

# Magani retires, election races shaping up

BRADFORD - After 16 years in public office, Bradford Mayor Joe Magani is retiring from politics. He made his announcement Thursday night before fellow members of town council.

"I think it's about time for Uncle Joe to quit," he said quietly. "I've been in this job for 16 years, and I'm tired. I'd like to spend more time with my family.

"I've appreciated working with you and your co-operation. I'm leaving the door open and I hope the best man wins," said the mayor.

Councillor Roy Gordon was first to respond, and he said, "You've done a bang-up job, Joe."

Deputy-reeve Ken Wood agreed. "I think

you've made a great contribution to the town, and I guess all good things must come to an end."

Councillor Jim Dodds expressed surprise at the mayor's announcement, and said, "The town is going to miss him. I've enjoyed working with him on council, it's been a great experience."

Reeve Art Turner said Mayor Magani has done "one helluva job" in office. "He got the town moving. Joe was the driving force behind this town's development."

Councillor John Zima concurred with the reeve's comment, and added, "He was a good mayor and great to work with. It's too bad he's going."

Responding to the plaudits of council as the

meeting closed, Mayor Magani said, "I've done the best I know how. Whatever I did, I did for the good of Bradford."

The mayor's official announcement to the citizens of Bradford appears elsewhere in this edition of *The Witness*.

Mayor Magani's surprise announcement has sparked new excitement in Bradford's municipal election coming up December 6, and it could shape up as a highly competitive race.

Reeve Turner and Councillor Gordon have expressed their intention to seek the mayor's chair, and there could be more declarations between now and nomination days November 12 and 15.

Reeve Turner has been a member of

Bradford council for the past nine years, the last four as reeve, and Councillor Gordon is concluding his first two-year term.

After four years in office, Deputy-reeve Ken Wood has declared his intention to run for the reeve's post. "I feel I received a good endorsement in the last election. I feel obligated to be a candidate for the office of reeve," he said.

Councillor Milton Hambly announced Monday he would be running for the job of deputy-reeve. He is also concluding his first two-year term.

Councillor Jim Dodds is the only member of council other than Mayor Magani to announce he will not seek re-election this year. After two years in office, he said, "I don't think I'll

be running again. I've enjoyed it, and it's been a wonderful experience for me."

He added that he would like to devote more time to his business interests.

Only Councillor John Zima has yet to declare his position, but plans to make an announcement later this week. "I've got a lot of things to consider. I'll have to discuss it with my family first," he said.

He has served on Bradford Council for the past four years.

The aspirations to higher office of Councillors Gordon and Hambly, along with Councillor Dodds' retirement, leaves at least three council seats up for grabs.

While nomination days are officially scheduled for November 12 and 15, three men

have announced their candidacy.

John MacFadden, a school teacher and former library board chairman, said he will run for one of the three vacant councillors' chairs.

Igor Nikolajev, an engineer employed by Debor Contracting Limited, has also expressed his intention to run.

Former council member Fred Dow said last summer he would be running again, but could not be reached for confirmation this week.

Prospective candidates for any council jobs, as well as school board seats, must declare their intention by November 15, and have the signatures of 10 eligible voters to qualify.