

14 seek election in Eramosa township

The crowd was sparse at Monday's Meet the Candidates Night held at Rockwood Centennial public school. Jimmie Milne, president of the Lions Club, as chairman introduced candidates seeking village or township positions in the December 2 election for Eramosa.

First introduced were those from Eden Mills. Four nominees are contesting seats on the three-man trustee board of the police village, but only three were able to be present. First speaker of the evening was Betty Marshall who, before presenting her own reasons for running as Eden Mills trustee, read a letter from the incumbent Harold Tomlinson.

Harold Tomlinson Mr. Tomlinson sent his regrets that due to a previous commitment he was unable to attend. He wrote however, that, after serving in the Navy he had settled in Eden Mills and raised a family of four. "I am a member of the United Church, an active member of the community club and for some time was club leader," he said. Mr. Tomlinson has served as village trustee in previous years as well as just completing a two year term as chairman of the trustees. He said he has always taken an interest in the village.

Betty Marshall Betty Marshall's reason for moving into village politics is her concern regarding the lack of bus transportation in Eden Mills. "Since the bus service was discontinued a few months ago, we're like an isolated community," she said. Mrs. Marshall explained with no bus service, the one-car family or non-driver, has to rely on the generosity of neighbors. She feels the service is an important one and worthy of consideration.

Mrs. Marshall pointed out that she has been an interested member of the community for 25 years. "I have been active in the Community Club, Women's Institute, the Home and School Association involving both Eden Mills and Rockwood and in the Cubs, as a leader for 11 years." She said she is a homemaker, the mother of four children and employed at Eden House Nursing Home as a recreationist.

Mrs. Marshall said she has enjoyed every year spent in Eden Mills. "I hope, with your support," she added, "to be able to help maintain the life style of our community."



Mark Moore

Mark Moore explained himself as a relative newcomer to Eden Mills who moved there two years ago. Living in the old stone hotel across from John Turner's grocery store, Mr. Moore sees the village life-style as one important to retain. He said he feels the environment is a healthy one in which to raise children and enjoys the friendliness of a small community when walking down the street on a Saturday morning. He is impressed at the unity working together on projects, such as the community centre.

"I would like to see Eden Mills stay the way it is," he said, but explained that that was not to be interpreted as meaning he was anti-growth. With a background as an accountant, the candidate said he was very conscious of money, particularly of other people's money. He said that each situation requiring attention must be looked at individually but that he would be interested in avoiding extra expenses which would incur too much tax burden for the villagers he would like to represent.

J. Elwood Snow J. Elwood Snow presented himself as a self-employed carpenter who had moved into the village of Eden Mills two years ago from Essex township. He said he had been born and raised on a farm and, when he gave it up two years ago, surveyed from Orillia to Peterboro before deciding on Eden Mills as the place he wanted to live. The father of three boys and two girls he said he has a family interest in the community. He explained that, as a self-employed, semi-retired person he feels he has the time to devote to village business. "I would like to

offer my services to the village," he said and feels that, in his situation, he could serve well on the board of trustees.

Rockwood trustees Four candidates representing Rockwood spoke at the Tuesday meeting. With the decision of last year's chairman, Gary Bateman and that of trustee Bob Leslie, not to run for this year's board, only one incumbent presented his platform and three others, two of whom are veritable newcomers to the village.



Pat Smith

Next speaker, Pat Smith, Main St., is a writer and photographer. Mr. Smith said he'd moved into the village a year, a month and 19 days ago but that he had been trying to move to Rockwood for ten years. He said he had become interested in village politics about three months ago when he first realized there could be some deep-scale development in the village. Mr. Smith had earlier informed some Rockwood residents that he believes, although growth in the village could be inevitable, it can be controlled through planning. "It takes a great deal of hard work and sincere concern by everyone and particularly your elected officials both within the village and throughout the township," he said. Mr. Smith pointed out that the most effective tool is to elect those people who share your point of view.

He described himself as a creditable candidate and certainly a sincere candidate who would like those attending the meeting, to vote for him.

Audrey Bilton Audrey Bilton explained she has lived in the village 12 years and has seen it gradually changing in a different picture as new homes fill in places which, only recently were rustic areas. She said she was concerned about over-night growth and what it could mean to the small businesses in the village. "Let's keep the hustle and bustle of expansion in the cities," she said.

Mrs. Bilton was also in favor of scrapping the idea of a sewerage and water facility but felt more investigation should be made on the new recycling systems. "By-laws are another problem I feel should be looked into," she said and explained that a building by-law, and other ones for parking, dog control and keeping the village clean, should also be considered. She felt there should be more communication between trustees and people. She said residents should be informed as to when meetings are held. "It is the trustees' responsibility to listen to everyone," she said and suggested they should be prepared to listen to both sides of every question.

Bert Smith The incumbent Bert Smith gave a run-down on village trustee accomplishments during the past year listing higher costs of hydro. He said sewerage and water installations were major considerations.

He said that, if costs are too high on the proposed system as passed by the O.M.B. then some other system will have to be considered which will benefit everyone. Mr. Smith felt there should be more communication between township council and the village of Rockwood so that the trustees know what's

going on. He said he felt the building inspector should be a watchdog for the township council and prepared to enforce building by-laws. Asked what his feeling was about new homes in the village Mr. Smith said, "The village trustees can't give them any support at the present time. We can't because they depend on water and sewerage installations." He said his chief interest was in present confines of the village.

Allan Osborne Allan Osborne spoke next. With a Master's degree in civil engineering Mr. Osborne explained he had become involved through living room discussions of costs and sewer and water installations. He said in mentioning some of his concerns to other people he found that, although they didn't completely share his views, many of theirs were similar to his own. He said he feels the big issue is the water and sewer problem. "We don't know whether water and sewerage is going in or not," he said. Mr. Osborne is concerned about those people in the village who will need better water if it does not go in. He feels the new aqueduct system could be a consideration.

"If water and sewers do come in, we are talking about a tax boost of from \$300 to \$350 a year and I don't look forward to that," he said. He explained that in that case is development and that it is hard on our heels right now.



Allan Osborne

"In order to keep cost of water and sewers down to a liveable level, we'll have to bring in population, almost double," he said and questioned the audience as to whether we are going to allow

developers to come in, or are we to have some basic approach to what we expect from the developer?" he asked. The engineer feels it is the trustees' and council's responsibility that they shape the destiny of the village, as opposed to the developer. He talked about school facility increases and maintenance costs in other areas which be affected.

"Now is the time trustees and township council should be sitting down and going through the alternatives," he said. "Water and sewers are happening to us, not for us. We must have as many plans as we need to cover alternatives." Mr. Osborne promised that more of his platform will be explained in a brochure being sent to residents via mail.

Mr. Milne told Mr. Osborne that Toronto made decisions on growth and subdivisions. The trustee candidate could not agree with Mr. Milne. He said he had it on good authority that the municipal board in Toronto is referring development plans back to planning boards in municipalities.

Township Council Previous to the Nov. 12 date for filing of nomination papers, reeve Warren Parkinson had announced he would not be running for 1975 office. Deputy-reeve Duncan McPhedran failed to qualify for his position. With the two top positions on council open, two other candidates qualified and councillor Bill Adsett became reeve by acclamation and Betty Lou Clark deputy-reeve.

John Hewitt Tuesday, only those vying for township council positions were required to present platforms. John Hewitt, a retired Bell Telephone plant manager, stated why he would like to run. Mr. Hewitt said he had been raised on a farm in Muskoka and had joined the Bell as a very young man to progress to outside plant manager. He kept the job until 1962 when he retired and moved to Eramosa.

Mr. Hewitt explained he had served three years on the high school board and three on the Eramosa planning board. He said he felt he had the time and would like to do something for the community. He asked for the support of the electors and invited them to look in on him in two years and see whether they are satisfied.

David Masson David Masson was the Eden Mills candidate for council. He said he has been an Eden Mills trustee for the



David Masson

past four years and had learned, "Just how important Eramosa township business is in our affairs. It not only determines our taxation but also much of what we call the quality of life here," he said. He explained that municipal services, township planning and relations with the provincial government all have a very real consequence for our day-to-day life.

Mr. Masson said that, while his experience as a trustee was mainly concerned with affairs in the southwest part

of the township he had learned how much can be achieved by pursuing Eramosa township interest in an informed and business-like way. "For example, by simply finding out laws and procedures open to us and then stubbornly pursuing them, the Halton country portion of Eden Mills was successfully moved into this township and Wellington county."

He said there had been direct benefits to the village residents as well as increasing the urban tax revenue for Eramosa township. "But you may be aware, it also left regional government outside Eramosa township borders," he said.

Mr. Masson explained his part in the Official Plan and his interest in assisting the township planning board to implement procedures. "As a member of council I would seek Ontario government financial aid and services which are available," he said. "Your taxes and mine pay for such provincial aid to the municipality and we should take full advantage of such grants and services."

The candidate feels that a student planner could be hired to assist the planning board and thus relieve them of tedious work. He said he would like the opportunity to assist in a planning capacity. Clarence Hilton Clarence Hilton was the

next candidate who said he felt the past council had been a good council and he would like to render his services.

Don Hills "Rockwood is my home town and for many years I have been here. I've seen a lot of changes," said Don Hills. He had cancelled out his nomination for village trustee in favor of running for township council.

Mr. Hills explained he had been on the board of trustees for the police village of Rockwood for a number of years and served as chairman. He said he is running for council with his interest being for the benefit of issues which would be beneficial for both township and village.

Alan Burnett Alan Burnett said that at first he wasn't going to run for office and then decided to stand. He said he felt it was time he did something, as he owed the municipality a service. "I've lived here all my life and I'm interested in Eramosa both in rural areas and villages," he explained his running for office as a new adventure for him. "I'll have a lot to learn but I'm willing to learn and to listen to both sides of a story," he said.

Mr. Burnett said he was not going to promise a whole lot of things but did promise, if elected, to do his very best. One other candidate, Henry Honan Jr., was unable to attend. During the evening,

Snow, fog

The first snowfall blanketed the area last week. The snow melted and fog took over.

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