

Bill 40 discourages job creation, claims MPP Arnott

"Stop discouraging the private sector from rebuilding rail lines and creating jobs."

That was the message given by Wellington MPP Ted Arnott to the Minister of Labour during Question Period on Nov. 1, the second day of the fall session of the provincial Legislature.

Arnott, the Small Business Advocate for his party, was referring

to the loss of 200 construction jobs and up to 10 permanent jobs as a result of a provincial Government policy, which forced a private company, Canadian Agra, to cancel its plans to rebuild the former Canadian National Railway Co. line between Harriston and Douglas Point.

Canadian Agra had plans, in relation to the rail line, to also

proceed with a canola-crushing plant, but the company is now reassessing the feasibility of those plans.

"The company's plans to invest \$80 million dollars in a new canola-crushing plant, creating 40 new jobs, are now in jeopardy because of Bill 40," Arnott told the Labour Minister.

In 1992, the NDP provincial

government used its majority to pass the controversial Bill 40, the Labour Relations and Employment Statute Law Amendment Act. Bill 40 gives unions expanded power to accelerate the unionization of workplaces.

Under provisions of the Act, new railways are required to hire union members, and the associated costs were prohibitive to Ca-

nadian Agra. The government would not grant an exemption and the Premier, after being approached by the company to help reach a solution, refused to become involved.

"We need those jobs in our area. We need the rail service to attract new industry and our farmers need the canola-crushing plant," Arnott stated.

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Rockwood candidates debate calm and quiet

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

There was a huge crowd, but no fireworks at Monday's Eramosa Township all-candidates meeting.

More than 300 people jammed the Rockmosa Community Centre, but unlike last week's meeting in Barrie Hill, there were no emotional outbursts or skirmishes.

All of the candidates appeared to be on their best behaviour, including incumbent Reeve Levere Harris, who showed none of the cockiness that several weeks ago led him to say it was a foregone conclusion that he, Deputy Reeve Ken Mercer, incumbent Councillor Gord Tosh and newcomer David Adsett would be elected.

After each candidate read a brief profile, organizers took questions from the floor and the major areas of interest were Council-citizen communications and growth-related issues.

A number of questions also dealt with the cost and need for recent Ontario Municipal Board hearings and Council's approach to dealing with developers.

While most of the Council candidates said that they would be open-minded and sit down to resolve issues with developers in an attempt to avoid costly hearings, Dave Adsett drew loud applause when he agreed with a developer's suggestion that, to avoid the appearance of backroom deals, he would hold talks in a formal atmosphere, not in local coffee shops.

When one voter suggested that Council had alienated a number of municipal committees, Reeve Harris said they only had problems with the Healthy Community Committee (HCC), a committee that was running an election campaign on the backs of taxpayers.

His answer brought HCC member Rose Stocco to the microphone. She called Harris paranoid and asked him for proof of his statement. Harris said that four of the people who had worked on the HCC's strategic plan were running for Council and that money had been set aside for leadership training for them.

One voter noted that most of the candidates said they wanted to involve all citizens on all issues. He wondered if they intended to be a facilitator in a "touchy-feely community group meeting" or if the candidates would take the responsibility to do what they feel is appropriate.

Reeve Harris noted the changes

that had been made in the Council agenda system to allow public input but said, "in the final analysis Council will make the decisions."

"I do believe in experience and continuity and I believe in leadership and we will make those decisions and be accountable to you three years from now."

Harris's challenger, Don Gordon, said that on major issues, if two of the three Councillors were opposed to some action, he would take another look at it.

"Definitely Council must make the decisions, but I think when there is a big division, major issues should be revisited."

Incumbent Deputy Reeve Ken Mercer said he believes in the current system of representative democracy. "You elect people to make decisions for you, in your best interests. That's not to say we make decisions in a void."

Councillor Rick Hughes, who is challenging Mercer for the Deputy Reeve's seat, said that although he is running on a cam-

paigned of thoughtful leadership, "some like their leadership like their coffee and their whiskey — very strong, until it's their issue."

Council hopeful Victor Bissonnette noted that politicians don't develop the wisdom of Solomon when they are elected. Voters have to trust their representatives to

make decisions. "We won't come back to you on every issue but when there is an exceptional issue that clearly needs more input, we will ask for it."

Former Rockwood Police Village Trustee Cathy McIntyre said if she was elected to Council she

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Map designer wanted

The Rockwood and Eramosa Business Association is calling for quotes for the design of a local area map highlighting points of interest, attractions, businesses and restaurants.

Interested graphic designers can contact Regg Struyk at the Tour-

ist Info Centre (856-2120).

Also, REBA has announced that its November meeting will be held tonight (Wednesday) at the library. Time is 7 pm and guest speakers from Jobs-Ontario and Employment Canada will be featured.

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