



Norma McDonald

Norma -- the not too conservative Liberal

1976

The next time you visit the Huron Restaurant on Port Elgin's Goderich Street, ask for a Liberal helping, and no doubt the girl serving you will smile broadly. The young lady in question will be Norma MacDonald, the Liberal's answer to people in the area who are worried about the future.

Norma is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kent Lamont, Saugeen Township. Kent has played a large part in helping the Liberal party to catch votes in Bruce County. She is also a niece of Alex Lamont, the County's new Warden. The Lamonts have been to the fore in the political arena for many years, and they have been Liberals as far back as they can remember.

Norma told me that she minds her grandfather telling her stories when she was only a child. Stories about the Liberals who were called 'Reformers' in the bad old days. Stories of how the big, bad Tories verbally berated the new radicals who has appeared from nowhere. One story in particular she remembers hearing was when a 'Reformer' was speaking at a private function, the Tories gathered outside on the stairs to make a

disturbance, so as to prevent him from being heard.

She has fond memories from when she was a girl going to school of going to Liberal meetings and conventions all over the County, singing and playing the piano. The two outstanding tunes from her repertoire being 'O Canada' and 'God Save the Queen'.

Kent, her father, is a Past-President of Provincial and Federal Liberal Associations of the Grey-Bruce and the Bruce-Grey ridings. He also stood as a candidate in the 1965 election, but was unsuccessful, the seat going to a Conservative. Norma told me that 'the time was not ripe for a Liberal member to get the seat. People would have to be educated politically first'.

Norma, herself, has to be an asset to whatever party she supports. She makes her views plainly, and to the point. She is a strong believer in the Liberal policy and has reasons to believe that they will continue to do well at the ballot box. She spent the last five years in Ottawa, working for various Members of Parliament, including a year with the present Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan.



Norma MacDonald
-- working for a Liberal cause.

I spoke to her before she left for Toronto, where she was the youth representative for the riding at the Ontario Liberal Leadership Convention held last week end. With Norma's enthusiasm for hard work and with her cheery optimism, the Liberals certainly have nothing to worry about in this area of Bruce County.

A report on the past convention to elect a new leader appears on page 29 and is written for this paper by Mrs. MacDonald.

Jim Donnelly reporter

Attends Liberal convention

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Norma McDonald, of Port Elgin, said that she was very impressed by the Ontario Liberal Leadership Convention that was held in Toronto over the weekend. She said that everyone who attended was interested in the welfare of the party, and it was a good clean race.

Dr. Stuart Smith, a 37 year old psychiatrist from Hamilton was elected to carry the flag for the Liberal Party in Ontario by the slim margin of 45 votes over London businessman David Peterson.

Norma, the youth delegate from this region said that it was a very hard decision to make when it came time to vote. Dr. Smith is very well liked by the city representatives, and it is in this area that the party needs more support.

Norma is a familiar face in the area. She is the daughter of former Liberal association president Kent Lamont, and she has been working in Port Elgin at the Huron Restaurant.

Norma has been interested in politics for as long as she can remember. Not only did she participate in election campaigns, and the youth party, but she worked in Ottawa for a liberal Member of Parliament for about four years.

When asked in an interview Friday who she intended to support for the first ballot, Norma said that Larry Condon, an M.P. from Middlesex would receive her vote on that ballot. After that, she was not sure. Mark MacGuigan, M.P. for Windsor Walkerville and David Peterson an M.P.P. from London both look like good candidates, but there are others, she will have to scrutinize them.

The one hope that Norma did have for the leadership convention was that whoever the leader is, everyone will get behind him and work for the next election. Norma says that although there

is no way that she can be sure, she has a feeling that the next election could be as near as next fall.

The liberal youth party is not particularly strong in this area and Norma says that this is due to the fact that many of the teenagers in the area move away when they have finished high school and there are very few seasoned members* to carry on. She did say that she was surprised by the number of young people who came out to help during election time. Interest among the high school population has grown greatly since the age of majority was dropped to eighteen.

Along with Norma, Ron Oswalk, President of the association, from Chesley, Eldon Yundt, of Kincardine and George Loucks, of Chesley attended the convention.