

Bill Robson doesn't want anti-development tag

By STUART JOHNSTON

The low voter turnout at Tuesday's municipal election was probably a sign of everyone's dissatisfaction with the world of politics as a whole, according to Ward 2's new regional councillor-elect Bill Robson.

"Going door to door during the election, I got the same message from Milton to Erin — people are just not satisfied with the representation they had on council," Robson said in an interview Wednesday.

"I asked everyone, whether they voted for me or not, to just get out and vote, period. But, many just didn't vote at all — not even Joe's (Hewitt) people because they were dissatisfied."

Dissatisfied or not, 2,967 rural residents trekked to the polls to cast their ballots. Although Robson and incumbent Joe Hewitt were neck and neck almost the entire evening, Robson officially garnered 1,493 votes to Hewitt's 1,339.

Back in 1988, Robson had first challenged Hewitt for Ward 2's Regional seat, and again it was a close race. But, Hewitt came out ahead by almost 400 votes, as 1,763 ballots were in his favor, compared to Robson's 1,388.

Out of all the council races this year, however, Ward 2's seemed to be the most exciting because it looked like it might have ended up to be a "photo-finish."

"As the evening began, I told my supporters that even if I lose, I made it interesting for people in the Glen (Williams) and everywhere else," Robson said. "Now that the election is over, we should get down to doing business..."

"I don't intend to do the job as a politician, so to speak. I want to do an honest and fair job. I want to work with the mayor and the rest of



BILL ROBSON

council and do something for the people. I'm saying, give me the three years, and see what I can do."

Robson suggested that one of the reasons Hewitt lost is that "he appeared to be pro-development to the Nth degree — and he lost credibility with the people because of that."

"It appeared to the people that he had his own agenda, that he wasn't sympathetic to them," Robson continued. "It's all perception, really. With all respect to Joe, people were feeling that he forgot what he was elected for."

Although he was tagged on the campaign trail as being anti-development, Robson insisted he would prefer to "take a closer look" at proposed developments, with "more sensitivity to the people who are already here."

"I have concerns over the human factor," he added. "I have no personal agendas, either. Of course, I have issues in my own mind, but I have to remember that I was elected by the people, so I must see what it is that they want."

Pilutti attributes election loss to being a developer

Al Pilutti lost his election bid for Ward 4's regional council not on the issues, but because he is "a local developer."

Pilutti told the *Weekend* in an interview Wednesday that he is not necessarily disappointed that incumbent Marilyn Serjeantson defeated him by a large margin, but he was frustrated because it wasn't a fair fight.

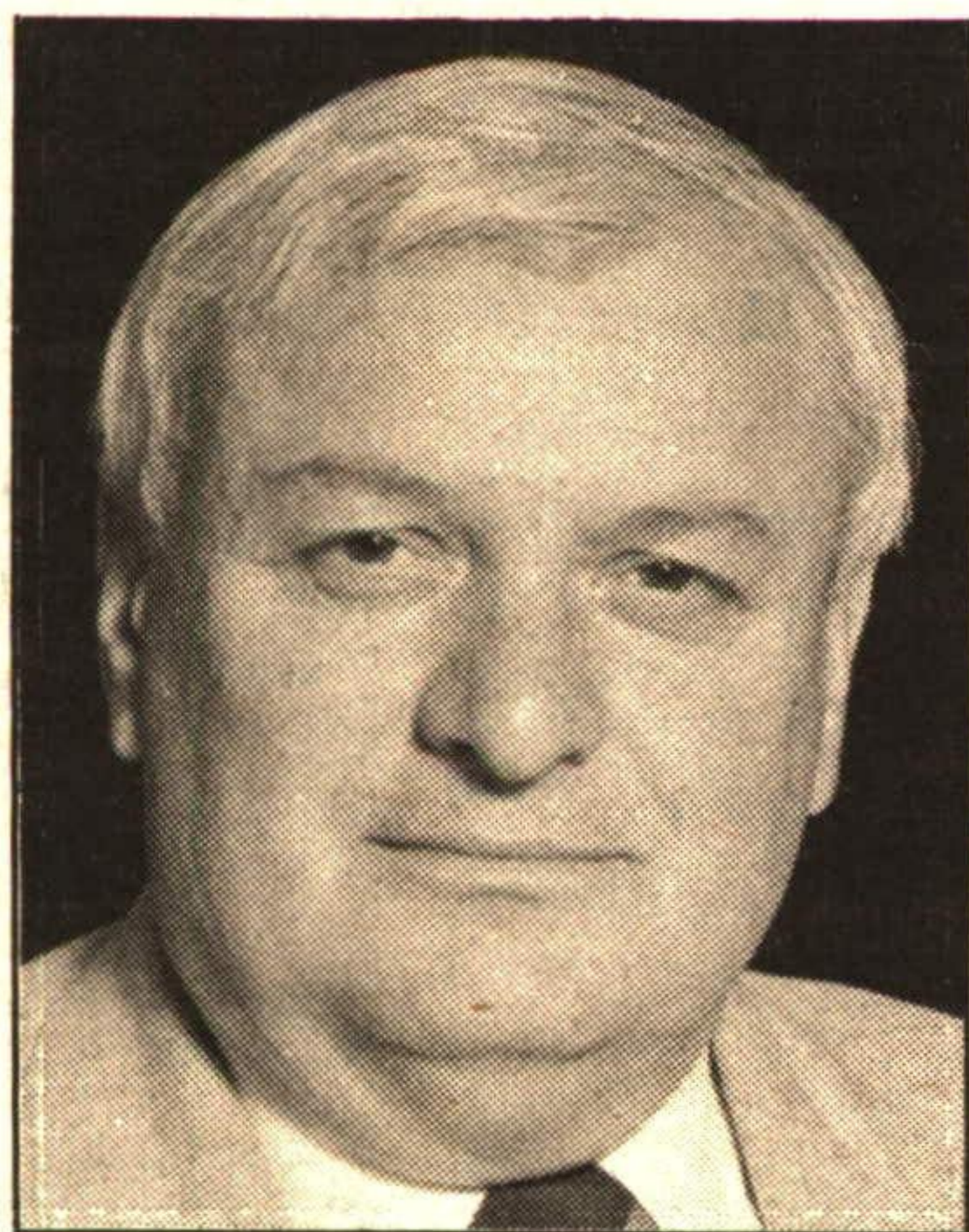
"The construction industry needs the respect from people that it's due — we make a profit because we build houses, and people resent that," he said. "I was defeated only because I am a developer, and not on the issues."

Serjeantson earned more votes than Pilutti and third candidate Linda Walton combined. Serjeantson received 1,619 votes; Walton 772 and Pilutti 594.

But, Pilutti said with a grin that he "will not be kept down," and promised that he may want to take the chain of office from Mayor Russ Miller next time.

"If things keep going the way they are, then next time I'll run for mayor," he said. "I am the type of person to go up, not down."

He criticized the all candidates meetings, believing they did not give a fair representation of the incumbents and challengers alike. He suggested next time around that more of them be held, but the candidates should openly debate the issues, instead of a single speech and a question and answer period.



AL PILUTTI

"We need to openly talk about the issues, not do it behind everyone's backs while knocking on doors during the campaign — that is ridiculous," he said.

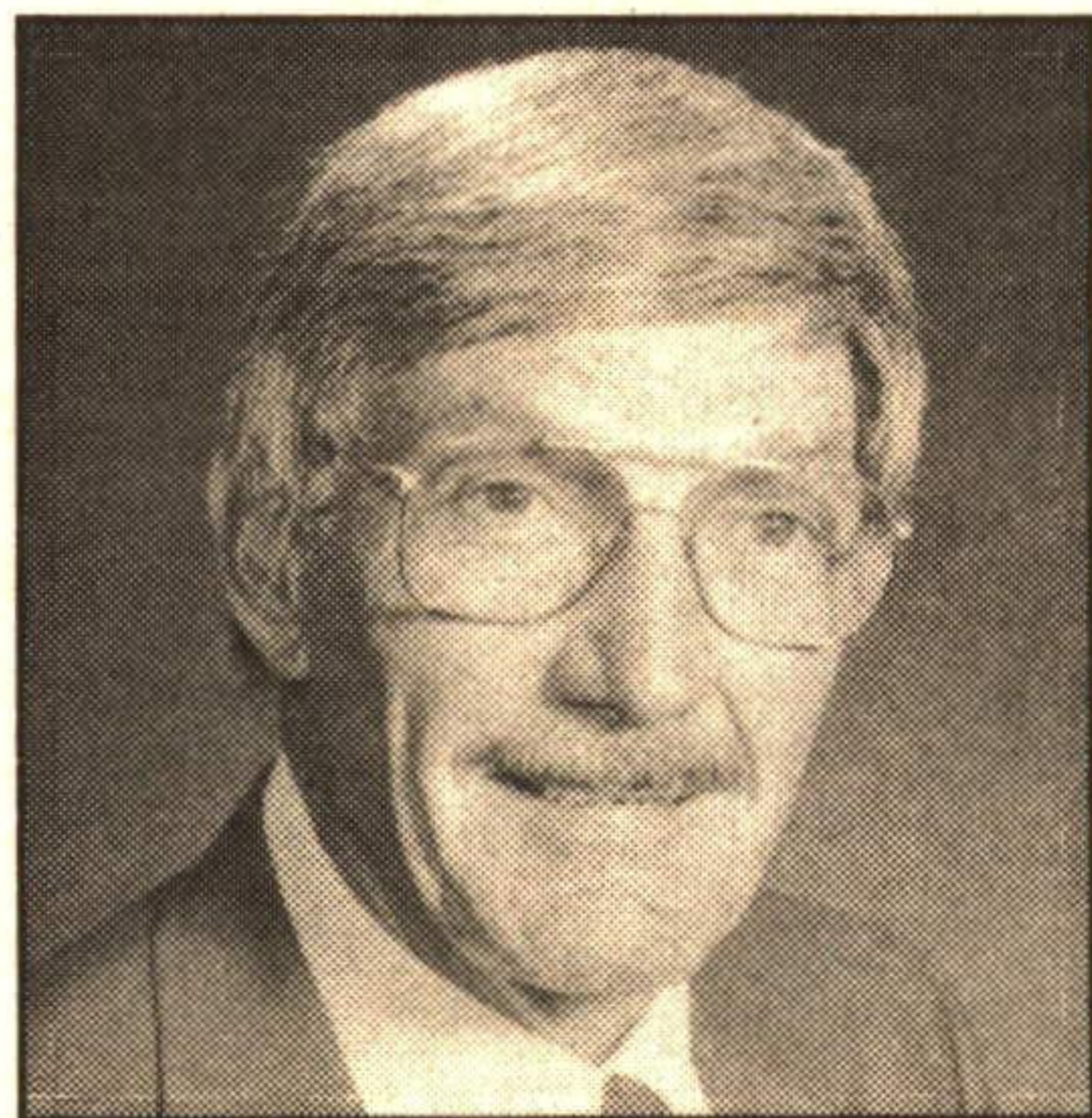
One new face on hydro commission

Both of the newly-elected hydro commissioners say the big issue over the next three years is energy conservation.

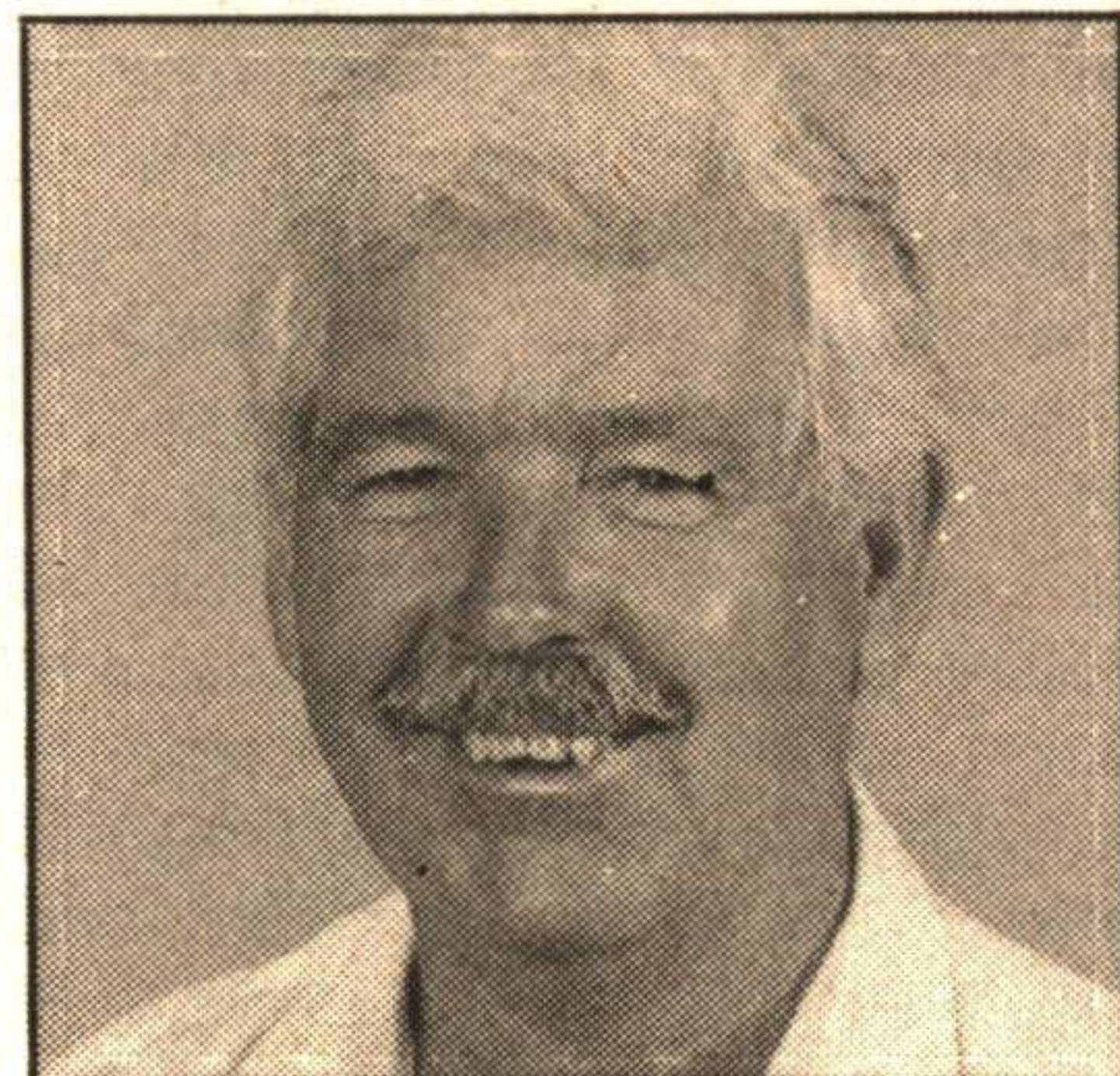
Ward 2 incumbent Murt Allison doubled his opponent, with 1,438 votes versus 721 for Joe Rinder. Even though Len Medland dropped out of the race, he received 414 votes.

"I felt quite comfortable throughout the campaign," he said. Allison has been on the commission since 1980 and this was his third election campaign.

"It'll allow me to participate in a program that has just really got introduced, the demand-supply plan of Ontario Hydro. Energy conservation is the key," he said.



MURT ALLISON



DOBBIE FRIZZELL

Dobbie Frizzell ousted incumbent Roger Haggett as Ward 1 hydro commissioner. Frizzell received 1,068 votes to Haggett's 640.

"I had the feeling I would win the race," he said. "It hasn't really bothered me too much. I play a lot of ball and hockey and you never know when it's going to be over."

Now retired, Frizzell spent 10 years with Ontario Hydro, 24 years with the Acton Hydro and three more with Halton Hills Hydro before retiring. He was then operating an electrical business with his son for five years.

"I'm happy and must thank the people of Acton and tell them I'll work 100 per cent for them," he said. Frizzell will be inaugurated into his new position at the beginning of December.

In Ward 3, Jim Fisher was acclaimed and Bill Smith was acclaimed in Ward 4.

Council pumps up the volume

When the new Town Council convenes for the first time, in early December, the public will likely have a better understanding of what's being said.

That's not a criticism of the past council — the Civic Centre's chamber is now equipped with a sound system.

Installed last month by Hamilton Video and Sound Ltd., the system cost a total of \$13,751, and is now fully operational.

According to Paul Stober, superintendent of facilities, three speakers were installed — one at the back of the chamber where the public sits, one in the committee room and another in the lobby.

Every pair of councillors will share a microphone, and another is installed at the delegations' podium.

The project came in slightly under budget because the councillors are sharing microphones, Stober said.

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