

Candidates quizzed about tax, waste plant

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

Effective representation, tax equalization and energy from waste were the main issues discussed by Ward 1 candidates at the all-candidates meeting at the Acton Citizen's Band Hall Wednesday night.

Each town councillor, regional councillor and mayor candidate was given three minutes for opening remarks and two minutes for a rebuttal. Questions from the audience followed.

Presenting themselves as effective representatives were the main message delivered by candidates to the crowd of over 100. Gerald Rennie and Ed Wood, town councillor candidates, made this the main message of their talk.

Other issues popular with the candidates of Ward 1 were tax equalization, energy from waste, a municipal complex, growth, and water for Acton.

Candidates were pleased with the progress made on taxation equalization through Section 83 but were not convinced the issue was resolved. Ed Wood took some of his time to thank Ross Knechtel for his work on Section 63.

Candidates Norm Elliott, Jim Kinnear, Ken Owen and Rick Bonnette said following up on Mr. Knechtel's efforts was a priority.

Dave Whiting, regional candidate for Ward 1, had the fewest reservations about an energy from waste plant in Acton. He said that it would be at least 1990 before a plant was built. As one of the first to suggest a plant for Acton, Mr. Whiting said his research told him a safe plant could be built.

"If the people don't want it, it



Dave Whiting Rick Bonnette

won't come," Mr. Whiting stressed. That view was supported by all speakers. Mayor Miller stated that the cheaper energy provided by the plant would attract industry to Acton.

Ward 1 candidates supported the Acton Chamber of Commerce's request that research and an informed public is needed to resolve the problem. Norm Elliott, town councillor candidate, stated an energy from waste plant should not be too close to Acton, regardless of how safe it is. A municipal complex for Hallon Hills was discussed by fewer candidates. Dave Whiting, who voted for the purchase of the land, defended that purchase by saying it was a good investment but that the town budget was not big enough now to build on it. Jim Kinnear suggested two centers would be better than a municipal complex.

Rick Bonnette stressed the importance of Acton having some government offices, like a tax and a hydro office. "It's not our privilege, it's our right," he said.

Candidates who spoke on growth for Acton wanted it, but also wanted Acton to retain the qualities of a small town. Jim Kinnear felt learning from

other successful towns solving growth problems was important.

The growth question was discussed by regional and mayoral candidates who noted the importance of water. Russ Miller and Dave Whiting assured the audience that the water issue was resolved and that the region had put aside money for a purification system.

Rick Bonnette said ten years was too long to address Acton's water problem and that "the province should be pushed." Mike Armstrong agreed with Mr. Bonnette; he called the issue a political football.

Both mayoral candidates stated that Acton's tourist industry should be developed. Tourism is a source of full-time and part-time employment,

Mayor Miller said. Acton's old buildings, like the Legion, and the surrounding natural beauty make the "potential for tourism limitless", Mike Armstrong said.

During the question period Mike Armstrong and Russ Miller were asked their opinions on Section 63. The night it was voted on in council the mayor candidates were at a Rotary dinner for senior citizens. Each said he supported Section 63.

Mike Armstrong was asked what he would do about the "stench" in Acton which the person posing the question attributed to the tannery. Mr. Armstrong explained that the tannery was not the source of the smell and that "if elected or not" he would be in touch

with those responsible.

When asked about where Acton stands with VIA rail Mr. Bonnette replied "there will be a press release within the next two months." The town has a commitment, he added.

Snow removal from Acton sidewalks was another citizen's concern. Mayor Miller and regional councillor Whiting said the 1986 budget wasn't big enough to include regular snow removal.

The mayor would like all senior citizen and school children routes cleared, he said. Councillor Bonnette said that interest lost on the \$600,000 needed to buy the Steven's property would have been enough to buy needed snow removal equipment.

ON TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 12TH

YOU DECIDE
YOUR VOTE WORKS FOR YOU EVERY DAY

**EVERYONE HAS
SOMETHING
TO SAY**

Tuesday, November 12th is local election day across Ontario. November 12th you vote to choose your municipal council representatives and school board trustees for the next three years. Choosing good local government is important.

THINK ABOUT IT

Your local government spends your tax dollars to provide important services that affect you every day - police and fire protection, public transit and road maintenance, snow and garbage removal, sewers and water, social, cultural and recreational programs and a lot more.

Municipalities across Ontario spend over \$7 billion every year on your behalf.

Your school board decides on school spending and programs in your community. Half of their budget comes directly from your property taxes.

This year is the second time you elect representatives for three years instead of two. So it's more important than ever that you take part in deciding who will lead your community.

ASK ABOUT IT

Find out who the candidates are, and what qualifications they will bring to public office.

Ask them where they stand on the issues you're concerned with. Get them to tell you how they want your community to develop and grow.

Candidates for local council and school boards should be accessible. Ask them the questions you want answered.

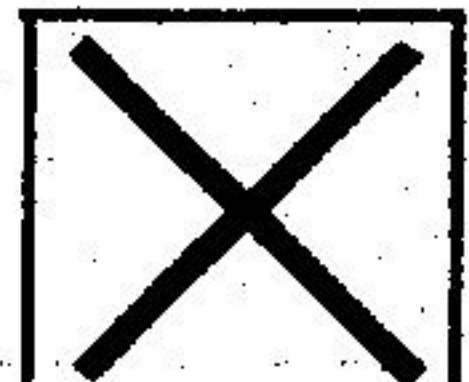
To vote, you must be at least 18 years old by polling day, a Canadian or Commonwealth citizen, and either live in, own or rent property in the municipality. If you have not been enumerated call your local returning officer. If you don't know where to vote, or if you want to vote in advance of November 12th, call your returning officer or your City or Town Hall for more information.

TALK ABOUT IT

Talk to the candidates, their campaign workers and your neighbors. Attend election meetings. Discuss the issues. This election concerns you, your money, and your community.

You have a part to play in this election. By voting on November 12th, you'll have a say in who represents you - who leads your community - until 1988.

**YOU
DECIDE**



SCHOOL BOARD SWEEP

**Howitt
unbeaten**

Dick Howitt continued his unbeaten streak of four victories by being acclaimed for the first time. The Ward 2 trustee was acclaimed in Wards 3 and 4.

Dick Howitt



Mr. Howitt was surprised and had mixed feelings. "I'm not going to be hypocritical and say I'm not pleased, but there is something exciting about an election, particularly if you are successful. You have a good feeling," he said.

To Mr. Howitt extended funding was the biggest issue. Second on his list was the implementation of Bill 82 which ensures that all exceptional children, gifted and disabled, receive the education they need. The issues are regional issues and there are no outstanding problems in Ward 3 and 4, Mr. Howitt said.

Meeting as many people as possible was Mr. Howitt's election strategy which has worked for him in the past, he said. "If you meet and talk to them they get a chance to size you up."

Greater interest in local council issues, his past performance on the board and people's satisfaction with the board are three reasons he gave why he was acclaimed.

**Bruce
acclaimed**

Arlene Bruce, trustee for Ward 1, has been acclaimed a second time, in the new seat combining Wards 1 and 2.

"It's a lovely feeling to be acclaimed. It's a great relief. Now the next two weeks will be a little more normal," she said.

"I'd like to think it is because I've done a good job and had a strong voice, but there are probably numerous reasons," she said.

If she was in a race in Wards 1 and 2 funding would be the major issue of her campaign. "I'd be focusing on those dollars and making sure they are well spent on education and not things like pools," she said.

Mrs. Bruce said last year a budget "cut to the bone" hurt the system. "A balance must be reached," she said.

"You have to have good people but you have to have money first. Halton's cost per pupil is lower than other boards and our net results have never been inferior," she said.

More community involvement in schools is another of her concerns. "I don't believe people outside parents have any part of schools. Schools and the community should have close ties," she said.



Arlene Bruce