

Erin twp. residents quiz candidates

An unexpected overflow crowd at Erin Township's "Meet the Candidates night", made it necessary to shift the meeting from the Municipal Offices to Hillsburgh Community Centre.

Over 100 residents turned out to meet and question candidates whereas only 36 had attended the nomination meeting two years ago. The many pointed questions and critical comments, mainly about gravel pits and hydro lines, brought the observation from one resident "The people are finally getting some backbone".

Of the eight people vying for a position on council, three will be elected. Along with present councillors John Reid and Bill McLean, the candidates are Norm Cunningham, Eleanor Rimmer, Fred Cox, Thomas Ormisher, Jack Marshall, and Dan O'Connor.

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Running for the Wellington County Board of Education are Virginia Kennedy and present member Gordon Gregson.

When the meeting was first opened at the Municipal Buildings, Harry Ash of the Ratepayers Association introduced Les Sherratt and Bob Cheyne, Hillsburgh's Village Trustees by acclamation. Third trustee, Jack Graham was unable to be present.

Move

The proceedings in the crowded council Chambers were brought to a halt when word was sent in that the hall-way could no longer hold the overflow crowd. With apologies to all, Mr. Ash suggested adjourning to the community Centre down the street.

After the meeting was reconvened, candidates were introduced, made a short speech, and settled back to wait for the question period.

Jack Marshall

First to speak was Jack Marshall from the lower end of Erin Township. Mr. Marshall told listeners that although he had no issues, he was interested in municipal affairs and working for a betterment of the township.

Tom Ormisher

Tom Ormisher, First Line, said he was running for council because of concern about three things — the township road system and condition, inadequate telephone service, and the lack of rapport between taxpayers and council.

In his opinion, Erin's roads were not up to the standard of surrounding townships. Also the Community Telephone Company with its antiquated equipment might have been adequate at one time but not now. "Pressure must be brought on the company by council," to improve their service.

He concluded "Erin is a great place to live, a place



AT MONDAY'S Ratepayers' Meeting, Thomas Ormisher, candidate for Erin Township council, rises to explain how council might pressure the Community Telephone into giving better service. Seated are other candidates for municipal office—Virginia Kennedy (school trustee), Bill McLean and Fred Cox (township council), Gordon Gregson (school trustee), and Eleanor Rimmer (council).



ON COMPLETING his year as Warden of Wellington County, Lloyd Lang was presented with a portrait of himself by the Wellington County Roads Committee. Warden Lang and his wife Mildred hosted 300 guests at the annual Warden's Banquet, November 22 at the Canadian Legion Hall, Erin.



GUESTS OF Warden Lloyd Lang at the Wellington Warden's Banquet were Erin Township inspector Jim Delaney and his wife. Other guests included many of Lloyd and Mildred Lang's families, five previous Erin township reeves, M.P. John Root, municipal officials, friends from Erin township and surrounding area, and friends from Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Expand day care

Meetings are currently being held to draft plans for the establishment of a municipal day-care centre in Halton Hills. Regional Director of Social and Family Services Hennie Vivian said the proposed centre would handle from 34 to 42 children.

The only municipally operated day care centre in the region now is operated in Oakville. While the Halton Hills Centre will be only the second operated by the municipality, the region does have agreements with a number of private day care centres in the region.

Keep off welfare

Usually those people who either have day care paid for or subsidized by the region are single parent families or welfare recipients or those unable to absorb the cost on their own for a variety of other reasons. In many cases the municipality will pay the costs of day care to allow a mother the opportunity to go out and work and keep off the welfare rolls.

The region is pioneering another form of day care. Vivian expects to soon have a number of homes providing day care services in the home under the supervision of the Social and Family Services Department.

The private home day care program is expected to be used especially well in the sparsely populated areas of the region where municipal day care centres wouldn't be practical.

The province has identified the day care field as a priority item and pumped \$5,500,000 into projects.

Acclaimed

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amazed at your lack of knowledge on this issue since newspaper coverage has been extensive."

A second resident, Maurine Harris stood up to say "Regarding the information on gravel sites - I'm not even running for office and I know it!"

Question period

The first question of the evening was directed to present council regarding the hydro lines. "What have you done to stop it?"

John Reid answered "Nothing. We're not going to try to shift it from one property to the other."

After a heated discussion, reeve-elect Donald Matheson took the floor. "We have had many discussions and been to many of the meetings. We've written letters stating we don't want the lines at all — BUT if it must go through we will not state where and which line it must go on."

When pressed by the questioner, John Snider, "Is it necessary?" Mr. Matheson answered "I'm not an engineer so I can't really say."

Gravel

Since the question of commercial gravel pits in Erin is of prime importance to many residents, each candidate was asked to state his views on this topic by residents Brian Miller.

Ormisher: "I'm opposed in principle. I'm in favor of extraction for township use to fix the roads."

Marshall: "I'm not familiar with the gravel issue and cannot take either side. Nobody wants gravel pits, but it must be taken out from where it is!"

Cunningham: "Talk is cheap. I wouldn't take a stand until I knew both sides of the issue."

Cox: "I'd be opposed to running it down to Toronto, but if that's progress, what are we going to do?"

Coverage

Resident Brian Holstein told the candidates "I'm

hold in the summer when much farm work was done during the day; but that afternoon meetings in the winter were more convenient not only to the councillors but also to many of the people they were involved with.

He concluded "As far as being available to the ratepayers, I don't know why they'd want to come winter evenings if they don't show up summer evenings. However, it's what will suit the majority of council as well as what will suit the issue at hand."

Board of Education

While candidates for council sat back and took a breather, the two people vying for the position of School Board Trustee spoke.

Gord Gregson, the incumbent, has 16 years of experience with Erin School Board and the Board of Education. His platform is the same as in the past—equal education, equal accommodation, and equal communication.

He told the audience he feels the quality of education in Erin Township is equal to anywhere else in the county. Although quite a few portable classrooms are in use, there have been additions to the schools.

Double busing?

The first question from the ratepayers concerned double busing, seat belts in the buses, and general bus safety.

Mr. Gregson replied he didn't know of any doubling up on bus loads and it wasn't supposed to be done. Regarding bus safety, he said almost all of the drivers had just completed a safety clinic.

As far as seat belts for CHILDREN IN BUSES, "If they're belted in and in an accident, you just can't get them out in time."

To questions about the new high school addition's lack of windows which necessitated excessive use of hydro, Mr. Gregson replied that in schools with large windows there have to be drapes. The teachers pull the drapes and turn on the lights. "So you pay for the windows, pay for the drapes, and burn hydro anyhow."

Only one question was directed to the village trustees and that concerned snowmobiles on sidewalks and child safety.

Les Sherratt replied "Every snowmobile has a number. You report it to the O.P.P. who will go see them." Mr. Sherratt drew a chuckle from the audience when he added "mock-fiercely" and threaten them."

On that light note the meeting adjourned for an informal coffee and doughnut hour where Mr. Ash invited ratepayers to "Come but-hole a candidate."

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9	10	11	12	13	14	
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
16	17	18	19	20	21	
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
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NEWLY ACCLAIMED Hillsburgh town trustee Bob Cheyne (right) and his wife take a break from dancing at the County of Wellington Warden's Banquet to chat with Erin township road superintendent Ed Bardon, last Friday.

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