

Regional, mayoralty candidates debate

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"I base my appeal on integrity, responsiveness and applying commonsense to decision making at the municipal and regional level and promise to work full time to provide good government for you. I make that promise again in the interests of your tax dollar and in the interests of democratic government," she said.

Candidate Rowe
The other sitting regional councillor, Gord Rowe, said a major area of concern is development, the rate of development, the type of development and the area of development.

"There will be development. The influx of population into Metro is going to cause continuous and increasing pressure on this municipality. We have negotiated for servicing systems which will phase out some of the upstream sewage disposal plants and bring such services to areas which up to now have not had them. The pressure will be tremendous and I hope to be a member of council to help come with them," Rowe said.

He also announced the consulting engineers have finished their work on the proposed grade separation of the CNR and Markham Road and will be presenting a report for consideration by the region's engineering department. "This project will no doubt be raised in priority because of the imminence of the GO Train service and the dual hazard to motorists and emergency services."

He also noted the region has provided sufficient funding to extend the services of the local family life centre to December 31, after which date it will have

to arrange its own funding. "It's high time regional council gives serious consideration to realignment of priorities. This is a much needed facility," Rowe said.

Candidate Wainwright
Lou Wainwright, at present representing Ward 6 on town council, thanked Rowe for enlightening him on some things that have gone on at region that councillors had not yet heard about. "My reason for running for regional councillor is that I can represent you full time. I have no conflict of interest." He charged Richmond Hill Council has sent resolutions to regional council which have not been presented there.

Wainwright was asked why Hancey and Rowe have a better record of attendance at council meetings than he has. He replied that in four years he has missed only six council meetings. "I believe I am entitled to a holiday like the same as everybody else. And I have done my homework and I have done independent thinking in making my decisions. I haven't voted in a block with five other people."

Mrs. Hancey explained to a ratepayer the role of a regional councillor, who is elected by the whole municipality to represent it at the municipal council level and also at the regional level.

The two mayoralty candidates brought the list of speakers to an end.

Lazenby speech
Bill Lazenby, the incumbent, left the stage and spoke directly to the ratepayers from floor level, telling them, "You are the people who got me involved in politics. You came to me in my pharmacy with your

problems and over the years I have established a bond with you."

He also said there are more than two sides to many questions and that he must protect the interests of the majority of the people in Richmond Hill. He said three years ago he tried to have a park established at the Observatory, a federal institution "but the federal government has done nothing to protect that investment and the University of Toronto turned me down flat."

"You have to have somebody thinking for you and looking after your affairs while you get about your business of earning a living or raising a family. Compare my qualifications with those of my opponent. I've stood on my own two feet all these years," he said in conclusion.

Schiller speech
David Schiller who is seeking election to the mayoralty for the second time, told the ratepayers he is quite willing to grant that Lazenby is a pharmacist.

"But he should be talking about what has been done in the past and what he plans to do in the future. I intend to discuss the issues. Lazenby's voting record is consistently in favor of every development that has been proposed," Schiller quoted his opponent as favoring a population of a quarter of a million for Richmond Hill in 1973 but opting for a controlled growth rate in his announcement of candidacy.

"Is he saying what he means?" Schiller asked. Schiller said his platform includes provision of a question period before all council meetings, informal meetings with the public, better methods of handling

zoning bylaws, documenting all town records in the public libraries and opening up committees to all who want to participate.

Lot of bunk
During the question period Schiller labelled as "a lot of bunk" that, if elected, he will cut staff ratings and salaries and rumors that he is on welfare and similar whispers.

Asked to explain the reason council approved a race track in town, Lazenby stated no approval had been given.

"A group of citizens asked for an 'in camera' meeting and we invited the agricultural society to attend because they were involved. The proposal was far from complete."

Schiller suggested far too many in camera meetings have been held. He pointed out council purchased 100 acres for a works depot when it needed only 27 acres and developers had proposed to use a large part of it for a privately owned pari-mutuel race track.

"This is the kind of thing we had better start looking at very closely," he said.

Taxi business
"When are you going to clean up the taxi business?" asked another taxpayer. "The mayor has only one vote," explained Lazenby. "We have appointed a new licensing officer, who has to pull them in one at a time. She's working hard at it."

"The mayor has certain duties — to enforce bylaws, to administer the town staff and to make recommendations for the health and welfare of the municipality," stated Schiller. "Don't think you can slough off this responsibility by saying you have only one vote. I plan to initiate proposals."

BAIF centre arena eliminated

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Wainwright and Regional Councillor Rowe. Voting in the negative were Councillors Chateaufort, Major, Regional Councillor Hancey and Mayor Lazenby.

Recorded vote
On a recorded vote on proceeding with the whole concept, Councillors Wainwright and Corcoran voted in favor and the other seven against.

Attending the meeting were representatives of all groups involved.

Representing the arena board, Bill McVean said Richmond Hill is unique in that the existing arenas are being paid for out of revenue, with both principal and interest payments on the debentures being met. He said the board had misgivings from the first about including an arena in the plans. There was no way at the tendered cost plus the cost of financing that it could accept the proposed arena on the same terms.

Closing library
A letter dated November 11, was received from the Mark-Vaun Women's Institute asking reconsideration of the decision to close the present Richvale Library when the larger premises are built in BAIF.

Commenting on this letter, Chief Librarian Pat Harte said the community would not really lose the library, which was built as a Vaughan Township Centennial project.

"What we plan to do is to turn it over to the parks and recreation committee to use as a community centre. We could have programs there during the week and on Saturday for the youngsters, but we would not have books there. Our decision was announced May 27 and until this week we had had no complaints. Everyone

seemed happy to have it as a community centre and Mr. Hamilton seemed happy to have a facility in an area where there is a great need."

Library Board Chairman Adele Downey said the board favored the larger library on the recreation complex site, noting it would tie in and relate well to the schools and the day care centre. "Our desire is for the money to be spent for the most good."

Hillcrest ratepayers
Mrs. E.J. Hooper said a Hillcrest Ratepayers' Association has just been formed and is at present busy getting incorporated. "Originally we liked the whole concept," she said, "but felt since it was about to be divided we should go before the whole membership to learn their views". She asked for two weeks for this input to be available.

However the parks director said a decision on the present tender had to be made immediately. "Every day we delay now is a day we don't get money back under winterworks forgiveness on the loan," added Treasurer Rice.

Hockey costs
As a parent of three boys, Mrs. Barbara Cox said one son is on the town's midget representative hockey team. His equipment alone cost \$240. Twin sons, 11 years of age, were also chosen for the minor peeewe town representative team. Fees for the season were \$35, \$35 and \$17.50 plus two adult passes at \$15 each and three junior passes at \$7.50 each. The budget for the midget team is \$7,000 and for the minor peeewe team is \$5,000.

"We had our twins removed from the town team to play only in the

house league, so our older son could continue on the midget team. My husband is an accountant. But what about the lunch pail families? Are we considering them at all in our hockey programs?" she asked.

Arena Manager Ed Sackfield said there are three minor hockey associations in the Hill. Registrations this year in the former town are down about 50, and in Oak Ridges about the same number, but are up about 25 in Richvale. He said costs are well in line with neighboring communities and said he had just learned that "in Orillia it costs \$95 a boy". He also said local groups receive a 25 percent discount for ice time, plus five percent if paid in advance, bringing the cost of ice time to \$24 to \$25 per hour.

"Our rates have not gone up substantially over the past five years," added McVean. He also said that 12 years ago when he was involved with the peeewe team which won the Ontario championship, the budget for the season was only \$400.

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Pool arguments
Arguments in favor of an outdoor pool rather than an indoor one were that it would be financially feasible, would not be in competition with the existing closed-in pool and would be a walk-to facility not requiring much parking. Representatives of the YWCA were present to express their support for the day care centre and for recreation facilities for all people.

Peter Pfennig spoke on behalf of the local swim club, stressing the need for more pool time.

Said Schiller, a graduate engineer and articling lawyer: "I enjoy the political

arena more than anything. I like it because it covers a broad spectrum . . . and I have a broad background.

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Hill mayoralty race issues

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is going to be allowed to have 60 more people, or 12 children a year for the next five years. That's one child for every 100 couples, said the mayor. "I just hope nobody has triplets."

Mayor Lazenby said development in the Richmond Hill area is coming to a peak with the BAIF development. However, if anyone was "uptight" about this additional development, it wasn't Richmond Hill that allowed it, it was the Town of Vaughan.

"It was out of our hands," said the mayor.

How strong was the pressure from developers? It was not that hard to resist, said the mayor.

Four factors
There were four things that had to be taken into account when considering applications for development, he said.

First and foremost was the location with regard to servicing, transportation and access to the corridor. Next was the value of the land. We don't want to see farm land developed," said Mayor Lazenby. We'd like to see Bayview and Leslie stay rural as long as possible.

The third factor was whether there were adequate services available and if they were nearby.

Aesthetics and assessment were next. It had to look good and have good value. Recreation facilities and parkland also had to be noted.

A great measure of land was owned by non-residents. But they were taxpayers like anyone else, so they had the right to ask for help in developing.

Mayor Lazenby said the town had many applications, pending services, such as the White Chapel housing development behind St. Gabriel's Church, which had full approval.

There were also many queries from light industry to locate in the Hill. Dow Chemical was a forerunner. "Now we've got it, we should get more," he said.

Mobile homes

What about mobile home developments?

"It's no secret Mr. Corcoran's proposal (Councillor William Corcoran recently proposed a mobile home development east of Bayview Avenue) was a total embarrassment coming from a member of council, but he still has a right to apply," said Mayor Lazenby.

"It should be noted, however, he has taken himself out of any discussions."

So far as the homes themselves were concerned the mayor said he felt the Sandy Cove development near Barrie was one of the best of its kind; "ideal for senior citizens who want some equity to live on."

The mayor said he had spent considerable time going through Sandy Cove and other mobile units, and

was convinced they were "here to stay".

He said he appreciated the fact some people would never get out of them, but if a young couple moved in, perhaps there should be some condition on the part of the developer that they should be guaranteed a return of certain equity when they vacated.

Not an issue
Speaking to the second matter that his opponent terms an issue, Mayor Lazenby failed to see it in the same terms.

Closed meetings were minimal and only held where it was for the benefit of the municipality, or members of the staff, or interviews for such.

What about Mr. Schiller's claim discussions about a proposed race track for the area had been closed to the public?

The closed session was requested because it had an effect on property, the mayor said. Also, members of Richmond Hill Fair Board had been in attendance.

So far as having a question period before the regular meeting to open it up a bit more for the public, as suggested by his opponent, the mayor was unequivocally opposed.

If the press wanted a conference, that would be different. However, a council meeting was the formal meeting of council and "I don't want to turn it into a circus."

There were deputations for such things.

If a question session were allowed beforehand, maybe one person or group could monopolize the time, or one group could plant people throughout.

Also, would the mayor be expected to act as chairman, or speaker of the house?

"Anyway, my office is always open," said the mayor.

Schiller has say

Candidate David Schiller feels the town is growing at about five percent, with the "real danger coming from the amount of projects proposed."

These include the remainder of BAIF and the Langstaff Jail Farm, which he says represents a population of 60,000 to 70,000. If it took 10 years to develop, it would mean a growth rate of eight percent and bring the town up to 260,000 to 270,000 by the year 2000, he said.

"If we don't take steps for uniform growth, we'll become an extension of Metro," Mr. Schiller said. How would he control it? "I would embed a growth rate policy as part of the Official Plan," Mr. Schiller said. "Then it becomes a requirement of zoning that we don't zone at a faster rate than is consistent with the policy."

He said there was "tremendous pressure"

from the developers, with the major initiative to change the Official Plan coming from the latter and not council.

"I think that's backwards," said Mr. Schiller. "I think we have all the legal tools necessary to resist pressure if council has the determination to do it," he said.

There was room, however, for "considerable more industry," and he would like to see "prestige industry," such as electronic and light manufacturing concerns.

Mr. Schiller termed the Big Pipe as "really one more pressure," which he had "good and bad feelings about."

Also adding to pressures for growth were the GO train and Highways 404 and 407. "It underlies my suggestion we adopt a policy early, so we have the means to resist."

Mr. Schiller said Mayor Lazenby had made two separate policy statements regarding future growth. One called for a target population of 250,000 by 2000, and the other saw Richmond Hill as "the centre of a megalopolis" stretching up to Lake Simcoe.

"I reject both as not in the town's best interests," he said.

Question period
Mr. Schiller, who was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor last election, said council should leave a half an hour open before the regular meeting for questions from the general public.

Also, council should meet informally once a month with the various wards.

"Now, if you want to address council, you have to write the clerk the Wednesday before Monday. I think that practice is too restrictive . . . It's fine for major delegations."

He said he would like to see simpler and "more readable" notices of zoning bylaws, and council should also reduce "in camera" meetings.

He said many people didn't know about the proposed race track at 18th Avenue and Concession 3, nor about the meeting to change the bus route. When he had been a member of council, closed meetings were only held when discussing staff matters; or land acquisition matters where the price might affect the public.

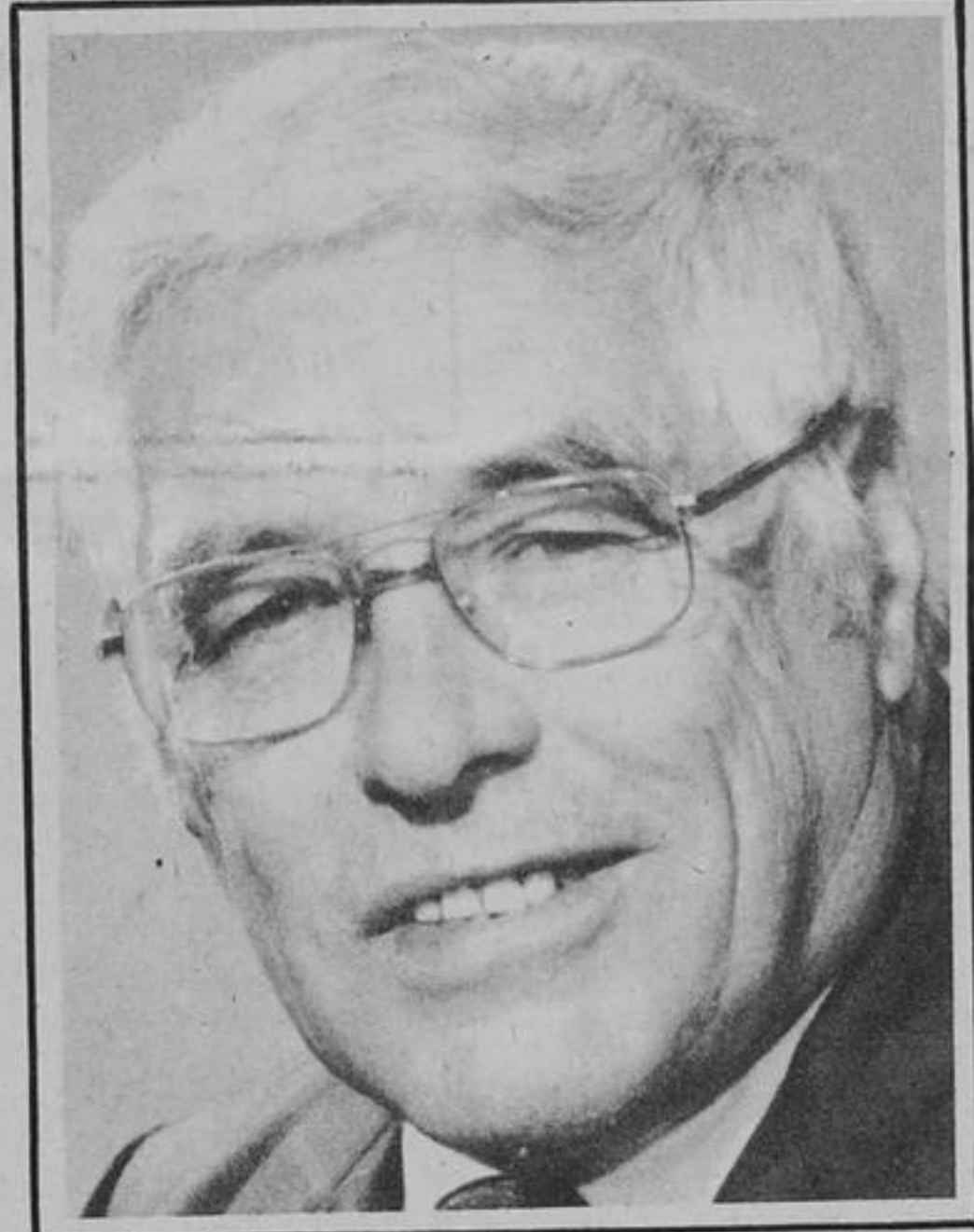
In keeping with his open-meeting policy, Schiller said he would have all votes recorded as a matter of policy, so that people could evaluate council records.

Last words

The two men also have slightly different views on one other issue: why they want to run.

Said Mayor Lazenby — a pharmacist away from town hall: "I enjoy it. I thrive on it. I like to work hard. I guess it's the nature of the

He gets things done



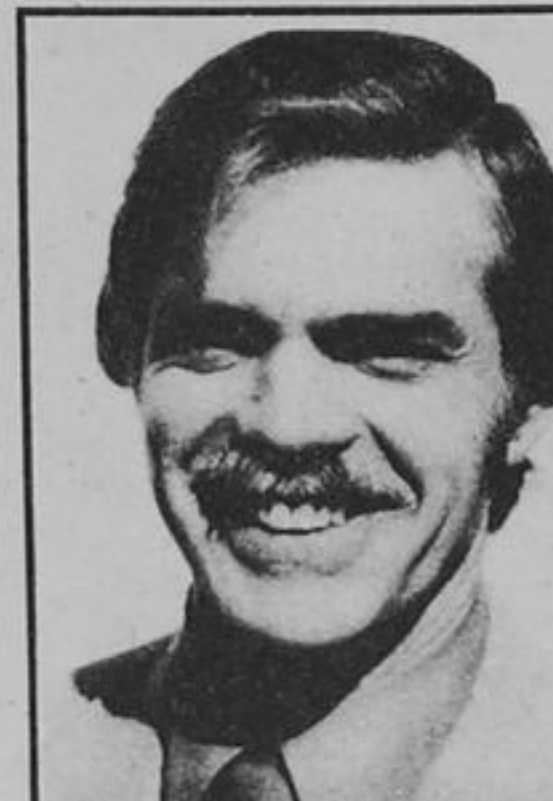
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