

By election

# Small group meets candidates Monday

Only a handful of people turned out for the Chamber of Commerce's Meet the Candidate Night Monday evening, forcing organizers to improvise and create a 'Coffee with the Candidate' night.

The informal meeting gave the candidates for next week's municipal election, Terry Grubbe and Dave Whiting a chance to speak their minds, to answer questions from concerned citizens, and to get to know those who attended.

Dave Whiting told the group of 17 he felt Acton was being lost on council and needed a strong voice to make the town fathers aware of the community to the west. With each item done by the town, Acton loses more and more of its identity.

He said Halton Hills keeps eroding the community, and he wants to stop that. He figures the best way to do this is to sit on council and stand up for the area.

Terry Grubbe admitted that since her declaration to run for the empty council seat, many people have asked her 'why bother?' After giving the question considerable thought she said, she realized she was running because she cared about Acton. After two and a half years as director of the Community Services Centre, she has had the opportunity to listen to a lot of people's problems and help them solve them.

Through her door knocking campaign, Mrs. Grubbe said she realizes the issues which are important to the average person. Total confusion of regional government bothers a lot of people she



Terry Grubbe, director of the Community Services Centre is hopeful of election in next Tuesday's municipal by election.

has found out. People are also unaware of the local level of government. People also feel there is not enough voice in Acton, yet she wondered who was to blame for that. She cited the sulphur plant currently under construction as an example. People complained because they were unaware of it going in. They blamed the town for not letting anyone know. Yet after checking through Acton Free Press files, she discovered there was a story in the paper long before the construction began. The people she has been meeting on the campaign trail express a desire for more shopping, and a concern for the loss of identity. Others worry about the escalating tax-

es, or the lack of transportation for the handicapped or senior citizens. Police protection and industry are also concerns the people have she said. Terry herself is very concerned about the lack of communication between the council and the town residents. If elected, she said, she would like to plan monthly meetings with the public to tell them what has been done at council, or hear what they would like to be done. A Concerned Citizens group could be formed, she suggested, to meet with her. Louis Charlebois pointed out to the two candidates the time involved in the job of councillor, and asked the two how they planned to work

their personal, and working lives around the public life.

Mrs. Grubbe explained that she is the type of person who has to be involved, and council would be her top priority.

Mr. Whiting told the group he is totally committed to the council. He said he had already made arrangements in his office. (Fobert Real Estate) that if a meeting should conflict with his work, someone in the office would tend to his duties. His schedule was very flexible.

For a goodly portion of the meeting, the candidates found themselves defending the local police, and explaining how the department is run.

Mr. Whiting explained the police force is run from the top, and the men at the top are policemen, not businessmen. He explained that no matter how many facts and figures presented to the public about needed men, and actual bodies, the statistics can always be read to read what the public wants to hear.

One member of the informal group was concerned over the possible closure of the local precinct office. Mrs. Grubbe told the group of a meeting she attended in July, sponsored by the Chamber, with Staff Sergeant John Barrett as guest. She encouraged future meetings such as that one because of everything she learned.

At that meeting, (published in the Acton Free Press), Mrs. Grubbe said, those attending learned how it is actually cheaper for the men to work out of their cars rather than walking on



Dave Whiting, a salesman for Fobert Real Estate, has set his sights on the vacant council seat. He hopes to meet his challenge next Tuesday during the by election.

the beat late at night. She also learned how it is faster for someone to call the main dispatcher than to call the Acton office. She explained someone in the Acton office had to place the same calls as the public.

Mr. Whiting explained that since the invention of the car, the police have had the same question asked—why stay in cars, why not walk the beat? From experience, he said, he knows a police officer can respond faster in the car. He explained if a policeman is walking the beat and is at one end of the main street, and his car is parked at the other end, if an emergency arises and he has to run back to his car, a lot of precious time is taken up. He also pointed out a policeman walking the midnight beat by himself is a walking target, he said. To avoid this, two men would have to walk the same beat, thus doubling the costs.

Mr. Whiting noted some people are concerned because the police do not live in the community. He pointed out that in Metro Toronto, the commission said all officers had to live in the city. This could never be enforced, he said, because policemen also have rights to live wherever they want. He told the group however, that the Halton force is one of the most efficient forces he has ever seen, and explained it is better than Peel region and Toronto, and he has worked for all three.

Mrs. Grubbe pointed out the Halton police work on a three month rotating schedule. After this time, they are transferred to another precinct.

councillor Pat McKenzie sat down with one taxpayer who was complaining about the exact problem, and were shown the figures for the various

homes. The taxpayer, she said, left satisfied as to why his taxes were higher.

With the election approaching next Tuesday,

the candidates are concerned the poor turnout at the meeting could be an indication of what the voter turnout will be. Both hope for the best.

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## CBS wins battle—not war

In its battle with the Community Telephone Service in Erin-Hillsburgh, the Committee for Better Service (CBS) has won many victories but is stalemated at an extended area service for comparable rates with surrounding areas.

Since December, 1978, the CBS has been organized to demand and see implemented a better telephone service for the Erin-Hillsburgh area.

The privately owned Community Service Company serving many rural communities in Ontario is a subsidiary of Continental Telephone System in New York. Community Tel has been under fire from Erin township residents for many years for service residents feel does not compare with neighboring townships served by Bell Telephone.

In a meeting between CBS representatives and officials from Community Tel and the parent company Monday at Erin, the subject of proposed rates for extended area service was given much discussion.

President of Community Tel, Greg Schramek, produced figures that indicate cost to customers of an extended calling range to Acton, Georgetown, Guelph and Orangeville. It was pointed out by Jeanette Cox, chairman of the

meeting and CBS representative, that such costs would put rates up more than double, by some costs, comparable rates for Acton residents.

A private line in Acton costs the consumer \$6.55 a month while projected cost of Erin-Hillsburgh extended service would put the rates up to \$12.50 from \$5.55 a month. A two party line in Acton costs \$4.80, under Erin EAS \$10.50.

Much discussion took place as to how these costs and rates were decided. Frank Trotter, CBS, enumerated the revenue decreases from toll calling and additional capital expenditures incurred by Community Tel while extending the calling area from the existing limited toll-free area of Erin and Hillsburgh.

Mr. Schramek explained the sources of toll revenue for Community Tel saying the in-

dependent company saw only a small portion of the customer charge dividing the revenue with Bell.

Representative for the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, Bob Foote, said he felt the rate increase was representative of the costs that would be incurred by Community Tel in providing extended calling area.

The committee rejected the additional costs and appealed to Foote for direction. He felt the fault was with government policy in not requiring standardized rates across the country and subsidizing smaller independent companies so they could provide comparable service to Bell. Foote said the committee should go to the federal government asking for policy change and direction.

Other requests made by the CBS have been and

are in the process of being met by Community Telephone.

Schramek listed the recent improvements in community service.

There were now extra lines between Erin and Hillsburgh to take care of peak periods, he said adding, there would be more in 1980. The hum on lines causing customer complaint had been eliminated; there was now no emergency charge for operator service at pay phones and there was less service breakdown, he stated.

Changes in the new directory were argued. Agnes Hyatt, general manager of Community Tel, told the CBS the new directory would have Erin and Hillsburgh

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