



Mayor elect Ron Bellisle congratulated by nieces Donna Muggeridge, left and Linette Partridge.

Bellisle new Penetang mayor

by Ken Regan
The election of Ron Bellisle as the new mayor of Penetanguishene was in little doubt Monday evening even after only a few of the initial poll results were posted for the small crowd which gathered at town hall.

Bellisle, who was present to watch the returns, took an early lead in the voting and never looked back. As the first totals were put up, he held a 395-225 margin over incumbent Gil Robillard, and this increased to 901-573 as the next set of totals were posted.

By the close of the night, with all polls in and all votes tallied, Bellisle had come away with a clear victory, piling up 1,318 votes to Robillard's 872.

When asked about his feelings, Bellisle said "I'm very very happy with the results."

And well he should be. His margin of victory

and the wide cross section of polls that he won indicate that his victory came from the whole town and not merely one segment or area of it.

There will be some new faces as well on Penetanguishene council for the next two years, as both Don McNee and Bob Cascagnette were elected to that body.

Returning members of council include Lionel Dion, Ken Tannahill, Ray Baker and Bob Klug. The vote tally ended like this: Dion 1,417; Tannahill 1,290; Baker 1,285; Klug 1,137; McNee 1,118 and Cascagnette 1,071.

The two losing council candidates, Hans Rick and William Geere polled 910 and 909 votes respectively.

The voting for councillor was much closer than that for the mayoralty race in most cases, with the margin of difference in votes from individual polls often being less than 10 votes.

As each set of returns were marked down on the huge chart put up on one wall of the council chamber, indicating each candidate's fortune, there were varied reactions from those present in the audience.

Reactions

The loudest and most obvious reactions came as the results for the mayoralty race were jotted down for each poll indicating a high level of interest in that race. The Bellisle supporters, who seemed to make up the majority of the crowd, let loose with squeals of excitement and obvious favour as their man consistently outpolled his opponent.

With the posting of the final results, there was an outburst of applause and many congratulations for Bellisle, even though the election was, in effect, over long before.

An estimated 56 per cent of the voters turned out Monday to cast their ballots.

Citizen briefly

McNee's election seen as a good thing

It appears one of the most welcome people elected to the new Penetanguishene council Monday night Don McNee.

Several people were overheard at Town Hall and elsewhere, remarking that McNee's presence on council would be a good thing for the town.

Deputy-reeve Frances St. Amant said she was very happy to see McNee be elected, and said he will likely prove to be a settling influence, something which she felt might be needed.

Re-elected councillor Bob Klug was another person who was outwardly happy about McNee's election, saying the newcomer was "very together."

Newly elected mayor Ron Bellisle also expressed his delight at McNee's victory, saying, "I was very, very happy to see Don McNee get in."

Death sees passing of an era

The recent passing of Arthur J. Beauchamp of R.R. 2, Penetanguishene also marks the passing of an era in history for this area, since Mr. Beauchamp was one of the last remaining farmers in Ontario to work his farmland using the historic method of a horsedrawn plow.

Mr. Beauchamp began learning to plow by horse, when he was just 14 years old and he carried on that method all his life at his farm on the 15th Concession, Lafontaine.

His skill in the pioneering method of plowing was well evidenced by the number of prizes he won at plowing matches in the province. He was a winner for five consecutive years at area plowing matches and at age 79 he won five prizes in a match held last season.

The play's the thing at ESPSS...

Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School is continuing its preparations for the presentation of the play "Man of La Mancha", which is scheduled to open at ESPSS on Dec. 14, with shows on the 5th and 6th as well.

Time of all three evening shows is 8 p.m. and tickets are \$3.00 adults, and \$2.00 students. Tickets are available from Gignac's Children's Wear, Wally's Men's Shop, Johnstone's Musicland and Books Unlimited.

School fires still being probed

Two recent school fires, one in Wyevale and one at Ecole Le Caron in Lafontaine are both still under investigation by O.P.P. and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

In both incidents, police could not determine definitely that normal causes were responsible for the fires, with the result that Fire Marshal investigators were summoned.

The Le Caron fire disrupted classes at that school last week and resulted in two rooms there being damaged to an undetermined extent.

Upcoming meetings

The regular meeting of Penetanguishene Planning Board will take place, Monday, Nov. 17, at the Council Chambers of Penetanguishene Town Hall.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, regular meeting of Penetanguishene Arena Parks and Recreation will be held at the same location.

As always, the general public are invited to attend both meetings.

SCBE meeting set

Members of the Simcoe County Board of Education will be holding one of their monthly meetings tonight in Barrie starting at 8 p.m.

One of the items to be dealt with this evening is the location and time for holding election of members to the board's French Language Advisory Committee.

10 per cent hydro hike likely next March

Residents of Penetanguishene and area can start preparing for at least a 9.4 per cent and possibly as much as a 10 per cent increase in Hydro rates, as a result of an Ontario Hydro Board of Director's approval of an increase to the 1981 bulk power rates.

The increase in the bulk power rates, which is designed to offset increasing costs in the supply of power, was granted after consideration of Ontario Energy Board recommendations made following public hearings last summer.

What those increases mean, according to Ross Fitchett, Media Relations officer for Hydro's Toronto office, is that the utilities owned by municipalities would pass on the bulk rate increases as well as any further rate increases that might be warranted.

The decision of further increases is based on whether the local utility was in good shape in terms of finances as well as condition of existing equipment and the need for capital investment.

Ernest Lalonde, manager for Penetanguishene Water and Light Commission said Monday, "Yes

we'll probably have to pass that increase on (9.4 per cent), and add a small increase to cover additional costs, for roughly a 10 per cent increase over all."

Though the local utility is basically in good shape, Lalonde said, it must replace a nine year old truck, as well as the usual 50 poles which are replaced annually. The company's poles and lines, he said, are in good shape for the most part.

Lalonde explained the local utility must submit by late 1980, or early 1981, a rate study to Ontario Hydro and this rate study must indicate a need for rate adjustment if the increases are to be considered.

The rate study must then be approved by Ontario Hydro and if rate increases are to be allowed they will take effect on March 1, 1981.

When asked about the discrepancy between the time the bulk rate increases to local utilities take effect, (Jan. 1, 1981), and the March 1, 1981 date set for increases to local users, Lalonde explained that the difference would be made up in part by money budgeted for this year, but not used.

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