



A COMFORTING HAND is offered son Mark by Progressive Conservative candidate Gary Dawkins while he and his wife Rosalee watch the returns at PC headquarters in Milton. Dawkins lost to Reed by 463 votes.



WAITING FOR election results at Milton headquarters, PC candidate Gary Dawkins is surrounded by party workers. He went to Norval next and returned late to Acton Legion, where he was met by a large crowd of supporters.

Disappointed crowd at Legion

Shocked disappointment was evident Thursday evening in the PC committee rooms here, from the time the first results began to be phoned in. Newcomers to the building were told the gloomy news in quiet tones, as the small crowd grew.

Soaked from the downpour outside, and depressed by the Acton and Esqueping figures, the group lingered and then gradually moved over to the Legion hall.

Here, the hall hopefully arranged for a victory party was gradually filled with party workers from all over the riding. Several hundred ate the sandwiches and talked about "What happened?" and "What's happening?"

It was about 11 p.m. when Gary Dawkins walked in, to hearty applause and a long line-up of well-wishers waiting to speak to him personally.

Dawkins, Fran Baines and Ross Ballentine spoke to the crowd, thanking them all. A single pipe played. The crowd thinned out.

No parking problems

Following a survey of parking on Durham and Albert Streets in Georgetown, Halton Hills works committee has decided there aren't any serious parking problems and no action is planned to further restrict parking on the two roads.

"Did you lose, Dad?"

Trend defeats Tory Dawkins

Ten-year-old Mark Dawkins, a bit leary of the answer, looked up and asked simply, "Did you lose, Dad?"

"It kinda looks that way," his father Gary Dawkins said.

It was that simple an innocent query that brought 36-year-old educator Gary Dawkins to acknowledge that he had worked hard for the last four months and more, only to have his chance to be elected swept away in a provincial trend that saw the Tory mandate sliced drastically.

Dawkins was the first to be nominated here and he and his workers appeared to run a superb campaign. He canvassed the entire riding personally, polished his position on the issues and took advantage of every opportunity that availed itself to him.

But that wasn't enough to

overcome the apparent anti-Dawkins, anti-government sentiment that had been brewing in this riding during the past four years.

The trend took shape early after polls closed Thursday night. PC workers at the Milton headquarters were dismayed. Eventual winner Julian Reed jumped to an early lead of about 300 votes and that lead would jump slightly, then diminish to nothing several times during the night.

But veteran PC campaigners knew they were in trouble early and were never relieved from the feeling of grief for much more than a minute during the night.

In a word, the mood at Tory headquarters in Milton was slum. "Don't tell me they're gonna elect a God damned Liberal," one worker muttered, regarding that out-

come as a fate worse than death.

Hopes lifted once 90 polls were heard from and the Tories jumped ahead with a minute gain. "Just stop it right there," Dawkins pleaded.

But almost instantly the lead was snatched away again. "It's going the other way again," Dawkins said. Results that showed Dawkins ahead in Acton by a margin of only 300 votes prompted one Tory campaigner to remark, "people in Acton aren't as Conservative as they said they were."

Dawkins noted later that he was disappointed that he hadn't received better support in his hometown Acton and in the Speyside area where he had taught for 13 years.

Tories who had rapped on doors and canvassed the riding were miffed. "What happened? It really perplexes me," Al Zanatta said.

Bob Reid attributed the crushing defeat to an anti-Dawkins sentiment, he noted such issues as the parkway belt, Niagara Escarpment Commission and regional government as damaging issues. "I don't think it was an anti-Dawkins vote," he summed up.

Milton area president Jim Death suspected it was an anti-government reaction that sent the Halton-Burlington Tories down to defeat.

Mel Phelps claimed that if the PCs had managed 60 polls across the riding, Dawkins would have been in. It was a

provincial trend that couldn't be bucked, he explained.

Campaign manager Fred Dawkins said Reed had spent close to six of his 29 campaign days in Acton. "It was a strategy that I really questioned. But it paid off and he made some real inroads."

He echoed remarks made by workers when he indicated that he felt the outcome was a result of anti-government feelings.

Gary Dawkins said it had been a close fight in spite of the provincial trend. He noted that without the hard work by

him and his workers, the fight wouldn't have been as close.

Dawkins said he would resume his career as an educator. Asked if he'd take another crack at politics, he said it would depend on his family.

"I would have to discuss it. The family makes some real sacrifices. I know now the pressures that are on a family."

Dawkins and his close aides left the Milton headquarters shortly after 10:30 p.m. and travelled to the Burgundy Club in Norval where victorious Julian Reed and hundreds of supporters whooped it up.

The two met in the front entrance, and spoke briefly, then Reed escorted Dawkins to the stage.

"There were two fine op-

ponents in this race. It was a clean fight. It was a hard fight. They are two fine gentlemen. Gary Dawkins is a fine gentleman. I've come to respect him," Reed told the cheering crowd.

Speaking to the crowd, Dawkins said he agreed that the fight had been clean and he wished Reed well during his term in the legislature.

From there it was on to the Acton Legion where PC supporters roared into song. "For he's a jolly good fellow..."

And then it was home to interpret the past and ponder the future.

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Thank You, once again
JACK JOHNSON



TIRED RETURNING OFFICER Roy Coulter grabs a coffee during election night activity at his Milton headquarters. He and a staff of over 300 ran the election machinery.

Engineer in Calgary

Town engineer Robert Austin will be attending the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada conference in Calgary today (Wednesday), Thursday and Friday.

Committee to look at parking

After consulting with Halton Board of Education and Halton Regional Police officials Halton Hills works committee has decided there aren't any problems in either Georgetown or Acton with school bus loading zones.

The police would like to have a by-law enacted to control the bus loading zone on Maple Avenue, Georgetown. Since Maple Avenue is a regional road the town is going to ask the region to take care of the problem.

'Geez, that's tough'

"Geez, that's a tough thing to do," a gravelly voice said as Gary Dawkins approached Julian Reed to concede the election victory.

The voice was one of experience. It was Bud Whiting who had enjoyed the joys of victory as a liberal MP and later suffered the sorrows of defeat in two federal election campaigns.

For Whiting, the right side had won but he appreciated the feeling of grief like no-one else could.

We'll come back — Baines

Halton-Burlington-Conservatives will still make their views known, even with a Liberal member, according to riding president Fran Baines.

"As a riding organization we can effectively say what we think. As a riding organization we've tried to take a grass roots approach and we will continue to do that, so that we will be aware of the people's feelings and we will make Queen's Park aware."

She explained that the riding executive will get together almost immediately and discuss what they will do next time around.

All the problems "I don't think it was an anti-Dawkins feeling. Of the disturbing issues in the province we have them all here—hydro corridors, greenbelt and escarpment legislation and regional government—we have them all."

"We lost up and down the hydro line and we lost bad," she admitted.

But according to Mrs. Baines the PCs will be out in full force next time and the riding will return a Tory to the legislature.

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