

# Civic Group Hears Outline of "Town Manager" System

At the same time as Council approved the appointment of Donald MacDonald as Clerk-Administrator, the Georgetown District Civic Group heard an outline of the "Town Manager" type of administration, based on material supplied by the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association, and by the "Municipal World" magazine.

The original City Manager movement started in Sumner, N. Carolina, in 1912, and Westmount, P.Q., was the first Canadian city to adopt it, in 1916. Since then it has been extended to 80 cities and towns in Canada, catering to a population of over 2 million. In Ontario, 25 municipalities have a Manager or Administrator, serving more than a million people; Toronto Township, Vaughan Twp., Oakville, Galt, Guelph, and Kitchener among them.

## SOME ADVANTAGES

The Manager's responsibilities are normally spelled out in a by-law, differing in detail from one town to another, but in most cases substantially the same. They include responsibility for general administration, budgetary control in accordance with Council's policies, labour relations, including salary negotiations and hiring and firing below department head level, and purchasing.

Some of the advantages claimed for the system by Mayors and Councilors who have worked with both systems are:

- Better briefing of councillors on topics requiring decisions can be consolidated, and where there are areas of conflict these can be clearly identified.
- Freer councillors from administrative duties leaves them time to study the real policy issues, and to maintain contact with their electorate.
- Council and committee meetings can be reduced in length and frequency, thus opening up a wider field of candidates for office.
- Councillors who are not responsible for hiring and firing are relieved from the pressures of patronage in filling town appointments, and the standard of recruitment is improved.
- Labour relations, because they can be given more than part time attention, improve, and salary and wage negotiations are more speedily settled.
- Purchasing economies alone may save the administrator's salary.
- Municipal service becomes a more attractive career with senior administrative positions available, and attracts superior talent.
- NO ENCOURAGEMENT

Government, which seemed to fear adverse public reaction to a concentration of administrative power, with its possible dictatorship. In practice this reaction has not occurred in the towns which have changed over, but the possibility of dictatorship does exist. To avoid this, it must be clearly understood that Council is responsible for policy, and the Manager for administration, and in cases of doubt about the dividing line between them, Council must decide. In addition, councillors should keep in close touch with their electorate so that any incipient problems in this area can be checked.

Several commentators felt that the danger of the Manager taking policy decisions was over-emphasized — that the Manager knew where the but-

ter on his bread came from, and would not risk losing it. A more real danger was that Council might evade responsibility for unpopular policy decisions by pushing them on to the Manager; or that they would be unwilling to relinquish control over administrative matters if they could gain any electoral advantage by hanging on to them.

The Mayor of Windsor's summing up — "Much depends on the personality and ability of the Manager. On the other hand the best of Managers will be completely frustrated, without an understanding and co-operative council. Each must thoroughly understand the role of the other. The City Manager system is not a panacea for all the ills of municipal government."

## HORNBURY

### Drew-Brook, Royce are St. Stephen's Wardens

The annual vestry meeting of St. Stephen's Anglican Church was held on Monday evening, January 22nd. The year's report of church activities and election of officers were included in the agenda. Mrs. Irene Saunders was returned as vestry clerk; Kenneth Whaley retired as the rector's warden and was replaced by Geoffrey Drew-Brook; Craig Royce was returned as People's Warden and the church treasurer. Bob Cookson was also returned. Officers on the advisory board as follows: Lay delegate, Kenneth Whaley; substitute, Frank Chisholm; organist, Mrs. Ann Bye; returned for another year, Craig Royce, Geoffrey Drew-Brook, Kenneth Whaley, Bob Cookson, Mrs. Irene Saunders, Stanley Waters, Russell Cole, Lorne Northcote, Floyd Bridgen, Frank Chisholm, John Bradley and John Russell concludes the officers of the advisory board.

The annual meeting of St. Stephen's Anglican Church Women was held at the home of Mrs. James Maxwell, on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25th. Mrs. Frank Weller, the president, opened the meeting with the usual prayers and welcomed the eight ladies present. Mrs. Lydia Royce, was in charge of the Scripture reading taken from Psalm 14-15. The annual reports were given by the secretary, Mrs. Ernest Price; Rev. Canon J. E. Maxwell, presided for the election of officers which are as follows: President Mrs. Frank Weller; vice president Mrs. T. E. Robinson; secretary Mrs. Ernest Price; Living Message Secretary, Mrs. Wollor; United Thank Offering Secretary, Mrs. Carl Saunders; Family Life Dept. Mrs. Lydia Royce; Social Service, Mrs. Mary Bradley; Auditors, Mrs. Carl Saunders and Mrs. Labell Catcher. The meeting closed with prayer followed by lunch.

## NO ENCOURAGEMENT

The Manager type administration has grown without any encouragement from the Provincial Government.

low, Valerie Ella. A very attractive bride's hat of various coloured ribbons and bows was made by Jan Hall. Following the opening of the gifts Wilma extended her sincere thanks to everyone for the many lovely and useful gifts she had received. An invitation was also extended to everyone to attend her Trouseau Tea which will be held on February 10th, at the home of her parents. Lunch was served by the conveners, Mrs. Frank Hall and Mrs. Paul May assisted by Mrs. Elmer May.

Birthdays are extended to the following who are celebrating Birthdays Nancy Patterson and Janet Hill on February 4th and Mrs. John Wallace on February 5th.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of the late Homer McCann, who died suddenly on Wednesday morning, January 24th, in the Oakville - Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Elsie Bloor, of Malton spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Plant.

## 47 Lives Lost in Halton 1967 Traffic Fatalities

A statistical report on fatal accidents within Halton County compiled and released by Crown Attorney Peter K. McWilliams show 47 people lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents in Halton County during 1967.

with particular regard to sight lines at intersections, width of bridges and shoulders, as to conform to current design standards.

Eight of the 17 drinking drivers were killed, and 21 of the 47 fatal crashes involved drinking drivers.

The score includes seven double, one triple, and one quadruple fatalities.

In 1966 only 27 perished in highway accidents but in 1965 the figure stood at 40.

Those killed include 19 drivers, 10 passengers, six pedestrians and three cyclists (motorcycle). Seven drivers with a blood alcohol reading of over .05 per cent were involved in accidents in which all seven drivers and four other people died.

Six people died after being thrown from their cars, three died of steering column injuries, and none of the three motorcycles were wearing a crash helmet, although only one died of head injuries.

While in accidents, where the vehicle was demolished a seat belt would have made little difference, none of the occupants of death-cars wore seat belts.

Five pedestrians died, of which three were at fault, and one was struck by a drinking driver.

Three accidents accounted for six fatalities, all at crossings unprotected by signals.

The number of collisions in overtaking vehicles increased from one to five. One of them, a double fatality, was caused by a drinking driver. Another double fatality was partly the result of the limited visibility at an intersection which is inadequate for present day speeds.

In its summary, the report called for a general review by the county and local municipalities of the adequacy of their roads for present day traffic.

Anniversary greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Saliba, who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on Monday, Feb. 5th.

Friends in this district will be pleased to hear that John Russell is improved considerably and is expected home soon.

Correction: I wish to correct an error in last week's column where it should have read that Shawn Ella, was two years old instead of one.

Friends and school pals gathered at the North Trafalgar Community Centre on Friday night, January 26th, to honor Miss Wilma Mason, a bride to be with a miscellaneous shower. The first part of the evening was spent playing various games which were won by Ann Martin and Dianne Break. A card game was played with the lucky winners being Mrs. Carl Cook, Mrs. Ken Ella and Mrs. Douglas Wood. Following the entertainment Wilma was called to the guest chair which was decorated with pink streamers and a pink umbrella hovering above her head. The wall behind the gift table was decorated with white wedding bells and streamers. Wilma was assisted on opening her gifts by her sister Ruth and her future sister-in-

law, Valerie Ella. A very attractive bride's hat of various coloured ribbons and bows was made by Jan Hall. Following the opening of the gifts Wilma extended her sincere thanks to everyone for the many lovely and useful gifts she had received. An invitation was also extended to everyone to attend her Trouseau Tea which will be held on February 10th, at the home of her parents. Lunch was served by the conveners, Mrs. Frank Hall and Mrs. Paul May assisted by Mrs. Elmer May.



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## Jury Recommends County Have Signals at All R.R. Crossings

A coroner's jury last Wednesday called for an end to delays in equipping railway crossings with warning signals — delays that may have caused the Christmas Eve deaths of two Milton teens.

Equipping Township clerk K. C. Lindsay told the jury probing the deaths of Michael Wood and Brenda Phelps, killed when their car was struck by a train at Manswood on Old Campbellville Rd. that the order to install warning signals had come from the Canadian Transport Commission more than a month before the accident.

But the railway had been given 10 months to comply with the order, he said, and even the CTC decision and resulting directive Nov. 17 came a full eight months after the township had applied for signals at the crossing.

Why the driver of the car showed no sign of hearing the train's whistle and bell remains a mystery, although the Zanatta couple testified they both saw the train, but do not remember hearing it.

Normal Hearing  
William Wood, the dead boy's father, testified his son was an expert driver for his age with normal eyesight and hearing, and that his car was not equipped with a radio.

Blood tests conducted at the Centre for Forensic Sciences in Toronto revealed neither victim had been drinking.

In his remarks to the jury before they retired to render their decision, Halton coroner Peter McWilliams said there is also no evidence to support any suspicion that suicide was involved, since both victims were in excellent spirits, successful both academically and socially.

No Extension  
"It is to be hoped there will be no such extension granted on the 10 months allowed on this crossing as there was on the Fourth Line," he said.

He also asked the jury to remember there are still several crossings in the county unprotected by signals, adding: "Municipalities have to pay such a small percentage of the cost of installing signals, it is doubtful whether it would break the townships to improve all their crossings."

The Manswood crossing, like the Nassagaweya crossing at which the Campbellville boys were killed, was equipped only with standard unlighted warning signs.

A traffic study conducted by the township last April showed an average of 350 cars and 30 trains per day use the crossing.

Stolen Cars  
One sixth of all cars stolen in North America become involved in accidents in a matter of hours or days after their theft.

Lack of Signals  
The jury ruled the accident resulted from inattention by the driver and from the lack of warning signals at the crossing.

They recommended warning signals at every crossing in the county, and that installation of signals at this particular crossing be expedited.

The jury's decision that Wood the driver, was inattentive is based on testimony from the train's fireman and brakeman and from Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Zanatta, a Milton couple who were driving behind the Wood car and witnessed the crash.

All four witnesses said it was obvious when the car was 100 feet from the track that it was not going to stop, and although the train crew said the train's whistle and bell were sounding and its headlight was on, all four witnesses said the driver kept his eyes straight ahead, seeming unaware of the train's approach.

Girl Hidden  
The four also concurred in their testimony that the Phelps girl was not visible in the car. All said they were surprised to find two victims instead of one lying near the wreckage.

Engineer Bruce Dunlop said he threw his braking mechanism into emergency stop when alerted by his fireman and brakeman 200 feet from the crossing. But the train, a 78-car freight pulled by three engines took 80 car lengths to stop.

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