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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

At this inaugural meeting of the Council for the year 1948, I would like to extend congratulations to the members of the previous Council whose return to office shows that they have retained the confidence of the electors. I am also happy to extend congratulations to Deputy-Reeve George F. Broadley for the honor which he has conferred on Fort Erie in being selected warden of the Council of the County of Welland for the year 1947. I am also pleased to welcome back to municipal affairs a veteran Councillor, John Charles. Lastly, I am happy to welcome the first entry into Municipal service of three young and energetic businessmen, Councillor-at-large Irvine, and Councillors Lonsbury and Taylor. We need more young men of their calibre actively participating in Municipal affairs, and it is my hope that in the future other young men will follow the example they have set.

In the course of my campaign for the office of Mayor, I made certain promises to the electors of Fort Erie and I consider that it is my duty to carry out those promises to the best of my ability.

I promised to work in close co-operation with the Council for the purpose of obtaining an economic and efficient civic administration. I am happy to say that the ground work has already been laid for the fulfillment of this promise. The Council and myself has recently made a general survey, and we have agreed on the necessity of holding caucuses from time to time for the purpose of establishing definite lines of policy in almost every branch of the administration to achieve our goal of economic and efficient civic administration. In the future, every Committee, every Board, every Commission, the Works Superintendent and the Chief of Police will be asked to provide detailed monthly reports of their activities. These reports will be carefully scrutinized by the Council, and will give the Council and myself the statistical and factual information necessary to enable us to determine what changes in our present set up are needed to ensure that the Town will get maximum service at minimum cost.

✓ I also promised that one of my first acts would be to ask for the appointment of a Town Engineer as a means of obtaining a more efficient and economic civic administration. A recent study of the administrative and financial set-up in Fort Erie has convinced me that a Town Engineer, with certain supervisory duties, is urgently needed.

If The Town of Fort Erie is to be run properly, we must institute long term policies for the progressive improvement of the Town services. It is not enough to fix a sidewalk or to install a street light when a complaint is made. We must make detailed surveys of our streets, our roads, our water supply, our lighting system, our Police service and so on, and work out a plan of progressive improvements which will be followed from year to year. The making of these surveys and the supervision of these policies can only be done properly through the services of a Town Engineer.

If Fort Erie is to buy its supplies and equipment economically, it must anticipate its needs at least a year ahead of time, and buy in bulk. Detailed records must be kept of every purchase, and the use of every item. This requires a civic official qualified to act as a purchasing agent and stores master. This can best be done by a Town Engineer who has the expert knowledge of what to buy and the quality of the materials purchased.

If Fort Erie is to grow in an orderly and progressive manner, we must have Town planning. Town planning is urgently needed. The fight of the Lakeshore Road residents to prevent a business being established in their midst, which is still going on, illustrates how urgent Town planning really is. We must zone the area covering the approaches to the Queen Elizabeth Way before it is completed to make certain that the new businesses which will locate there will be an asset to the Town and not an eye-sore. An up-to-date survey of the Town of Fort Erie does not exist and in doing this alone an engineer could save the Town at least half his salary in his first year.

The Council and myself will require expert and independent advice on a host of matters at practically every turn. There is the problem of the Arena, the Central Avenue Bridge, the Filtration Plant, the plans for the approach to the Queen Elizabeth Way and so on. This need can best be met through the presence of a full time Town engineer.



Fort Erie's administration of its streets, lights, water and fire department and the maintenance of its buildings and equipment requires the constant supervision of a skilled engineer. Over a period of a few years his advice, assistance, and supervision would not only enable the Town to enjoy better service, but it would save the Town thousands of dollars in work done and equipment used.

A Civil Engineer, with supervisory duties would cost the Town of Fort Erie between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a year, but I know that in his first year alone a Civil Engineer would save more than the amount of his salary in preparing an up-to-date survey of the Town of Fort Erie, of its lighting, water and sewer systems, of the proposed site for the Central Avenue Bridge, and of a proper zoning system, not to mention the monies saved by economical purchases of Town supplies and equipment, and economical supervision of Town equipment and Town work. For these reasons I feel that a Civil Engineer with certain supervisory duties is absolutely necessary if we are to have an economic and efficient administration. It is, therefore, my intention to ask the Council in the near future, to consider appointing such an Engineer who would also have certain supervisory duties to perform.

I promised the electors that I would strive with my Council to encourage industry. It is too early yet to decide what the Council and myself can do, but I can assure you that we are in the closest agreement on the necessity of giving every encouragement to new industries to come into Fort Erie.

I promised the electors that I would take action to promote our Tourist Trade. As a pledge of my determination to carry out this promise, I have decided to remain as Chairman of the Tourist and Publicity Committee of the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce.

Lastly I promised that I would strive to lower our tax rate. There is, of course, nothing I can do this year. The budget to be set for 1948 will be determined largely by the commitments made by the previous Councils, such as the new Arena. This year's budget must also take into account the fact that it may be necessary to increase the salaries of our Municipal employees and also of our Police force. Moreover, there is a strong possibility that the Board of Education will ask us for more money this year than they have in the past. Under the Municipal Act, the Town Council has no control over the expenditures of the Board of Education. The Board of Education controls its own expenditures, and it is the duty of the Council to raise the money the Board asks for. Moreover, the Board itself has to consider requests by the teachers for pay increases. Fort Erie, unfortunately, has a very large debenture debt. In the last year that debt was increased by Eighty-five thousand dollars. We cannot afford to let it get any higher. It is, therefore, my intention to ask representatives of the Board of Education, the Teacher's Union, the Municipal Employees, and the Police Force to sit in at a special meeting of the Finance Committee when it meets to consider Town budget, so that they may thoroughly understand the serious position in which the Town is placed and enable the Council to finally arrive at an agreement which is fair to the teachers, civic employees, police force and the Town of Fort Erie.

I shall also direct the attention of the Council to the serious problem of housing in Fort Erie. I feel that the Council should give every encouragement to private industry and private enterprise to build more homes, but I also feel that it may be necessary to ask the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to supplement any private programme of housing by building more than the thirty-five houses originally agreed on.

In conclusion I would like to say that I have every confidence in my Council and I know that we will work together harmoniously in the year to come.