

Meet the candidates

Esqueusing candidates field ratepayers' questions

Esqueusing township's future under regional government, re-assessment of property at 100 per cent market value, controlled development, Esqueusing's withdrawal from a fire protection agreement with Georgetown and the condition of township roads were popular topics for questions aimed at candidates for reeve, deputy-reeve and council at a "Meet the Candidates" night in Stewarttown School, Tuesday night.

Believed to be the first night of its kind ever held in the township, the meeting was organized by ratepayers in the 17 Sideroad area and chaired by Halton County Board of Education administrator John Lenz, a former principal at the school.

All candidates attend

All 11 candidates for office took advantage of the opportunity to address voters and answer questions. About 180 attended. Noticeable by their absence were questions about the Golden Horseshoe Dragway near Acton. Esqueusing council's decision to permit construction of the dragway was hotly disputed by ratepayers in the northern end of the township last January. A total of 27 questions were asked before the 10.30 deadline set down by the chairman.

First candidate, Malcolm Freeman running for reeve, said the township must adopt a forward look in planning. He felt his experience as manager of a Georgetown firm would aid him in finding out why decisions are being made, if elected.

Blames province

Accused by one questioner of failing to take a stand on issues, Mr. Freeman said he couldn't blame the present council

entirely for the poor condition of township roads. Slowness in completing reconstruction of Highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown has increased traffic on township roads, he conceded. At the same time he advocated commencement of a program to chip and tar all roads in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Freeman also questioned location of the new fire hall, between two sets of railway tracks and said council must see that the drag strip is controlled and by-laws enforced. He said he definitely would be willing to lead Esqueusing into regional government and would try to see that the township gets the best possible deal.

Deputy-reeve Tom Hill, opposing Mr. Freeman for the reeve's chair, told ratepayers he would like to see a Halton only region, as opposed to a Halton-Peel region, under regional government. In a Halton-Peel region Esqueusing would be saddled with debenture debts from other municipalities such as Mississauga, he claimed. The township's debenture debt is only \$50,000.

Brief presentation big factor

The deputy-reeve said county council's presentation of a brief to Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough was the chief reason regional government in Halton has been temporarily postponed.

Mr. Hill also said he would like to see the face of the Niagara Escarpment preserved. He

opposed any further damaging of the escarpment.

Peter Bowman, candidate for deputy-reeve, said he was not opposed to drag racing, but definitely was against location of the Golden Horseshoe Dragway "in his backyard". He felt other ratepayers would oppose location of a dragway near them. Council has by-laws but has no way of enforcing them, he charged.

Mr. Bowman said road conditions in the township could be improved by the use of better gravel and machinery and better productivity.

Should have parkland

Esqueusing should have its own recreational facilities, artificial ice rinks, parkland etc. Instead of having to pay grants to Acton, Georgetown and Milton, he said.

Councillor Ken Marshall, also in the race for deputy-reeve, said there's no reason Esqueusing should be saddled with large debenture debts incurred by municipalities in Peel County if Halton and Peel are included in one region under regional government.

The township's agricultural holding by-law must be replaced as quickly as possible with an official plan and zoning by-law, he said.

He said recommendations contained in a report to Minister of Mines Allan Lawrence will eventually control blasting and quarry trucks travelling township roads.

Third candidate for deputy-reeve, councillor Russell Miller said his platform is his past record. Decision to withdraw from a fire protection agreement with Georgetown was made by the whole council and will probably save taxpayers money in the long run, he said.

Mentions official plan

Mr. Miller mentioned the present council's efforts on the official plan and construction of a bridge on 17 Sideroad in 1969 and the Fourth Line in 1970. He said he would continue to work to the best of his ability if elected and hoped to serve on county council.

First candidate for council to speak, Ward Brownridge said his interest in municipal affairs has developed over many years. An auctioneer, Mr. Brownridge felt he could offer some business experience to council, a prime concern to ratepayers.

Mr. Brownridge denied expressing the sentiment old-timers should have all the say and newcomers should be seen and not heard.

"We can't keep the area strictly rural, but if we're going to have development let's have it controlled," he said.

Calls for representative council

Len Coxe, a painter and decorator called for election of a council that represents the majority of the ratepayers not just a majority of the voters. Ratepayers are mature enough to realize they can't have their own way all the time, he felt. He hoped they would accept a fair answer to problems.

On the subject of preservation and conservation, Mr. Coxe said he hoped introduction of the township's planning by-law

would eliminate such things as planting trees on 100 acres of arable land and letting rock land go free.

Richard Howitt, a lawyer, told ratepayers an amendment to the Municipal Act recently passed by the provincial government will give municipal councils power to phase out over a period of five years tax increases that will result from reassessment of property at 100 per cent market value.

Must channel development

Assessment from new industries is important, he conceded, but is the tax benefit going to outweigh other factors such as ravaging of the land? he wondered. "Development can't be stopped but it must be channelled in the right direction," he warned.

Mr. Howitt also said he would support Ontario Federation of Agriculture's approach to the provincial government to have the cost of education removed from property tax.

For the most part township roads are not in bad condition, he told ratepayers. He said he doesn't want to see all township roads paved. "I want to keep a bit or rural Canada," he concluded.

Hopes to maintain agriculture

J. Elwood Snow, a farmer, said he would serve ratepayers to the best of his ability if elected. He said he was concerned about the future of agriculture in Esqueusing and promised to strive for better relationship between rural and urban living.

In answer to a question from one ratepayer, Mr. Snow said he felt he would be able to vote on controversial roads issues without a conflict of interest.

He also said he is keenly interested in updating of the educational system.



CONSTRUCTION STARTED on a small plaza at the corner of Churchill Road S. and Queen St., beside the Brewers' Retail store. The plaza will consist of five stores and it is anticipated the largest will be occupied by a Becker's Milk outlet. Entrance to the stores will be on Queen. —(Staff Photo)

Police report charges, fines

During our reporting week of Nov. 22 to Nov. 29, a total of seven general occurrences were investigated. Six of the occurrences were of a minor nature and needed little investigation. A local man was charged with "Possession of a Dangerous Weapon" and a shotgun was seized as a result of the complaint.

There were three property damage accidents investigated; the estimate of the damage is \$975. It would seem that drivers will not adjust to bad weather driving. Sixteen summonses were issued and 19 warnings given for various traffic infractions.

In the Provincial Court on November 23, nine convictions were registered which realized fines in the amount of \$423. A local youth was sentenced to a term in the House of Concord, and another received a term of one year's probation and a \$200 fine.

Motorists! What does the phrase "Drive Carefully" mean to you? Its real meaning, Drive

Carefully, means pay attention, adjust your speed to road, weather and traffic conditions, observe the regulations, cooperate with others, and always stay alert. Don't forget, if you drive carefully, you're a whole lot safer.


The festive season is less than a month away. This is a time when we want to be together with our families. Don't let an accident separate you from yours.

TOWING
RICH'S SERVICE CENTRE
 No. 7 HWY. EAST OF ACTON
853-2940

VOTE
 J.D.
WATSON X
 FOR COUNCIL
 IN NASSAGAWEYA

- greater staff support
- council stability
- action on people's concerns
- clearer county-township communications


Ward
 Brownridge
 For
COUNCIL
 Esqueusing
 Township



RE-ELECT
WILF McEACHERN
 TO
HYDRO COMMISSION
 • 6 YEARS EXPERIENCE

With the interest of all Hydro Consumers and Ratepayers in mind at all times.

RE-ELECT
EARL MASALES
 DECEMBER 7



V O T E V O T E

TO ACTON COUNCIL
 "LET'S KEEP EXPERIENCE WORKING"

MASALES - X

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