

MORRIS NEW MAYOR

The story appearing below is based on figures available at 11pm. Wednesday. All results are subject to change.

by Michael Donavan

Halifax has a new Mayor. Edmund Morris, former Vice-President of Saint Mary's University, was declared Mayor-elect Wednesday night. Succeeding Walter Fitzgerald, in the high office of Mayor, Morris brings to that office a solid record of public service in Halifax and the Regional area. A former University administrator, a former radio and T.V. broadcaster, a former journalist, and a former Member of Parliament, Morris eased into the mayoralty seat capturing almost 50% of the votes cast. This amounted to over 13,000 votes or approximately 18% of the eligible voters. The other four candidates, former aldermen Lou Moir and Dave MacKeen, economist Terry McGrath, and Lawyer Terry Donahoe all fell well behind Morris with Donahoe, the runner-up, polling approximately 5,000

votes.

Edmund Morris, when he takes his seat as Mayor of Halifax, will face a new, and in many ways, radically different City Council. Only three faces from the old Council will be there to welcome him. They are Dennis Connolly who defeated Dalhousie Professor David Braybrooke in Ward 1, Merv Sullivan, easily re-elected as Alderman from Ward 5, and Margaret Stanbury, the outspoken representative from Ward 6, who was also returned to Aldermanic seat by a healthy majority.

In Lou Moir's old riding, Ward 2, anti-development candidate Brenda Shannon was declared elected early Wednesday evening. Frank Filmore, a Halifax newspaperman and also a strong advocate of cautious development and balanced growth, is the new Alderman in Ward 3, the former seat of Mayoralty candidate, Dave MacKeen.

In Ward 7, funeral director, J. Albert Walker defeated incumbent Darrell Wenzell and in Ward 8 Ron Hanson narrowly defeated the incumbent Stappell. Also former Alderman, Bell, was brought to

defeat by Wilfred Moore in Ward 9.

Perhaps the most spectacular upset took place in Ward 10 where Gerald Lawrence, CJCH broadcaster, soundly defeated former Acting-Mayor Leo Hogan.

The results of this election show clearly a widespread dissatisfaction among Halifax voters with the pro-development, pro-business stance of the old City Council. Mr. Morris repeatedly remarked in his low-key campaign that he favors balanced growth and planned development in the future for Halifax. He promised to place emphasis on community involvement in planning decisions, generally low rise construction and greatly improved public transit rather than high-rise construction and high-speed highways and bridges. This theme was reiterated by the winning candidates for Alderman.

A high voter turnout (43%) signified high voter interest in the main issue of this election - development. Normally, in Civic elections, only 33% of eligible voters exercise their franchise.

The new City Council comprises an interesting



assortment of diverse personalities from the fiery Frank Filmore to the opinionated conservative, Margaret Stanbury.

It is particularly interesting that there are three media personalities on Council - Edmund Morris, Frank Filmore, Gerry Lawrence. Considering the diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, and basic attitudes it appears that the next

three years will probably be volatile years for civic politics in Halifax.

All the candidates, however, have one thing in common and that is their opposition to unplanned development. The future will tell whether the new slate of candidates elected Wednesday will issue in a new era of civic government oriented towards people and the community.

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Governments Join in War on Poverty

By Helen Spinelli

Last month a 10 year General Development Agreement was signed on behalf of Canada and Nova Scotia. This agreement is designed to serve as an "umbrella" for future subsidiary agreements. Mr. Mitchell, Provincial Minister of Development, describes the agreement as a broad framework to coordinate and "integrate joint Federal/Provincial objectives leading to the expansion of employment and income opportunities throughout the Province". The implementation of this agreement is seen through the subsidiary agreements which spell out the means of pursuing a specific development opportunity.

A major result of the forming of the general Development Agreement on the Federal level is the

decentralization of the Dept. of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE). This process of decentralization as described by Mr. Jamison, Federal Minister of DREE, "will enable DREE activities to reflect more accurately local conditions and to respond more directly and more effectively to developmental opportunities in Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Provinces: Mr. Jamison's department has already started the process of decentralization. When the process has been completed there will be approximately 269 staff members and decision-making authorities in the Atlantic Provinces, of this number about 46 will be in Halifax.

Prior to the signing of the General Development Agreement a number of joint federal-provincial task forces were established to investigate and recommend action on a number of potential economic oppor-

tunities. These include opportunities in the resource industries of fishing, agriculture, forestry and mining, as well as in ocean related industries, port development, tourism and recreation. These task forces are currently working on specific development proposals such as an oil refinery and a deep sea port in the Strait of Canso Area, an inland container terminal, new container facilities and downtown urban waterfront development in the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

The General Development Agreement will not affect existing programs of DREE such as the Agriculture and Rural Development Act (ARDA), but it is hoped by DREE officials that any forthcoming subsidiary agreements made will be closely co-ordinated with existing programs.

The financial arrangements proposed in the GDA are based on an agreed esti-

mate of requirements for a fiscal year. The components of the actual estimate are found in the amount of funds needed to achieve the subsidiary agreements and also in the amount of additional funds required for planning and analysis of future development opportunities. The GDA also provides for the forming of additional subsidiary agreements to recommend

the cost-sharing arrangements to be made between the federal and provincial governments.

By the signing of this agreement both the federal and provincial governments have taken a major step towards effective coordination. Let us hope that through the GDA we can implement rational development projects for Nova Scotia.

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