

Title: One New Municipality: Alliston, Beeton, Tecumseth, and Tottenham United. Page 1/2

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One new municipality

Alliston, Beeton, Tecumseth and Tottenham united

by ALEXANDER MOLNAR
Herald reporter

In January 1991 eight municipalities will cease to exist as separate entities and the political boundaries will be redrawn into three larger areas, according to the minister of municipal affairs.

John Sweeney announced last Thursday at a closed meeting with the mayors and reeves of the affected areas that the political boundaries of south Simcoe will be redrawn in 1991. The move comes after the minister's decision in Nov. 1988 to undertake a comprehensive study of boundary issues in south Simcoe.

January 1, 1991, Alliston, Tottenham, Beeton and Tecumseth Township will form one municipality, Bradford and West Gwillimbury will form another and Cookstown and Innisfil will form a third.

Since 1970 the study area containing the local municipalities has undergone a population growth of 90 per cent compared to 25 per cent for the province as a whole, according to the ministry. This growth has resulted in 10 annexation applications in the past eight years. Five of those annexation requests have yet to be resolved but some will disappear because of the boundary changes.

The study was commissioned in response to demands made on the municipalities as a result of the growth. Factors cited by the ministry include: a proliferation of joint service agreements, fringe development, lack of servicing capacity in urban centres, consumption of agricultural land for urban purposes, strains on ground water resources and sewage systems, and affordable housing and planning disputes.

A three municipality proposal was favored over a four municipality proposal favored by Alliston and Tottenham, according to Sweeney. Creating four municipalities would mean separating currently structured

services. Instead it was decided to draw the boundaries along existing service lines, he said.

With the decision that has been made, according to Sweeney, the new municipalities could meet the needs of the community and create a stronger base from which to work.

Cookstown will now be a part of Innisfil because of a number of working agreements with the township. Reeve Edyth Brown said Innisfil already takes care of building and plumbing inspection as well as some other services.

Brown said this decision would involve the least disruption to services within the community. In any case, Cookstown has supported amalgamation "all the way."

Sweeney said "there was a high degree of co-operation at the meeting, though they may not all agree."

"We couldn't give everyone what they wanted," he said.

Alliston Mayor Rick Milne said, "the decision was not a surprise." Alliston had offered a four municipality proposal which would have seen the Township of Tecumseth divided in two with the northern portion going to Alliston and the southern to Tottenham.

Milne said Alliston exercised its democratic right and "we didn't receive the approach we wanted, but now that it's out we'll support it one hundred per cent with the committee that's formed."

"We will make sure we get the best government we can," he said.

Some main concerns for Milne are sewage, water, policing of the new area, hydro, works, roads and proper planning. The new border to the north and west of Alliston is also not set in stone. Sweeney said these bound-

daries may yet be adjusted.

Tottenham reeve Joan Sutherland said her village is a little worried about the future. "We didn't want it this way, but we'll take it as a challenge and make the best of it."

Sutherland said she has been contacted by worried consti-

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*Preparing
for the new*

Members of the old councils meet and get ready for the new. Tecumseth reeve Jim Heath, Beeton clerk-treasurer Ruth Shaw, Tottenham reeve and clerk-treasurer Joan Sutherland and Sterling Zeran, Alliston mayor Rick Milne and Beeton reeve Gary Burton will now have to work together to decide on the structure of the next larger municipal government in what may be referred to as the Municipality of Tecumseth. But the name may change. Eight municipalities attended a meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs John Sweeney in Toronto

