

Year-end review

Development, hydro, hunting major issues in Nassagaweya

Maintaining the rural aspects of Nassagaweya Township, yet at the same time allowing acceptable industries and residential development into the area, will be some of the main objectives of Nassagaweya Council in 1972, according to Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur.

In a year-end interview with this paper Mrs. MacArthur reflected on the accomplishments and setbacks of Nassagaweya Council during the past year. Mrs. Arthur remarked Council had a fairly successful year, "although you never achieve the amount of success you want."

More homes

With in the coming year the reeve intends to push for one-acre residential lots. "There is a land purchase restriction of five or ten acre lots and a certain frontage restriction," noted Mrs. MacArthur. "A five acre lot results in only the wealthy owning land. An individual shouldn't be denied the opportunity to buy a housing lot," Mrs. MacArthur stated she was not in favor of indiscriminate building practices. "Where would be restrictions on where houses could be built. We wouldn't want Nassagaweya filled with houses," she explained.

The reeve is also in favor of attracting more industry to the Township. "Council wants acceptable industries; ones which won't be nuisances. If more industry did come into Nassagaweya it would balance the residential and industrial aspects of the township."

In her 1971 inaugural address Mrs. MacArthur stressed Council should not stand by and have township land values frozen. This was in regard to the provincial government's Toronto-Centered Region plan. "The plan designates certain land areas to be frozen and Nassagaweya is almost one of them."

Require subsidy

Mrs. MacArthur stated that if the province intends to make Nassagaweya a recreational area where no industry can enter, then the province will have to give subsidies to make up for the township not being allowed to reach its potential value. The Reeve also feels the creation of a greenbelt would not improve the value of land in Nassagaweya. However the Reeve felt an acceptable solution could be reached with the province and the issue of recreational vs industrial use of land could be settled without coming to loggerheads.

Looking back over the last year, the reeve said she thought the reason Nassagaweya Council

managed to accomplish what it did was because of the harmonious relationship of the councillors. "I'm not saying everyone on council saw eye to eye on every issue, and it wouldn't be a good thing if they did, but council members did manage to work together. Individual members respected the opinions and ideas of other members, even if those ideas differed from their own."

Better roads

Mrs. MacArthur is extremely proud of the expansion of the township's road hard-topping program. The program was started in 1970, but the reeve says it was greatly expanded within the last year. The township has what Mrs. MacArthur calls a five year plan for hard-topping roads. "Within five years if everything goes on schedule, all roads in Nassagaweya will be hard-topped. I feel this is quite an achievement for a small municipality such as Nassagaweya."

One of the toughest decisions to face council during the past year, Mrs. MacArthur said, was the decision on which route a 500,000 volt transmission line being built by Ontario Hydro would take through Nassagaweya. Towers carrying the line will be 120-130

feet apart and would cut a swath over 600 feet in width. Ontario Hydro had proposed a diagonal route, while some ratepayers including former members of council wanted the hydro line to follow a lot and concession line route.

After listening to several deputations from ratepayers, holding public meetings and discussing the issue among themselves, council in early December came forth with a resolution stating the route the transmission line would follow through Nassagaweya would have to be decided by Ontario Hydro.

Ratepayer concern

"I think our position on the transmission line was the only sensible one council could take," said Mrs. MacArthur. "We avoided pitting neighbor against neighbor, but at the same time we didn't give our blessing to Ontario Hydro for creation of the line. We wanted to give the greatest possible consideration to the ratepayers who will be affected by the route Ontario Hydro takes."

Outside hunting licences may not be granted in Nassagaweya next year, Mrs. MacArthur hinted. This action may come about because of what Mrs.

MacArthur calls "the very disillusioning actions" of the Department of Lands and Forests. "Lands and Forests are actually forcing hunting on Nassagaweya," exclaimed the Reeve.

Mrs. MacArthur explained Lands and Forests had approached individual landowners, asking them if they would allow the department to erect red placards designating hunting areas. "If the farmer doesn't want any hunting, they won't erect any signs," the Reeve said. "What happens if a farmer allows the hunting placards, but his neighbors don't want any hunting at all? It's very easy for hunters to wander from one farm where the farmer allows hunting, to the land of a neighbor who is completely against hunting."

Need permission

Under an existing Nassagaweya by-law, hunters have to ask farmers for permission to hunt on their land, the reeve states. "We will be looking into the question of hunting very seriously in the new year," reiterates Mrs. MacArthur. "A year-end debate erupted over the future of the SPIN project. SPIN (Stop Pollution in

Nassagaweya) is an ecology group which gathers reusable waste material throughout the township. The group had petitioned council to help them dispose of the waste. Township trucks were used for a while to cart the garbage away. However, council learned it was not economically practical to use township trucks.

Mrs. MacArthur says she is in favor of SPIN and says the work they are doing should not be dropped. The Reeve said she was working on the project and hinted she thought a solution would come about soon.

A youth community centre will probably be discussed in the next year by council. "Council is taking more and more interest in our young people," the reeve stated. "A community has to have the support of its young people." Mrs. MacArthur said council will probably be taking a more active interest in the creation of recreation facilities, also.

Quarry rehabilitation

Nassagaweya has in the past quarrelled with the township's local corporate citizens, the quarry operators. Mrs. MacArthur hopes that in the new year the quarries will follow the rehabilitation programs set down by the province. She said she knows it takes a while for plans to get into motion. "The quarry operators haven't been fair with the township in the past, probably because they felt they were dealing with a small municipality," noted the reeve, who also said she hopes to see the "scars" created by the quarries and gravel pits completely rehabilitated.

The one main objective Mrs. MacArthur appears to be working for in the future is the defence of Nassagaweya. "I would like very much to see Nassagaweya kept intact in any form of regional government that the provincial government may wish to implement." The reeve said when it comes to Nassagaweya, she has grave reservations about the cost of a re-structured Halton County.

Mrs. MacArthur explained her position on maintaining the boundaries of Nassagaweya. "We're a unique township—the south helps the north and the east cares about the west. People in this municipality are concerned about the welfare of their neighbors." The reeve feels she has the backing of most of the people of the township in maintaining Nassagaweya as a separate entity.

Rare species of birds spotted in yule count

By Miller Stewart
Editor "Neighborhood News"
C.B.C.

Over the Christmas weekend the majority of the 36 bird or nature clubs of Ontario conducted their annual bird census. In Canada the pioneer of this outdoor examination of the status of winter birds is the MacIwraith Ornithological Club of London, which made its 63rd annual count this year. They achieved the record number of 78 species—the highest ever attained over the long span of years.

This annual exercise was started back in 1906 by the great American ornithologist Frank Chapman, who decided it made more sense to go out and study the winter birds in informed parties, rather than shooting and collecting specimens, which was the practise up to that time.

15,000 involved

Over the years this activity has grown, until in the United States and Canada some 15,000 bird students in some 903 clubs, from the Mexican border to Alaska and

from east to west coasts observe this rite.

In Ontario last year three dozen clubs ranging geographically from Dryden in the far northwest to Ottawa and Hawkesbury in the east were represented on the census. Their results were sent to the appropriate section of "American Birds" which incorporated them in Audubon field notes—a final 400 page roundup of the American and Canadian censuses. There were 76 counts from this side of the border. Ontario ranked sixth in counts published from both countries. Vancouver had a clear lead in numbers of participants over the entire international field, with 163 searchers.

Rare species

Amongst the rarities which turned up last year in Canadian centers were a mockingbird at St. John's, Newfoundland, a Baltimore Oriole at the Sydneys, Nova Scotia, a Black Guillemot at Quebec City. As usual, Hamilton topped the Ontario list with 97 species. Long Point on Lake Erie was second with 93.

What the field notes called the most exciting discovery in Ontario was a beautiful Ivory Gull, carefully studied by experienced George Scott at Oshawa.

For the two previous censuses, Vancouver established new Canadian records in the number of species counted, 137 in 1970 and 138 in 1969.

The rules of the count demand that the field work be confined to a circle of 15 miles in radius, that the count be taken within a specified number of days from Christmas, and that each participant be assessed \$1 for the privilege of taking part. In some American centers the use of tape recordings of birds and songs is permitted, but these aids have not yet been used in Canada.

The whole operation emanates a very high degree of organization and discipline. Even so the final results are not published until the April edition of "American Birds" appears.

Learn to listen to your mind.

Township drops plan to purchase Campbellville pit

A bid to obtain an option to buy 305 acres of industrial land now owned by Campbellville Gravel Supply by Nassagaweya Township has fallen through. At a recent meeting the township council passed a resolution instructing their solicitor to withdraw from negotiations and abandon the plan to seek the land.

Township council had met to discuss their plan to buy the property in October. At that time township councillors felt the industrial land was needed to maintain a reasonable assessment balance.

Council had planned to sell some of the land to other agencies such as Halton Region Conservation Authority and keep approximately 130 acres for industrial development. The land is located adjacent to Highway 401, just east of Campbellville.

Negotiations broke down when the landowners were unable to entertain an option to buy. Apparently the firm would have considered an outright offer to purchase but municipal authorities are unable to make such transactions without Ontario Municipal Board approval. When the firm refused to accept a conditional offer or an option, negotiations broke down.

Look around

Nassagaweya Council's finance committee will investigate other opportunities the township may have to acquire

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