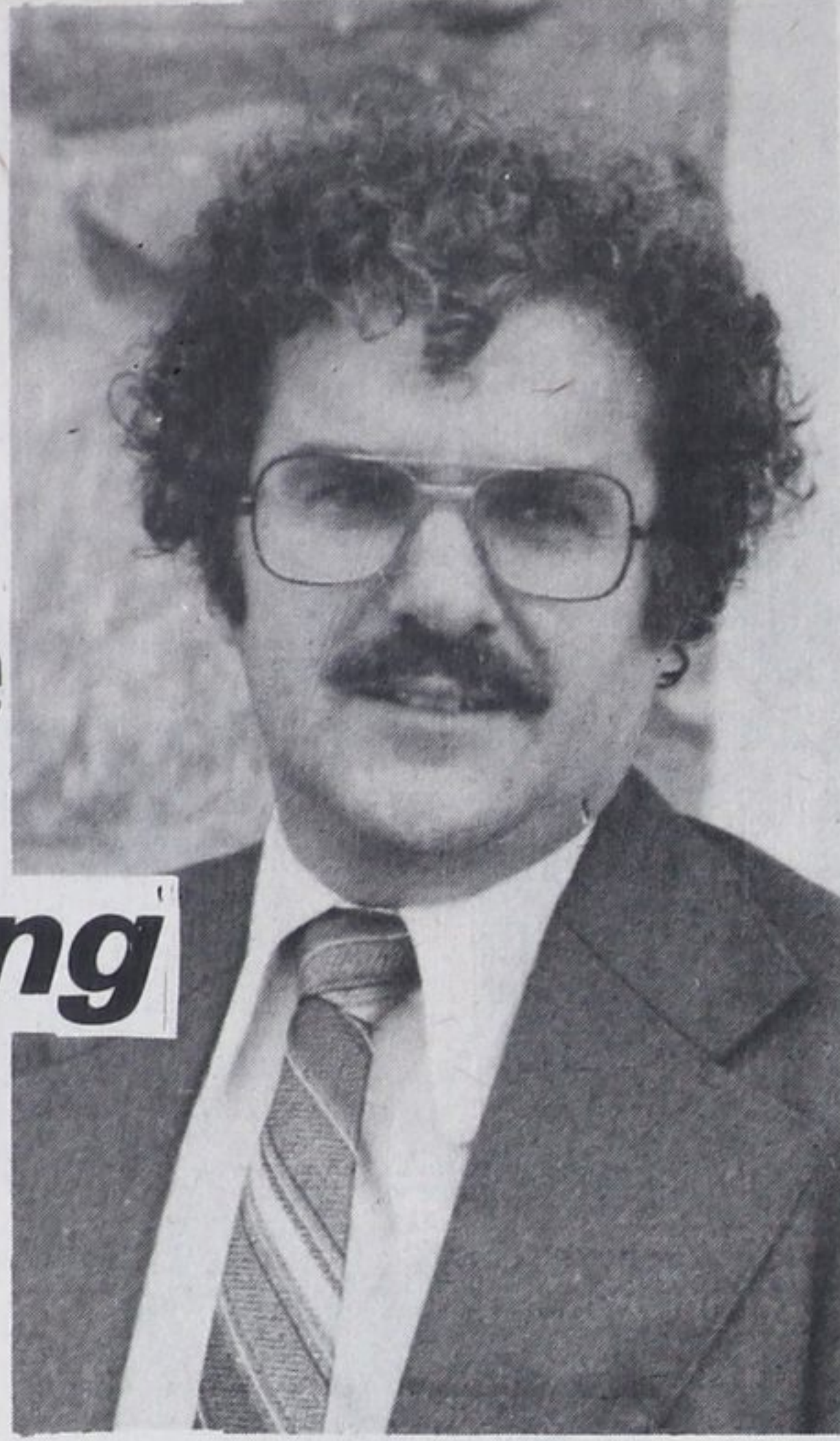


That's My Line

Yvon Gagne Returning officer



by Murray Moore

Municipal politicians come and go, but municipal elections are fixed at regular intervals by statute. While novice aspirants to a council, school board, or Public Utilities Commission seat, and incumbents, have now to make up their minds, first, if they want to run, and second, for what position, local municipal election returning officers are already deep in the details of preparing for, and seeing to, the completion of a municipal election.

Penetanguishene clerk Yvon Gagne has 10 elections behind him. As clerk of Penetanguishene, the responsibility for seeing to the details and the smooth running of the election on Nov. 8 is his.

Next Monday and Tuesday will be important days for the clerk. Five p.m. on Monday is the deadline for the receipt of nominations, and 5 p.m. the following day is the deadline for withdrawal by a candidate. Candidates have the option to file for more than one position, and exercise that option, although that hasn't been the rule in Penetanguishene's recent history.

If a candidate for example does not withdraw one of his two nomination papers, he will automatically be a candidate for the position for which he filed first. A candidate may think that it is to his advantage to keep the competition guessing until the last minute.

By next Tuesday at 5 p.m. Gagne will be able to announce the election of any individuals who are not in a contest for their position. In the case of a position which no one has sought, a special nomination day would be held in order to fill the vacancy, Gagne said.

The voters' lists have been prepared and are available to be checked by Penetanguishene citizens who want to be sure that their name is included. Few people bother to check, the clerk noted. Omissions or discrepancies in the information don't generally come to light until the voter is at the poll.

In the case of an error, or an omission of a name, the person affected has to go to the municipal office and satisfy the clerk that he is entitled to vote.

All persons who are 18 years of age or older, Canadian citizens, and resident in Penetanguishene between Sept. 7 and Oct. 20, are eligible to vote in the Nov. 8 Penetanguishene municipal election. Of the town's 5,500 residents, 3,964 are eligible to vote Nov. 8.

Twenty polls will be open on voting day, each manned by a deputy returning officer and a poll clerk. A poll is required for each group of 350 voters, but Penetanguishene's clerk's experience is that 250 voters to a poll creates enough work for the two officials of each poll.

The potential exists for each public school supporting voter in the town to have six ballots, and each separate school supporter to have seven ballots to mark, Gagne calculated.

In the last municipal election, 56 per cent of the eligible voters cast a ballot. In 1978, only one in five eligible voters exercised their franchise. That year all officials except the candidates for the PUC were acclaimed.

On Nov. 5 the clerk will meet with the 20 deputy returning officers, go over the details with them, and give them their ballots, which they count and sign for, and the ballot boxes.

The polls will close at 8 p.m. Nov. 5 and the results should be known by 10 p.m. "On election day everything is done, and everything should, and usually does go smoothly," the clerk said.



EARLY WEEK SPECIALS

Monday & Tuesday

2% Partly skimmed, pasteurized
3 qt. bag

Milk 1.69

(With minimum \$10.00 purchase excluding tobacco products.)

Admiral 220 g cont.
Sockeye salmon

Robin Hood all purpose, 2.5 kg bag
flour

Kraft, smooth or crunchy, 500 g cont.
peanut butter

Maple Leaf mild cured
pork shoulder

YOUR CHOICE **1.89** ea.

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\$1 FREE

Sears

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