

# Johnson may be acclaimed but he's not without issues

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By MIKE BOYLE

Bill Johnson is a councillor with a cause. Several, as a matter of fact. The 66-year-old warhorse has been returned to his fifth term as the regional councillor for Wards 1 and 3. Surprisingly, only once, in 1978, has he been involved in a race. He beat Jim Watson that time and has been acclaimed ever since.

"I don't know if I've frightened everyone off or what. But I do know one thing, I'm going to die and then I'll retire from politics."

If there's one cause which identifies Bill Johnson, it's the environment, specifically garbage disposal. He admits he came upon it honestly. "Back when I was in England, I was a deep-sea fisherman," he recalls.

"We'd go to Iceland and you could feel the beautiful fresh air. After a month at sea, I'd come home and smell the terrible air of England and the Muddy River."

"When I came to Canada, I saw what a beautiful country it is and I saw Canada making the same mistakes as England did."

Since the early '70s, he's been at the forefront of the waste disposal issue. A pressing problem in Halton, garbage disposal has cost the region millions of dollars.

"There's only two answers. One is mandatory recycling and the other is RFD (refuse-derived waste)."

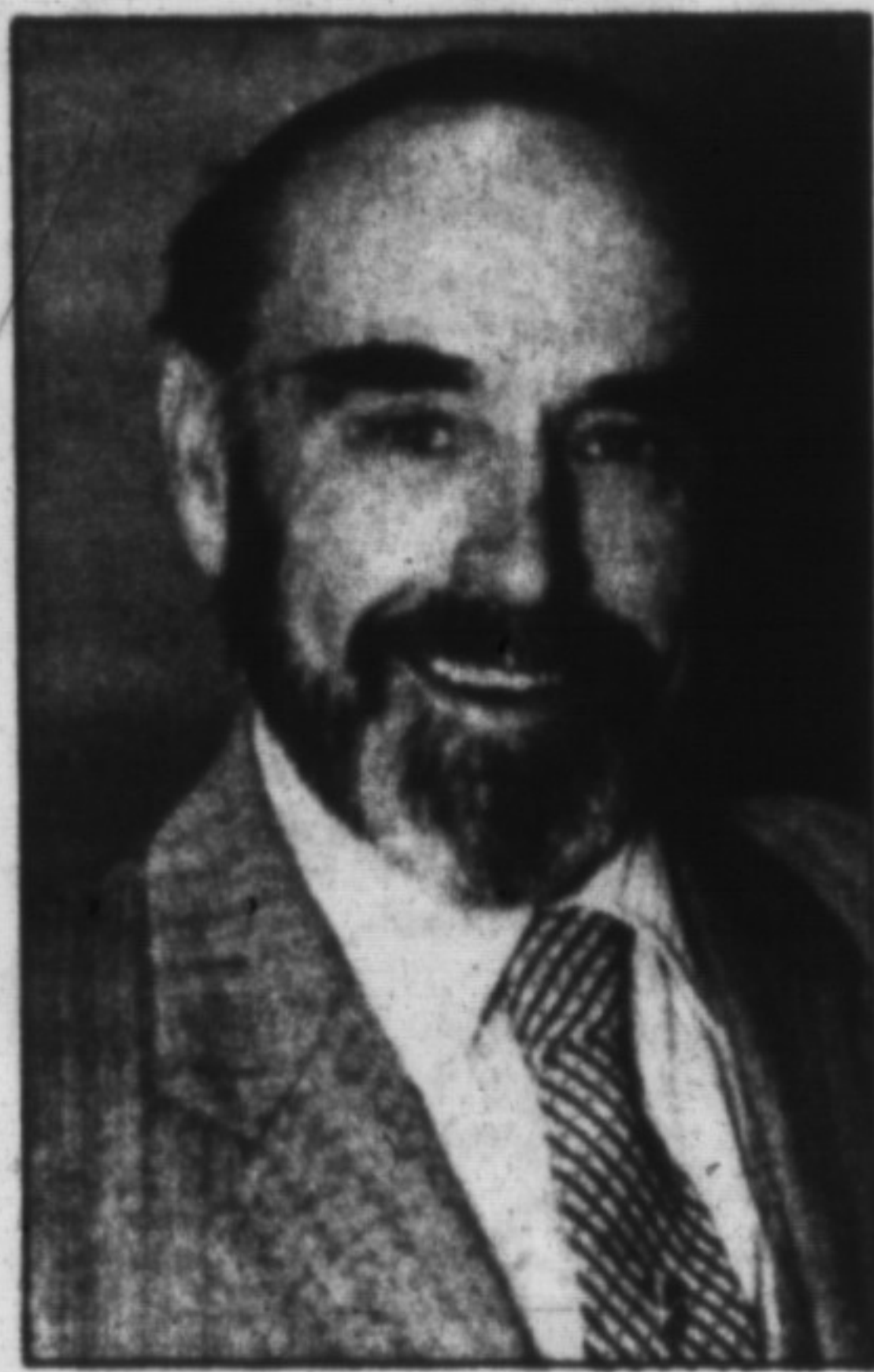
He said South Oxford, Ont., instituted a mandatory recycling program which met with much success.

RFD is another problem. That involves energy-from-waste (EFW) plants.

"That's the answer. If I can get one (EFW plant) in the town, I'll get one. Power plants are my business. I've been all over Europe and the United States looking at EFW and the technology is here now. They're like aircraft, as soon as they get off the ground, they're obsolete."

"There's an EFW plant at London (Ont.) Victoria hospital. Do you think they'd build one next to a hospital if it was hazardous?"

There are other issues which concern Mr. Johnson. He'd like to see a consultant hired to study Milton's administration. He wants a hydrogeological study for Nassagaweya. He wants a town-wide referendum on hunting in



BILL JOHNSON

Milton. And he'd like to see rural roads upgraded.

Bill Johnson does not slide away from controversy.

As for the review of the town's administration, he says "we're no longer bush league. When I brought it up at council last term, the councillors got ahold of it and decided to do it in-house. We're too close. Sometimes we can't see the woods for the trees. We're big league now and we need an outside consultant."

With the four-day deer hunt scheduled for next week, the timing of a referendum on hunting is proper. He's raised the issue at council but couldn't get a seconder to a motion, let alone a vote.

"I'd like to know what the people of the area think. I'm personally opposed to it but I don't know if the people around here want people coming up and have them tramping around with guns. I want to know the facts."

Development in Nassagaweya also troubles him.

"We need a hydrogeological study for the whole of Nassagaweya. All of these wells and septic tanks are going in and they're drawing on the aquifer."

"Nassagaweya's not built for development. We've got no arterial road. We're not ready for it. Even

where you put these subdivisions we've got no safe intersections. Our intersections are killers."

"The rural roads in Halton are about the 42nd worst of 45 municipalities in Ontario. If we

weren't spending all this money on garbage, we could spend it on roads."

He says the politicians' are as much to blame as anyone.

"In the old days when politicians

were elected for one-year terms, they thought ahead for one year. When we had two-year terms, it was for two years and now with three-year terms, it's three years. "We need long-range solutions, not piecemeal answers."

## Attenborough runs for Ward 3

By ROB KELLY

Bruce Attenborough is a veteran of eight years on Oakville council but he doesn't consider himself "a politician. I'm a person who is interested in politics."

The distinction is important to the Ward 3 Milton council candidate. He appears to take pride in being blunt, outspoken and unwilling to straddle political fences.

His answers are delivered in quick summaries. Mr. Attenborough cuts to what he feels is the heart of an issue and packages his thoughts like a report summary.

He deplores the fact no all-candidates debates have been scheduled for his Nassagaweya ward because that means the election "boils down to who knows who."

He is in a three-way race for two available seats with Paul Rumford and Barry Lee. He is candid with his assessment of the upcoming vote. "My chances of losing are as good as anyone else's."

Despite a strong hunting lobby group with a large presence in his ward he condemns the activity as morally wrong. Farmers "are entitled to take care of their own property," he said, but beyond that the line is drawn firmly, with an indication it will not change.

The candidate characterizes himself as "a bit of a right winger" and peers suspiciously at large bureaucracies. "It's my job to make sure the ratepayers' money is spent properly."

Two areas where he feels that is not happening are at the Halton Board of Education and at Halton region.

He called the board of education "not accountable to the public" financially because councillors only "rubber stamp" its budget and he characterized Halton region as "a bureaucracy out of control."

Of a recent Halton regional council move to send experts to Africa to assist Tanzanians with development, Mr. Attenborough commented, "that's really ironic. We can't solve our own waste-disposal problems and we're going to help them with theirs."

### ELECTION '88

Deciding Milton's future



The candidate supports recycling as the only currently viable solution to the garbage disposal problem and remains unconvinced that energy-from-waste plants are in taxpayers' best interests. "I don't think burning has proven to be safe."



BRUCE ATTENBOROUGH

The financial consultant has lived in Halton for 16 years, and moved to the Nassagaweya area two years ago.

On Oakville council, Mr. Attenborough was known for his support of historical and cultural matters and his keen interest in the local downtown business improvement organization.

When urban Milton starts to grow again it will "certainly have an effect" on the rural areas, the candidate said. At that time it will be important to safeguard farm land by controlling what Mr. Attenborough expects to be pressure for many one- and two-acre lot severances.

He wants to see "proper infilling" in the rural areas to "make sure we don't get pockets of subdivisions scattered everywhere."

## Tour of area homes to help Big Sisters

Those who join the Big Sisters Christmas House Tour will not only see some of Milton's finest homes, they'll be supporting a worthy cause.

Big Sisters Association of North

Halton is growing and requires funds to hire more staff. It is hoped tour tickets at \$10 each will finance expanded services. The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday Nov. 26. Destinations include Springridge

Farm on Bell School Line where hot mulled cider and treats will be served.

Tickets are available at Country Feelings, Lowville General Store and by calling 878-7772 or 878-6487.

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WARD 2

My, My, how time flies

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Love, Mum & Dad Ashleigh & Brett