

RING IN THE NEW

Election in Esqueusing Township George Currie is Reeve Again

There will be an election in Esqueusing Township this year. All seats have been filled by acclamation in the entire 1950 council will be elected for the coming year.

The reeve reiterated his opposition to the new Halton House of Refuge which is at present under construction. He had criticised this, at last year's nomination meeting and backed with a motion of ratemakers at the meeting, he and Mr. Leslie had expressed Esqueusing's opposition strongly at township council this year.

George Currie and George Leslie were their third successive reeve and deputy reeve. The township council, H. Craig Reid, Wilfrid Bird and Walter Linham are the councillors for two year terms. The school board of School Area No. 10 has H. Craig Reid and R. L. Davidson as members.

Esqueusing and Nassagaweya had originally been the only opposition, but this year two new Georgetown representatives and later two new Oakville members had joined them, but a decision to continue was made by a 9-7 vote of members. "The old age pension is going up" pointed out Reeve Currie, "and there is less and less need for county homes for elderly people. The county is almost out of debt, and this will add \$350,000 to the debt-rental load. I understand work is at a standstill at present and if they go ahead I hope it isn't for another year till Esqueusing gets its county rate down to where it should be."

Mr. Leslie said that he had served two year terms as reeve and deputy and that he was interested in moving up. "There is an election, I'm not a reeve" said Mr. Leslie, "I won't cause an election." Mr. Harrop, a young resident of the Milton district whose father, Mr. Harrop, is a former township reeve, echoed a similar feeling when he said he was interested in a council seat.

Commenting briefly on township roads Mr. Currie said the county had hard surfaced the road from Ballinacree to the highway, this year and had promised similar treatment for the 9th line from Hunter's Inn to the highway next year. He said the road from Ashgrove to Norval is in poor condition and will have to have some consideration in the future.

The Saturday deadline for the nominations was reached. Present councillors qualified for present offices and no new ones entered the field. Esqueusing Saves Money. The municipal picnic for the year, Reeve Currie said, to a saving of over \$14,000 had been effected by a strong emphasis on a better sharing of costs.

Hard Surfaced Roads. Commenting briefly on township roads Mr. Currie said the county had hard surfaced the road from Ballinacree to the highway, this year and had promised similar treatment for the 9th line from Hunter's Inn to the highway next year. He said the road from Ashgrove to Norval is in poor condition and will have to have some consideration in the future.

A committee of the council, after a meeting with the county, arrived at a cost of \$100,000 for the road which reduced Esqueusing's share to 10.33 percent. The plan was approved by an unanimous vote of the council, but Mr. Leslie opposed it. He said that it was to be fair, he did not think the new split did them any harm.

Deputy Reeve George Leslie devoted much of his time to remarks on the new assessment when he was called upon to speak by township clerk Isaac Bennett who acted as chairman for the meeting. Mr. Leslie said that it was hoped all municipalities would have their assessments done in time for the new equalization for 1952 to be made at next June's council meeting. He did not expect that the figures would radically differ from the figures submitted this year by the assessment committee, on which he had served.

County Revision Court. The establishment of a county court of revision is a good thing, in the opinion of the township reeve. Any criticism that the board is composed of three men from the north end of the county and two from the south can be laid on Trafalgar's doorstep, he said, for the Trafalgar reeve had been asked to submit a name for a member of the court but had failed to do so.

"The past system has certainly been unfair," Mr. Leslie pointed out. "Oakville's reeve has said that their assessment will be close to nine million, yet for years they have been paying 10.94 percent compared with our 16.47 percent."

Cheaper Education. Saving was made by the Esqueusing Council in their share of high school costs, said Mr. Currie. "No doubt, we took a little off," he said, referring to the 10 percent of costs bill by the township by North Halton school district.

Explains River Work. Councillor Craig Reid outlined the road work in the township during the year. Quite a bit of gravel had been laid and some contour work had been done on rivers, including the construction of a ditch through a bush on the George Cleve property. This had been put through to save the danger of future floods washing out the 8th line and the \$350 cost is moderate compared with what might have had to be spent on road work.

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RING OUT THE OLD

GROCERY STORE DESTROYED TWO FAMILIES HOMELESS

One of Georgetown's worst fire disasters in many years, wrecked a local grocery and meat store and left two families homeless when fire broke out early last Wednesday morning. Damage estimated at over \$25,000 was caused to Buck's meat and grocery store and the two apartments above, and there was smoke damage in the adjoining McGibbon Hotel as well.

The fire was first discovered about 2:30 a.m. Doris and Marjorie Silk of Shelburne, sisters of Mrs. John Teeter, who were sleeping in a day bed in the living room of the Teeter apartment on the second floor at the back of the building, were awakened by the smell of smoke. They called Mr. Teeter, who looked out the window and saw flames coming from the office at the back of the store, and he hastily called the fire department. By this time the smoke was thick and Mr. and Mrs. Teeter had barely time to escape. They awakened Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Norton who were sleeping in the front apartment. Firemen fought the stubborn blaze for more than four hours. They were hampered at first by dense smoke and by the fire getting into partitions and false ceilings in the remodelled building. A fire wall between the building and the McGibbon House saved destruction there, though there was severe smoke damage in some of the hotel rooms.

Equising Nominations. REEVE: GEORGE CURRIE (Frank Wilson, Neilson Stark) George Leslie (R. H. Hunter, F. D. Charles) DEPUTY REEVE: GEORGE LESLIE (Lloyd Davidson, Donald Lindsay) Wilfrid Bird (F. D. Charles, R. J. Cunningham) H. Craig Reid (Neilson Robinson, R. H. Hunter) COUNCIL: WILFRED BIRD (Neilson Robinson, R. H. Hunter) WALTER LINHAM (R. L. Davidson, C. Swackhamer) H. CRAIG REID (Neilson Robinson, F. D. Charles) Cedric Harrop (Fred Ruddell, Neilson Stark) Spencer Wilson (Claude McNaughtin, M. J. Brown) SCHOOL AREA TRUSTEES: HECTOR BIRD (Neilson Stark, Wilfrid Bird) R. L. DAVIDSON (W. Linham, C. B. Swackhamer) Frank Robertson (J. G. Gillies, Sam Mileham) All offices were filled by acclamation. Names of those elected are in capitals.

The store interior was completely gutted and the building itself suffered heavy damage with a part of the roof burned at the back. Contents of the Teeter apartment were a complete loss. The Nortons were more fortunate, although their too smoke took its toll, even though the apartment was untouched by fire. The refrigeration room of the store, containing poultry valued at over \$1000 and other meat remained intact. There was also some canned goods salvaged from the basement where they were stored. Other than that, the store contents were almost a complete loss. A pet rabbit owned by Gary Teeter, which lived on the roof of the building may be responsible for saving the lives of the apartment occupants. It is believed that the noise of the rabbit running around on the roof awakened the girls. "Bowie" the store cat was found by firemen in the basement of the store after the fire, trapped beneath some debris. He survived, although badly dazed by smoke and shock.

St. John's United Sunday School Concert

St. John's Sunday School concert held in Memorial Hall on Friday, December 22nd, will long be remembered by those in attendance as one of the best yet. Approximately 350 members, parents and friends gathered in the beautiful hall to celebrate Christmas in the good old-fashioned Sunday School way with recitations, solos, duets, carols, choral speaking, plays, monologues, aerobatics, and to the surprise, and joy of all a radio show.

SOCIAL and PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly, Ann and Paddy were home for Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Kelly and Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Paul. Mrs. Kelly and the children are staying in town for a visit until their new home in Toronto is ready. Holiday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Thos. L. Lyons were Mr. and Mrs. Ross Campbell of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Collin McIntosh of Welland. Mr. McIntosh, a former member of the Aylmer High School staff moved to a similar position in Welland this year. Home for Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Syd MacKenzie were Mr. and Mrs. Larry MacKenzie of Erin and Mr. and Mrs. Ian MacKenzie and daughter Marilyn of Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce MacKenzie and Paul joined them for Christmas dinner.

The building and store contents, owned by Mrs. C. J. Buck, were partially covered by insurance. Remodelling operations are planned immediately and temporary repairs were finished by J. E. MacKenzie & Son in order to avoid further damage to the store interior. Insurance will cover the smoke damage to property of Mr. and Mrs. Norton, who are planning soon to move into their new home on Arletta Street. The Teeter family, who are staying for the present with relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Vance, had some insurance and their loss was reduced considerably by generous donations by organizations and individuals.

Bowls 405 For New Club Record

Mrs. Al Zeraviev won a turkey and set a new club record at the Lucky Strike last Thursday night when she bowled an almost perfect game. Mrs. Zeraviev scored a total of 405 in one game, breaking the previous record of 404 bowled by Hugh Dickie last year. She had spares in her first two frames, scoring 21 on the first spare, then nine strikes and a nine point score on her last ball.

Two Injured in Week End Accidents

William "Bud" Hyde, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hyde, Queen St., had his right leg broken in an automobile accident early Friday evening when the car he was driving swerved from the road and struck a telephone pole.

About twenty years ago, another grocery store in the same premises was destroyed by fire. It was operated by Mr. Matt Clarkson, in the far half of the building. Mr. Clarkson later went to Toronto and operated a grocery store there. Involved three cars at the John Street highway corner. A car proceeding up the highway was driven by Charles Hill, Victoria Street, was in collision with one driven by L. E. Reid, 50 Craigburn Ave., Toronto, who was crossing towards the area. The Reid car swung into Watson Winfield's car which had stopped on John before crossing the highway. All cars were slightly damaged.

THE WEATHER

Table with weather forecast data including Date, Max., Min., and Snow for Dec 18 to Dec 24.

Accident occurred in front of Dr. Charles Sayers residence on the highway and Dr. and Mrs. Sayers carried him into their home and administered first aid until the arrival of Dr. C. V. Williams. He was later removed to St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph where he is resting comfortably. The car was badly damaged.

A number of other week-end accidents occurred in town. A Barry woman, Mrs. Ralph Griddle, suffered a severe laceration to her right hand, lacerated and shocked when a car driven by the husband was in collision with the auto driven by a woman.

Another accident on Christmas morning occurred at the King and Queen Street intersection. Mrs. Mary Smith, 100 Queen St. West, was driving a car and struck a telephone pole.