

GO, GO TRUDEAU

Bob Bonnette — junior politician an enthusiastic but ineligible vote

by Barb McIntosh

"Democracy can really smell, but it can be really great too as long as you are not indifferent," says Bob Bonnette, an 18 year old student in the Acton High School, who probably knows more about politics right now than a lot of eligible voters.

Recently, for an assignment in Mr. Martindale's grade 12 geography class, he produced a set of three maps and an essay in which he pointed out the strengths of the three major political parties in the provincial elections of 1964, 1967, and made some interesting predictions on the next election somewhere in the future.

It was a task that wasn't easily done over night. In fact, it took Bob "a few months" to write to the provincial legislature at Queen's Park and organize the lists of elected MP's in the various ridings.

"I tried to do the project from the point of view of the historian so that it would not be biased one way or the other," says Bob. In the essay he gives an explanation for the elections of MP's in various areas of the province.

"Southern Ontario is almost entirely a Conservative bloc. East of Peterborough there were no Liberal or New Democratic MP's elected. This is probably due to the fact that this area has been a Conservative bloc since Confederation.

This is the area in which the very British, United Empire Loyalists settled in 1793, and people have upheld the family tradition of being Tories from their fathers and their fathers before them.

It is also a very rural area and Conservative policies regarding agriculture must have been acceptable here. Conservatism seems to appeal to the farmers of Southern Ontario with the exception of the Liberal bloc in mid-southwestern Ontario, especially the Brantford area. This is probably due to the fact that Liberal leader Robert Nixon resides in Brant County.

The Liberal party fared poorly in the 1967 election. For one thing, they had just acquired a new leader with little parliamentary experience and they were unprepared for an election. Liberal party funds were lower than those of the other two parties. The government in power always has funds at its disposal, while the NDP was partly supported by unions.

In this election, the electorate wanted a clear-cut choice between the party in power, and the alternative party in the left wing.

The electorate wanted no part of a middle-of-the-road party, and this explains why the NDP went from 8 seats to 20 and the Liberals from 21 to 28.

The NDP strength lies mostly in the industrial areas of Toronto, Hamilton and Peterborough. The factory worker tends to lean towards socialism and the NDP, as they have perhaps more to offer factory workers than the other two.

On the basis of trends and former elections, Bob makes predictions for the future. "Unless the PC's pass more useful legislation and pay more attention to the problems of Northern Ontario, it will most certainly lose the north entirely to the other two parties in the next election.

Also, if the present trend continues, the NDP will become even stronger in the industrial areas or centres of Ontario, giving second and third place to the Conservative and Liberal parties.

Otherwise, unless something happens between now and the next election, I can safely say that the Progressive Conservative Party will retain its strength in Southern Ontario.

The Liberals on the other hand, are becoming stronger in the rural area, south-west of Toronto, Niagara and the southern tip of Southern Ontario (Essex County).

If these present trends continue, I feel that I can safely say that in the next election, the PC's will again be re-elected but perhaps in a minority government. The NDP will become stronger than ever, (unless

Annual inspection St. John Brigade

The Acton-Georgetown brigade took part in the annual inspection of the Halton-Peel Corps in Port Credit last Thursday evening. Corps superintendent Norman Carlson of Hamilton conducted the inspection which included parading and demonstrations.

Acton Corps officer Robert Hart headed the Acton group — the Citizens of the Year in Acton this year.

Two members of the combined Acton and Georgetown Brigade received their commissions during the inspection. Ken Thompson, Georgetown, was commissioned as divisional superintendent and Wally Gordon of Acton as divisional officer.

Two charter members of the Brigade Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrave, had been in hospital and were unable to attend. They are both home again now convalescing.

"Quiet on all fronts" report from Acton OPP

"Quiet on all fronts" is the only way to describe the week of actively experienced by the Acton O.P.P. from May 26 to June 1. Only six occurrences, excluding one motor vehicle accident, were recorded at the local police detachment. Of these, the most serious was the theft of a bicycle which was recovered two days later. The remainder were reports of lost and found property and the noting of one liquor seizure in which charges resulted.

Rhythm Band expresses appreciation

Mr. and Mrs. John Cosnar entertained the members of the Rhythm Band of the Golden Age Club, on Thursday, May 30 in their lovely home at Silvercreek. Twenty-three persons were present.

An amusing game of Bingo called by Mrs. Chas. Cutts brought a prize to everyone.

As band leader Mrs. Cosnar had spent many hours and much effort assembling and arranging the Band, handing out the talent, persuading them to come out to practices, and perform at different functions when invited. To show their appreciation the Band presented her with a thriving Arctostaphylos in an attractive gold and white container.

Mrs. Douglas Kennedy had done all the typing of the songs for all the members and was presented with an identical gift. Mrs. R. L. Davidson and Mrs. Fred McCutcheon made the presentations and the gift cards were inscribed with the members names. Mrs. Cosnar then presented Mrs. Kennedy with a pair of white gloves in appreciation of the fine job done in the typing. Though taken completely by surprise, both ladies graciously and fittingly expressed their sincere thanks for the well-earned gifts.

A most beautiful lunch was much enjoyed. Mrs. Davidson moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Cosnar for their generous hospitality. The Rhythm Band are invited to perform at the Strawberry Festival at Knox Presbyterian Church on June 21.

He is actively out campaigning for the coming federal election and is the head of a youth committee called "Go Trudeau."

"Kids are taking a greater interest in politics — and I think it's all because of Pierre," he states. "He's really crazy about politics. He's even got me interested," beams his 16 year old sister Diane.

Although Bob has his favorite party he contends, "It really doesn't matter which party you support as long as you go out and do something."

Bob hopes to become a historian with some political science tied in. "I definitely do think the voting age should be lowered to 18," he adds.

Bob is the son of the late Charles Harris and Emily Pearson and a grandson of John Richard Harris, founder of the former Harris Woolen Mills of Rockwood. His great-grandfather was one of the first settlers in Rockwood.

At an early age his family moved to Wolland and later Niagara Falls, where he received his early education. He graduated from the University of Toronto and Emmanuel Theological College and was ordained in Kitchener, in 1932 as a United Church minister.

He held pastoral charges at Morgan's Point, Underwood, Hospital, was held last Saturday at Port Credit. He was in his 64th year.

Rev. J. Stewart of Cookville conducted the service assisted by Rev. F. Joblin, chairman Halton Presbytery, and Rev. Willis Robinson, Innisville, the chairman, Oxford Presbytery.

Burial was at Niagara Falls. Relatives from this area attending the funeral were Mrs. F. J. Hosking, Miss Elizabeth McPhedran, Messrs. Alec and Duncan McPhedran, Rockwood; Mrs. W. Lethland, Guelph; Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Aitken and Miss Elva Pearson, Acton.

accident was investigated, five traffic citations issued and 10 other motorists warned to correct faulty driving habits.

The accident, which occurred at the intersection of Mill and John Sts. on May 27, caused \$225 property damage and saw the erring driver charged under the Highway Traffic Act.

Magistrate's Court at Milton took the matter of Mr. Acton's case as only two cases were heard by the court. Both persons each charged under the Traffic Act, were convicted and paid fines and costs totalling \$42.

A recent Ontario Safety League release contains some interesting safety notes. They point out that automobile tires wear out three times as fast at 70 MPH as they will at 50 MPH. And to support the lower speed it is noted that the likelihood of death in traffic accidents increases by 10 per cent with each one mile increase in speed over 55 MPH.

Brian Hassard wins fellowship

Brian David Hassard graduated from Carleton University Ottawa on May 24 as Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours in Mathematics and Physics). He was a Woodrow Wilson Designate.

He has been awarded a Cornell University Graduate Fellowship and will enter post-graduate studies in Applied Mathematics at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

He is the son of Prof. and Mrs. J. Harvey Hassard, London, Ontario, and the grandson of Mrs. E. J. Hassard, Church St., Acton.

Wellington Liberal candidate Ralph Dent attended a turkey dinner to meet voters at Eden Mills Presbyterian church. Later he attended a meeting of Rockwood Liberals at the home of Stan Harris.

Campaign plans were discussed including issues of the riding. The Rockwood committee noted there is considerably more interest on the part of young people in this election. Pierre Trudeau has been instrumental in awakening interest.

Mrs. Harris served refreshments.

Esqueusing council briefs

At the regular meeting Monday night, Esqueusing council:

* Agreed to the terms of a new agreement for the Acton Fire Area. Esqueusing, Nassagaweya and Erin townships will pay \$9,400 or 60 per cent of the total, to Acton while the agreement is in effect. An increase of \$3,000 over the present amount goes to Acton firefighters.

* Heard correspondence from Charles Hildebrandt asking what steps were necessary to have a road closed on residential private property. He is to be advised to consult the O.P.P.

* Received correspondence from Sam Consentino Construction asking an audience re proposed subdivision at Lot 15, Con. 6. Council agreed to receive Mr. Consentino at the next meeting but left no doubt about their opposition to new subdivision developments.

* Received correspondence from Mrs. Baldwin asking for a Dead End sign at the end of St. Helena Rd. The town superintendent was instructed to erect the proper sign.

* Passed road accounts amounting to \$8,903.16.

* Was informed by Mr. Hill the township dump was in an improved condition following erection of a high fence and pick up of debris scattered around.

Ralph Dent meets voters

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Pairs and Squares join fun at dance convention

Acton Pairs and Squares were well represented at the Seventh International Convention, nine couples attending Saturday, June 1.

This convention is the highlight of Square Dancing in Ontario, when over three thousand dancers and callers from all over Canada and most of the United States, as far distant as Texas and California, gather at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, to dance, meet old friends and make new ones.

For three afternoons and evenings the whole convention floor rang to thrilling music and the calls of "Alamanda left" and "Swing your Partner" as the bright skirts and shirts made a kaleidoscope of color pleasing to the eyes of the many

spectators in the balconies.

Those attending from Acton were Robert and Lillian Brown, Valerie Coles, Harold and Audrey Denny, Ron and Edythe Douglas, David Liddes, Jerry and Jean Paton, Charles and Grace Perry, Gordon, Gall, Stew and Nan Reed, Don and Annetta Van Fleet.

Unable to attend and greatly missed were George and Marje Hargrave who were in Guelph General Hospital. Their friends wish them a speedy recovery and better luck next year.

The Pairs and Squares were especially proud to have their own caller Norm Wilcox of Brampton, on the calling staff. All those attending report a wonderful time.

Estimate fire damage \$60M

Damage at the spectacular fire which levelled a large section of the Meadowdale Grower's mushroom plant in Georgetown May 24 was estimated at \$60,000.

Four fire departments from Oakville, Acton and Milton and Georgetown fought the fire which was punctuated by explosions. Loss included an office, growing houses, a refrigeration room, lunch room, wash room, and shower room as well as 700 baskets of fried mushrooms.

Company manager Ernie Shrow said afterwards his firm would be out of business if it had not been for the efficiency of firefighters. The razed building will be replaced. An older part it was scheduled to be used for just one more growing season.

No profit for Music Festival

In a report of the Halton Women's Institute annual meeting published last week it was incorrectly stated the Halton Music Festival netted a \$700 profit.


W. I. ladies explained this should have read the festival received \$700 in donations. Expenses usually outstrip donations so the Festival is fortunate to "break even" each year.

Festival officials depend on donations to keep the event going.

Reported to police

A seven-year-old boy reported a group of young boys tried to pick him up in their car after school Monday. The incident was reported to police.

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