system has grown from

eight rooms to Robert Little school with five rooms in the stone school; 14 classrooms, kindergarten, home economics room and shop, with library in December; and the M. Z. Bennett school with 12 rooms, and addition with gym, library, washrooms, staffroom, nurse's room, storage and four classrooms by January or February.

There are 953 pupils. He foresaw more activity in the schools under the recreation committee in conjunction with the Y.

He asked consideration for an indoor swimming pool in one of the schools.

Remedial reading, full-time art teacher and oral French in the senior grades have been introduced.

We were concerned nothing was being done for the transferees from the opportunity class. The high school board now pays tuition, and the public school board transportation. There will be a 100 per cent grant for this next year.

We regret losing our local board.

FOR RECREATION and parks committee, Brendan Ahern reported \$3.50 per person was allocated. Recreation budget was \$16,908 this year and parks \$9,900—both as yet by council. Sixty per cent of the recreation budget goes for wages, so 92 cents per head is spent on facilities.

The summer program was successful with 100 children at playground, 70 at swimming lessons. He commended Mr. and Mrs. Townsley for their work.

For parks, he looked forward to reclaimed land at the park. However, he asked that the board be considered in meetings and decisions relative to the park. He heard of one proposal "courtesy of the Free Press."

"I sometimes wonder what these boards are for."

He suggested council should make arrangements to acquire land along the creek bed in a long-range plan. In 10 or 15 years we'll say we should have done it.

Adult classes are a new project, and young people will be making a survey inquiring what's wanted. In reply to a question, he said Acton's most pressing need, he thought, was for adult education and recreation. "It's nonexistent!"

Mayor Duhy pointed out Acton's per capita investment for recreation is the highest in Halton, but we can't expect the same programs as larger centres.

LIBRARY REPORT was given

by secretary Doug Copeland, who said since the opening of the new library the membership has increased by 300 to 1500 and circulation is also much higher. The board and chief librarian work in close conjunction with the Regional Library system and Fred New is the board rep.

The assembly and storage rooms are both used by local groups for meetings.

The actual budget is \$15,117 with a grant of \$6,766 from the town. There will be a slight deficit of about \$100 this year.

ALL CANDIDATES for office were given an opportunity to speak.

First, Mayor Duhy explained his unique position of having been six years as mayor without an election. He promised honest, conscientious, energetic effort and sought a "vote of confidence". He urged listeners to consider his past service and to come out and vote regardless of who their choice was. He concluded, promising "service".

Mr. Hinton said on council he had often taken the opposite view, always using his own

judgment.

He was concerned the town is losing \$700,000 school debt, yet taking on the cost of new sewer facilities, although they are needed.

We will pay the full county rate for education, high or low. Where does this leave us as far as recreation and other fields are concerned? Recreation programs should be increased. "I stand for the things I believe in."

ROB DRINKWATER stated a mayor needs drive and ability to direct council and didn't feel the other candidates were

progressive persons. A plan is needed to determine our future. Acclaimed to office, Ted Tyler Jr. said he would continue to act in Acton's best interest.

Most council candidates spoke briefly, and some had already

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ORVILLE BROWN
for Hydro



DOUG MANNING
for Hydro



BOB McARTHUR
for Hydro



WOLF McEACHERN
for Hydro



E. TYLER SR.
for Hydro



JAKE VAN DER KOOY
for Hydro

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