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Lee enjoys impressive win, Attenborough is second

By MIKE BOYLE

If vote tallies are indicative of a candidate's popularity in an election, then Barry Lee is one popular fellow in Ward 3.

The long-time resident of Nassagaweya handily finished first in a three-horse race for the two seats available in the ward. It was one of only a few races after both incumbents, Wray Lamont and Don McMillan, opted against running again.

For Mr. Lee, the size of his victory was impressive by any standards. In only his first real election, he captured 900 votes, more than the other two candidates combined.

The real battle was for the second seat with eight-year transplanted Oakville councillor Bruce Attenborough nudging Paul Rumford by a count of 488-391.

Mr. Lee attributed his massive victory to old-fashioned campaigning and is long-time residence in

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Nassagaweya. He's been there for 27 years and currently lives on a farm in the far north just one farm south of the border with Wellington County.

"The results show I'm close to the heart of the people," he said. "I think I understand the people of the area. I know what's going on."

He said he received much help from Mr. Lamont and several acquaintances and friends. The area was covered in signs but he said there weren't too many signs.

A cabinet-maker by trade, Mr. Lee said attending meetings won't be difficult for him.

For Mr. Attenborough, it represents his fourth successful election. Previously, he won municipal elections in 1980, 1982 and 1985 for Oakville town council.

Despite his previous election successes, he acknowledged he had a hard battle on his hands in Milton.

"I'm a newcomer to the area and I must congratulate Barry Lee for finishing first," said Mr. Atten-

borough. "He worked hard and he deserved to come first."

"I'm doing it (serving on council) for selfish reasons — I enjoy it."

Mr. Attenborough moved to Nassagaweya two years ago because, "I think Oakville is out of control. I want some breathing room. I'm tired of 5,000 sq. ft. homes on 60-foot lots."

He said he's tried to familiarize himself with the local issues, "as

much as I can be in the past six months."

"They seem no different to many suburban Toronto municipalities and it's mostly growth. As long as you get a real good handle on them (rural estate subdivisions) then you can deal with them. But you've got to get the infrastructure in."

Known for his outspoken opposition to former Oakville mayor Bill Ferras, Mr. Attenborough says he hopes the chaos which characterized

several Oakville council meetings doesn't happen in Milton.

He said he intends to take the occasional job at two of his favourite targets, the Halton Board of Education and regional government.

"I will continue to take a crack at board of education whenever I can. They have an out-of-control budget. If you allow for inflation, you're looking at a half-a-billion-dollar budget in five years."

New trustee Dioni credits door-knocking for win

Long-time Milton resident Joe Deoni takes over where separate school board trustee John Bradley left off.

Mr. Deoni walked away with the trustee's position in Wards 1 and 3. Algis Rimkus made a weak showing with only 28 votes compared to Mr. Deoni's 170.

"I feel great," said Mr. Deoni after he learned of his victory. "It seems like I knocked on every door in the two wards. If I didn't talk to people at the door I sent letters."

He says he actively campaigned for the past four weeks.

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The public was most concerned with maintaining and upgrading the busing service already in place in the separate school system.

Another concern was ensuring the separate school system continued with a strong "Catholic" philosophy.

Mr. Deoni, father of four, owned a tavern in Cambridge for 15 years. After selling the business he enrolled in computer programming at Sheridan College. Since graduating

from the program he has been employed as a sales rep at SES Computers in Toronto.

Mr. Rimkus says he was disappointed by his showing Monday night, although he admits he did little campaigning.

"Joe is better known in the community than I am," said Mr. Rimkus.

He says Mr. Deoni is more representative of the traditional views of Catholic education, while he took a more progressive stance.

"I think the schools should be opened up a little more."

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