

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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SECOND SECTION

13 SEEK 6 GEORGETOWN COUNCIL SEATS

Mayor Gets Eighth Term Sargent Reeve, Gray Deputy 5 Contest 3 School Bd. Seats

While no top offices are being contested in next Monday's municipal elections, one of the largest slates of council candidates ever to run, plus one of the town's rare elections for public school board, should ensure a large turnout at the polls.

The three top municipal posts were filled by acclamation at Thursday's nomination meeting in Wrigglesworth school auditorium. Jack Armstrong will serve his eighth term as mayor; Doug Sargent and Walter Gray, second terms as reeve and deputy. Other nominees declined to run: Ern Hyde for mayor, Allan Norton for reeve, and Fred Harrison and John Elliott for deputy reeve.

All six 1958 councillors are seeking reelection. Mc-Gilvray, 8 Guelph St., Alfred Sykes, 3 Young St., Ern Hyde, 24 Ewing St., Fred Harrison, Wildwood Terrace, John Gunn, 34 Maple Ave. W., and John Elliott, 48 Hewson Cresc. Newcomers in the field include Bernard Cassell, 12 Windsor Rd., Mrs. Al Currie, 19 Elizabeth St., James H. Emmerson, 20 Margaret St., Mrs. Joe Emmerson, 99 Main St. N., Milton Harker, 16 Arletta St., Pearce Porter, 37 McIntyre Cresc., and John Zorge, 53 Rexway Drive.

Graham Farnell, 19 Albert St., retiring hydro commission chairman, was unopposed in his nomination and will serve another two year term on the commission.

Two members of the 1958 public school board are not standing for election, chairman Ray Salter and Cecil McNamara. Contesting election for the three seats, which carry two year terms, are a present board member, Stan Finlay, 17 Durham St., Herbert Arnold, 59 Henry St., Kelvin Brown, 15 Gibbons Place, Ian Cass, 46 Hewson Cresc., and Ted Francis, 5 Keats Ave. Two other school board nominees declined to qualify, Bob McColgan and Tom Van Sicker.

Wants Town Manager

"We've travelled the same path for years, and now that Georgetown has grown to the size it has, mechanization of our office equipment and other municipal departments should be our goal in 1959," said mayor Armstrong, addressing the audience at a public meeting which followed the close of nominations.

The mayor forecast a year of economy saying next year's council should bend every effort to provide necessary services, while keeping debenture issues to a minimum. Only things of vital interest could be considered for debenture in 1959, he said.

He would like to see consideration next year of a town manager.

"The longer I serve, the more I'm convinced you can't elect a council and expect members to know everything about municipal affairs," he said. "No other business of this size could expect to operate with a part time board of directors."

While not committing himself to an opinion, he said there is sufficient interest locally for council to consider the question of returning to a system of ward voting, and perhaps hold a plebiscite on this at next year's elections.

He spoke in glowing terms of Georgetown as a fine community and exhorted citizens to be missionaries for their town, letting the world know that it is a good place for industry to locate.

Remarking that this was his twelfth appearance as a speaker

at a nomination meeting, he thanked people for the privilege of having served them for that many years as a councillor, deputy reeve and as mayor for seven years. He paid tribute to the present council and to members of appointed boards for efficient handling of their duties.

No member of council is very proud to present you with a \$28,000 deficit in your interim statement," he said, "but you will note that a large share of this has been caused by necessary expenditures in connection with the new Park public school. The town owns 18 building lots which, when sold, will do a lot towards balancing the budget."

In closing his remarks, he introduced a visitor Reeve George Currie of Esquimes.

Promote Industry

Reeve Doug Sargent dwelt mainly with industrial and town planning work in his speech and said every effort must be bent to encouraging new industrial locations in town.

The assessment ratio slipped from 70 percent residential and 30 per cent industrial commercial to 75-25 this year, he said. An active promotion program is being carried out by the new Industrial Commission, which has prepared a brochure, and has been visiting banks, railways and government departments.

"I know their efforts will bear fruit in the future," he predicted. All was not dim in the industrial picture this year, he said.

MAYOR, REEVE, DEPUTY ACCLAIMED



JACK ARMSTRONG



DOUG SARGENT



WALTER GRAY

Jack Armstrong, 23 Parkview Blvd. has been elected by acclamation for an eighth term as Georgetown's mayor. An insurance agent, he is also a member of the hydro commission by virtue of his office.

A Smith & Stone employee, Doug Sargent, 33 Charles St. was unopposed in his bid for a second term as reeve, and will serve the town in this capacity in 1959. Mr. Sargent was chairman of industry, town planning and fire this year.

A councillor-for four years and deputy reeve for one, Walter Gray, 6 Church St. has been acclaimed for a second term. He has served the town in the important post of road chairman for several years.

One new plant, Graham Bell, is not large, but it has a product which is in demand and is a healthy addition to the town. There has been some commercial increase, too, he pointed out, with a block of new stores on Main St. and work begun on the Delrex shopping plaza.

He had hoped that town planning would be more advanced. Early in the year council had approved a zoning by-law which still awaits Municipal Board approval. The delay has been caused by a projected conservation dam on the 9th Line, and until this is definitely located, zoning cannot be finalized. The reeve said he expects the Municipal Board will call a hearing on the by-law sometime in the next few months.

As chairman of the fire department, he complimented department members on their efficiency. Major items there this year had been overhaul of the old pumper and installation of a third siren. Besides this, firemen take part in many public endeavours and had also painted the fire hall, he said.

He mentioned that Halton Centennial Manor, the county home at Wilton for senior citizens, will be doubled in capacity and said that ex-reeve Stan Allen of Georgetown is doing an admirable job as superintendent of the home.

Road Work Review

Road chairman for three of his five years on council, Deputy Reeve Walter Gray reviewed affairs of that important department of civic administration.

He said he would like to see a program of hard surfacing town roads continued in future years, and that he would like to have surfaced even more roads this year, but time and finances limit the council in this respect.

"Three years ago we were far behind in road work, with four subdivisions with only gravel roads, and the new Delrex development in progress. We also had Guelph St. to widen and resurface," he said. "We are doing our very best to keep up with progress and have tried to act wisely in road work."

Mr. Gray said he was proud of the county health unit and gave details of the work of that department which employs two doctors, 18 nurses, 9 sanitary inspectors, a dental hygienist, a part-time dentist and 8 clerks.

The deputy reeve learned later in the meeting that he was elected by acclamation when Crs. Fred Harrison and John Elliott announced their intention of seeking council seats again and

declined their nominations for deputy.

Tax Increase? — No!

"Pessimists keep asking the \$64 question, when will the tax rate go up?" said Cr. Garfield McGillivray, who has been finance chairman for several years. "I don't know, but I can't see a tax rise in the foreseeable future."

Seeking another term of office, Mr. McGillivray said he is young enough to appreciate the town's progress and growth and old enough to have the experience to deal with it.

"This has been one of the most fascinating of my twelve years as a councillor," he said. "I offer no alibis. People have said the tax rate shouldn't have been cut, but I believe taxpayers appreciate a tax cut whenever it is possible and at the start of the year it seemed the sensible thing to do."

The mayor has already explained the cause of the estimated deficit, he said, and he is sure that when roads are into the new park area, the lots will sell well, and next year's budget will balance.

Newer streets are not in as good repair as they might be, he continued, and if reflected he will promote resurfacing of Delrex roads. He also favours new side walks and resurfacing on George St. and installation of street signs in the area of town which doesn't yet have them.

An unanticipated \$8,000.00 discount on bonds sold was another item which threw the 1958 budget out, he said. He is proud of the fact that local citizens brought some \$50,000 in town bonds, showing their faith in Georgetown's future.

Wants Manager, Engineer

Not only a town manager, but a full time engineer as well is needed by the town according to Cr. Alfred Sykes, who also seeks reelection.

Mr. Sykes said that cities like Windsor operate so efficiently that council only holds one meeting a month, while Georgetown has one a week. If there was a town manager, Georgetown could save \$3,000 in council fees alone, he pointed out.

"It is no reflection on Bill Carr when I say we need a full time engineer," he said. (Mr. Carr has served in a part-time capacity for the past year).

"He is a fine man, but I feel we need a man who will not only do the engineering, but will also be available to interview prospective industries and deal with rate-payers' complaints. There seems to be a council faction which is looking for such a man for \$6,000. In my mind the salary should be more like \$10,000. I don't want a schoolboy running the town."

Mr. Sykes said he is perturbed by the tender prices received for the park lots.

"People must think council are a bunch of knuckleheads to offer as little as \$300 for lots which are worth many times more," he said. "If we can't get better offers we'll use the land for parks, for we certainly won't sell valuable property for that kind of money."

As public works chairman, he said planning for the new sewage disposal plant, and introduction of a new garbage system where a contractor looks after both collection and disposal were the year's highlights.

Spend Money on Park

More attention to keeping park (continued on Page 4)

Change System, Now Send Seal Donations to Oakville

Letters are now being received locally for the annual Christmas Seal sale of Halton TB & Health association.

For the first time since the association was formed several years ago, there has been a departure from the custom of having banks act as receiving agents for donations. This year, donors are asked to mail their contributions directly to Oakville headquarters. The decision was made, because of heavy overlapping of follow-up letters, which are costly in dollars and time to the secretarial staff.

The association concerns itself with the progress of some 35 Halton residents who are taking treatment in sanitarium or post-discharge treatment. Lately a part-time social worker has been engaged, Mrs. G. P. McAleer.

Besides the individual attention given to patients, the association has made substantial contributions to hospitals. This year, a \$2,000 gift was made to the new Milton hospital to equip a TB clinic. A similar gift is planned for the proposed Georgetown hospital for an x-ray clinic.



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