

Mayor challenged



THE BIG RACE in Milton's Dec. 1 municipal election is between present Mayor Brian Best (left) and challenger Austan Ledwith. Reeve Ledwith decided to step up and challenge Mayor Best for the top seat for 1970-71.

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Contest for every seat on council newcomers challenge incumbents

An election for all Milton Council positions was assured Monday when nominations were received at the Martin St.

School. Uncommitted prior to the meeting, Reeve A. Ledwith chose to contest the position of mayor with incumbent Mayor Brian Best. Councillor Colin Smillie will oppose Deputy-Reeve Ron Harris for the position of Reeve and in a surprise move, Esquessing township councillor Ken Marshall will oppose Milton Councillor Percy Barr for the town's deputy-reeveship.

A slate of seven will vie for the six council seats. Incumbents Sidney Childs, Gordon Krantz and Charles Fay will be joined in the contest by Charles Johnson returning after a two year absence from council and first time contenders Art Melanson, Frank Miller and William Woods.

The two positions on Milton Hydro Commission were filled by acclamation when M. J. Wareham declined to seek the position. Incumbents W. C. Rowney and Charles Thomson were thus re-elected for a two year term.

The meeting following nominations was quiet and candidates and officials were given two to four minutes to

review the year and present their positions. E. R. Pearen presided for the meeting which failed to stimulate a single question at its conclusion, from the 100 citizens present.

Mayor Best paid tribute to the way the city of 1968-69 had faced its tasks and cited the Planning Board for its effort in completing the official plan and zoning by-law. He also paid tribute to the work of Mrs. Audrey Brush who carried on while the town was without a clerk.

Highlights during the two year term were the granting of annexation with the attendant celebration and the open-hearted greeting given the Boy Scouts when their jamboree was flooded at Kelso.

Looking to the future he foresaw the arrival of regional government requiring attention in the next two year period.

Reeve A. Ledwith noted a great deal had happened since 1967 including annexation, official plans and new zoning by-laws, enlarged sewer plant, trunk sewers, water metering, a long range road improvement plan and the possibility of senior citizen housing.

Preparation of the town's master plan was suggested as the most important task faced by council. "I am hopeful this will ensure orderly development and avoid the problems hitherto caused by unplanned growth."

Containing the property tax within reasonable limits was suggested by the reeve as one of

the major issues facing council. The municipal government has found it harder each year to achieve its proper place in regional government. He reviewed his positions as chairman of the works committee, the reconstitution of the Industrial Committee and on committees of county council.

Pointing to great changes, Reeve Ledwith suggested the implications of regional government are not yet clear. He foresaw the purchase of industrial land, a re-examination of road and sidewalk plans and a review of water rates as tasks ahead for the new council.

Deputy-Reeve Ron Harris predicted a lot of work ahead for council if Milton was to achieve its proper place in regional government. He reviewed his positions as chairman of the works committee, the reconstitution of the Industrial Committee and on committees of county council.

Councillor Colin Smillie reviewed municipal decisions for the purchase of snow clearing and trenching equipment, citing savings in costs of operation that would cover the original purchase. Reductions in the streets and walks budget were effected this year under his

chairmanship and the town share of the re-routing of Highway 25, including installation of the traffic signals, will be covered from current funds.

He assured his listeners he would continue to pay his respects to the taxpayer's dollar.

Esquessing Councillor Ken Marshall told the audience it was important there be no acclamations and his land had been taken into Milton in annexation. Since his land in Esquessing has been sold he was available to serve in Milton. He reviewed that problems in Esquessing on which he had

Police Ass'n frustrated resort to arbitration

Frustrated in their efforts to come to a 1969 contract settlement with Milton Council, the Milton Police Association has decided to seek help from an arbitrator to get the dispute settled.

Milton's police are the lowest paid in Halton County, according to Association president Const. Gordon Crooks.

At first the association requested an 18 per cent increase in pay plus a number of fringe benefits. Council's initial offer was six per cent. Negotiations continued until last week when the Association demanded a 10 per cent wage hike and other benefits in a one year contract, or a two year contract with 10 per cent the first year and nine per cent the second year. The terms were unacceptable to council's negotiating committee and the matter was sent for arbitration.

At present, a Burlington constable who gets \$8,400, an OPP constable who gets \$8,200 and a Georgetown constable (on a two-year contract) who gets \$7,995.

Const. Crooks said they hope to increase a Milton first class

constable's salary to \$8,732 a year by Jan. 1, 1970. "This is still almost a year behind most other forces in the county," he noted.

"Oakville's first class constables will be getting \$9,200 for 1970. We do more work here in Milton than most forces since we have no special departments such as they have in Oakville. Here, a constable will start an investigation and will have to carry it right through."

A sergeant in Milton presently receives \$7,900. The proposed new contract would boost that rate to \$9,200 a year. Milton's second class constables now receive \$7,100; third class \$6,800 and probationary constables \$6,000.

According to Const. Crooks, what irked the police negotiating committee the most was the fact councilors said the wages paid the police department would have to be related to the works department of the town. "This got our backs up a bit, to be put in the same class as the town works department," said the spokesman.

The Association made some ground during contract talks, in the areas of fringe benefits. Council now pays 50 per cent of hospital insurance, group

insurance, medical coverage and pension plan and the Association's request for payment of two-thirds of these costs was viewed favorably by the negotiators. Councilors had also agreed to give policemen an extra week's salary (in addition to two weeks already in effect) for attending court on their off duty hours. Milton's officers are averaging 144 hours per year per man, points out Const. Crooks.

A \$2 per month uniform cleaning allowance for each man was turned down by council, and the two groups failed to reach agreement on the request for a 15 cents per hour shift premium for men working the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. Earlier demands for a 10 cent premium on the afternoon (4 to midnight) and evening (7 p.m. to 3 a.m.) shifts had been dropped.

President Crooks said, "We are quite willing to accept a reasonable offer from council but in the meantime we are going to arbitration."

The arbitrator is chosen by mutual agreement between the police association and council from a select group specializing in arbitration. If a man is not found in a specified time, the provincial government chooses one.

What happens if a suitable settlement cannot be reached? Const. Crooks put it this way: "There is a total of 55 years' experience between six men on the force at present, which is a lot to lose at once time."

Milton's police chief, Ray Andress, although a member of the association, negotiates his own salary with Milton Council.

McKeough still sees merit in union of Halton, Peel

Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough told members of Halton County Council he continued to see "positive merit in the union of the counties of Peel and Halton, regardless of the ultimate decision on Burlington".

In a letter to the County Council he congratulated Halton

for their discussions on municipal consolidation.

"The internal municipal boundaries outlined by the map appear suitable for the purposes of legislation", he wrote while acknowledging the possibility of "minor changes to these boundaries."

The Minister expressed reservations about the county's proposal for representation on a Halton unit. "I am prepared to accept the recommended system of representation on a tentative basis only."

During the meeting Cal McIntyre, chairman of the county industrial committee, presented a certificate indicating the latest win for the County Film. It was received by Warden George Currie.

A letter from Mr. and Mrs. V. Bridgeman expressing concern that the county might open up an unopened road allowance at Lowville and create hazards at the park, was referred to the county road committee.

Discussion on a Nassagaweya request to lower the speed limit on the Guelph Line between Brookville and Haltonville failed to alter the road committee's previous rejection of the request.

Reeve A. MacArthur emphasized the need for the reduction and Deputy-Reeve G. Agnew reviewed the facilities including the school, township hall, works yard, and municipal offices in the area. The representatives promised a map would be submitted to the road committee to detail the problem.

BEGIN WORK ON ROADS

Workmen from Ture Anderson Construction moved into Milton last week to start \$60,893.41 worth of improvements to Ontario St. and the Base Line Rd. The project also includes intersection improvements at the Main-Ontario corner and installation of the long-awaited traffic signals.

November goose eggs sign of warm winter?

Eight big fat goose eggs, a little out of season but nevertheless legitimate, make Eric McArthur of Kilbride wonder if it's going to be a warm winter.

Normally his geese lay eggs in late February or early March, but two of his birds have laid eight eggs in the past week. He's not sure whether the goslings will survive the cold weather when they hatch, but he's going to try. Meanwhile, are the unseasonal goose eggs a sign of a mild winter?

Expect 160 to hear D. McKeough speak

Darcy McKeough, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs will be in the proverbial "hot seat" in Milton next Tuesday evening, when he visits town to speak at a Rotary Club of Milton dinner. His topic, "Regional government as it affects our community" is sure to be of interest locally and the meeting is scheduled for the evening after he releases the Steele Report on the future of the Hamilton, Burlington and

Wentworth areas.

Rotary's organizer David Thompson expects about 160 to attend, including many municipal officials from across Halton and neighboring counties who dined on the invitation list. The dinner will be held at 6.30 p.m. at Milton District High School cafeteria. A period for written questions will follow the minister's talk.

Nominations at a glance

Here's how Milton's municipal nominations ended up Monday night:

MAYOR
(One to be elected)
Brian Best*
Austan Ledwith

REEVE
(One to be elected)
Ron Harris
Colin Smillie

DEPUTY-REEVE
(One to be elected)
Percy Barr
Kenneth Marshall

COUNCILLOR
(Six to be elected)
Sydney Childs*
William I. Woods
Gordon Krantz*
Frank Miller
Charles Fay*
Charles Johnson
Art Melanson

HYDRO COMMISSION
(Acclaimed)
William Rowney*
Charles Thomson*

*Denotes an incumbent

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Race for reeveship



RON HARRIS



COLIN SMILLIE

Candidates for deputy



PERCY BARR



KENNETH MARSHALL

Seven seeking six seats on 1970-71 town council



SIDNEY CHILDS



CHARLES FAY



CHARLES JOHNSON



GORDON KRANTZ



FRANK MILLER



ART MELANSON



WILLIAM WOODS

Approve middle schools in 70

A middle school program for Halton—termed a gradual transition from elementary schools to secondary schools—will be in effect by September of 1970. At a meeting Thursday Halton County Board of Education gave its final blessing to establishment of the middle school project, following debate that has ranged over the past three meetings.

A set of 12 guidelines approved indicates schools will be established in Burlington, Georgetown and Oakville as pilot projects, with grades 6, 7 and 8 students to be included. The pupil-teacher ratio will remain the same as it is now and industrial arts and home economics, science rooms, library-resources centres, general purpose room, change room and showers and music rooms will be included in all three buildings.

Montclair school in Oakville is the only one needing transportation of pupils, although some transportation may be needed in outlying areas of Georgetown. Typing and instrumental music will not be offered until more study can be given these subjects. Oral French will be on the curriculum, and a program of continuous progress will be adopted.

Reporting for the study committee, assistant director of education D. S. Lawless told the board there are presently 57 per cent male teachers in the senior elementary grades, 43 per cent female, and 31 per cent of the present staff hold university degrees. It was agreed the same ratios would be maintained in the new program, although some trustees felt more of the staff should have university educations, and some felt a higher teacher-student ratio

should be adopted for the middle school program.

In a discussion on transportation, Mr. Lawless suggested in the near future middle schools would be able to be planned in urban areas where no transportation is necessary. For now, some will be needed.

Trustee John Noble of Milton urged the board to make sure all parents of middle school students are aware of the program before it is begun. Mr. Lawless assured him meetings would be held to inform the parents.

Earlier attempts to have the

Martin St. School in Milton designated as a middle school were turned down, due to the small enrolment. There are approximately 350 grades 6, 7 and 8 students at this school but Mr. Lawless reported it would not be worthwhile launching such a program for less than 500

Ideas "impractical"

Suggests Marshall do his homework

Recommendations for cutting education costs were "entirely impractical and very much detrimental to education in Halton County," and the whole affair grew out of "a lack of understanding of our operations and our budget," Halton Board of Education chairman Fred Armitage told fellow trustees at

the Board's regular meeting Thursday.

The board always welcomes constructive criticism, "but I suggest these people do a little homework first, so when they come to us they will have some constructive comments," he added.

He said he was very disturbed

by Esquessing Councillor Ken Marshall's motion which called for halving education trustees' pay, reducing salaries of all employees receiving over \$12,000 a year, freezing teachers' salaries, reducing the number of consultants on staff, using existing buildings for temporary classrooms, working more closely with municipal councils at budget times, and publishing board estimates for the public to see before they are finalized.

Councillor Marshall was present in the audience during the brief discussion at Thursday's meeting. He did not speak, explaining to a reporter from this newspaper he was just there as an observer to see how the board operates.

Trustee Douglas Wood, vice-chairman of the board, congratulated chairman Armitage on the press release he issued in answer to the Marshall motion. "Once you examine the facts, you realize the Halton County Board is doing an excellent job," he said, adding a wish that critics would come to the board first to save such motions and press releases from being necessary

Free vouchers from merchants for yule shopping in Milton

If you like to play games and like to win money, Milton's downtown merchants have just the Christmas project for you.

They're giving away \$50 a week in \$5 and \$10 gift vouchers in their new Christmas Gift Game shopping promotion, each week from now to Christmas. Shoppers who shop in 25 participating Milton stores will be given free coupons which are collected each Monday and each week the lucky winners' names will be drawn. All winners

will be announced in The Champion.

One free coupon will also be included in each week's issue of The Champion. The only stipulations are that winners must be aged 17 or over, and they must spend their Gift Game vouchers in the stores specified. Look for your first free coupon on Page B8 of today's Champion and then start collecting more at the stores of participating downtown merchants. YOU could be one of the first week's winners.