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About Votes in Council

J. P. Coombe, of the department of municipal affairs told the Kent Municipal Association the other day that the mayor, reeve or chairman of any civic body is not compelled to vote.

"The mayor or a reeve, or chairman of any body does not have to vote," said Mr. Coombe replying to a question.

"Is a mayor at no time compelled to vote?" he was asked.

"Not necessarily," said Mr. Coombe. "He should exercise his right to vote. If he is a courteous man he would vote last, if he so desires. He merely declares a motion carried or lost. He can vote to break a tie, or vote to make a tie and negative a motion."

"Does a mayor or reeve have to vote if the yeas-and nays are required to be recorded?" was another question given him.

"Not necessarily. He is the presiding officer," Mr. Coombe continued. He said the point had been thrashed out at the last session of the Senate.

The procedure of municipal councils, he said, is identical with that of the Provincial Legislature, the Dominion Parliament and the British House of Commons.

Mr. Coombe also told the gathering that all members of councils are required to vote on matters unless excused by the presiding officer, and they are personally interested or affected by the question before the house. "Often a man will refuse to vote on a matter at a council meeting, go out and tell his friends he did not vote or reeve Mr. Coombe. "If a member does not vote, in the eyes of the law he is deemed to have



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voted for the motion before the house. Mr. Coombe also added that there is no seniority among members of a township council. While a reeve is the presiding officer, he and the deputy reeve have no more rights than the councillors. They are elected reeve and deputy to represent their municipality on the county council.

"Civil liberty means civil liberty for those we do not like as well as those we do like."—Felix Frankfurter.

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BY-LAW NO. —

To amend the existing by-law for taxing, restraining and regulating the running at large of dogs within the Municipality of the Town of Georgetown, passed on the 12th day of April, 1927, being By-law No. —

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 5 of the "Dog Tax and Sheep Protection Act, 1927, Chapter 335," that by-laws may be passed by the Municipal Council requiring the registration of dogs.

AND WHEREAS in the by-law above referred to, no provision is made compelling owners of dogs to register them.

AND WHEREAS it is deemed advisable that some such provision should be inserted in the existing by-law.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Town of Georgetown, in council assembled, and in accordance with the provision of the "Dog Tax and Sheep Protection Act," above referred to, enacts as follows:

1. Section 4 of the by-law above referred to, being by-law No. — is hereby amended by adding thereto sub-section 3 (a) which is as follows:

"Every owner, possessor or keeper of any dog who has not procured a license for the same shall on or before the 30th day of April in each year, furnish the Clerk or the Tax Collector with full particulars of any such dog and the description thereof, sufficient to identify such dog or dogs and for any false statement in respect thereof or failure to do so shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$10.00, recoverable in the same manner as any other penalties provided for in the said by-law.

In all other respects the existing by-law is ratified and confirmed.

Passed this 7th day of March, A.D. 1939.

JOSEPH GIBBONS, Mayor,
 P. B. HARRISON, Clerk.

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PHONE: GEORGETOWN 209

The Proposed Increase of 33 1/3% in GASOLINE TAXATION

IT IS proposed by the Government of the Province of Ontario to increase the tax on gasoline from six cents to eight cents per gallon. This increase, if made effective, means that the average motorist, driving 10,000 miles in a year and getting 18 miles to the gallon out of his car will pay over \$10 additional to the gasoline tax of \$33.33 which he is now paying. Figure it out for yourself. From six cents to eight cents a gallon means this:

	Taxes Now (excluding license)	Proposed Taxes After Apr. 1, 1939	Proposed Increase 33 1/3%	Gas Tax per Week per Car
10,000 miles* per year.....	\$33.33	\$44.44	\$11.11	\$.85
15,000 miles* per year.....	49.98	66.66	16.66	1.28
20,000 miles* per year.....	66.66	88.88	22.22	1.70

* (18 miles per gallon)

The average car owner is not a rich man. He does not drive a new car. Out of 582,212 passenger car registrations in Ontario in 1938 but 48,561 were new cars. Yet the automobile owner is the most heavily taxed man in the community. In 1936 he was already contributing 30% of the provincial revenue. Here are the figures for 1936 and 1937, the latest official figures from the Government.

	1936	1937	1938
The Provincial Revenue was.....	\$90,321,896	\$99,838,595	
The Provincial Taxation on gasoline....	\$16,049,857	\$17,644,164	*\$18,318,171

* This figure is based upon the percentage increase in gasoline consumption, which percentage figure was obtained from government sources.

† Coupled with license fees in 1936, this TAX represents 30% of the Provincial Revenue.

Since the motorist already bears 30% of the taxation burden of the Province, it is manifestly unfair to increase the burden.

	1936	1937	1938
Provincial Revenue from the taxation of Motor Vehicles, Ontario, 1936:			
Paid by the public in Gasoline Taxation.....	\$16,049,857		
Paid by the public in Licenses, etc.....	11,144,956		
			\$27,194,813
Spent by the Government in Highway Construction and Maintenance:			
(All Provincial Expenditures).....	\$ 9,419,509		
Interest and Sinking Fund.....	13,630,543		
			\$23,050,052
Diverted.....			\$ 4,144,761

In 1936 money collected for highway maintenance was being diverted from this purpose to the extent of \$4,000,000.

There is not available from official Government sources Expenditure on Roads, Interest and Sinking Fund charges, etc. subsequent to 1936.

It is now proposed to secure an additional \$6,000,000 from the motorists of the Province through an increase in the gasoline tax from six to eight cents per gallon. While the motorist, as a citizen, has been willing to assist the Government in problems of administration, a limit must be set to the burden imposed upon him.

If you, as a car owner, are content to assume the added burden represented by a 2-cent increase in the gasoline tax, there is nothing you need do. Your silence will be interpreted as consent.

If you are not content, and wish to place yourself on record to that effect in the only quarter where your objection will carry weight, call at your regular service station, whether it be a B-A station or any other, and ask for a card which has been distributed for your convenience.

Just sign it, fill in your address, and leave it with the station attendant.

Issued as a service to the Motorists of Ontario
 by the
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