

# James Rennie Elected Reeve of Markham By Acclamation--Contest for Deputy and Council

## Councillor Hooper Seeking Deputy-Reeveship and Six Are In Field For the Council Seats

Hot Time at Nomination as Hooper Denounces Relief Administration--Veteran Reeve, G. B. Padget, Retires

James Rennie, deputy-reeve of Markham for the past two years has been elected Reeve of that municipality for the coming year by acclamation and the veteran George B. Padget, reeve of the past year and one of York County's best known municipal figures who has been prominent in the public life of this county for over thirty years has retired. Charles H. Hooper, a member of the municipal council for the past three years and who created fireworks at the nomination Monday with his charges regarding relief administration is seeking promotion and will be a candidate for deputy-reeve and will be opposed by Fred J. Coakwell, a former member of council. Six candidates will seek election to the three council seats. Albert Reesor and Abner Summerfeldt, two members of the 1936 council seek re-election and two former deputy-reeves, W. L. Clark and R. L. Stiver are candidates along with two men new to municipal life, Harry H. Barber of Victoria Square and Reuben R. Pearse of the 10th concession.

Markham municipal pot which a few weeks ago looked quiet and peaceful suddenly heated up to boiling point and the situation was climaxed by the spirited nomination meeting on Monday. Then followed the unexpected retirement from municipal life of the veteran Geo. B.

Padget and now the election contest of Monday next looks like a real bang-up battle of the ballots which may materially change the complexion of the 1937 council. The ballot next Monday is expected to draw out a record vote. Voting will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday's nomination meeting was largely attended and was a nice peaceful affair until Charles Hooper started the fireworks with his charges against relief administration in the township. In a fighting speech which drew rounds of applause Mr. Hooper now a candidate for deputy-reeve said "I'm coming out straight on this thing. How can we administer relief honestly and be fair to those on relief and those who are paying the taxes if a member of council goes over the head of the relief officer and hands out relief? I am a young man in municipal life and I'm not going to do anything crooked or countenance anything but the right way of doing things" he said. The speaker also charged that Constable Walker had gone around among relief recipients electioneering and claimed he had made the remark his job would not be worth anything if Padget was not returned.

Constable Walker rose from the audience and stoutly denied ever doing any electioneering and stated that any work he had done amongst

relief recipients on a date mentioned was for the purpose of creating peace and avoiding any trouble. Several statements alleged to have been made were hurled backwards and forwards and there were several hot exchanges for some minutes before the chairman finally restored order. "I know what I'm talking about and I can prove everything I have said," said Councillor Hooper.

**Reeve G. B. Padget**  
 Reeve G. B. Padget speaking of County affairs stated that secondary education costs had reached gigantic proportions. This year the cost to the county was some \$547,000. In its wisdom the present Ontario government had last year passed a change in the educational act and if it becomes effective Markham which this year paid \$21,000 for secondary education costs would save about \$7000.00. Equalization of assessment would be another major problem for the consideration of the 1937 council and if Markham received its just dues it should receive a material reduction in equalized assessment. Mr. Padget drew attention to the fact that the sixth concession had been taken back as part of the County system and the township would now be relieved of its upkeep. Since 1929 the township had spent \$21,151.42 on this road so he thought that his efforts along this line had been a good stroke of business for Markham township. He pointed out that through his efforts the Toronto Municipal Farm at Langstaff had paid to the township in taxes some \$24,195.00 and that last year alone the jail farm taxes amounted to \$1,897.77. The radial railway problem also would be coming up for discussion in the coming year and its final disposition would rest with the people. The reeve drew attention to many rumors regarding relief administration which were being circulated in the township. I have always tried to deal fairly with this matter of relief, fair to those who are on relief and fair to those who pay. He cited the particulars of two cases for which he had been criticized in the ordering of fuel. The two together amounted to about \$7 to the township of Markham so it wasn't a very serious matter and he had acted sincerely as he saw best. In closing the reeve said it was problematical whether or not he would be a candidate but whoever was in council he would be glad to render any assistance he could because he said "Markham is my home and I love this township."

**James Rennie**  
 James Rennie elected Reeve for 1937 by acclamation declared that it was his observation regarding equalization of assessment in the County that the north suffered more than the urban municipalities bordering the city, but he was hopeful that the commission now engaged in preparing a report would be able to supply a satisfactory solution. Regarding the proposed change in the method of payment of county councillors he said he thought more could be accomplished by cutting out a lot of the unnecessary discussion. There is endless discussion down there on many topics he said. He pointed out that this year the County had succeeded in cutting hospitalization costs by some \$13,000, but the cost of Mothers Allowances would be increased from \$130,000 to \$152,000 this year. The township this year had constructed four culverts or bridges at a cost of \$2698 and of this the government would pay \$1231. This year there had been a reduction in the amount of tax arrears and this was a healthy sign as he considered tax payments as the barometer of the township's solvency.

Charles H. Hooper, a member of the 1936 council who is seeking the deputy-reeveship thanked the electors for the wonderful support given him last year when he was elected at the head of the poll. He reviewed in detail the work of the township during the year and referred to the increased expenditures on roads this year. We have increased our road expenditure by about \$4000 this year and have put on the roads 5350 yards of gravel at an average cost of \$1.25 per yard. He gave the detailed cost of the bridges built and the amount of relief labor used on each. Relief expenditure had increased being \$10,921.85 in 1936 compared to \$9,496.41 in 1935.

Councillor Albert Reesor thanked the electors for the confidence they placed in him by electing him last year. He said this year the council was able to make increased expenditure on roads and bridges and that there are still several bridges which need rebuilding. Regarding relief he believed in fair play to all ways keeping in mind the ability of the taxpayer to pay. He thought probably more investigating of relief cases would be a good idea.

In a happy speech councillor Summerfeldt said he had tried to do his

duty as a councillor and he felt all members of the 1936 council had done the same. He pointed out that at the end of 1935 there were 73 families and 249 persons on relief and at the present time 63 families and 180 persons were on the relief rolls. He would be a candidate for re-election and if re-elected would continue to do his best for the township.

Fred J. Coakwell, a former member of council who failed in the election for council last year and is this year a candidate for deputy-reeve discussed the financial affairs of the township which he said should be the deep concern of all the electors.

W. L. Clark, a former deputy-reeve of the township who is this year a candidate for council asked why the 1936 council with increased taxes, no bridge debenture to pay and the 6th concession taken over by the county, still ended the year with a deficit. Where did the money and increased taxes go? he asked. He criticized the heavy cost of administering relief which he said amounted to about half a mill on the taxes. Mr. Clark said that in last year's financial statement there was reported an estimated surplus of \$369 and that when the auditor's report was made out at the end of the year it showed a deficit of \$765. This year there is an estimated deficit and if the estimate is the same as last year by the audited statement it will amount to \$1500.00. Isn't it about time we started to balance our budget? asked Mr. Clark. He pointed out that the board of valuers appointed re the county equalization would receive about \$12,000 for the year's work. Not bad he remarked. He likewise pointed out that the County council early in the year gave a salary increase of \$1000 to the county treasurer who was already receiving \$3000 per year. Only one member of county council voted against this \$1000.00 increase in salary he said. The speaker said he would be a candidate for the 1937 council.

W. F. Kincaid as usual received a tumultuous welcome from the crowd. "I hear there's abdication in the air," he remarked, "but I don't know if he's going into exile or will continue to sit on the edge of the throne." He suggested that the council adopt the prepayment of taxes plan in order to save interest.

R. L. Stiver, a former deputy-reeve who is standing for election as councillor like previous speakers said he could not understand when the \$5000 debenture payment was off this year, the 6th concession on the county why the taxes were up. Back in 1929 when he was in council the building of the Hastings bridge was advocated. I said it could be repaired and do for some time. It was repaired for \$29.00 and is still doing service.

Mr. Reuben Pearse who lives on the 10th concession of Markham on the well known Riggfoot farm stated that he thought it was a good idea to inject some new blood into the council once in a while. In a pleasant speech he stated that he would be glad of the opportunity of serving the people of Markham township. He is a candidate for council.

Harry Barber of Victoria Square who sprung into the limelight a few years ago when he headed a deputation of farmers to protest too generous treatment of relief cases is this year a candidate for council. He declared that if elected it would be his aim to serve the best interests of the ratepayers and extended to all the best wishes for the new year.

All the members of the 1936 council were given a chance to speak in reply.

Reeve Padget said "speaking frankly we still had a bridge debenture payment to make this year. The debenture money was collected in 1930 but not applied to the debenture and we had to make it up this year."

The Reeve stated he had 560 relief interviews in his home this year.

Replying to Mr. Clark's criticism of the increase in salary for the county treasurer Mr. Padget stated he was offered more money to take another position and to keep him the raise was given. "I think now he's getting too much, and I've told him so."

During the replies of the councillors the hot debate on relief administration took place with Councillor Hooper, Reeve Padget and Constable Walker mixing in a verbal battle. Mr. Hooper took strong exception to the action of the reeve in ordering relief fuel and to remarks alleged to have been made by him.

Nominations were received as follows: For Reeve: George B. Padget by Kenneth E. Deacon and Frank Dimma; James Rennie by J. G. Wideman and Russell Couperthwaite; Jas. Ley by Clark Young and R. E. Perkins.

For deputy-reeve: James Rennie by J. G. Wideman and Russell Couperthwaite; G. B. Padget by J. Galloway and Ken Prentice; C. H. Hooper by Wm. F. Brooke and Russell Boyington; F. J. Coakwell by W. H. Tran and R. E. Perkins.

For Councillors: Harry Barber by J. A. Valliere and P. W. Willows; W. C. Gohn by F. J. Coakwell and W. H. Tran; W. F. Kincaid by Wm.

Rennie and David Brown; W. L. Clark by W. E. Gohn and E. A. Sommerville; Reuben Pearse by H. N. Foote and Philip Forsyth; R. L. Stiver by D. Rumney and R. E. Glover; F. J. Coakwell by W. H. Tran and H. C. Reesor; Albert Reesor by E. A. Sommerville and James H. Bracken; C. H. Hooper by P. W. Willows and Nelson Boynton; A. Summerfeldt by J. Everett Harper and J. P. Gould.

**THORNHILL**  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Ness celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at their home, Yonge Street, on Tuesday, Dec. 29, when many friends gathered to extend felicitations. They were also tendered a surprise when the Woman's Association of the United Church, of which Mrs. Ness is an honored member, presented them with a lovely basket of fruit, and the neighbors honoring them, by presenting a beautiful plant. We extend congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Ness.

The January meeting of the Women's Missionary Society will be held on Tuesday, January 5th at 3 o'clock at the home of Mrs. N. J. Smellie. The annual reports will be given at this meeting.

At the nomination meeting, candidates for commissioners for the Police Village of Thornhill, J. E. Francis, Wm. R. Riddell and W. Ball were

nominated. Mr. Riddell not wishing to act, S. Findlay was nominated. Elsie McLuhan, reader and impersonator, assisted by the Thornhill orchestra, will give a concert in the United Church New Year's night at 8 o'clock.

Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Wesley and son John spent Christmas Day with Mrs. Wesley's parents at Trenton.

Mr. Edgar Simpson of Kirkland Lake spent the week-end and holiday at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Brillinger entertained at a family dinner party on Xmas Day. Mrs. Short and Mr. John Short of Erin were guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Thompson spent Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Toronto.

Miss Rosa Harris visited on Xmas with her cousin, Miss Annie Harris, Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Johnston and family visited on Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Johnston, Toronto.

Mrs. A. Elson, Richmond Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Elson, Dutton and Mr. and Mrs. Preston Elson of Guelph visited on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. P. Robinson.

Miss Isabel Ball is spending her holidays at her home.

Mrs. S. Wileocks is enjoying a holiday with her sister at Sutton.

Miss Aggie Cooner spent Christmas Day with Dr. and Mrs. Carleton and Miss Annie Cooper, Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Carville, visited with Mr. and Mrs. W. Ness on Sunday.

### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

Elect  
**R. L. Stiver**  
 Councillor for 1937  
 Several Year's Experience in Municipal Life



### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

I wish to express to the ratepayers of Markham Township my sincere thanks for the confidence they expressed in me by electing me as Reeve for the coming year. May I also express my thanks to the Reeve of 1936 for stepping aside in my favor, and on behalf of the citizens of this township thank him for his long years of faithful service to Markham and the County of York. To all the people I extend my best wishes for the New Year.

**JAMES RENNIE, Reeve**



To the Electors of Markham Twp.  
 Elect  
 Councillor  
**C. H. Hooper**  
 Deputy-Reeve for 1937  
 Worthy of Promotion

### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

Your Vote and Influence respectfully solicited to elect  
**Reuben R. Pearse**  
 Councillor for 1937  
 To one and all the Compliments of the Season

### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

Elect  
**F. J. Coakwell**  
 Deputy-Reeve for 1937  
 Six Years' Experience as Councillor

### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

Re-Elect  
**Albert Reesor**  
 Councillor for 1937  
 Economic Efficient Administration

### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

Elect  
**W. L. CLARK**  
 Councillor for 1937  
 An Experienced Municipal Administrator



### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

I respectfully solicit your vote in the coming elections for my re-election as your councillor for 1937. I have tried faithfully to do my duty in the past and it will be my aim to endeavour to serve your best interests in the future.

**Abner Summerfeldt**

### To the Electors of Markham Twp.

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED TO ELECT  
**Harry H. Barber**  
 Councillor for 1937  
 ELECTION DAY MONDAY, JANUARY 4th