

The Mayor reports

Two year term's benefits

On council's behalf, Mayor Les Duby read the following report Monday at nomination meeting:

May I first comment on the effect the first "two year term" has had on the Town's administrative and works operations. Many benefits have become evident under the new system. The most important of which was the additional 50 or 60 days of continuous operation, November through January of last year, normally hampered by lack of direction due to nomination time and the resulting election procedure, and this is usually a confusing delay until the new council forms its committees. This, of course, will only happen once every two years while the two year term is in effect.

Since regional government, as we now understand it, is no doubt going to become a reality the only thing we can do in the meantime is to strive to develop the best program possible for Acton, so that some established, preferred type of operation will exist at the time of the changeover, and therefore may become incorporated into the new system.

1967, of course, was Centennial Year and most of you are quite familiar with the activity and events of that now historical period for Acton and the whole nation.

The desire to do something important in 1967 eventually led to the construction of our new and sadly-needed library, and this was supplemented by the action of the local Hydro Commission, when they managed to have completed at the same time another fine building to meet their needs, and that of a growing community.

New residential construction caused an increase of over 100 percent in building permits issues in 1967, and even exceeded that in 1968. The town's assessment has gone from \$7,242,291 in 1965 to \$7,907,494 at the present time, which will increase our mill rate to a value of almost \$8000.

In 1967 we became very concerned about our senior citizen accommodation and a possible town housing development for our lower income citizens who cannot afford the usual home being built in our regular subdivision developments today. Through the year 1967 we made great strides to get all the necessary approvals, etc. completed for our sewage treatment plant.

In that first year we also made vast improvements in our dump control program. Necessity and public demand caused us to improve our site and operations at a greatly increased cost. We dealt with matters of off-street parking and traffic control, and our new personnel committee dealt with various items concerning staff and administration procedure including the negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

The completion of the Fairy Lake dredging operation should be fairly well timed with the completion of our new sewage treatment plant, so that the improved flow in Black Creek will help us to control the B. O. D. count of our final effluent, for which we are held responsible by the O.W.R.C. In January 1967 the estimated cost was \$468,000 but by the time the lowest tender was accepted in June 1968 it had increased to \$672,538.

Much of our time, and a great deal of work, of course, was taken up with the completion work in Lakeview Subdivision. And it might be timely to inform you at this time, that for the future, we have taken the required action to assure you will not have a repeat of the problems we inherited in Lakeview. We have had several meetings with the Conservation Authority and Beardmore & Co. and the contractors relative to the dredging in Fairy Lake, and there is no doubt that in the final analysis, the aesthetic improvement to the lake, the park, and the total surrounding area, plus the addition usefulness to our people will be much appreciated by everyone.

Considerable improvements were carried out in our police office which now gives them a much more functional facility.

Our first crawler-loader was added to our equipment for use at our new dump site. This is the type of equipment required to carry out the approved sanitary land fill method of dump control.

This past year we have also seen a marked improvement in our Town Office facilities. By utilizing the extra space, made available by the library moving to their new quarters, we have been able, with the co-operation of the Y board, to offer our public a more suitable service at a modest cost. It has also proven to be a much more functional area in which to carry out the town's administrative work.

Council did by resolution, advertise property on Churchill Road South, zoned for apartments, for sale and invited options with the proviso that it would be sold for the express purpose of providing apartments. Apartments are now under construction.

Many plans of subdivision are now before council, and a good hard look is being taken at all of the ramifications that accompany new development on a large scale.

Our new subdividers' agreement I mentioned earlier, is now almost completed and this basic control, plus the attached schedules, as they apply to each area to be developed, will enable us to accept this new development in a rational, progressive and secure way, that will assure us of a controlled growth as it relates to municipal financial responsibilities and its direct effect upon the taxpayers.

We have held two public meetings on the proposed closing of Acton's station and the only recourse we have left now is the final hearing to be held in Guelph in the near future.

A new fire agreement was drawn up with the neighboring townships of Esquesing, Nassagaweya and Erin, and they will be assessed \$9400 per annum to be shared at the discretion of the three municipalities.

This year it was found after an examination of our town's installation plans, drawings and grade profiles, that deterioration had taken place over the years and many have become too brittle for handling, therefore new drawings of all service installations, sewers, water, roads, etc. are to be replaced at a cost of \$1,500.

The resignation this year of our former clerk-administrator came more or less as a shock to council considering his 21 years of past faithful service. We sincerely regretted this turn of events, but our former deputy-clerk, J. T. Hurst was promoted to this position and we have obtained the services of Grant Usher as deputy-clerk treasurer. We have also engaged the services of Ronald McKnight.

The addition to the M. Z. Bennett school was finally approved at a debenture cost of \$387,000, and application was made to the Ontario Education Capital Aid Program for sale of these debentures, to be effective December 1, 1968.

Cable Television introduced itself to Acton via Georgetown Cable T.V. Ltd. and council agreed in principle to an agreement being drawn up, basically because they felt it would make another service available to the people of Acton, if they so desire it.

In closing my remarks this evening I most certainly want to thank council for the degree of co-operation I have had at that level. I have been most appreciative of the co-operation also from our former clerk, Mr. McGeechie, and in recent weeks I have had a very close liaison with Mr. Hurst, our new clerk-administrator. Since he took over these duties at a most critical time, and not having the services of a bookkeeper, office manager, and deputy during the last six weeks has his predecessor had, he has already done a trojan job in his new office, with the help of his staff.

Once again may I express on your behalf, a deep appreciation to all of the people we have appointed to the various boards, commissions and committees for their unselfish contribution to the welfare of this community.

And last, but certainly not least, for the years I have served to date on this council, as Councillor and Mayor, my thanks for your continuing confidence and support; as we have made steady and sound progress together. My personal thanks to you, the citizens of Acton.



HORACE BLYTH



MURRAY SMITH

Blyth, Watson and Smith in race for school seat

Two men from Acton and one from Nassagaweya will contest the Acton and Nassagaweya seat on Halton County Board of Education. Nassagaweya and Acton share one representative.

Horace Blyth of Nassagaweya and Tom Watson of Acton appeared at the joint nomination meeting in Brookville Monday night and addressed the ratepayers.

Murray Smith of Acton was nominated but did not appear at the Brookville meeting, as he was speaking in Acton. Duncan Moffat, who has had six years on council and nine years on school board, was nominated also but said he had no intention to stand.

"For years now I have gone away to leave my wife on the farm, and when she went away I stayed on the farm. Some time we're going to go away together," he joked.

A resident and farmer of Nassagaweya for 22 years, Horace Blyth will run for county school board. A member of the armed forces for three years, he has gained 15 years experience on school board and for three years acted as chairman.

He cited Brookville as being the first central school in the Township and noted it had two two-room additions, two portable rooms and finally the Centennial wing.

Both he and Mr. Watson were members of the Interim School Organization Committee. Mr. Blyth urged the people to support whoever was elected.

A resident of Acton all his life with the exception of five years in the R.C.A.F., Tom Watson goes into the race with 18 years of school board experience behind him. He served the public school board 14 years, six as chairman. He also served on the high school board four years.

Mr. Watson has good reason to be interested in school board business, as he has six children studying on three different levels.

He said he would put an effort forward to obtain the best teachers and the best facilities without breaking the public with education costs.

He asked the audience for an opportunity to put what he had learned in 18 years as trustee into work.

The only way to get anywhere is to start from where you are.



TOM WATSON

Liberals pick new executive

Halton and Halton East Liberals elected a new executive during the second annual meeting of the riding association Friday, but only after a tie vote had to be broken in the presidential race. Members recalled problems from the votes called this year when they were selecting a candidate for the federal election.

David Butler, Oakville emerged as president over candidates Ernest Aechman and John Haight. George Jackson, Milton was returned as the only former member of the executive. He was named a vice-president. Other vice-presidents are 22-year-old Maureen Sweetman of Milton, an oral French teacher, who promised to represent the youth point of view; Peter Watters of Oakville, and Elizabeth Robson of Georgetown.

Joe Smith emerged as secretary over Murray Haesler and Mike Ledwith was acclaimed as treasurer, the only position filled that way during two hours of voting by the 125 members casting ballots.

M.P. Rud Whiting praised the brief presented by the association for submission to the federal housing task force.

Reeve, deputy acclaimed . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

left. Earl Masales regretted losing two experienced councillors. We almost could have had an all-Lakeview council!

Garnet McKenzie said his experience was frustrating at times but it was worth it to see progress in the community. He felt the most important quality of a mayor is good leadership, not his platform. He promised to support progressive measures.

Cyril Bishop, school board chairman now running for council, reviewed his decision not to run for county school board, feeling he had no choice but to withdraw to prevent a split vote in Acton and give the town an equal chance. He is prepared to work for the future.

Oval Chapman, school board member, cited his four years on the board and 18 years in Acton, hoping to make Acton a better town to live in.

Newcomer Peter Marks made a statement that brought considerable applause and resulted in the chairman's exclamation "It's wonderful to see young people become involved!"

Mr. Marks was interested in residential, industrial and business development; sound

planning policy with a study of larger centres. He would be objective and impartial since he is not associated in his work with anyone in town. He would solicit valid complaints and act as liaison. He has been over 20 years in town.

Not expecting to be nominated and withdrawing his name, Norman Elliott said he just came as an observer . . . and like the Americans in Viet Nam found more than he'd anticipated. Through interest he's becoming more knowledgeable, but he felt the need for responsible people predicated he decline.

HYDRO CANDIDATES took their tops.

Jack Van Der Kony is young in this "great land" nine years out from Holland, and has been four years on the Y board. "I think I can serve Acton through this."

Ted Tyler Sr. recalled 20 years in Acton posts, council, deputy, reeve, mayor; he started the C. of C., saw the start of parks board, and planning board. He's presently Hydro chairman, and stood on his record.

Both Wilfred McEachern and Orville Brown spoke briefly, thanking supporters and saying they would stand again for their present hydro seats.

BY NOW, Tom Watson and Horace Blyth had arrived after the school board nominations in Brookville.

Mr. Watson saw the room full of "old faithfuls who know me."

"I finally see the culmination in

the new school board, I'd like to be part of it as it becomes a success."

Horace Blyth, 22 years a township farmer, has been on Nassagaweya school board 15 years, five as chairman, with schools they're proud of. The new county board is a step in the right direction, and I feel qualified to serve.

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