

In the 1923 election for the City of St. Catharines municipal council, Howard Eugene ROSE was elected as an alderman. In the same election, Major Edwin John LOVELACE was elected mayor. But LOVELACE was required to resign as mayor when he was appointed in early April to the position of County Court Clerk and Registrar of the Surrogate Court of the County of Lincoln, to succeed the late Johnson CLENCH.

At the council meeting of Monday, April 17, 1923 Lovelace's letter tendering his resignation was accepted by council. In the absence of Mayor LOVELACE, City Clerk PAY took the chair and called for a resolution appointing an acting-Mayor. Alderman Howard E. ROSE was appointed on the motion of Aldermen BRADLEY and HACKER. Council then set 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 26 as the deadline for nominations for the election of a new mayor. Current council members who wished to run in the election had to resign from council in order to run.

The local newspaper The Standard reported in the Monday, April 23 issue that no nominations had been received to date by the clerk although rumors of several people interested circulated about the city. However, at the nomination meeting held on April 26 the clerk accepted five nominations, those of: Howard E. ROSE, David W. EAGLE, Jacob SMITH, Joseph HODGINS, and J. E. RIFFER. Two of the nominees were existing aldermen, ROSE and RIFFER and they resigned from Council as required in order to run in the election.

The election was held on Thursday, May 3, 1923 and the voter turnout was very light. Jacob SMITH won the election with Howard E. ROSE coming in second.

So, when LOVELACE ceased to be mayor on April 17, 1923 the City effectively had no mayor upon his resignation. In order to have a mayor, City Council appointed ROSE as acting-mayor, a position he held until he resigned on April 26 to run in the upcoming election. Although he held the position of acting-mayor for only 10 days (if you are to count both part days of the April 17 and April 26) he none the less fulfilled the role of mayor and thus should be considered to have been a Mayor of our City, even if it was the shortest term ever served by a Mayor.