

After 100 Years in Halton

Slim Majorities Typical In Early Political History

by ELIZABETH FITZGERALD

Political history was made on August 10 in Halton County. After 18 years of Liberal representation in Ottawa, the county returned its first woman member, Sybil Bennett, Q.C., to link this year of 1963 with 1890 when a similar change of parties took place. Until then, Halton's political record was consistently Reform, but in 1890 the Conservatives took office for a term that was to last for 45 years, until 1935.

Among the early representatives of the county, according to the County of Halton Atlas published in 1877, were the Hon. James Crooks, Mr. Scollard, James Durand, Col. William Chisholm of Oakville, Mr. Shade, Hon. Mr. Whetenhall and Caleb Hopkins. The atlas fails to give the political affiliation of these members, except for Chisholm who was a Liberal Conservative and held the position of member for 16 years.

These men represented Halton prior to 1849 when the county was part of the District of Gore. In that year the division into districts was abolished, and Halton and Wentworth formed a united county. In 1853 they were divided and Halton assumed its present-day form. From 1851 until the 1890's the political history of the county was predominantly Reform. In 1851 the Reform candidate, John White of Milton, was elected over Dr. Hamilton. He held the seat until 1854 when he was defeated by Col. G. K. Chisholm of Oakville by a majority of more than 300. In 1857 White and Chisholm again contested the county, and White was elected by a majority of 520. White was re-elected in 1861 and 1863, defeating Finlay, McCallum by 331 and ex-sheriff Levi Wilson by a majority of 831, a record in those days.

In 1862, on the election of a member of the Legislative Council for the Home Division, the Reform candidate, J. C. Aikins of Peel, defeated the Conservative, Col. Clay of Halton, by a large majority. Ontario in 1862 had been divided into four divisions—Eastern, Midland, Home and Western—and Halton formed part of the Home division. In 1867, in the first election following Confederation for the newly constituted House of Commons, John White was again opposed by Col. G. K. Chisholm and was elected by a majority of 137. Sheriff McKindsey ran as Conservative in the election of 1872 but White defeated him as well, by 135.

By a curious perversity Halton voted Reform as long as the Conservative administration of Sir John A. Macdonald ruled the Dominion, but elected a Tory candidate when the Reform ministry of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie led the country. In 1874 White was defeated by D. B. Chisholm of Hamilton by the slender majority of 23. Chisholm was unseated for bribery by an agent, however, and a new Reform candidate, William McCraney of Oakville, was elected in 1875 by a majority of 135. The Conservatives in turn appealed against his election but without success.

In the 1878 election the Conservatives returned Hon. William McDougall, C.B., with a majority of 24, but McCraney won again in 1882 by 80 votes.



DAVID HENDERSON

With the election of 1887 a particularly confusing period began in Halton's political history. At that time the Conservative, David Henderson, of Acton, lost to John Waldie by nine votes. The election was set aside for bribery by agents, and in the next contest Waldie was replaced by McLeod of Georgetown. Henderson received a majority of 149, but in 1888 he was unseated and the election was again declared void for bribery by agents.

Waldie was again nominated to oppose Henderson taking unrestricted reciprocity as his platform. This time he defeated Henderson who was campaigning for prohibition under the Temperance Alliance, by 37 votes. Another trial to unseat Waldie dragged on for more than a year until the charges were finally dismissed.

In 1891 Henderson again led the Reform party with a majority, but he was unseated in 1892 for bribery, and another election was called. For the first time in Halton the Reform party had no candidate in the field and Henderson was opposed by J. D. McGregor, the nominee of the Patrons of Industry. The by-election resulted in a 440 vote majority for the Conservatives, and Henderson was returned to the House of Commons for the third time within four years. In the campaign of 1896 Waldie lost his last attempt at re-election, and Henderson polled a majority of

84. The total vote that year in Halton was 5,006 as compared to 19,526 in the 1949 federal contest.



DR. E. K. ANDERSON

From 1896 to 1935 Halton voted Conservative in every election—for Henderson until his retirement in 1917 at the age of 78, and following that for Dr. R. K. Anderson until his retirement in 1935.

Following comparatively quiet elections in 1900 and 1904 which Henderson led with majorities of 146 and 139, the 1908 campaign proved more colorful. Dr. W. S. Harriss was defeated by an increased Conservative majority of 212, and a large victory parade was held in Milton.

According to the Champion files, a huge crowd of enthusiastic supporters met Henderson at the station and escorted his carriage to the bandstand next to the town hall. Heading the procession were enthusiasts carrying brooms which they set on fire and converted into torches, and a band followed.

The defeated Liberals filled the hall and when Henderson attempted to speak, his voice was drowned by hooting from the upper windows of the hall. Those outside decided to stone the windows, and to prevent a riot, the major and chief constable went to close the windows. With them went the men and boys carrying the flaming broomsticks. Wild talk and shaking of fists followed, and political disaster was barely avoided.

The 1911 election which followed was "the most keenly contested in Halton's history," but not nearly so violent. The Liberals supported reciprocity, which the Conservatives said would be only a preliminary to the annexation of Canada by the United States. Henderson's majority in this case was 419.

In the 1917 elections Dr. Anderson polled the largest majority in Halton's history of 2,072, as a representative of the non-political Union government. During this campaign it was said at the Liberal Conservative convention, "Halton has been loaded to the muzzle for 50 years with politics, and now that we have a war on our hand it is time to drop politics and join hands with the war winning Liberals for the duration of the war." W. D. Gregory of Oakville ran as an Independent Liberal in opposition to the Unionists, and unfortunately forfeited his deposit when he failed to poll 50 per cent. of his opponent's total.

During his 18 years as Halton's member, Dr. Anderson polled three record votes. The second highest majority in the county's history was his of 1,897 in 1926, and the third highest, a plurality of 1,476 in 1921. Until 1917 the record majority had been White's 831 in 1863.

Following Dr. Anderson's retirement in 1935, the county sent a Liberal representative to the federal House for the first time in 45 years. Hughes Cleaver of Burlington, in this election Cleaver defeated the Conservative, George Currie, and a Reconstructionist, M. M. Robinson, by a plurality of 1,035. A C.C.F. candidate was nominated, but he withdrew before election day.



HUGHES CLEAVER

SILVER-WOOD

Beautiful Flowers Attract Comments

Mr. John Norton of Meaford spent a few days at his brother's home, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Norton on the seventh line attract all eyes as drivers pass their place. The flowers in profusion are most beautiful. People on buses have been overheard to tell their companions "look to the left in a minute and see the flowers."

Mr. Ben Case has returned from an extensive motor trip through the New England States and the eastern provinces.

Mrs. A. Waghorn of Texas is visiting her sister, Mrs. R. Corbett for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Miller have returned from a week's travelling and visiting with friends in northern Ontario.

Spending the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Ern Baklin were Mr. and Mrs. W. Harris of Toronto and Mrs. R. Wilcocks of Brampton.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Appleyard, who were married on Saturday, August 8. Mrs. Appleyard was Margaret Coates of Brampton.

Mr. and Mrs. Baklin have recently visited friends for a few days in Gravenhurst, Severn River, Warton and Port Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Bell, Bonny and Ricky, have just returned from a week's holiday in the Laurentian Mountains.

EVERTON

Reunions are Held By Wares, Martins

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bruce and family attended the Ware reunion held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ware, Rockwood, recently, and also the Martin reunion held in Aberfoyle Hall.

Miss Donna Bruce is holidaying with Mr. and Mrs. W. Black and Jackie, Moffat.

Week-end visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fountain were Miss Alice Fountain, Guelph and Mr. Bob Woodhouse, Toronto.

Mrs. Charles Bye and family, Port Credit, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Benham.

Mr. Howard Gilbank was in Ohio last week on a business trip. Mrs. Gilbank and Wendy visited with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Grundy, Long Branch, while Mr. Gilbank was away.

Mrs. Ken Smith and family of Guelph are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wes Lillie and family.

Last week, visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Alton were Mrs. Bob Fuller and Mr. Ernie Tovell, Grand Valley; Mr. Dave Tovell and Mrs. Bill Mogford, Toronto.

Master Bobby, Jackie and Stewart Hepburn and Sharon Hepburn, Milton, spent the week-end at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Alton.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gilbank and Wendy visited over the week-end with the former's parents at Owen Sound.

Friends were sorry to hear of the sudden passing of Mr. John Fielding at Paris last Saturday. Sympathy is extended to the relatives.

Mr. Roy Hindley has returned from a visit with relatives in the States.

Miss Mary Fountain returned home on Sunday after a few weeks with her sister Vera and family (Mr. and Mrs. Dick Grill), Alliston.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Horlop and family and Mrs. W. H. Horlop attended the funeral of Mr. John Fielding held at Paris on Tuesday.

By-laws to assess the Township of Esqueping, school sections and school areas, were passed by the council of Esqueping at a meeting on Monday, August 4. Reeve Geo. Leslie presided.

The clerk was instructed to prepare a by-law for the issuing of debentures of \$64,000 for the construction of a new school at Norval. The Department of Planning and Development was to be notified that the road in connection with the Haines Survey of Glen Williams, has been built to the satisfaction of council. The necessary documents for Haines Bros. were to be requested.

The following accounts were passed for payment: Bell Telephone \$10.55; Ontario Hospital, Woodstock, \$46; S. S. Russell and Son, \$100; A. W. Benton, \$8.67; Halton County interest on 1952 county levy, \$35.14; Milton, final payment on high school debenture, issued in 1948, \$3,081.35; Acton, final payment on high school debenture, \$1,459.08.

Claims for foxes were paid to Jack Lawson, Acton, \$1.50; James McBride, Limehouse, \$3. Road accounts of \$2,550.39 were also passed.

Cleaver remained the county's representative for 18 years, until his retirement this year. His highest majority was polled in the 1940 election—1,604—the fourth highest following those of Dr. Anderson.

Last Monday the cycle was again completed. With the retirement of the Liberal member, Halton has again changed parties and returned a Conservative member. Will anyone predict what the next 45 or even 18 years will hold?

Personals

Miss Helen Hynds of Toronto visited Acton friends this week.

Mrs. James Cameron and Loreen, Virginia, are visiting friends here.

Mr. Forman Lawrence of Montreal visited Acton friends last week.

AC 1 Harold Smith of R.C.A.F. Station, Rockcliffe, spent last week-end at his home here.

Mrs. Kay Dills visited last week-end in Toronto with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Brown.

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Terry over the week-end was Mrs. Charles McCarthy of Galt.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rawn of Hamilton visited with Mrs. McMillan, Frederick St., on Tuesday.

Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Currey are enjoying a motor trip in the United States, including New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Edwards and family of Sudbury visited at the home of Mr. George Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Leishman have returned after holidaying at Whitley.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Woodburn and family left last week on a trip to the east coast to visit with friends there.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lawson of Philadelphia have been visiting in Acton with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lawson.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gibson of Toronto are spending a week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Landsborough.

Mr. Roy Hindley has returned from a ten day visit to McKeesport, Pennsylvania and Johnson City, Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Smith of Cleveland are visiting this week with Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Smith, Bower Ave.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Burns and Mary Ann of Toronto visited with Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hinton over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Edwards have returned to Beaverton after visiting with their brother, Mr. George Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Clark and family of Brantford have been visiting with relatives in Acton over the week-end.

Mrs. Margaret Parry has had a successful operation at Toronto General Hospital. Friends hope she will be home soon.

Mrs. H. Spanton of Northampton, England, is visiting for six weeks with her son Alan at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cleave.

Mr. J. Hammill of Toronto, Brother Men of Guelph and Brother Dolosi of Regina called on Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hinton on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Dugan and Terrance, Miss Henry of Kitchener and Miss Betty Mansz of Gowanstown visited with Mr. and Mrs. Charles McKeown last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McKay and Mrs. Elsie Mossop of Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Day of Rockwood, visited at the home of Mrs. Anna Smith, Lake Ave., last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Arbie and family returned home Sunday after a tour of Bracebridge, North Bay, Mattawa, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, Augusta, Lewiston, Portland, Boston, along the Mohawk Trail to Albany and through Buffalo and Fort Erie.

Mr. and Mrs. George Guderian, Kenmore, N.Y., spent the week-end with their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lantz, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Lantz and children, Guelph; Mrs. H. E. Sutcliffe, Bill Sutcliffe, Miss Joyce Hutchison, Bracebridge; Miss Shirley Sutcliffe, Detroit and Mrs. Charlie Gamble, Rockwood, visited the same home during the week-end.

EVENING WEDDING IN GUELPH CHURCH

An evening wedding ceremony took place in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, recently when Joan Bertha Coulson, daughter of Mrs. Anna Coulson of Eden Mills, exchanged vows with John Clarence Chamberlain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain of Eden Mills. Rev. K. G. McMillan officiated at the ceremony.

The bride was gowned in powder blue nylon marquisette, fashioned on ballerina lines. She wore a matching headdress and shoes and carried a bouquet of red roses.

The bridesmaid, Miss Ruth Brinkley, wore pink and white nylon over taffeta with white accessories and carried a bouquet of rose buds. The groom was attended by Vincent Kirtz of Ariss. The mother of the bride chose navy blue sheer with matching accessories and corsage of red roses. The groom's mother was attired in blue taffeta with matching accessories and corsage of pink roses.

Following the ceremony, the bridal party returned to Eden Mills where Mrs. Anna Coulson held a reception at her home for the immediate relatives of the bride and groom.

For the wedding trip to Sudbury, the bride wore a summer yellow dress with orchid shortie coat and white accessories.

Rate Increase Not Covering Expenses

Guy Parker and Tom Scott of West Central region, H.E.P.C., Hamilton, attended the Acton Public Utilities Commission meeting on Tuesday evening. They discussed with the local Commission the financing of local expenditures. The increase in rates at the beginning of the year had not kept pace with the increase in power rates and the local commission were running an overdraft at the bank. They suggested that the capital costs should be debenturized as the system is taking too much money to hope to pay for capital costs out of current revenue and still give the customers good service. No definite action was taken as the H.E.P.C. representatives felt the H.E.P.C. would not again raise the rates to bring in enough revenue to pay operating costs after having given the consumers one raise in rates this year.

Mr. Scott and Superintendent Mason were to inspect the distribution system and find out just what capital costs would be required this year and report back to the Commission.

An estimated power bill was authorized to Beaverton and Co. for the month of July, owing to the recording meters being out of service due to an electrical storm July 1. A number of other power meters had been damaged and these were being repaired. An inquiry was received from the H.E.P.C. as to whether the local commission would continue to handle the hydro lamp. A change is being made from 1,000 hour lamps to 1,500 hour lamps at an increase in cost of 10 per cent. They also inquired if the Commission desired to continue handling the hydro hot water heater. The Acton commission felt they were compelled to continue handling these lines to maintain service to the customers.

Notice was received of a meeting of plumbers to be held in Kitchener September 10 and 11, to discuss the plumbing code.

A price of \$850 was submitted by Jones and Van Gils for installing a pit at the sewer plant around a number of operating valves. This price was submitted on plans supplied by R. V. Anderson. Secretary J. McGeachie reported on efforts to collect accounts of people who have moved from the municipality. Accounts were outstanding against W. Massey, G. Wilson and H. Kemp. These accounts are to be turned over to the municipality where they are now residing for collection.

Notice was received from Neptune Meters of a nine per cent. reduction in the price of small meters.

Notice was received from the Council to install street lights on Acton Blvd. for adequate lighting. This matter is to be looked after.

An account of Art Vine submitted to the Commission was discussed. The account for work done at the Mrs. B. Chew residence was refused and the account for work at Baxter and Micro Plastics was ordered credited to Mr. Vines' account for material owing to the Commission.

Superintendent Lambert reported that Mr. Muckart of Georgetown had repaired the valve in the digester tank on Tuesday. Also that the service leak of a house on Church St., owned by Mrs. B. D. Rachlin, had been repaired. Other leaks on the owner's property were being looked after.

The heat exchanger was back in operation again, after being down 14 days for parts that had to come from the U.S.A.

Superintendent Mason reported that Mr. Morgan of Guelph District H.E.P.C. and himself had been checking the primary line loads about town. Some feeder lines were out of balance and steps would be taken at once to correct the situation.

Arrangements were made for the council and commission to view the work being done at the sewage plant on Friday evening at 7 p.m. All members of the Commission were present, with chairman Bob MacArthur presiding.

Hydro Accounts

H. Palmer, office cleaning \$17.00  
H.E.P.C. of Ont., power consumption 10,460.09  
Bell Telephone, serv. 18.85  
Petty cash, exp. and trans. 14.03  
L. Garner Motors, acct. 6.20  
Action Free Press, acct. 3.82  
Ellis & Howard Ltd., economy links 5.25  
Addressograph - Multi-graph, plates 82  
H.E.P.C. of Ont., water heater units 425.00  
Whitham's Garage, gas 12.63  
J. B. Mackenzie & Son 123.30  
Sydney Hardware 11.81  
Moloney Elec. Co. trans-formers and oil 30.60  
Jas. R. Kearney Corp. Federal Wire & Cable Co. 334.14  
Sangamo Co. Ltd., trans-formers 49.00  
J. H. Goy Cartage, trucking 5.20

Waterworks Accounts

Bell Telephone, serv. \$12.95  
Imperial Oil, oil 161.52  
Action P.U.C. (hydro) 165.97  
Bilton and Perry 5.14  
Can. Brass Co. Ltd. 411.81  
National Sewer Pipe 34.24  
Crane Ltd. 156.31  
Sydney Hardware 68.10  
Pacific Flush Tank Co. 5.25

\$1,021.29

FUNNY!

"My hair is falling out," admitted the timid man to the druggist. "Can you recommend something to keep it in?"

"Certainly," replied the obliging druggist. "Here's a cardboard box."

Engagements

Mr. and Mrs. W. Clifford Bradley announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Louise, to Renwick R. Slater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard E. Slater. The marriage will take place on Monday, September 7, at four o'clock, in St. Alban's Anglican Church, Acton.

GOOD NEWS

Jenkins was always trying to borrow money. One morning he tackled an acquaintance in the street before the latter had a chance to escape. "I say, old man," began Jenkins, "I'm in a terrible fix. I want some money badly, and I haven't the slightest idea where I'm going to get it."

"Glad to hear it my boy," replied the other, promptly, "I was afraid you might have an idea you could borrow it from me."

Far more than half the land area of Canada is forested and is suited only to the growth of wood.

LIMEHOUSE

Equal Treatment For Two Old Parties

Limehouse treated the two old parties equally with 46 votes each and 14 for the C.C.F.

The W. I. met at the home of Mrs. Kirkpatrick on Thursday with Mrs. Frank Chisholm as guest speaker.

Marilyn Patterson is visiting her cousin Joy this week.

Peter Glynn with his aunt at Ancaster last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Laur and children at Sauble Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Scott, Garry and Trudy at Dunnville and motoring in south-western Ontario last week.

Miss Mildred Reamsbottom is home after six weeks at Lake Simcoe with Misses Paray Reamsbottom and Mary Millichamp.

Mrs. Ethel Thompson and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sneath of Toronto spent the week here at a cottage.

Cliff McDonald motored to Algonquin Park and other points north for his holidays.

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