

UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP WARD 1

Future of gravel pits a big issue

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

The future of Uxbridge Township's huge aggregate reserves is one of several issues in the forefront of a race for Ward 1's council seat.

The three-man field consists of Brookdale Road resident David Armour, Frank Hendy of R.R. 1, Claremont and Cal Avery, R.R. 3, Stouffville.

Mr. Armour has identified two major problems that he feels could have a "disastrous affect" on the

future living environment of all Ward 1 residents. They are: use of the ward for landfill (garbage) sites and the expansion of existing gravel operations.

In 1988, the Township will run out of its existing landfill sites and will have to look for new ones, according to the candidate.

Furthermore, if the present negotiations between Pickering and Metro Toronto for landfill sites break down, a prime prospect for an alternate site is the south-west por-

tion of Uxbridge Township," Mr. Armour added. "It has the right soil conditions for this and is under consideration."

He stresses that such long-term concerns should be addressed now to avoid serious consequences down the road.

In regard to the garbage situation, he said encouraging recycling can delay the day when we have to look at new sites within the municipality.

"There is presently a provision for recycling garbage within Durham Region," Mr. Armour said. "We can take advantage of this program, receive additional revenues for our solid waste of up to \$20,000 per year, and put off the day when we'll have to consider new landfill sites."

The control and inventory of gravel reserves is of prime importance to the 15-year Uxbridge resident, who chairs the Foundation of Aggregate Studies (a non-profit research organization monitoring land use, especially the aggregate industry).

Due to the fact that up to one third of the township could be exploited for aggregate extraction, he claimed, remedies are necessary to ensure residents can live with gravel and still preserve the environment.

He contends there are no rational arguments for expanding existing operations because the industry now has a 25-year supply in the Township's existing pits.

Mr. Armour believes the gravel industry should pull its weight, carrying a fair share of Township costs and contributing to revenues on a scale equal to other businesses.

And the candidate would fight for systematic environmental studies before new gravel operations are permitted. And he'd lobby at

Queen's Park for heavier licensing fees and adequate deposits (which aggregate firms would forfeit if they didn't rehabilitate worked-out pits).

Another goal is to attract light industry to create employment for the area's young people and expand the tax base.

"Instead of land values dropping like a stone, if we manage our destinies properly, we can actually increase the worth of our properties and become one of the more desirable places to live in the Toronto Region," he explained.

Mr. Armour, 64, is president of the Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association of Canada. He's planning to retire next year and devote his full attention to municipal politics.

The businessman decided to run in Ward 1 instead of his home ward of 4 because he has similar values to neighbor Barry Bushell — a candidate in Ward 4 — and didn't feel it made sense to run against him.

This is the first election bid for Mr. Armour, who is a founder of the Uxbridge Township Ratepayers' Association.

ROADS

Mr. Hendy, 50, served two terms on Uxbridge Township Council prior to the arrival of regional government. He's employed as a production planning manager at Uxbridge's Dominion Automotive Industries Inc.

The Brock Road resident has been actively involved in numerous sports and community groups and says his long history of involvement has helped prepare him for a spot on Council.

Main goals, according to Mr. Hendy, are development of a maintenance program for the area's gravel roads. He also supports

some residential development in Goodwood and is in favor of paving Conc. 6 between Hwy. 47 and the Newmarket Road.

Mr. Hendy's past municipal experience includes preparation of a comprehensive gravel bylaw that became the backbone of the Pits and Quarries Act of Ontario.

He's against opening new gravel pits until old ones are completely worked out.

PLANNING

A Township resident for 10 years, the 34-year-old Avery said he wants to help build a well planned Uxbridge.

His platform includes encouraging growth to keep taxes at a reasonable level, while retaining a healthy rural environment.

"If elected I will offer leadership in blending commercial and residential growth throughout Ward 1 and all of Uxbridge," the candidate said, adding that he'd like to see selected "light, clean, dry industry" locate here.

He used the new Tokai of Canada factory as an example of the kind of development he'd prefer.

Mr. Avery, who operates Concession Industrial Supply Company with his wife, said he looks on the councillor's job as a full-time commitment.

He backs Coppins Corners residents in their fight against proposed aggregate expansion in the hamlet. And the candidate also promises to take a tough stand against alleged gravel company violations.

His past political experience includes working on the committee that stopped a prison being built in the ward back in the mid-1970s. He helped organize the group that quashed a proposed theme park at Lazy Lake and also served for a short period on the local ratepayers group.



Uxbridge's Ward 1 contenders are (left to right) David Armour, Cal Avery and Frank Hendy. They're vying for the seat vacated by regional challenger Don Jackson.

— Chris Shanahan

Pickering Council

Stoner vows fight over dump site

Norah Stoner will continue fighting the dumping of Metro Toronto garbage in Pickering, if re-elected the municipality's Ward 3 regional councillor.

She's up against Brougham's Rick Johnson in the Nov. 12 municipal showdown.

"One of the most pressing issues I see ahead for Pickering is the threat of Metro garbage being dumped in our area," Councillor Stoner said. "It will subject our residents to many, many millions of tons of garbage not produced in our area — creating noxious odors and the pollution of our streams and rivers."

The councillor has already insisted that Metro alleviate odors at the Brock West landfill site. And she's spearheading a newly formed citizens' committee opposed to the continued operation and further expansion of that landfill operation.

The environmentalist feels local and regional councils should monitor other levels of government to ensure actions planned for Durham Region are known to residents and are in their best interests.

Another priority is a continuation of efforts to attract industry to Pickering.

The 18-year Greenwood resident is married and the mother of five children. She's seeking a second term as regional councillor after serving as the ward's local representative for three terms.

Rick Johnson feels it's time for a change in Pickering's Ward 3 representation on Durham Region Council.

Probably best known in the community as organizer of the annual Brougham County Jam-

boree country music festival, Mr. Johnson feels Tuesday's election is an important time for a change to more aggressive representation for Ward 3.

On the landfill site issue, incumbent Norah Stoner's challenger feels it's important for Council to pressure the Metro Toronto works department to complete its scheduled odor treatment plant as soon as possible. And he wants Metro to eliminate altogether its dumping of sewage sludge as promised.

"Alternate sites must be proposed in Durham Region well away from Pickering residential areas for future dump sites as the Pickering site is closed down by 1990," he said. "None have been offered by Council to date. The proposed Greenwood site must be sold as part of any negotiation."

Mr. Johnson also supports improvement of curb-side garbage pickup through a possible switch to Town control from the present private contract; upgrading of rural roads; and completion of Ontario Hydro's Darlington facility in order to create jobs and help meet future energy needs.

Another of his priorities is establishment of more frequent transit links to the town's northern hamlets.

"The current program is too little and too inconvenient to reasonably expect any ridership support," according to the candidate.

Mr. Johnson is a cattle broker and professional musician who resides with his wife and two children on a Brock Rd. farm property.

He ran unsuccessfully for Ward 3's local council seat in 1982.

DURHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Two-way battle for seat

The absence of a mayoralty race in Uxbridge has directed much of the election spotlight on a two-way fight for the Township's seat on Durham Region Council.

Ward 1 councillor Don Jackson is up against Ward 5's Ian Morrison for that post.

The municipality's present regional representative, Gerri Lynn O'Connor, is moving into the mayor's chair in place of the retiring Bill Ballinger. (Uxbridge's mayor also sits on Durham's 31-member Council).

Councillor O'Connor was

acclaimed to the top job at the Oct. 21 nomination deadline.

MORRISON

The 28-year-old Morrison said he'd work to continue Uxbridge Township's strong representation at the regional level.

He feels his easy accessibility is a major plus for ratepayers.

Planning for the future to preserve the community's quality of life is one of his main objectives. He'd also attempt to attract quality, high technology industry; continue the town's revitalization; and work to prevent Uxbridge from becoming the site of Durham Region's garbage dump. The candidate, first elected in 1982, voiced disappointment over low voter turnout in the last civic election (just 32 per cent of Uxbridge's eligible constituents voted). He urges residents to get out to the polls Nov. 12.

The life-long Uxbridge resident is a local newspaper advertising representative who'd continue that position on a part-time basis if elected regional councillor. He and his wife reside in Leaskdale.

JACKSON

Mr. Jackson's experience in municipal politics dates back to 1961, includes a retirement in 1973, and a return to politics as Ward 1 councillor for the past five years.

If elected, he promises to display maturity, stability and common sense at the Region.

A resident of Goodwood for 27 years, Mr. Jackson has handled many municipal positions including deputy reeve and most-

recently the chairmanship of the Township's works and roads committee.

A top priority is to make dump sites available to ratepayers at no extra cost. He favors moderate growth spread over the entire township; garbage recycling; continued upgrading of regional roads (especially Conc. 7 north of town); and improvement of sanitary services.

Married with a son and two daughters, the candidate operates a cattle transport business from his home.



DON JACKSON



IAN MORRISON