

STEWARTTOWN

Congratulations are due again to Mr. Bob Lawson who was at the International Livestock Show at Chicago last week with the O.A.C. judging team. He was high man for Ontario scoring 904 points, compared with the winner's aggregate of 945 out of 1,000 points. The Guelph team was composed of W. R. (Bob) Lawson, Hutton County; J. H. Couse, Peel; G. W.

Jackson, York; W. C. Shapton, Huron; W. D. Black, Bruce; J. W. Stephen, Northumberland and E. A. Starr, Victoria. Prof. N. W. Staples, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, acting as coach of the team. The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith was christened by Rev. J. E. Maxwell in St. John's Church last Sun. afternoon. Miss Eleanor Smith was godmother to the little girl, who received the name of Susan Irene.

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE ARE RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED FOR THOS L. LYONS

FOR COUNCILLOR, WARD 3

It is essential that candidates with experience should be elected to cope with the problems of the present which confront the council.

VOTE LYONS

ELECTION DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 1948
Voting in the Municipal Building, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

VOTE

William McNally AS YOUR CANDIDATE FOR WARD 3 COUNCILLOR

FOR 1949.

POLLING BOOTH IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Monday, December 13th - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Phone 18J, and a car will take you to vote

VOTE

RAY

WHITMEE

FOR

COUNCIL WARD 3

Polls open in the Municipal Building, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th

- Georgetown hydro rates have not been increased since being reduced to their present low level in 1943.
- Georgetown hydro has no debenture debt.
- Georgetown hydro, through the cooperation of its consumers, has so far this year been able to distribute its allotted power so that shut-offs have not been necessary.

PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS!

Your vote and influence will be appreciated to

RE-ELECT

Graham Farnell

TO YOUR LOCAL HYDRO COMMISSION

(your representative for the past 6 years)

ELECTION - MONDAY DECEMBER 13th

VOTE

Frank Whitmee

ELECTRICIAN

for

HYDRO COMMISSIONER

Nomination Meeting

Mayor Gibbons Speaks

Following the regulation nomination meeting, a public meeting was called and Town Clerk Charles Willson was appointed chairman. He first called on Mayor Joseph Gibbons, who reviewed the year's business of council, particularly mentioning the sewerage system, which accounts for \$375,000 of the present \$450,000 debenture debt. When he first entered council in 1931, the town had a \$300,000 debenture debt, said the mayor, and in view of this he does not think the present position alarming. At the same time, he said that future councils would have to give careful consideration to any major expenditures.

"People often say that sewerage should have been put in in the depression years," said Mayor Gibbons, "but this is debatable. We had a heavy debenture debt to pay off, \$40,000 in delinquent taxes and a \$30,000 bank loan, and a tax levy \$60,000 below today's. And we must remember that we would have paid 6 per cent interest on a debenture issue, while the present one is costing us 2.98 per cent. There was little chance for civic improvement under those conditions."

Criticizes Water Debentures

Mayor Gibbons was critical of the \$80,000 debenture issue for water improvements passed by this year's council, and said he was still convinced that the first problem was to find an adequate source of supply. He said that at a recent meeting with the Municipal Board chairman had assured him that the town would be given permission to borrow the money, but just because credit could be obtained was no reason for borrowing the money until it was sure to be needed.

The mayor said that at present he was not in a position to make a forecast of future tax rates. In addition to the proposed water improvements, there was the question of extensive roadwork.

"I want to take my share of responsibility," he said, "and there is a possibility that past councils erred in not having a sinking fund to provide for these things, rather than concentrating on keeping tax rates low. Perhaps we should have taken the \$28,500 profit from the sale of the Municipal Building to the Royal Bank and get it aside for such things."

Reeve Details Debenture Debt

Reeve Maclaren, the second speaker, asked any ratepayers who were critical of heavy capital expenditures to consider which they might have vetoed had they been in council's position. The sewerage system had been urged for years by the local Medical Officer of Health and the Ontario Dept. of Health. Large sections of the town were polluted and while some would argue that these conditions had prevailed for years with nothing serious happening, who could say how long this could keep on. Wartime Housing was a necessary expenditure and the only criticism that could be offered was that even more houses should have been built. As for artificial ice, the town could do without it, but a progressive town needed recreation and by installing the system before neighbouring towns, Georgetown is in a better position to pay off the debt incurred. He said 25 per cent of taxes go for education and there again the only criticism could be that not enough was spent, particularly if Georgetown is to continue to maintain a local high school.

Disagrees With Mayor

The Reeve said he disagreed with the mayor on his stand on water improvements and that he believed stopping waste and leakage was the first consideration. Mr. Roberts, the consulting engineer, has said that local water use is twice what it should be, and the renovation of the system to stop leakage comes first. The water debentures he said, will be self-liquidating and will not impose hardship on anyone. Council had voted unanimously, except for the mayor, to get ahead with the project without a vote of the people. Supposing the voters turned it down and there was a serious fire, he felt council would be blamed.

"I have reviewed these," concluded the Reeve, "because I am convinced that every expenditure was necessary and none could have been eliminated in a progressive community."

County Council Review

Reeve Maclaren then reviewed the work of county council. The county rate had been raised from 2 1/2 to 3 mills. The county has a \$30,400 debenture debt which will be paid off in three years, and has a \$30,000 reserve for emergencies. The new assessment system is expected to be in operation by 1950. Reeve Maclaren had been a member of a special committee to investigate the Old People's Home, and he expressed the personal view that various groups should be segregated in different units rather than placed in one building. Soil Conservation Important
As chairman of the committee

on Agriculture and Reforestation Reeve Maclaren took a keen interest in soil conservation, which he said is one of the most important and least understood problems of our time. The present water shortage in Georgetown is a good example of what is happening here and elsewhere with forest cutting and swamp clearance and tons of valuable topsoil are being washed down our streams with each rain and destroying the value of our productive land. The county has 750 acres of forest land planted in Nescagaweya and Nelson Township has started a similar project of its own. Soil reforestation contests and a protective tree-by-law are other concrete steps taken by the county to deal with the problem.

Will Run for Mayor

Reeve-elect Armstrong spoke of the pleasure it had been to be Georgetown's first deputy Reeve and now to receive an acclamation by Reeve.

From early youth it had been my aspiration to serve on council," said Mr. Armstrong, "and I hope someday to be able to sit in the mayor's chair."

He favoured formation of a ratepayers' association, an idea which Reeve Maclaren had sponsored, and said such an association could be extremely valuable in making constructive suggestions to council. He expressed himself as still not favouring entry of Georgetown into the North Hutton High School Area.

Predicts Higher Tax Rate

The new deputy Reeve, James Goodlet, who was road chairman in the 1948 council, thanked the people who had shown an interest in town affairs by attending the meeting and said he couldn't understand why the hall was not jammed in view of the extensive publicity given to nominations in the Herald. Following the same line as Mr. Maclaren he broke down this year's 60-mill tax rate into its component parts and challenged anyone to point out where council had overspent. The road budget had been \$6,000 and everything possible had been done to put roads in shape with the funds available.

He had supported the water debenture issue in council for several reasons. The Dept. of Health had strongly urged chlorination because of pollution which might cause a serious disease outbreak. The water shortage in the summers created a serious fire hazard. The water system had been operating at a loss for fifty years, and metering would correct this situation and allow a surplus to be set up for the future. As an example of too cheap water, he pointed out that the C.N.R. trains take on water here because they pay 7c a thousand gallons compared with 20c or 25c in Guelph and Brantford.

"As a taxpayer I would like to see a lower tax rate, but on this year's figures I can't see it any less than 65 or 70 mills next year," he said. "We can't have advancement without paying for it and another problem facing us is the fact that our public and high school will not be adequate in the next few years."

Alarmed at Water Shortage

Councillor Herbert, chairman of water and fire, said that he hoped Mr. Goodlet's 70 mill prediction was wrong because he thought the town had pretty well gone the limit in major expenditures. He had fought against the water extensions until one day recently when the Fire Marshall had been in town to report on fire protection in the King Street district. Mr. Herbert had visited the Silvercreek reservoir that day and had been appalled to find the water so low that had there been a serious fire nothing could have been done. In view of this, he could do nothing but favour the debenture issue.

Considers Parking Meters

Councillor Davidson, as police chairman, said that he was fully satisfied with the present Provincial Police Detachment and that he believed the system was the most economical and the most satisfactory. The 6c a mile police car charge is very cheap and independent policing avoids any danger of local interference with the police system.

Commenting on the two-hour parking by-law, Mr. Davidson said that it had caused headaches from time to time. Established by a previous council, it had not really been enforced until last June and the sole reason for enforcement was to provide ample parking space downtown. At the present time he had been giving some thought to parking meters, which would allow the police more time for other duties.

Favors Water Meters

Councillor McCumber as property chairman said his committee had not been overburdened this year, but had fixed up the front of the Municipal Building and the Arena among other things. He expressed himself in favour of water metering, pointing out that Georgetown was using 200 gallons per person a day, while Acton, used 40. It is the only way waste can be stopped, he believes.

Memorial Plaques Installed

Councillor Hill said his term on council had been brief, as he had replaced Councillor Harry Hale after his resignation in the spring. He had completed Mr. Hale's job, as veterans' affairs chairman, in installing memorial plaques on the cenotaph and in the arena.

Wants Sports Director

Stating that he was seeking reelection for a second term in Ward 3, Councillor Whitmee said that as chairman of industry and recreation, he was concerned at the loss of Georgetown's oldest industry in the closing of the lower paper mill. Industry is the town's life blood and he thought council and the Board of Trade should do everything possible to encourage rental of the abandoned building.

Speaking of recreation, he said it was the opinion of a number of citizens that the Recreational Council hadn't filled the need of the town and that a majority of town council members had been of the same opinion. He hoped that the G.R.C. executive would ask council to appoint another director who would concentrate on hockey and baseball and such sport for the young rather than trying a variety of things for grown-ups who can provide their own recreation.

Hard-Surface Roads Advocated

Mr. Whitmee remarked on the terrible road condition throughout town. "We have been bumping over the same holes for thirty years and spending \$6000 a year trying to keep them passable," he said. "I would like to see the town budget \$75,000 to put permanent surfaces on our roads. It seems like a lot of money, but \$6,000 yearly wastage would soon pay for it."

No Switch-Pulling Here

Graham Farrell, reporting as hydro chairman, thanked industry, labour and commercial and domestic consumers for their cooperation in conservation which had made Georgetown one of the few towns so far where switches had not been pulled. A \$16,000 operating surplus had all gone into new equipment, including the latest in trucks. The commission had inaugurated a pension plan for employees.

Tracing the rapid increase of service, there are 1252 customers in Georgetown and the Glen today compared with 945 in 1941, he said. Average cost of installing a new service is \$50 to \$60, yet he was proud that hydro was one item which had not added to the cost of living. Rates were in fact reduced in 1943 and no increase has yet been necessary.

Will Save \$4,000 Yearly

A new project this year is the installation of a control system for flat rate water heaters. The cost of hydro bought by the town is based on the peak load which comes at the dinner and supper hours. The new system will trip all hot water switches at these times, and it is believed that the yearly saving will amount to about \$4,000. This will pay the \$8,000 cost of installation in two years and then allow a saving after that period.

School System Progressive

Dr. J. B. Milne, as public school Board chairman, briefly reviewed school activities and said the increase in expenditures was for such progressive services as manual training and a kindergarten class.

Wants People Vote on Waterworks

Mayor Gibbons again took the floor to speak on the water project. He reiterated that he believed the first consideration was to find a new source for an adequate water supply and that there was every chance that this could be found right in town. One known source had pumped 200 gallons a minute and a qualified engineer had told him that such a supply might be limitless and would not require chlorination. A \$1500 expenditure for exploratory drilling for such a source might

enable the town to save a major part of the proposed \$80,000 expenditure. The mayor said he was not alarmed at the poor quality of water because he was satisfied the type of contamination could not cause an epidemic. He didn't believe a great quantity of water was being lost by leakage.

"It has been said that the water improvements can be taken care of without higher taxation," said the mayor. "This is a charge against the property owners, nevertheless and should have been voted upon. The Municipal Board chairman said this was the democratic thing to do. 'These are some of my reasons for not jumping too hastily.' He was also against approaching the Municipal Board for another debenture issue until a road building program was considered and the whole project could be dealt with in one time."

Lyons Is Council Candidate

Thomas L. Lyons said he was running for council again because he had more people urging him this year than in the past ten years. He had been road chairman for some years and could recall the time when the mayor thought \$3,000 a year was a heavy yearly expenditure. He criticized gravel purchases this year, and said better and cheaper gravel could have been obtained closer to home.

He was critical of the water debentures and said a practical man could have investigated the possibilities rather than paying \$4,000 to an expert. Brampton was voting on two questions this year which entailed less money and he saw no reason why Georgetown should not be voting on the \$80,000.

Town Clerk Praised

At the conclusion of the meeting, Councillor Davidson remarked that it was his opinion, and he believed the opinion of all council, that Charles Willson, who was appointed this year as clerk-treasurer after the retirement of P. B. Harrison, was doing a good job and was fully satisfactory.

ASHGROVE

Have your goloshes and fur coats handy, this fall weather won't stay much longer.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Milgate of Calgary, Alberta, spent last week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Giffen.

Miss Marjorie Tuck of Toronto spent the week-end with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. R. Cunningham.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wilson and family in the death of his father, Mr. George A. Wilson.

Mrs. Thos. Giffen, Mrs. Walter Brownridge, Mrs. Wilfred Bird and Mrs. John Ballhobby attended the Institute Rally in Limehouse Memorial Hall last Tuesday.

We were pleased to have Miss Luile Reed of Toronto at church on Sunday morning. Luile has been on a month's train trip accompanied by two other lady friends out to Vancouver, also Chicago and Los Angeles, but she says there is no place quite like Ashgrove.

Memories

to honour a lifetime for lifetimes to come

Monuments & Markers

Moderately Priced

a card or letter will bring our service to your door

OAKVILLE MONUMENT WORKS
29 Colborne St. Oakville on highway

Thanks

FOR ELECTING ME AS REEVE BY ACCLAMATION

1949

Jack Armstrong

for HIM

ELECTRIC SHAVERS BY

Schick, Packard, Shavemaster AT

SIMMONS JEWELLERS

PHONE 536

MAIN STREET