

X ELECTION 1975

Key to victory is hard work

Hard work will form the basis of the Tory campaign in Halton-Burlington says PC candidate Gary Dawkins.

Dawkins wasted no time putting that formula to the test. He spent about three weeks preparing for his June 5 nomination meeting and since then he has been out meeting people and getting the feel of things.

Dawkins said he'd use signs, billboards and have party workers canvass the riding. "Every election is won by hard work", he says.

Teams of four

The candidate has received some help in canvassing from his colleagues in the education business. Campaigning in teams of four, Dawkins and one canvasser cover one side of a street, and two canvassers are on the other side. Each person leaves a prepared message with the homeowner and moves on. The candidate himself is always within calling distance, should someone have a question.

The timing of the election call has worked well for Dawkins. He has been able to form a pool of school principals to accompany him in his door to door trips about the riding.

The election call coming in the summer time provided a ready made labor pool for him to draw on, he said.

Gary Dawkins Is active in community

At 36 years of age Gary Dawkins is the youngest candidate fighting to become Halton-Burlington's first sitting member in the Ontario Legislature.

A lifelong resident of the riding, Dawkins became an elementary school principal at the young age of 24 and has been a principal for the past 12 years, first at Speyside School and for the last two years at M. Z. Bennett Public School in Acton.

Dawkins' career as an educator started after he graduated from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University and Lakeshore Teachers' College.

Education work

He has served on a host of committees and boards connected with education including the Halton Principals' Advisory Committee; four years on the executive of the Halton Principals' Association including a term as president; a term as chairman of the professional development committee and he is currently the principals' representative on the staff-board committee and the Halton elementary teachers association council.

Mr. Dawkins has been busy in the community as well, serving twice as president of the Acton Rotary Club and he served six years in the Canadian Militia with the Lorne Scots Regiment and as an executive member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

He has also found time to work with Knox Presbyterian Church, serving twice on the Board of Managers and he is a member of Walker Masonic Lodge.

The candidate has worked in all provincial and federal election campaigns since 1963, serving in a variety of capacities as well as area captain. He worked on George Kerr's campaign committee in the last two elections and seconded Kerr's nomination in 1971.

Gary lives in Acton with his wife Rosalie and their two sons Mark 10, and Michael four.

The great outdoors subject for contest

A national environmental photographic contest is being co-sponsored by the federal Department of the Environment and Canadian Photo Annual magazine to encourage interest in protecting Canada's environment. Prize winning photographs may be used by the department in exhibitions, posters and booklets, and also will be published in the 1976-77 edition of the magazine. M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook sent along word of the contest to this paper.

The winner of the grand prize, which is being donated by Environment Canada, has two choices: a two-week course at the Banff School of Fine Arts on High Country Photography, which will involve field trips above 10,000 feet in the Rockies, or a 12-day course in nature photography with Freeman Patterson at Shampers Bluff, N.B. Prizes will be awarded for photographs in 20 categories which range from man's impact on the environment to songbirds.

10 Limit

Pictures may be black and white or color and there is a limit of ten photographs per entrant. All photographs must have been taken in Canada. Deadline for entries is December 31 and they should be submitted to Environment Canada Photo Contest, Information Directorate, Ottawa K1A 0H3.

There are more details at the Free Press newsroom for anyone interested.

Advertising rules "fair"

The election spending act, touted as being the most comprehensive in North America, is good and fair according to Tory candidate Gary Dawkins of Acton.

In Halton the act will provide candidates with about \$6,000 per candidate from the public purse and impose restrictions on how much each candidate can spend on advertising.

The ceilings on spendings apply only to the cost of advertising time or space, not to the cost of production of such advertising.



SENIOR CITIZENS at Halton Centennial Manor enjoyed a short visit from the premier and PC candidate Gary Dawkins.

I'm my own man, says Dawkins

"Hi, I'm Gary Dawkins, your candidate in Halton-Burlington," the 36-year-old educator said as he circulated around Halton Centennial Manor chatting with residents.

Committed to winning the election by hard work, the Tory candidate has moved his campaign into high speed.

One day last week saw him visit workers at P.L. Robertson's plant at 7 a.m., knock on doors in the Milton area, campaign locally with Premier Bill Davis and take time out for a newspaper interview, plus sessions with party workers. That day wasn't unlike others recently.

First in race

Dawkins was the first of the three candidates to be officially placed in the race for a seat in the Ontario Legislature. He defeated George Gray at the Tory nomination meeting in Milton June 5.

His victory came as a bit of a surprise to some, who felt Gray had the support of the Tory establishment. But Dawkins came on with a strong speech and one that questioned some of the government policies. Dawkins says he has worked with the party for some time and has support of the party.

Following his victory, rumors circulated about the riding indicating that Dawkins had been hauled up on the carpet by party brass at Queen's Park and told to toe the line and abide more closely by party policies.

Questioned on that point, Dawkins dismissed it as rumour or without foundation.

"My own man"

"That has no validity at all and I don't know where it comes from. I'm my own man and prepared to fight within the confines of my own party for what I feel is best for the constituency.

"I'm no radical but I'm not a yes man and I never have been."

Mr. Dawkins has been out and about meeting people and seeing what their concerns are since being nominated.

Although Dawkins describes the response as being good he points out election fever hasn't caught on in Halton-Burlington yet.

Reporting on his discussions with the people, Dawkins says regional government is one subject that comes up as does the green-belt and Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Not as often

Mr. Dawkins points out regional government hasn't come up as often as he had expected it might in the early stretch of the campaign.

The Tory candidate said a lot of people are concerned about Niagara Escarpment legislation. "Most feel the concept is okay but they are concerned about how it works and how strict it seems to be."

Mr. Dawkins explains there is a lot of discontent about people not being allowed to be present while their case is being heard.

"I don't feel that is right. I think people have a right to be there. It can't be an open forum unless they are," he said.

Mr. Dawkins explained that if all the commission had to go on was a written submission, there was a chance for misinterpretation.

Hopes for changes

Dawkins said he had already discussed the matter at Queen's Park and was confident some changes would be made to improve the procedure. Following the interview with Mr. Dawkins, Premier Davis told a reporter the procedures would be improved upon.

Dawkins said he was pleased that the minister had set up environmental hearings for the Bradley-Georgetown line and he looked forward to recommendations from the hearing.

He noted there was a possibility of the recommendations affecting the Highway 401 corridor and the line running to the Halton substation on the Ninth Line.

"Why does Gary Dawkins want to be a MPP?" this reporter asked.

Controls lives

"We all have to be concerned with government. It is starting to control our lives," the candidate replied.

Mr. Dawkins claims there are parallels between the role of an educator, where he has had his success, and the role of a politician.

"Education is a people business and so is politics. I get along and communicate well with people from all walks of life," he said, adding that he had proven skills as an organizer and an administrator.

Dawkins defended the Davis administration on charges of lack of integrity and government spending. "You can say what you like about government spending, but the government has cut back on the areas of health and education by imposing ceilings.

"They have looked at the needs and pumped money into areas like housing."

Dawkins said he felt the government has been reasonable in trying to meet the needs of the people and still keeping in mind the ability of the taxpayer.

Won't go wild

"The Liberals can talk about overspending, but look at their promises. Nixon (Liberal Leader Bob Nixon) says he'd increase the provincial share of education from 60 to 90 per cent. That would cost half a billion dollars and he would cut out OHIC premiums and that would cost another half billion dollars.

"It's fine to accuse the government but it has been realistic and there are controls so that it won't go wild."

On the question of government integrity, Dawkins said he knew of no government that acted as quickly or as responsibly as the Davis government in regard to integrity issues.

He noted it was Davis who brought in legislation to cover conflict of interest, election expenses and transportation for the premier and cabinet ministers.

Dawkins noted that the Liberals would do well to think of Trudeau's use of private helicopters to be at a private picnic, a trip that cost some \$20,000.



SCHOOL COLLEAGUES lend Gary Dawkins a helping hand. Vice Principal Al Zanatta, Dawkins, and principals John Lenz and Ray Morrison were on the campaign trail last week.

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