

Radio Address Delivered by J. V. Bonhomme, Tuesday, December 16

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is my first and last broadcast in this 1947 municipal campaign. It is so because there is little time available, and mostly because I intend to deal only with what I consider important issues in this election, without bringing in petty matters. By the end of this campaign, you will have heard enough of this.

I feel that I owe it to the electorate to explain my resignation from the 1946 council and my abstaining from running for office for the 1947 council.

As you will recall, I had been on the council for three years, during which time I devoted considerable energy to the functioning of the water distributing system of this town. I had fought for what I then thought was right, and which events have since proven right. But at every turn I was finding myself a minority of one, and was therefore unable to do the job I was sent there to do. This position became untenable when the irregularities were probed into by the police investigation with the result that we all know.

These fumbblings were so deliberate and part of a political strategy which was served at the expense of better municipal government, that I could find no better way to let the people become aware of such condition than by resigning in protest.

Now to come to the reason for my abstaining to run for the 1947 council. At the time of my resignation, I fully intended to run again the following December, but I had repeatedly been told by my doctor that I should quit political life temporarily. The additional strain of the activities surrounding my resignation served to prove my doctor right. By December my health was not such that I could return to this same bedlam. Very fortunately, I may say, this physical condition occurred at the end of 1946. Because by that time the waterworks inquiry had been authorized and therefore I was quite certain that nothing harmful could be done in that department during 1947.

Now we are getting into 1948, and as you all know the investigation was completed this Fall, and we are awaiting the recommendations of the judge. Following this the 1948 council is bound to have to deal on this question of water distribution with the present supplies. That is why I am offering you my services, as I feel this will be such an important item in the affairs of this town, that the council to deal with this question should comprise men that know of the waterworks situation, and only men who are free to act in the interest of the ratepayers.

Let us now consider a few happenings of the past couple of years to enable us to see what we can expect in the future. Sometime in 1945, after two years of research as chairman of waterworks, I was successful in having the council of that year authorize an investigation into the whole waterworks set-up. In due time this report, along with a sub-report prepared by the town auditors, was presented. Following this, a decision as to what course the council should follow from then on in relation to the waterworks had to be arrived at, and to this end, on January 30 1946 the following motion as presented. I quote:

Motion Lost

"That the report of Gore & Storrie be NOT dealt with until a committee has been appointed consisting of Chairman of Fire & Light, Chairman of Waterworks, and the Mayor, with the power to add the Town Solicitor and the Town Auditor."

Councillors J. V. Bonhomme, E. M. Terry, W. Doran in favour. Councillors Wm. Roberts, P. Fay, W. P. McDermott, J. W. Brunette opposed.

May I point out first that this motion was lost, and second that it was lost due to the combined efforts of Messrs. Roberts, Fay, McDermott and Brunette. Please mark these names well, as you will hear them mentioned again in a most harmonious set-up. The defeating of this motion meant that the people elected to do just that kind of work refused to shoulder their responsibility, and thus led to another costly complication to be defrayed by the water users, as you will see by this second motion. This motion was introduced on Feb. 13, 1946, by mayor Brunette, seconded by Councillor Fay which reads "Resolution No. 46-53:

Proposed By J. E. Brunette.
Seconded P. Fay.

That the Judge of the District Court for the District of Cochrane be requested to inquire into the contract between the Hollinger Gold Mine and the corporation of the Town of Timmins, dated Dec. 4, 1922, its execution by the parties thereto, and any other matters relative to the contract and its execution: all under the provisions of the Municipal Act.

You will note that this was carried unanimously. I voted for it, and was happy about it, because the committee which I had asked for previously was refused. Hence this was an opportunity for me, as I considered it imperative, that in view of the facts already obtained, this matter had to be brought to its logical conclusion, that is: bring about an eventual adjustment of our differences with the Hollinger mine, and a better basis for our future operation of the waterworks.

OF COURSE this inquiry will be costly! It will cost over \$6,000.00 but what is \$6,000.00 when the point in question is not only a matter of adjusting the dealings with Hollinger over the past 24 years, but a matter of improving years and years of operation of a service that involves some \$108,000.00 per year, and furthermore, if the first motion that I quoted had been passed, part of this money would have been saved, but several times since, as the following resolutions will indicate to you.

On March 13, 1946, moved, seconded by Miss Terry, the following motion, Resolution 46-84:

"That the Solicitor be requested to advise whether or not the annexation of part of SW 1/4 N 1/2 Lot 2 Concession 11 Mountjoy would affect or be affected by the requested Judicial Inquiry into the water contract. Motion Carried."

Now here is the answer we got from the Town Solicitor:

To the Corporation of Town of Timmins,
Timmins, Ont. March 20, 1946
Re: Annexation of part of
Mountjoy Township (land owned by the Town)

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of the 14th. instant and have considered the matter set forth therein.

It is our opinion that annexation of the part of the Township of Mountjoy mentioned in the resolution, which we understand is the land upon which the pump house of the present waterworks system is located, would not affect or be affected by the judicial inquiry which has been requested in regard to the contract with the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines Ltd. for the supply of water to the corporation.

You will understand, of course, that we cannot see how any decision of theirs upon the proposed annexation could be influenced by the fact that Judicial Inquiry is pending.

We trust that the foregoing is the information you required.

Yours truly Caldwell & Yates
Per Charles W. Yates.

Following this, on March 27, 1946, I moved, seconded by Miss Terry, the following:

"That application be made to the Ontario Municipal Board under section 29 of the Municipal Act, for the Annexation of that part of the SW 1/4 of the N 1/2 of lot 2, concession 2, Mountjoy lying south of the Mattagami River, to the Town of Timmins. Motion Lost."

A MAN TO BE TRUSTED!



VOTE and ELECT

J. V. BONHOMME

A Fighter for the Rights of the Town Of Timmins

Read My Radio Address Appearing on This Page!

It Tells the Story of the Muddling and PATRONAGE with Which

The Towns Waterworks Question

has been dealt

I will see that this problem is brought to a just and honest solution!

3 Years Council Experience

An Independant Citizen Not Tied to the Apron Strings of Any Group or Corporation

Councillors Terry, Bonhomme in favour.
Councillors McDermott, Roberts, Fay, and Mayor Brunette opposed.

Here again, you will note that harmony prevails. But I might say, this harmony has been rather costly as you will see. The land referred to in this resolution, and the letter is an 18 acre plot belonging to the town but immediately outside the town limits. It is on this land that the pumping station is situated. This means, that the Town of Timmins, is losing taxes on this land to the Improvement District of Mountjoy. It also means, that the Hollinger pays taxes on building and machinery valued at \$2,000,000.00 to Mountjoy rather than to Timmins, on land belonging to Timmins.

Now what does that mean in dollars and cents. In 1946 it has meant \$6,823.11 or \$5.97 of a mill and in 1947, \$6,408.86 or \$5.40 of a mill, and this condition will exist until the resolution defeated by Messrs. McDermott, Roberts, Fay and Brunette is brought back and carried.

By the way, each of these sums, would have paid the inquiry, or better still, it would have well served to pay the first installment on a filtration plant. This brings me to this matter of filtration plant.

You know and I know that a filtration in Timmins, is a must, so that vegetable matter and leeches be left in the river where they belong. But regardless of how much it is needed, it will never be enjoyed until, first, this present mess that they called a contract is cleared up, and second, as long as the pumping station is in the hands of the Hollinger. Simply because of the total gallonage that goes through this pumping station, approximately 40% is used in the process of extracting gold, and for that purpose unfiltered water is cheaper. I put it up to you, should it be cheaper water for gold processing or filtered water for human consumption?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I hope that with the facts that I have related to you, that you will realize how important it is that you go out and vote for men who understand the situation, and most important of all, for men who are free to fight for your interest.

J. Vincent Bonhomme

March 8th, 1946.

Mr. J. V. Bonhomme,
Insurance & Real Estate,
Room 1, Gordon Block,
Timmins, Ontario.

RE: WATER

Dear Mr. Bonhomme:

I have received your letter of February 21st regarding filtered water, and I hope that the following is the information that you desire.

The first consideration in providing a supply of water for human consumption is that the water be safe, that is, free from disease producing organisms. Other features to be desired are that the water be of wholesome quality and palatable to the taste. This will have the effect of increasing the consumption for beverage purposes and thus be beneficial to health. Filtered water is definitely safer than unfiltered water.

Many factors influence the advantages of filtration and are directly related to the source of supply and the chemical properties of the water. Where water is derived from underground sources or clear-spring fed lakes, a degree of filtration has already taken place and mechanical filtration is secondary to treating the water for other reasons such as the removal of hardness, the addition of chemicals and chlorinating.

Where water is derived from a source into which vast areas drain and these areas consist of swampland, farm lands etc., the water is usually very highly coloured and contains a great degree of suspended matter. Algae organisms are usually present to a great degree and during growth produce chemicals which, when combined with chlorine, are offensive to the taste. Humic acid, produced by rotting vegetation, is usually present in this type of water. If the water is acid in nature a corrosive action is set up in the distribution system and in time tends to be an economic factor.

Filtered water is more attractive to the eye, more acceptable to the taste and is more easily controlled from the angle of treating for chemical properties. The average amount of chlorine needed for sterilizing filtered water always remains constant and does not vary with the seasons. An average amount for filtered water would be from 5 to 6 parts per million gallons instead of 25 to 30 parts per million gallons needed to provide a safe residual where highly turbid water is used.

Trusting that this is the information that you desire, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Graham B. Lane, M. D.
Medical Officer of Health.