



CONGRATULATORS RUSHED Gary Dawkins moments after he was named Progressive Conservative candidate for Halton-Burlington.

Tory nomination

Dawkins wins

At an oldtime Tory nominating convention, with bands, banners and hoopla, Gary Dawkins of Acton romped home the winner on the first ballot, Thursday night.

He will carry the Progressive Conservative banner in the next provincial election for the new riding of Halton-Burlington.

Dawkins, principal of M.Z. Bennett School in Acton, polled more votes of the 608 ballot cast, than George Gray of Georgetown and surprise candidate Mrs. Bonnie Newton of Campbellville, combined.

In the auditorium of Ernest C. Drury School, Milton, jammed with roughly 650 basteous Conservatives, Dawkins said the 32 years of Conservative rule in Ontario was the result of good government and good management, comparable to any in the North American continent.

He said government involvement was increasing at an alarming rate, and too many constraints were put on the individual. He claimed bureaucracy was increasing

the gap between government and the people. "Our elected members must listen to their constituents," he said, noting he was a strong supporter of free enterprise.

Dawkins maintained few people are fully satisfied with regional government, but reminded them this is a transitional period when changes can be made. He said it was impractical to say it should be scrapped, but argued changes and innovations.

He held the preservation of green belt areas for future generations was admirable, but stressed the individual rights of farmers and individuals along the way should not be trampled on. He stated, "These people must be compensated fully, as should the people along the hydro corridors."

Dawkins claimed the Halton education system was one of the best in the world. He said some of the older values must be included in the present system, and stated lack of discipline is at least partly attributable to the present-day approach. He said the representative for Halton-Burlington must recognize this to meet public desires.

He said he would be a full time candidate, who would take a leave of absence from his job as principal, and pledged he would go from door to door throughout the riding.

Garnet (Pat) McKenzie, Halton Hills councillor, nominator for Dawkins, said he was the ideal age, "Not young and inexperienced and not old and set in his ways." He said Dawkins had given unselfish service through the Lorne Scots, the Rotary Club, the Legion and the Board of Management of Knox Church, as well as his job as school principal.

McKenzie said he had known the candidate most of his life, and stated he was convinced he would effective-

ly serve the riding, dealing fairly with all the people from all walks of life. He said Dawkins would take a leave of absence and serve full time in the riding.

He reminded the audience Gary was only 37 years old and descendant of the Cox family who had lived in the Acton area since 1850. He said Dawkins' wife Rosalie was



GEORGE GRAY



BONNIE NEWTON

aware of the sacrifices demanded by politics and was willing to back her husband in the endeavour.

In a brief seconding speech Ken Murray of Nassaugweya, said he had known Dawkins since he served as a cadet in the Lorne Scots, where he was highly respected. He said the fact Dawkins was appointed principal at age 24 the youngest principal in Halton, speaks for itself.

Tory 25 years George Gray said he had been a member of the Conservative party for 25 years, and particularly welcomed the young people at the nominating convention. He said the party must listen to the young people.

He said the construction company in which he is a partner, is a straight building company, not land developer. He said he was not in favor of land freezes unless in the public interest. "In these cases the owners must be compensated."

Gray said he agreed with Toronto becoming another New York City, and praised the change which now makes Halton Regional Planning board responsible for applications for subdivisions.

He said more rural separations should be allowed to provide much needed housing. He reminded the audience the farmer who sells part of his land boasts the economy by buying new equipment. He said class one, two and three land should be preserved to ensure an adequate food supply.

He paid tribute to the Ontario farmer, saying they did not automatically ask for subsidies each time they suffer a loss. He claimed turkey growers in Quebec received subsidies of 40 and 50 cents a pound in the last few years, but still Ontario farmers did not ask for the same subsidy.

He compared food costs today to a few years ago, and claimed food accounted for only 20 percent of disposal income this year, and as opposed to 24 percent in the recent past.

Gray said single family homes are beyond the reach of most families today and called for a decrease in interest rates and longer amortization. He said there was a need for some public housing, and greater density per acre for houses.

"The \$1500 grant to new home buyers is a step in the right direction," he stated.

He said he didn't have to take a leave of absence from his job since he is his own boss. He pledged to start tomorrow.

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ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1975

Twenty-Eight Pages - Fifteen Cents.

Georgetown
mill rate 75.98

Up 1.13

Acton
mill rate 97.93

Up 5.86

Esquesing
mill rate 74.12

Up 5.51

Blame sewage plant

Small Acton tax increase

Taxpayers in Acton will pay an increase of 5.86 mills this year or \$35.04 on a house assessed at \$7,500, the 1975 budget for Halton Hills revealed Monday night. Esquesing's rate is up 5.51 mills and a \$7,500 assessment there will mean an additional \$34.01 in taxes while Georgetown taxpayers with the same assessment will be billed for \$8.47 additional for 1.09 mill rate increase.

It was good news for taxpayers who anticipated a substantial boost in taxes and a

beaming finance chairman Harry Levy said the Halton Hills budget was the best in the region. Council endorsed and accepted the budget in one short session Monday night.

Acton taxpayers faced increased charges on the operation and improvement of the region-operated sewage plant, which accounts for a large part of the mill increase. Esquesing ratepayers will pay 5.51 extra mills principally because of a 10 per cent drop in the provincial stabilization grants.

Levy said Halton Hills is the most envied municipality in Halton Region. The rate of inflation was estimated at 12.5 per cent, the education levy went up 11 per cent and council was almost able to hold the line in spite of these increases.

Part of the reason for their ability to hold the taxes below the rate of inflation and absorb the extra education costs was attributable to a substantial surplus of \$543,611 remaining from last year. There was more revenue in 1974 than anticipated and reduced expenses because 1974's budget was not set until the first week of August. The regional levy was also reduced this year.

Levy explained the surplus was used to reduce the 1975 taxes and a portion was allocated to 1976 to look after increases next year. The finance chairman said council was able to do this and still increase services to residents of the new town.

He paid special tribute to the work of the treasurer and staff and department heads for the "realistic and well laid-out" budget which was presented to councillors and press in an attractively bound copy containing almost every conceivable piece of relevant information.

Levy also pointed out that Halton Hills was also able to pay for one-third of a new fire truck for Acton, part of the

arena and swimming pool in Georgetown and part of the three year payment on the computer for the town offices in 1975 instead of 1976. He felt this would be a tremendous help in 1976 when pressures from reduced government grants would be more obvious.

Treasurer Harry Henderson explained that Esquesing's mill rate went up 5.51 mills principally because of the reduction in the provincial subsidy general stabilization grant which is reduced each year over a five year period. This year it went from \$71,000 to \$61,174. The transitional grants are used to reduce the internal levy or the amount raised by taxes.

Sewer charges which sent the Acton mill rate four mills past Georgetown but council has set up a fund to stabilize them at five mills which amounts to \$100,000. Council hopes to stabilize the Acton charges at eight mills.

Henderson pointed out he had used a \$7,500 assessment to figure out what the small increase would cost taxpayers. He applied an equal-

ization factor to the figures because the four former municipalities are assessed separately on different numerical assessment values. For instance an average Georgetown assessment of \$7,500 would only amount to \$5,084 when the 22.5 equalization factor for Acton was applied. Similarly, Esquesing's 23.2 equalization factor would reduce the comparative assessment to \$6,170, while the small portion of Oakville deemed to Halton Hills came to \$7,420.

So if a house assessed at \$7,500 in Georgetown pays \$509.86 in taxes, the same house moved to Acton would cost the taxpayer \$586.01. If the house went to Esquesing the taxpayer would have a bill for \$457.33. So apparently the cheapest place to live is the former township of Esquesing, but residents of Ward Two (Esquesing) are not charged for services such as crossing guards, garbage collection, street lighting (except for Glen Williams, Norval, Stewarttown and Ballinfad) and sewers, which makes up the dif-

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Kenneth Steel funeral today

Funeral service is being held today for Kenneth Steel Jr., 17, of R.R. 2, Acton, who died Monday as a result of an accident Sunday afternoon. The two-car collision occurred on the 4th line of Erin just north of the Erin-Esquesing township line.

Funeral at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home in Acton is being conducted by the Rev. Walter Fosbury of Churchill Community Church. Cremation will follow.

Kenneth came to the district with his family about a year ago from Agincourt. He had completed his semester at Erin district high school and was working, intending to go to college in the fall.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Steel, sisters Donna and Konni and brothers Perry

Missing lad found Tues.

Provincial Police and close to one hundred worried Acton citizens combed the streets and bush area of town to find eight-year-old Richard Pine who was reported missing shortly after eight p.m.

Milton detachment of OPP were called in to help in the search and responded with two cars. The boy was found shortly after 9 o'clock in the Agnes-Main Street area by Brian Smith, an employee of L. & L. Ford.

The boy was returned to his home at 183 Main St. S. to the relief of many, especially his family.

The boy said he was playing with his friend Terry and didn't know that he was being searched for. He hadn't returned home after school.



KENNETH STEEL

and Gary, all at home. He had participated in Acton Legion hockey since coming to this district.

Police report the car driven by Kenneth was travelling north of the fourth line when it came into collision with a southbound car driven by Eugene Bouclair, 21, of Hamilton. Both drivers as well as passengers William Puch, 17, Hamilton and Blaine Campbell, 21, R.R. 2, Acton, were taken by ambulance to Guelph General Hospital.

Ken was later transferred to Toronto. Damage was estimated at \$7,000. The Guelph detachment of the O.P.P. investigated.

In hospital William Puch of Scarborough, who is Ken Steel's cousin, is still in hospital with a fractured spine, fractured leg, laceration and chipped teeth.

The driver of the other car, Eugene Bouclair, is in satisfactory condition with fractures.

Blain Campbell was discharged Tuesday; he suffered bruises and lacerations.

Attempt to split opposition?

Review portion hydro corridor

Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell's announcement that it is the Government's intention to provide the mechanism "for a review of a portion of the Bradley-Georgetown Hydro transmission line as requested by citizens in this area," has been branded a gross misrepresentation by the Interested Citizens' Group.

"It doesn't do anything we asked," said Bill Mann, president of the group which has representatives from 15 townships along the corridor route, among its ranks.

As he sees it the review is intended to pit farmer against farmer, township against township at each other's throats in efforts to have the hydro transmission corridor

so in some other direction. It also brings Caledon and Eramosa townships back into the dog-fight, Mann says.

"Although the announcement makes the Government sound like the white-haired boys it really is an attempt to split the opposition into factions while hydro goes ahead and does what it likes," Mann said, in effect in a telephone interview with this newspaper.

He said the Interested Citizens Group is meeting with Mr. Timbrell again on Tuesday (last night) in an effort to persuade him the decision to review a portion of the line is "unfair and undemocratic."

We never requested a review of a portion of the lines

as the statement says. We asked for an independent study of the entire line, Mann says. The group will issue a formal statement after Tuesday's meeting.

John Schneider, another member of the executive, said the announcement means "We've been taken to the cleaners" — and "we thought Mr. Timbrell was a reasonable man."

"We asked for an independent study, not a review of a portion of the line—now we've gone the full circle and we are back to where we started," Schneider said.

"People here are really enraged by the announcement—and they represent a sizable proportion of the people in the 15 townships

through which the corridor will travel," Schneider said. He said the announcement itself, a cleverly written document, was full of contradictions including a paragraph which states there is a need within the next 20 years to service the Kitchener area with a 500 kv transmission line, but he notes the very next paragraph states Hydro will propose that the corridor to Kitchener should be given serious and early consideration at forthcoming hearings on the expansion of the electrical system.

Schneider also says that the announcement suggests Dr. Solandt recommended the Limehous crossing of the Escarpment because it could



BRIDGING THE GENERATIONS, Maureen McGillivray, three, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Mae Lambert, 90, at the service commemorating 50 years of church union Sunday. The Rev. Eric Nelson of Trinity United watches the charming ceremony. More pictures inside.

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