

Packed county building watches warden installed

by Chris Mackey

A round of applause greeted the announcement John Fennell, a West Gwillimbury sheep breeder, was the new Warden for Simcoe County, Dec. 9. Mr. Fennell was declared the winner following a 27-12 vote count over runningmate Russell Cooper of Rama Township.

The election of the new Warden for the County took place last Tuesday afternoon before a packed audience in the County Administration building Council Chambers.

The large room was filled with representatives of four levels of government (federal, provincial, county and municipal) as well as 39 of the 40 Simcoe County Council members, and a large number of spectators.

Election of the new Warden began following the procession of members, led to their seats to the sound of the bagpipes, and the Prayer of invocation offered by Rev. A. G. Stewart Liddell.

Elmvale Reeve Ken Knox and Matchedash Reeve Walter Carr were chosen scrutineers of the vote.

Nominations were then opened and Morris Darby, Reeve of Tiny, named John Fennell as his choice. The nomination was seconded by Kenneth Wood of Bradford.

Thomas Garry of Mara Township named Russell Cooper as his man for the position of Warden, seconded by Arthur Stewart of Penetanguishene, and Herb Stevens of Coldwater nominated Doug Jackson of Victoria Harbour.

Fennell and Cooper accepted their nominations but Jackson declined.

Morris Darby and Thomas Garry, in that order, then stood and spoke to those

present on the merits of each candidate. The vote was then held as each member of council stood and declared his choice for Warden. Fennell won in the count.

Hands over reins

The new Warden for the remainder of 1980-81 retired to change into his robes of office and returned to the chamber to be led to the chair by his nominators. At that point, outgoing Warden Allan McLean handed over the reins of office.

Fennell was presented with the Chain of Office as well as the Warden's gavel and was also given various sets of keys, to the administration buildings and offices, car, etc. McLean also handed over the selection of credit cards that accompany the position, advising Fennell to "use them wisely".

A presentation of gifts to the new Warden and his wife was made by Wayne Love of Sarjeant Insurance Agency and Mr. Fennell then took over the meeting.

In his address to those assembled, Fennell expressed his appreciation for the honour and noted he was the seventh West Gwillimbury Reeve to become Warden since 1846. He said he would govern in a manner befitting the office and projected a continuance of the policies on a pay-as-you-go basis of government.

He made brief mention of the annexation issue presently in progress and prophesized that 1981 would have a tremendous impact on the economy of the county. The Warden also noted he expected co-operation from department heads as well as input in planning and other matters.

In closing, Mr. Fennell said, "With a united effort, we can make the county a better place to live, and with your help, we will."



New County Warden

Warden John Fennell was sworn into office at the meeting of Simcoe County Council last Tuesday, immediately after being elected to the post by fellow members. Mr. Fennell (left)

was escorted to the chair by his nominator Morris Darby (middle) of Tiny and his seconder Kenneth Wood of Bradford (right).

Public-spirited citizens plentiful...

Midland's council members could afford to pick and choose last week when they were deciding who would fill vacancies on the town's public committees and boards.

There were more applicants for positions on the committees and boards than run everything in the public interest from the

Midland Public Library to Huronia Animal Control than there were vacancies.

Deputy-clerk Fred Flood said the names of those who weren't appointed would be kept on file. Vacancies do open, he said.

Council was pleased by the number of people who volunteered to sit on a board or committee. Flood added.

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