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Municipal Election 88

It's a tough race this time

by Murray Moore
Senior Writer

Penetanguishene will have to elect a mayor in 1988 - that's something that wasn't necessary in the past two elections.

The late Ron Bellisle was acclaimed both in 1985 and in 1983.

Last Thursday, Councillor Bob Sullivan's not-entirely-unexpected announcement to the Citizen that he is running for mayor created a three-way contest.

Long-time council members Mayor Frances St. Amant and Councillor Art Stewart already had indicated their intentions.

The council picked by the voters on Nov. 14 will have at least five new faces. Only one of either St. Amant, Stewart or Sullivan will be back as mayor. Councillor Lionel Dion is retiring. Councillor Don McNee is no longer a resident of town - he lives in Midland and is running there for town council.

Former mayor Vince Moreau agreed to fill a vacancy on the town council until the end of the current term. But his name won't be on the ballot Nov. 14.

Ken Tannahill is seeking re-election. Anita Dubeau, Iris Cing-Mars, and John O'Hara Sr. are non-incumbents who also have filed the official notice of registration required of would-be candidates.

St. Amant says she has time to be a mayor

Frances St. Amant has been mayor since May of this year when she was elected by her fellow councillors.

She was the town council's choice to lead the town for the rest of the 1983-85 term after the death of Mayor Ron Bellisle. She was a council member for 18 years, the past 16 consecutively. Bellisle appointed her deputy mayor at the beginning of the 1983-1985 council's term. Between January and May of this year she was the acting mayor.

As a housewife she has time to be mayor, she said. Because she doesn't own a business, she has no special interest to serve.

She says she is a hard worker who loves and cares for Penetanguishene.

Issues she thinks important include: solving the shortage of sewage capacity problem; proceeding with the Edward Street project; waste disposal; parking on the top of Main Street; and completing McGuire Park.

Sullivan sells his approach

Bob Sullivan is completing the end of his first term as a councillor.

He admires the current mayor, Frances St. Amant. "No one has worked as hard for this town" through the years, he said.

He is running against her for the mayor's chair, however, because "the type of approach needed through the next three years ideally suits me."

For the past 18 months the town council has been spending an increasing amount of its time reacting to crises instead of developing policy, he said.

The council must assess where to take the town and how to get it there. "I am well suited for doing that," he said.

A member of the Huronia Airport Commission between 1978 and 1983, chairperson in 1982-83, he oversaw creation of a master plan for the airport.

He was also chairperson of the joint Penetanguishene-Tiny committee which recently completed a policy for Penetanguishene harbour.

"The town is a large corporation. The executive should be doing this (developing

policy). The management should handle the day-to-day work."

A 'natural move' for Art Stewart

Art Stewart has 15 years of council experience, almost as many as Frances St. Amant.

As the town's reeve, he has represented town for the past seven years on Simcoe County council. He was elected warden of the county in 1983.

Many years as a county councillor is enough, he said. "It's time to let someone else have a chance." Running for mayor was the natural move for him, he said.

Issues he thinks important are: taking stock of the water and sewage disposal problem; and spending more effort on attracting industry.

The town will be in a bind on both water supply and sewage disposal soon, at the present rate of development, he said. Penetanguishene needs more industrial assessment to balance the new residential assessment, he said.



Must be "Krazee"

Paul Hughes, lead guitar and singer for the band Sid Krazee, played at the Hotel Brule in Penetanguishene recently. The Toronto-based band plays mainly hard-rock and blues. Upcoming gigs are in

Quebec City and Hamilton. Other band members are Matty Holder (rhythm guitar, keyboards and vocals), Rob Deemert (drums and vocals) and Dave Davidson (bass guitar and vocals).

New truck for firefighters

Penetanguishene will soon add a new fire truck to its forces.

Town council voted last week to replace the 30-year-old truck with a newer model.

The decision to replace the antiquated pumper came after a fire study by the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

It recommended a new truck be bought right away.

Reeve Art Stewart, a member of the public safety committee, said the fire chief

is ready to begin accepting tenders.

Stewart says it will take several months for the construction of the truck and expects delivery next spring.

The estimated cost is \$190,000, but Stewart says it could be lower.

The purchase must receive approval by the Ontario Municipal Board.

This decision comes on the heels of a fire which destroyed the Blacksmith Shop at the Centennial Museum late last month.

New admission services...See pg. 3