

Candidates Present Platforms Meeting After Nominations

14 Candidates Seek Vote Support Monday

Eighteen civic officials, most of them seeking office in the December elections, others already elected by acclamation, were on the speakers' platform at a public meeting which followed the official nomination period last week.

The meeting in the auditorium of Wrigglesworth public school, was chaired by Cecil Davidson. It was well attended, and featured a number of questions from the audience, particularly from members of the Georgetown Civic Group who had come prepared to question candidates on a number of topical issues.

This year, for the first time in the town's history, voters will be choosing a council which will serve for two years. A recent by-law was passed setting two-year terms in all civic elected offices.

The mayoralty race, with three experienced politicians speaking office, should ensure a large turnout on election day.

Candidates here are the present mayor, Joseph Gibbons, a present councillor and past mayor, Ernest Hyde, and a past reeve, John Elliott.

Two men are contesting the deputy-reveanship, a present councillor Arthur Speight, and a past councillor James H. Emerson.

The other top council office has already been decided with Reeve Wm. F. Hunter returned by acclamation.

Each of the three wards has three men contesting the two offices available. In Ward-1, a present councillor Wheldon (Steamer) Emerson, a past councillor Robert Francis and Ralph Hawes, who was a candidate last year are running for office. In Ward 2 present councillor Fred (Tut) Harrison, present deputy reeve Jim Young and John Hole, also a candidate last year, are council contestants. In Ward 3, candidates are two present councillors, Roy Ballentine and Wm. R. (Bill) Smith and Albert Tuel.

John T. Armstrong and Gerald McCallum have been re-elected by acclamation as hydro commissioners.

And the entire public school board was returned by acclamation. John Mintern, Stan Finlay, Harry Shortill, Gordon Sigurdson, Reg Mooney, Ed Wilson, Chris Walker and Grant Greenaway.

Sees Tax Reduction
Mayor Joseph Gibbons is basing his campaign on the fact that in his two terms of office, taxes have been held steady while there had been annual increases in the seven prior years.

"It may well be that we can reduce taxes next year," he told the audience. "A stable tax rate has a far-reaching effect not only on the dollars saved by residents, but by encouraging industrial locations which helps to reduce taxes still more."

He said he is opposed to the two-year term which voters had turned down at the polls only a few years ago. And he criticized the erection of an overhead water tower this year.

He said he would like to terminate his municipal career by being mayor during centennial year, and that he will continue to serve feebly, honestly and independently for another term of office.

Hold Mill Rate
Ernest Hyde, a Ward 1 councillor this year, and a past mayor of the town, said that as finance chairman this year he had felt it imperative to hold the mill rate.

Although no contingency reserve had been allowed in the budget, he said revenue had been increased by increasing fees for building permits. With an apparent small surplus forecast, he said the town should be able to keep the same tax rate while still improving services.

Mr. Hyde said he favours a water commission and elections by general vote, a question which will be asked in a plebiscite Dec. 8th. He criticized a planned 4-lane bridge on Mountainview Road and favours altering the design to one lane north and two south.

Answering critics of a proposed new highway location for the police office, he reminded the audience that he had been instrumental in purchasing the old post office for \$18,000 and it would have been an ideal police location. He had found

little support for his proposal this year for a building on Westway Street, and said the problem now must be faced and a location found.

He also had opposed a council majority who voted in the two year term, he said.

Qualified For Job
John Elliott pointed to a record of past service as a town and county councillor as qualifying him for the job of mayor.

"I gave up the wardenship of the county last year to run for mayor because I thought it was my duty," he said. "I'll continue to run for this office as long as my supporters have faith in me."

Although defeated last year, he said he had attended almost every council meeting, and has served the public as an ambulance volunteer, TB clinic chairman and vice president of the county Children's Aid.

He criticized council foisting a two-year term on the ratepayers, and queried why the Mountainview bridge had not been improved, despite inclusion in the budget.

He said council had allowed what would have been Georgetown's largest factory slip through its fingers and said there should have been an industrial commission to negotiate with the John Inglis company when it was eyeing the town.

Early striking of a tax rate was unwise before boards had submitted their budgets, he said, and had caused house payments to go up in some areas.

There is no new police building, and no submission was made to the Plunkett report, he said.

He said he would get part time leave of absence from his position to prepare a five year plan of action, investigate hiring a town manager, and boost municipal salaries. A bandshell for the Citizens Band and plans for the 1967 Centennial are also in his election platform.

Ontario Street In Spring
Reeve Hunter, in strict review of his year as road chairman, explained that the Ontario St. improvement had to be delayed, but funds have been allocated for an immediate start in the spring.

"I'm pushing hard for the Mountainview bridge," he said. There had been delays in some projects planned because of the town being without an engineer for a few important months, and the time necessary for a new engineer to familiarize himself with the position, he said.

He indicated the county will assist in reconstructing Maple Avenue next year, and said he favours installing floodlights in the park so the ball team does not have to play its games in Glen Williams.

Water Tower Asset
Arthur Speight, a candidate for deputy reeve, defended erection of the water tower and said that a delay would have hindered the unprecedented growth which is taking place in town.

"We will need a new water well next year," he said, "and we should be exploring new sources of supply so we won't be in the position of our Brampton neighbours."

He said an iron removal plant presently being constructed is the only answer for a rust problem, and it will improve the chlorination system at the same time.

Mr. Speight said he does not favour setting a budget without a contingency fund and only a fortunate set of circumstances this year had brought in the extra revenue necessary to balance the budget. He would like to see the town accumulate a sufficient reserve where bank borrowing would not be needed.

He urged voters to support establishment of a separate water commission divorced from municipal politics. He has strongly supported a new Mountainview bridge and hopes to help finalize this next year.

He used this as an example of why councils need longer terms than one year to get things accomplished.

"Last year only 41% of the people voted, which meant 59% gave council carte blanche, saying they were satisfied or didn't

know," he said. "Some of the 41% favour a two year term so I think we were justified in bringing it in."

Get Retarded Grants
Candidate for deputy reeve James H. Emerson said one of his proudest accomplishments during his four years on council was his interest in schools for retarded children.

"It was a motion from Georgetown council, supported by Action and Milton which led to government grants," he said. "We don't go after our senior governments often enough."

Defeated last year by only six votes, he said he had asked a recount of his own expense for the benefit of both the people who voted for and against him.

He levelled criticism at council for letting solution of a disputed road subsidy hang on so long.

Beautify Town
Beautification of Georgetown as a centennial project was urged by Wheldon (Steamer) Emerson, who is seeking re-election as a Ward 1 councillor.

Mr. Emerson said he is disturbed about the untidy appearance of the highway approach to town, particularly and urged a program of keeping garbage strewn along the highway cleaned up.

A separate police commission and reestablishment of an industrial commission are two more items which he would like to see considered. And he said council should have more discussions with appointed boards and commissions, rather than just getting together at budget time.

Running Again
Absent for a year from council when he declined to seek office last year, Robert Francis told the audience that he considers this an important election because voters are choosing men who will serve them for two years.

"Municipal affairs have been progressing well these past few years and I hope to help keep it this way if elected," he said.

Also a council candidate in Ward 1, Ralph Hawes is making his second bid for the office. He was not able to attend the nomination meeting, but sent word that he would be contesting the seat.

Majority Rules
"Don't let anyone tell you they are responsible for this or that as a councillor," said Fred (Tut) Harrison. "Council decisions are a majority and not the decisions of any one man."

Mr. Harrison, seeking re-election in Ward 2, said he has always tried to do for the voters what they would do for themselves in the same position.

He said he had queried buying a highway site for the police office because those who favoured this had no specific information about the amount of land being purchased, and in fact were not dealing with the owner.

60-40 Close
Explaining that a new position would make it impossible for him to spare the extra time membership in county council demands, Jim Young said he is running as a Ward 2 council candidate this year.

He said that in his nomination speech last year three predictions have come true — new industry, no wholesale house building and arrival at the 60-40 industrial-residential ratio.

"We will add two million dollars in industrial assessment by early next year, and this will mean 40% industrial assessment," he said. "This year there have been 48 new homes built, all in the \$18,000 to \$20,000 range."

He attributed all of this to the agreement reached a year ago with the owner of a large area of land in east Georgetown.

Mr. Young, who is police

chairman this year, said he is proud of the success which has proved the best of the promises I have heard from others tonight," said John Hole.

Mr. Hole is seeking one of the two council seats in Ward 2.

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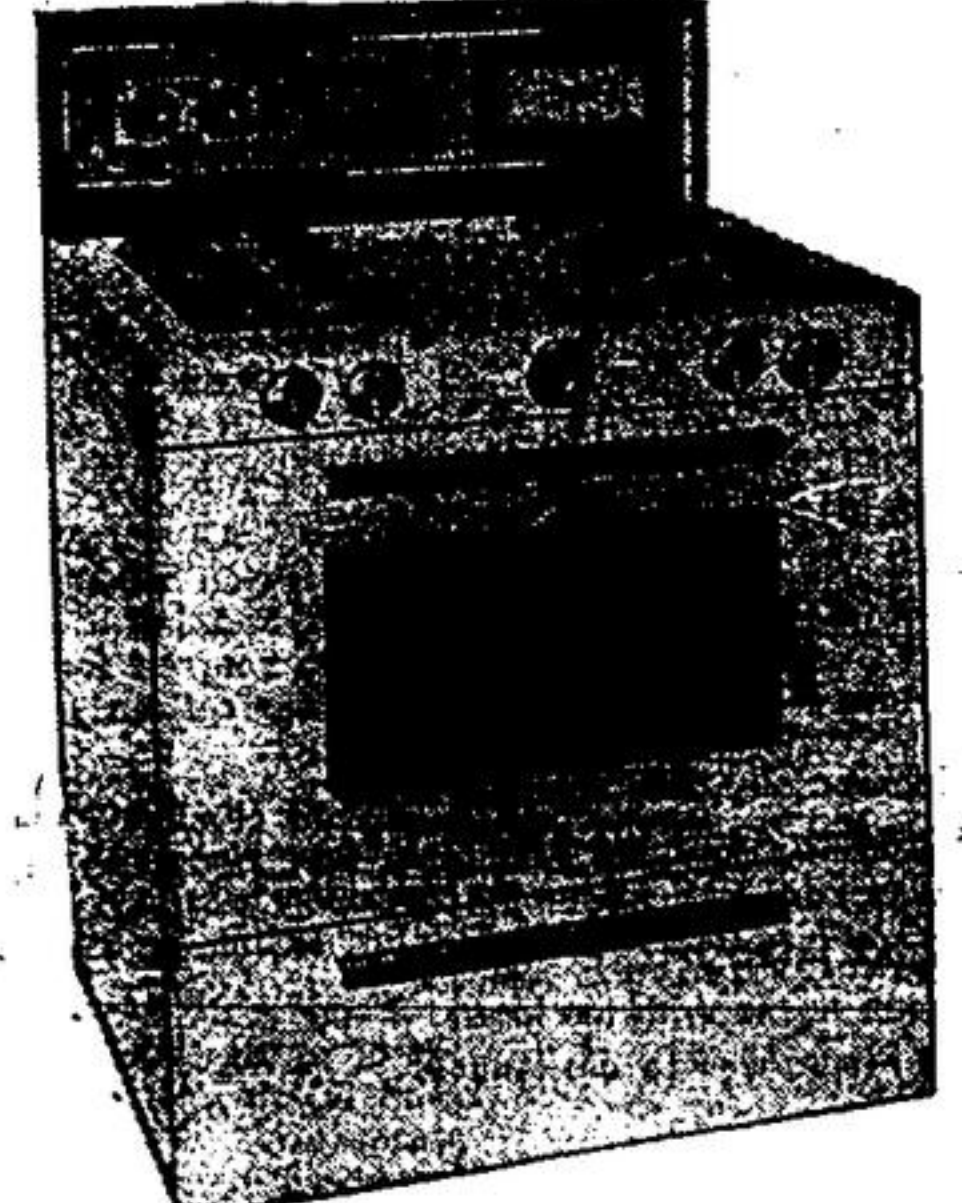
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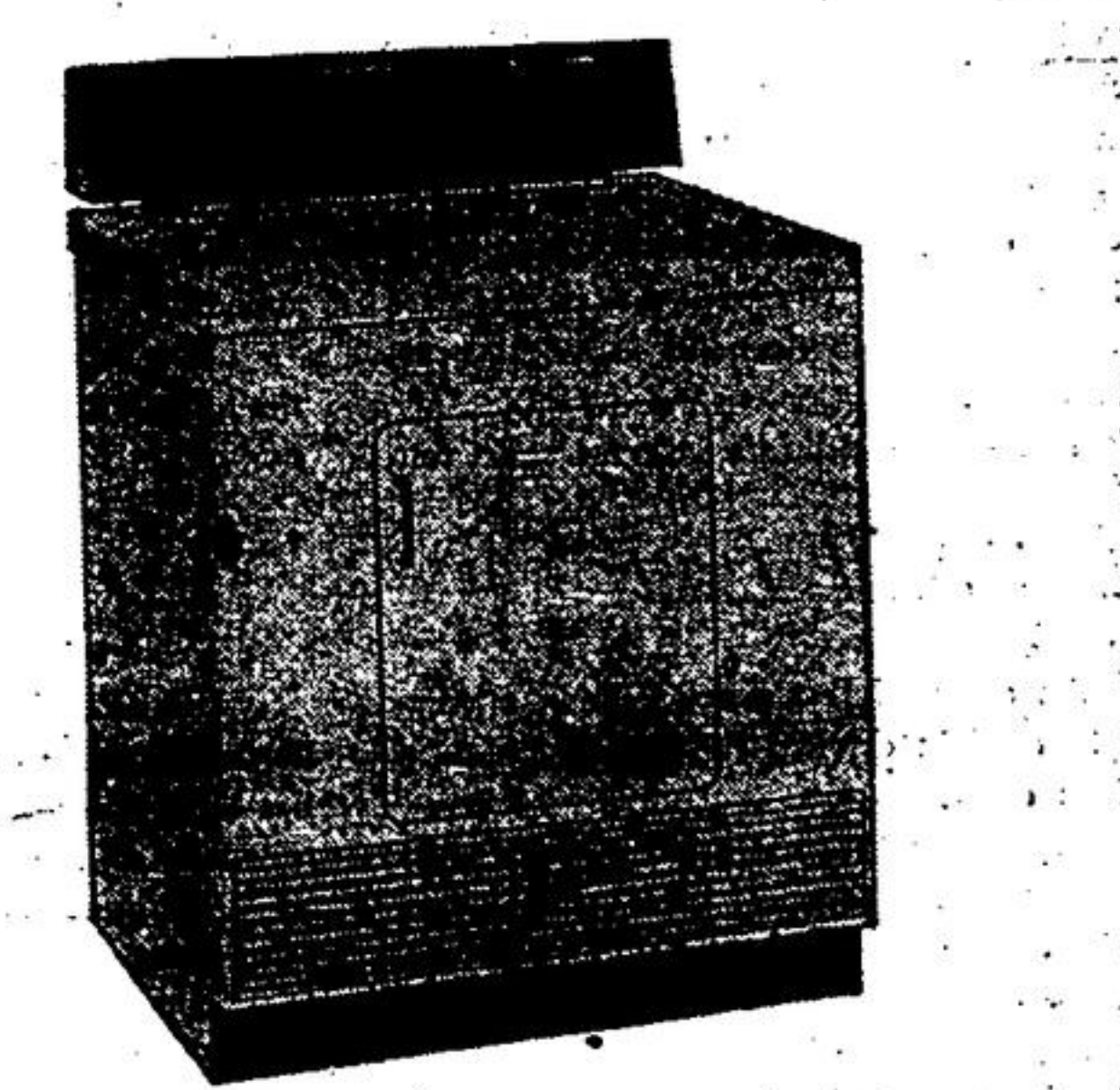
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