

Spirited Municipal Contests in Markham Twp.

To the Electors of Markham Township

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited
TO ELECT

R. A. SMITH

Councillor for the Year 1928

WISHING YOU THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE SEASON

Electors of Markham Township

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited for

George B. Padget

As Second Deputy Reeve
For Year 1928

Wishing You The Compliments of the Season

Electors of Markham Township

R. L. STIVER

Asks for Your Vote and Influence

For First Deputy Reeve FOR 1928

and Wishes You All The Compliments of the Season

"EFFICIENCY and ECONOMY"

Polling on Monday, January 2nd

To The Electors of Markham
Township

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited for

J. R. CAMPBELL

As First Deputy Reeve
For the year 1928

Wishing one and all The Compliments of The Season

To The Electors of Markham Township

Ladies and Gentlemen—I wish to thank the electors of Markham Township for the honor they have conferred on me by electing me by acclamation as Reeve for the year 1928. I appreciate the honor and the responsibility of the office and assure you that I will in the future as in the past endeavor to serve in the best interests of this municipality. Wishing you all the compliments of the Season.

W. C. GOHN

Reeve W. C. Gohn Re-Elected
By Acclamation for Year 1928

Contests For Both Deputies and
For Two Seats In Council.

There will be an election in Markham Township this year when the electors will be called upon to choose a first deputy-reeve, a second deputy-reeve and two councillors. The annual nomination meeting was held in the Township Hall, Unionville, on Friday afternoon last and the electors were present in such large numbers as to more than tax the capacity of the spacious hall. Keen interest was manifested in Township affairs and although there was considerable criticism of the year's activities Reeve W.C. Gohn was returned by acclamation. First Deputy-reeve J. R. Campbell is opposed by Deputy-reeve R. L. Stiver who is conducting an active campaign taking as his slogan "Efficiency and Economy." This will prove an interesting struggle as both candidates have municipal experience and are well known throughout the Township. George B. Padget is out to knock the stuffings out of the old saying "they can't come back" and is seeking election as second deputy-reeve. He has had eighteen years experience in municipal affairs and has a wide knowledge of the affairs of the township which he is ambitious to represent. His opponent will be former Councillor J. R. Honey. Three are seeking the seats in council namely Councillor Coakwell R. J. Beatty, and R. A. Smith. It is rather a difficult task to define the issue in the different contests but there appears to be a great body of public opinion behind the candidates who are in the field which will provide a very interesting election.

Clerk G. A. M. Davison made an excellent chairman for the nomination proceedings and the meeting although interspersed with a few questions hurled at the candidates and some bright repartee was orderly and well conducted. Reeve W. C. Gohn was the first speaker and in a well delivered and thoughtful address he reviewed the work of the year in the Township as well as giving some interesting information about County affairs. He gave a detailed account of County taxation explaining that the increase this year was due to increases in the cost of secondary education, charity, mothers allowance and good roads. He pointed out that one of the most important works of the County Council was the building of roads and he reviewed the changes which had been made in the system this year. In regards to the rapidly mounting cost of secondary education, Reeve Gohn said that Markham Township was fortunate in being served by Markham and Richmond Hill, both of which had a moderate rate of cost per pupil per day as compared with other schools in the County.

The Reeve stated that during the past year \$47,114 had been spent on roads and bridges which was probably the largest amount ever spent in one year in the history of the township. A lot of the expenditure was for permanent construction of culverts and bridges. Two of the large bridges were built by contract and the rest were built by day labor. On the work done in 1926 the full grant had been received from the Department of Highways. The speaker noted that it was a significant fact that local material for road building was fast disappearing. About twelve miles of road was graded during the year. The department demanded that all roads be built a certain width and that proper ditches be provided and he was in favor of roads sufficiently wide to allow two cars or trucks to pass as he felt sure that this was a demand of present day traffic problems. Reeve Gohn drew attention to the large amount paid out this year for sheep killed by dogs. This was the first year in the history of the township when the amount paid out had exceeded the revenue from dog taxes. He intimated that he was willing to give his services to the township as reeve for 1928 if such was the will of the people.

J. R. Campbell

In his opening remarks J. R. Campbell who is a candidate for re-election as First-Deputy-reeve paid tribute to the memory of the late Johnathan Nigh in whose death he said the township suffered a great loss. He congratulated the township on its clean bill of health and expressed pleasure that the municipality had been notably free from any epidemics and practically free of any contagious diseases. He urged the electors when they read their tax bills to analyze it and ascertain just who was hitting him up

for the increase. He said that the council very often got the blame for something over which they had no control. It might be due to the County rate or to the rate for the school section. Mr. Campbell said that as a council they had laid out too extravagant a program for the past year and he was willing to take his share of the blame for it. In a recent survey of the roads of the township he found many of them in bad shape due to truck traffic. He favored closer co-operation between the road superintendent and the council and he also favored having someone responsible in the different divisions to keep an eye on the work. He felt that a lot of good work had been done during the year and that a lot of culverts and bridges had been built which were a credit to the township. He criticized the grant given by the County Council of York to the widening of the Hamilton Highway through Mimico & New Toronto. He did not favor the grant and did not vote for it but said that Deputy-reeve Stiver had supported the motion.

R. L. Stiver

Deputy-reeve Stiver was given a good welcome by the gathering and in a spirited address he discussed township and County affairs in an interesting manner. He pointed out that the county rate was increased this year from 6.6 mills to 7.5 mills due to the increase of \$85,000 in the cost of roads \$2000 increase in the cost of the Children's Aid, \$4,000 in cost of Agricultural grants, upkeep of County property \$2700, \$4000 increase in interest charges, \$6500 increase in Mothers allowance, \$10,750 increase for Municipal government and salaries, \$15000 increase for Charity, \$1000 increase for Industrial Home and an increase of \$36,858. In the cost of secondary education making a total increase of \$114,308. He pointed out that the cost of secondary education in the county advanced from \$156,493.65 in 1926 to \$185,408.07 in 1927. The East York High School built this year cost, \$300,000 and the one at Vaughan Road cost \$350,000. He was in favor of a standard being fixed for High Schools and if any district wanted a better one with all the frills he believed in letting them pay for it themselves. Continuing Mr. Stiver said that in Township affairs he had always tried to practice the strictest economy. He referred to the appointment of a road superintendent at the first of the year for which position there were eight applications ranging in price from \$900 per year to \$1500 per year and applicant to find his own conveyance. The argument at that time was that we could not afford to separate the offices and a resolution was passed combining the offices of Road Superintendent and Constable. Mr. Thompson was the only applicant and therefore I asked that the matter be laid over until the next meeting. At the next meeting it was moved and carried that all the applications be read but I objected to this as in my estimation there were only two applications for the combined offices, that of Mr. Thompson and that of Mr. John Fisher. After some discussion I moved that two separate appointments be made which was carried and wisely I think because I am of the opinion that no one man can occupy both jobs and do justice to either. Mr. Thompson was then given an opportunity of applying for the position of Road Superintendent which he refused to do. When the appointment was to be made I moved that Mr. John Fisher be appointed as his application called for \$900 per year and he agreed to find his own conveyance but my motion was lost. Mr. L. Middleton was appointed at a salary of \$90 per month and 10 cents per mile for his car. Although I opposed the appointment of Mr. Middleton on those grounds I am glad to say that he has filled the office with credit to himself and to this municipality. My one reason for consenting to the purchase of a tractor was that we owed \$340 rent and I thought it good business to pay \$160 more and own it ourselves. I opposed the use of the road maintainer for dragging the roads as I contended that it was too costly for all the good it was doing but the council continued to use it. When the question of purchasing a motor truck was under discussion I opposed it as I was against the purchase of any more new machinery. We bought a rock crusher in 1925 at a

cost of \$2800, a tractor, grader in 1926 for \$2165, and a tractor and road maintainer in 1927 for \$500. In my opinion we should try and use our present machinery and get more material on our roads. I also do not favor grading all roads 24 feet wide unless traffic conditions warrant it, as it is almost impossible to maintain them and the government does not even recommend them in all cases. The department also advised that we grade no more road than we can re-surface each year. The speaker stated that in his opinion the roads could be maintained cheaper with the old drags than with power grader. He reviewed the work in Doncaster Park and pointed out that at the outset he had opposed this proposition but was the only member of the council to do so. He now favored that all Doncaster expenditure be kept in a separate account so the ratepayers could tell exactly what was spent there. Mr. Stiver drew attention to the seriousness of the chicken thieving operations in the township and pointed out that at the June meeting he had moved for a reward of \$100 to be offered by the township for the apprehension of guilty parties. He stated that he was a candidate for the office of first deputy-reeve. "I have served you to the best of my ability for the past seven years and if elected to this position I will continue to do my best" he said.

Mr. Honey

Mr. J. S. Honey who is a candidate for the office of second Deputy-reeve congratulated Reeve Gohn on his excellent review of the years work. He felt that the council had used the money of the taxpayers as carefully as possible and he was of the opinion that next year the expenditure could be reduced. "I am well satisfied with the Road Supt. and the work he has done" said Mr. Honey, "he has been right on the job all the time seeing that the men did good work."

Mr. Coakwell

Councillor Fred Coakwell who after two years in council is seeking re-election pointed out that the demands of the public to-day was the cause of the higher expenditure. The work done during the year was done with an eye to the future and much of it was of a permanent nature. He compared the conditions which existed under statute labor when 1000 yards of gravel were put on the township roads with the 4000 yards of gravel and 1000 yards of crushed stone put on in the past year.

George Padget

A veteran municipal legislator thanked all for past favors and asked for their support for the coming year. He felt that the taxpayer was destined to see a mounting county tax rate; the debenture debt was going up and there were improvements coming along in the future which the ratepayers would be called upon to pay for. He criticized the increased pay for County Councillors and said that apparently the sky was the limit. When the salaries were raised he thought the sessions would have been shortened but such was not the case. Eight dollars a day and mileage was pretty big pay for about an hour and half of work at a committee meeting. The only way to reduce taxes in the Township was to reduce the overhead. He thought the ten cents a mile for the Road Supt was too high and should be cut in two. "I'd drive a Ford car night and day at that price" he said. He favored doing the work in a shorter time not extending it over the whole summer and paying foremen seven months in the year. He was not in favor of buying any more machinery as he felt the township should wear out what it had now first. He criticized the buying of a second hand tractor after a rent bill of \$340 had accumulated. If elected to office he would serve the township to the very best of his ability and he wished one and all the compliments of the season.

Robert H. Smith

Robert Smith a former member who is seeking re-election to council declared that the township overhead was too high. The road work should be done in a shorter time. One member of the council admitted that too much work was laid out for this year. Why didn't they stop when this was found out? In the section I live the conditions are a disgrace "he said" I have to drive miles out of my way to drive my children to school." He thought the council of 1927 used very poor judgment and that the ratepayers of the township were demanding an election. Our taxes are going up he said and we have still our mud roads. Where is our money going?" asked Mr. Smith. If elected he promised to work in the interests of the taxpayer.

Robert J. Beatty

Robt. J. Beatty who lives on the third concession just north of the El-



W. C. GOHN
Re-elected Reeve of Markham Township for the year 1928, by acclamation

in Mills sideroad is seeking election for council on the solicitation of a large body of the ratepayers of the township. There has not been a representative in the council from his particular section for a great many years and if elected Mr. Beatty promises a square deal to ratepayers in all sections of the municipality. He said it was not his intention to knock the actions of the past council but if elected would do his best for the township in 1928.

Notes From the Firing Line

All the candidates are busy as bees on the hustings. It looks like a real old time scrap with contests for all the offices except that of Reeve.

Reeve Gohn said he couldn't find much of a constructive nature in the criticism levelled at the 1927 council on Nomination Day.

George Padget who is an entry in the race for 2nd Deputy-reeve is well versed in Municipal affairs and is well and favorably known throughout the Township. He is no novice at the game and will put up a stiff fight.

Doncaster Park is quite an issue in the campaign. Mr. Stiver claims the council has spent too much money in this sub-division. He was the only member of the Council to oppose the move.

Someone at the Nomination meeting credited Reeve Gohn with the boast that there wasn't a man in the township could lick him. He advised the Reeve not to put himself to the expense of needing a new hat. Mr. Gohn denied making such a statement but said that he had remarked that he guessed someone would run against him if he thought he could lick him.

Mr. Stiver voted with the majority of the County Council in giving a grant of 50,000 to the widening of the lake shore road in Mimico and New Toronto. His opponent Mr. Campbell voted against the grant and this is an issue which will no doubt have some discussion before polling day.

A "Honey" in the race should at least sweeten the troubled waters.

All the aspirants in Markham Township seem to talk reduction of overhead. Its an important item; a good business man is one who keeps his overhead expenses at a minimum and after all the township is just the people's business.

At this distance it looks like a merry fight. May the best men win and may the losers work just as hard for the good of the Township of Markham as if they were elected to office.

Whoever the 1928 Council in Markham may be, they should lay aside all differences as soon as they take office and work shoulder to shoulder for the best interests of the Municipality. A little more co-operation from the ratepayers throughout the year would also not be amiss.

The nominations received were as follows:—For Reeve, W. C. Gohn, by Ross Nichols & Alex Douglas; George Padget by P. Forsyth and W. E. Risebrough; J. R. Campbell by Clark Young and A. E. Milner; R. A. Smith by H. M. Warriner and Jas. Thompson. For 1st Deputy-reeve, J. R. Campbell by Ross Nichols and Geo. R. Cowie; R. L. Stiver by Jno Mortson and H. W. Pipher; Geo. B. Padget by J. H. Bracken and Wm. Bond. For 2nd Deputy-reeve, R. L. Stiver by H. C. Reesor and J. S. Wideman; J. S. Honey by Thos. F. Walker and W. L. Hopper; George B. Padget by Alex. Douglas and R. J. Nash. For Council, F. Coakwell by A. R. Burkholder; and George Cowie; R. J. Beatty by Chas. Hoover and R. E. Perkins; R. A. Smith by R. J. Nash and T. Walker; George B. Padget by Alex. Douglas and J. H. Bracken; J. S. Honey by R. J. Corson and W. H. Johnson.



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