

The Editor's Corner

SOME VOTING INFORMATION

Is your name on the Voters List? If it is you have a vote at next Monday's election. If it isn't, unless there is an error either on the part of the town clerk or the printer, you haven't. The list is compiled and printed from the last revised assessment roll and contains all names of owners and tenants and their wives and husbands listed on that roll. As parts of this roll are completed during the summer, some people who have lived in town for several months may not be listed. It is well, particularly for newcomers, to check in advance with the town clerk, rather than waiting until election day to find whether they are qualified voters.

Have you ever seen a copy of the Voters List? If you haven't, it lists voters alphabetically by the three wards and each ward is divided into Part One and Part Two. Part One lists voters who are actually resident in the ward. Part Two lists owners who live out of town or in another ward in the town. Part One also indicates those who are liable for jury duty.

A voter can vote only once for mayor, reeve, deputy reeve and hydro commissioner and must, with a very few exceptions, vote for these in the ward in which he resides. In other words, it is those listed in Part One who receive these ballots. An out-of-town voter, of course, has this privilege as well as the very odd person who might live at home or board somewhere but is a property owner in another ward.

A voter can vote for councillors in each ward in which he is a property owner or tenant. Several people have votes in all three wards. The writer himself, as it happens, lives in Ward Two, is a business tenant in Ward Three, and owns a lot in Ward One, hence may vote in all wards. The "question vote" being asked is similar to mayor and a voter gets only one vote on it.

Remember when you get your ballot that you are electing only one mayor, one reeve, one deputy reeve and one hydro commissioner. If you mark more than one X your ballot is spoiled. Remember too that you are electing only two councillors in your ward and more than two X's spoils the ballot. You do not have to vote for two. A vote for only one candidate (known as a "Plumper") is counted when the ballots are totalled.

Do you know who is running for office? Most of the candidates have election advertising in the paper, and all are listed in the thumb-nail sketches elsewhere in this issue.

Do you know where to vote? If you live in Ward One it is at the Old Town Hall, in Ward Two at the home of Mrs. Ann Torrance on King Street near the station, in Ward Three at the Municipal Office. The polls are open from nine in the morning until seven at night.

There you have it. Don't forget next Monday, December 12th. Vote as you like but vote!

WE ARE NOT ALONE

In some ways we will be glad when the smoke clears next Monday and Georgetown electors have chosen their 1950 civic officials. Never have we heard so much "election talk" in our ten years as a newspaper editor and with Christmas advertising to deal with also it makes a full day at the office. A good, healthy election is a good thing for a town and even some mud-slinging is preferable to apathy which some towns are faced with. We do regret at times to see a group of people, all of whom we count as friends, getting hot under the collar and making accusations and counter-accusations, but then we aren't a politician and must remember to keep a salt shaker handy. Elections are the democratic way of life and the people must judge for themselves who will best represent them on council. Of one thing we are sure — the new council will have the best mandate possible, for so many candidates are in the field that we are bound to have the biggest vote in history.

Glancing at other Ontario weeklies we find that other towns too seem to be in a turmoil. A fight for the reeveship in Oakville finds the two newspapers taking partisan stands for the man of their choice, the issue at stake being some trees which were destroyed in a road widening project. In Alliston, the reeve was criticized for building a bridge which council had vetoed, and he has been elected by acclamation but council has quit in a body and no newcomers have qualified. The Chesley Enterprise is campaigning against payment of councillors which the present council has inaugurated and this may turn into an election issue.

GENERAL VOTE IS BETTER

We still think that electing councillors by general vote is a better system than the present ward elections, but as we said before it is not a big enough question to get into any arguments about. In a previous editorial we pointed out three advantages we could see — the avoidance of "not wanting an election" and the subsequent encouragement of more candidates, the feeling that successful candidates would have in knowing that they have been chosen by all the voters, and the fact that the town is much too small for ward politics. There is a theoretical disadvantage which has been pointed out, that the largest ward could elect all the candidates, but this has no basis in past statistics. A letter to the editor also pointed out that it is impossible for a council candidate to canvass the whole town — but this is overcome if a public meeting could be sponsored such as the Ratepayers Association where

all candidates could state their platforms, by advertising and letters in the press, and by statements at the nomination meeting itself. Bystander, in his column this week, indicates another advantage by a change in voting procedure with the elimination of a man who owns property or is a tenant in more than one ward having extra votes for council.

POT POURRI

Cost of a new school at Lowville will give an idea of what Georgetown's cost would be if an additional public school is built. The Lowville school will be seven rooms plus assembly and contract price, which includes a water and sewerage system is \$155,000. Cost of property and architect's fees are extra. . . A woman in Laredo, Texas gave a turkey to each of that city's 52 policemen according to a news item in a daily paper, as a Thanksgiving treat. We can remember several years ago in Windsor when this would have been an insulting gift. Two of the men in blue had got themselves into a spot by helping themselves to Christmas turkeys from a boxcar at the station and the newspaper had made quite a story of it. For the next year it was quite the thing for the young fry to holler "turkey" as they passed a policeman, then beat a hasty retreat. . . We get our news in a variety of ways. Phoning the firm of Anthony Foster & Sons in Toronto concerning some pictures for an advertisement, found we were talking to Evelyn Guest of town who formerly worked in the Smith & Stone office. . . Snow removal by modern machinery is once more keeping Main Street well cleared. Georgetown is way ahead of most municipalities in this service to shoppers and merchants. . . Arnott Early has resigned his position as assistant assessor and is taking a vacation before he assumes his new job.

Jack Says!

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