

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Georgetown, Ont., Wednesday, December 7th, 1955.

SECOND SECTION

Armstrong Acclaimed Mayor For Fifth Term

ALLEN AND NORTON FOR REEVE CLEAVE AND SARGENT FOR DEPUTY

TEN TO CONTEST SIX COUNCIL SEATS

Sixteen candidates are contesting nine public offices in Georgetown, with voters going to the polls next Monday to choose a reeve and a hydro commissioner.

Mayor Jack Armstrong was the only member of council returned by acclamation and will commence his fifth term as mayor in January.

Public school board members Edwin Wilson, Bob Stewardson, and Harry Shortill, whose 2-year terms have expired, were also returned by acclamation.

Seeking a third term as reeve is Stan Allen, who is being opposed in the election by Al Norton, deputy reeve for the past two years.

Two candidates are also in the field for deputy reeve, Doug Sargent, a councillor for four years, and Harold Cleave, a veteran politician out of municipal affairs for several years, who is a former mayor and reeve of the town.

Ten men are contesting the six council seats. Five of these have served for several years as councillors and are seeking reelection, Garfield McGilvray, Thomas I. Lyons, Harry Hale, Irwin Noble and Walter Gray. Others who are in the running are Sam Reid, Fred Harrison, Al Sykes, Ray Whitnee and Lelloy Dale. The latter two have served on council in the past, Mr. Whitnee as a councillor and Mr. Dale as mayor.

Hydro chairman E. W. Binkley, whose two-year term expires this year, is up for reelection. He is being opposed by Alfred DeBeaulieu.

There were three other nominations for council at the meeting last Thursday. Doug Sargent declined in favour of contesting the deputy reeve ship. John Gunn and Fred McNally are not seeking office.

ADRIANNE WADSWORTH ON "PICK THE STARS"

CBC television show last week when Georgetown was publicized on a CBC television show last night when Adrienne Wadsworth was announced as coming from our town.

Known locally as Mrs. Athol Stewart, she actually now lives in the city, but was a Durham Street resident with her husband and family last year in the house at 24 Durham Street where his mother Mrs. H. M. Stewart now lives.

Miss Wadsworth was not lucky enough to be the winner among the five contestants who included three singers, an impersonator and a banjo player. She sang "Scarlet Ribbon" which is included in the repertoire of folk singer Harry Belafonte.

THE NOMINATION MEETING

\$16,500 from the town treasury this year spent on annexing the Delrex area balances against a revenue of \$40,000 from the same area, said Mayor Jack Armstrong when he was questioned by a ratepayer at Thursday's nomination meeting in the public library.

"How much will Delrex cost before the development is in a position to pay its way, if ever?" was the question posed by S. W. Orr, a former councillor and president of the newly formed South West Georgetown Ratepayers Association.

"Take any subdivision, it is difficult to determine costs to the dollar," was the mayor's reply. "I can best answer by citing this year's position, which we know."

The mayor cited \$7500 annexation costs, \$5100 which is paid to Esqueping for taxes on the annexed area, \$3,000 as one-tenth of a new water line which is being paid for by debentures, and an estimate of \$1,000 as administration costs. On the other side of the ledger, he said there is a \$6,000 tax revenue from Delrex, \$4,000 taxes from other annexed properties, not owned by this company, plus a \$30,000 "gift" made by Delrex to keep the 1955 tax rate stable.

The mayor replied in the negative when asked by Mr. Orr if Delrex had posted any bond as a guarantee that commitments would be carried out.

"I would hazard a guess that a bond is represented in sewer and water lines installed at company expense which are now town property — the value of these would be somewhere around two million dollars," said Mr. Armstrong.

"But they're getting a disposal plant, and possibly the town will have to build a larger one, and trunk sewers along Guelph Street and the 9th Line," said Mr. Orr.

Record Crowd

Town clerk John D. Kelly was the chairman for a public meeting which followed the one-hour nomination period. Over a hundred and fifty men and women comprised the largest crowd to attend a nomination meeting in years, and taxed the library auditorium to capacity, with every chair filled and standing room only at the rear of the building.

Mayor Armstrong, in his acceptance speech, expressed his thanks in being returned to office by acclamation for a fifth term, and spoke of the cooperation he had received from the council which have served under him.

He was gratified, he said by the interest shown in municipal affairs by

the large attendance at the meeting, and by formation of three ratepayers groups in town, which can be very helpful to councils in passing on group opinions for consideration by the town's ruling body.

He dwelt in some detail on annexation, the number one point of interest this year. It followed a period when industrial expansion stood still, he said, although Georgetown had been fortunate in having existing industries expand, and in having Varian Associates, Hillite Furniture and Wood-Way Manufacturing join the ranks.

"Councils became concerned over increasing population and not so increasing industry," he said "and expert opinion was that we were getting an overbalance of industrial assessment. It is my hope that Delrex, with its guarantee to maintain a 60-40 balance will help develop our town steadily, with a reasonable tax rate as we increase in size."

Stressing importance of industry, the mayor spoke of an industry which pays \$7,000 in taxes. The same area, with housing replacing the industry, would pay only \$400 in taxes, he said.

The mayor touched briefly on the formation of a civil defence plan under Lt. Col. John H. Barber, and thanked appointed boards who administer such public institutions as the cemetery, arena and high school.

He expressed the regret of Deputy Reeve Allan Norton in not being able to attend the meeting because he was at the warden's dinner. Mr. Norton, he said, had asked him to say that Guelph Street, a problem for years, would be completely resurfaced and widened by next spring, providing a fine traffic artery through the heart of town.

Defends Deficit

"A possible deficit of \$8,000 this year amounts to about 2 per cent of the town budget. I am not ashamed of it. Can we balance our own family budget within 2 per cent," said C. Garfield McGilvray, finance minister for several years, and again a candidate for office.

Mr. McGilvray cited some of the things which threw the budget out of balance, including replacement of provincial police by a town force with capital outlay for equipment and car; higher garbage collection fee because more people have to be served; and anticipated \$6,500 water surplus which failed to materialize.

"I've heard it said that we set the tax rate too low, but we had a method," he said, pointing out that the rate was kept below neighbouring towns in hope of attracting industry to Georgetown. "Give Delrex a chance and we'll be proud of them next year. They have one of the best serviced industrial sites in Ontario."

Mr. McGilvray said that with expansion many expenses had to be debentured. There are no worries here, for assessment is rising to take care of extra costs, and the Municipal Board has raised no objections yet to any town bond issue.

"It was the busiest and most exacting year of my ten on council. I had thought of retiring this year, but there's an adage about changing horses in midstream and I will seek office for another year," said Mr. McGilvray as he announced his decision to run.

Reeve Stan Allen was later in arriving. He too had been attending the warden's dinner in Burlington, but returned to town in time to be the last speaker of the evening.

The reeve, who will be opposed by deputy reeve Allan Norton in the elections, outlined the new water system, in his capacity as water committee chairman.

The half million dollar expansion which adds a second deep well, new pump house and waterworks building is almost ready to go into operation.

"It takes a big load off my mind. Few people know how serious a situation we had early in the year when our one pump broke down and we feared it would have to be sent to California for repairs," said the reeve.

He described a dramatic situation when, with help of the Smith & Stone engineering staff, a Guelph firm and the town works staff the pump had been gutted out after filling Silver-creek reservoir with a reserve water supply, rushed to Guelph where new bearings were installed, and put back in action overnight with no delay in industry and no inconvenience to householders.

An estimated 2,400,000 gallons of water daily can be supplied with the new system, Mr. Allen said, and water lines are being installed of sufficient size to service any foreseeable future expansion. However, it will soon be time to investigate a third source of supply, as the town will know where there is more water to supply the needs of industries which will be locating here in future.

Mr. Allen also touched briefly on his county council work, where he was chairman of the assessment committee and member of the important roads committee.

He mentioned the new county policy of building permanent, hard surface roads and letting some of the maintenance work go on gravel roads. It costs \$1600 a mile yearly.

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