

THE MISSISSAUGA Times

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Strengthen the opposition

If the property owners in Ward 3 needed a big heart at city hall, Flo Delellis would be their choice in Monday's municipal byelection.

If they needed a councillor with a refreshingly low threshold for political doubletalk, Rob Bradford would be their man.

And Terry Harrison could be elected on the strength of his dedication to street-level issues.

However, none of these candidates nor Don Lavis, have the experience or poise, the depth of knowledge of ward 3 or of broader municipal issues to warrant their election as the successor to Frank Bean.

The choice is between Rudy Skjarum, a 42-year-old banker who has been a member of the political establishment and sports network in Ward 3 for years; Doug Bennett, a 30-year-old former real estate salesman who has grown up in the ward with an impressive academic record but is untested in municipal affairs; and Mike Krywenky, 23, who has become involved in municipal affairs since his loss to Bean in last November's election.

Krywenky has shown increasing strength as a candidate since his last try and would work hard for his constituents but must deepen his grasp of municipal affairs before deserving a place on city council.

If the sole factor in this election were the quality of constituency representation, Skjarum would receive our endorsement for the job, because solving ratepayers' problems is the single most important function of a city councillor.

However he has displayed a remarkably casual approach to the broader issues facing the city and for a man as deeply involved at the ratepayer level, we find this to be a serious weakness.

Skjarum has not digested the issue of phasing enough to make a comment on the city planning commissioner's latest report on residential development.

He has not researched the Burnhamthorpe Road widening question. And in answer to the concerns of ratepayers about youth troublemaking, Skjarum "will ask" police to patrol plazas more and "encourage" plaza management to supply security. While Skjarum admits the problem is more complicated than that, he has nothing to offer besides those facile solutions.

Doug Bennett, on the other hand, has spent more time on the issues and has displayed a particularly strong interest in the relationship between urban sprawl and the provision of so-called soft services.

Bennett has not researched the Burnhamthorpe widening, either. But he has spent considerable time studying the Official Plan, the proposal for sequential development and the financial capability of Mississauga to provide good services for the people who live here now.

He is the only candidate to display the healthy skepticism towards new housing developments that The Times stands for.

Bennett is not plugged in to establishment circles in Ward 3 — but that does not mean he is anti-establishment — and during the slower summer months can become better acquainted with the ward in which he grew up and to which he will return if elected.

One of the major reasons four juveniles have been charged with murder in the beating death of a man at Fieldgate Plaza is the low quality of planning and inadequate provision of soft services in the ward. Such a tragedy is not typical, but indicates a trend that will become more common if the quality of life in Mississauga is ignored in favor of the developers' self-serving pleas.

Only councillors Larry Taylor and Steve Mahoney and Mayor Hazel McCallion provide the consistent and piercing questioning of new development that we feel is necessary for the intelligent and humane growth of this city.

Doug Bennett is a thoughtful, hard-working candidate who would make a good problem-solver at the constituency level and strengthen the voice of ordinary citizens at city hall.



People

Forty years ago in The Times we reported that the weather was so cool that the tea-and-teacup-reading held by Clarkson United Women's Association at the home of Mrs. H. Ryrie had to move indoors, although "the verandah was attractive with red, white and blue streamers and the table was decorated with flowers." ... Little Ruth Clarke called "Mummy, Mummy, my mouth is burning." The little girl had drunk disinfectant, thinking it was cod liver oil. The Clarkes had no phone and Harry Clarke had to rush to the home of his mother to call an ambulance. ... police and employees R. R. Rogers farm in Lorne Park were armed with guns and clubs as they hunted for a wild animal, believed to be a wildcat or lynx. Norman Reid, houseman and chauffeur, found a dead tame rabbit "and Fred Elliot sighted the animal staring wildly at him" ... court whist evenings were held by St. Nicholas' Church and Lorne Park Community Club to raise funds and G. W. Gordon, clerk of Port Credit, posted a warning that gardens could be watered only between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. A

fire alarm would sound when water was to be shut off.

...
It was a Freudian slip, no doubt. Ward 3 candidate Rudy Skjarum told those few at an all-candidates' meeting last week more police patrols are needed in plazas to make kids behave. Candidate Rob Bradford protested that such a move would only get the kids' backs up and have them raising hell somewhere else. Mike Krywenky then in his answer, referred to Rudy as "Mr. Scare 'em."

...
When the candidates were talking about their party affiliations, Don Lavis stated very emphatically, "I'm backed by no one," swallowed quickly twice, then corrected himself with, "Nobody owns me."



Darryl Day, 12, provides the power to cash in on some of Randy Croteau's mom's empties.

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