

Erin race galloping — nine at starting gate

A real race is on in Erin township for the three seats on council.

Seven people have filed nomination papers and are vying for the seats. Four will be disappointed.

Reeve Donald Matheson and Deputy Reeve Bert Wheeler have been acclaimed for their second term. Vying for Wellington County Board of Education seat are two newcomers, one of whom will replace the retiring George Gregson.

Harry Ash

Harry Ash is standing for election to Erin township council. Mr. and Mrs. Ash live in Hillsburgh and they have four children. He is employed with Ford in Bramalea.

He is the past president of the Hillsburgh Community Centre and of the Hillsburgh Home Owners Association.

He says one of his main concerns is the condition of the roads in the township. He would also like to have increased police coverage.

Mr. Ash says representing all areas of the township would be a prime concern. He also stresses the importance of orderly development.

Ron Brooks

Opposition to gravel pits and hydro lines is part of the reason why Ron Brooks is seeking election as a councillor. As a member of the Interested Citizens Group opposing the hydro corridor, Mr. Brooks felt the township council was not doing enough to defend the people. He is also concerned with farmers who, once they retire, must leave their home and most times, the township. Mr. Brooks explained that when the farmer retires and sells his property, he cannot keep a portion of his land to live on.

The candidate would like to see a new severance-by-law stating people in this predicament can have a lot separation of their own land so they may stay in the area. Either this, Mr. Brooks says, or housing for farmers in this situation.

Mr. Brooks lives on the second line of Erin township, just below 27 Sideroad, with his wife Carol and daughter Jennifer. He has been a teacher of zoology at the University of Guelph for the past seven years.

Bill McLean

The third council candidate is Bill McLean from Lot Five, Ninth Line, Erin township. Politics is definitely not new to Mr. McLean as he served on council for six years before being defeated in the last election. Once again, he is trying to get on council to do his best for the township, as he always has done. Mr. McLean has also served on the county board of directors and the Erin Agricultural Society.

Mr. McLean is concerned about the lack of representation in the east corner of the township. He feels there should be someone from that area on council.

The former councillor says he has no particular beef of any kind right now, and feels he just has to go along with things as they come up.

He and his wife, Eleanor, have two children, Earl and Francis.

John Reed

John Reed, who has completed four years on Erin council, hopes to be returned

to his seat. He is the only incumbent seeking re-election.

He lives on the 10th line at lot 25 and has farmed there since 1952. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have two sons.

He has been on the Guelph and Suburban planning board for the past seven years. He was a member of the township recreation committee and is the past president of the Hillsburgh Community Centre Association.

Mr. Reed thinks his experience will stand him in good stead in the election and at council.

George Root

After much thought, George Root decided to toss his hat into the political arena. The newcomer lives on the Second Line of Erin township north of Highway 24. This is his first time in politics, and he carefully considered the time and duties involved before allowing his name to stand. He wanted to be sure it was what he wanted, Mr. Root said.

He has always been interested in public affairs and when the council seat vacancies occurred several people approached him and asked him to run. Mr. Root, if elected, intends to be the type of councillor who is willing to listen, fairly consider each problem and base decisions on the facts presented.

Mr. Root is a fifth generation Root in Erin township. He farms 300 acres and specializes in beef with some feeder pigs. Until last year he had a livestock trucking business included in his trade. He is in partnership with his father, John Root, the former MPP, and an uncle.

Mr. Root is married to the former Ann Hall and has three children, ages 10, 8 and three.

Jo Schneider

Jo Schneider is running for a seat on Erin township council for this first time.

She and her husband have lived on their 100-acre farm on the fourth line since 1962; they have four sons.

They have also had their own business since 1959, Prochem Manufacturing in Brampton. Mrs. Schneider is controller of finance for the company.

She has a three-point program, communication, tax restraint and land use.

"For more years than I care to count, our Council members have kept too low a profile," Mrs. Schneider says. "Their determination to resolve the concerns of their constituents has not been apparent. We need to elect a Council that is willing to contact voters, obtain their views, find solutions to their problems and, most important, to be representative of ALL members of the community—farmer, housewife, commuter, businessman."

"Year after year our property taxes continue to rise at unreasonable rates, and yet the services provided for the tax dollar never seem to improve. The time has come to challenge these increases. The cost of education is 64 per cent of our tax dollar. Are the children even receiving the education the residents desire? Before another tax increase it must be justified."

"To accept passively the use of our Township lands for utility corridors and gravel pits indicates a lack of con-

cern for present and future residents. Our shrinking farm lands must be given protection. Growth areas must be defined NOW because urbanization is at our door step. Our best protection against threats to Erin Township lies in a strong local government."

Tom Teeple

Tom Teeple is a newcomer to the world of politics, and he says now that his farm is al-

most completely rebuilt, he has time to get involved and do the best he can for Erin township and the people. He is running for council.

Mr. Teeple is a tool and die journeyman, and also owns 100 acres of farm on the Sixth Line just below the Fifth Sideroad in Erin township. He has lived here four years with his wife Karen and daughter Tracey, who is in the French Immersion class at Brisbane

school. "I have no experience," Mr. Teeple admits, "but I have the willingness to learn. You are not going to get the experience unless you get out and do the job," he concluded.

Virginia Kennedy Defeated in the 1974 election in a bid for the trustee seat of the Wellington County Board of Education, Virginia Kennedy's name will once again be on the ballot December 6.

Mrs. Kennedy was defeated by George Gregson, who is retiring from the post.

She and her husband Terry run the Village Craft Shop in Erin and have four children, three in high school and one in the French Immersion class at Brisbane school.

She is a former news editor with the Erin Advocate and is a past president of the Wellington Arts Council, and is a member of and has served on county's Committee for Leaving School Early (for students under 16 years of age who wish to leave school for one reason or another). Mrs. Kennedy has also been with the co-op nursery, the Local Initiative Program board for Halton, has been secretary treasurer for the Erin district Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Caledon Hills Craft Association.

Mrs. Kennedy feels Erin township is removed and detached from the board of education and would like to fill the gap. She is also concerned about the finances and thinks someone has "to get down to the nitty gritty of administration."

"Everyone is talking about getting back to basics," Mrs. Kennedy says, "and everyone on the board is concerned about it, but no one member

of the board is going to get anywhere with the provincial government." She feels they must all work together on the matter.

Mrs. Kennedy is a graduate in sociology and art from the University of Windsor.

Dana Mundell Contesting the seat is Dana Mundell of Main St., Erin. He feels schools should get back to the three R's. "No matter how little or how much education you have, if you can communicate properly, no one knows what education you have," the newcomer says.

"Everyone in the world is a critic, but if you are not willing to do something about it, you are not a good critic," Mr. Mundell philosophizes. He is very interested in the community and enjoys education. Mr. Mundell is a graduate of Erin high school and Sheridan College. He is the son of Bill and Bea Mundell, Erin and is involved in the family retail lumber business. He also has experience as a musician and in real estate.

Mr. Mundell is a fourth generation living in Erin area.



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Chiefs meet

A report on guidelines for hydrant locations and water-main size was held over by general administration committee Monday.

Fire chiefs Holmes and Buikema and other chiefs had of engineering, planning and development of Halton region in Oakville.

Fire protection and regional standards were discussed and the minutes were presented to the G.A.C. this week.

Councillors held up the report until they see a copy of