

'Wicked Willie' runs again

# Different this time Johnson tells NDP

Acclaimed NDP candidate, Bill Johnson told colleagues that he would go into battle for a second time with the Halton-Burlington Tories when the time came. But this time it will be different. The colorful ratepayer activist and environmentalist also known as "Wicked Willie" told about 60 NDP cohorts Saturday that he'd go into battle this time with better finances and more workers.

"In Halton-Burlington we improved our standing. We were limited financially, and we didn't have enough workers. We learned many lessons. The next time it will be different. Our financial standing has improved, and I am sure we will have many more willing workers."

"Last September the people of Ontario were determined to get the Tories out. They had had enough. Now the opposition... They weren't quite sure about us, the New Democrats. They doubted we could muster enough strength to oust the Tories. The polls proved the opposition had both money and workers, but neither did them much good; we, the New Democrats became the official opposition at Queen's Park."

Johnson blasted the provincial government for its handling of the Ontario Hydro Transmission Corridor from Bradley to Georgetown. "You know the Cabinet at Queen's Park works in mysterious ways. They sat back and watched various groups and individuals spend their time and money researching routes and alternate routes for this portion of the corridor. The government itself set back while hearings were being held, knowing full well that this section of the transmission line was settled and sealed in May of 1974. One wonders what the taxpayers paid for these hearings."

"This revelation also sheds new light on the office of the Ombudsman. I know the Ombudsman, Arthur Maloney, he is a fine man and dedicated to his responsibilities, but how can he effectively intervene on behalf of the people if he is hamstrung by the Government? This action by the government will surely be a factor in the next election," he said.

Johnson lost his first bid to win Halton-Burlington to Liberal MPP Julian Reed.

Ed Phillip, MPP for Etobicoke and the NDP's transportation critic, was the guest speaker at the nomination meeting and fun night held in Milton Saturday.

"The Tories are not stupid. You can accuse them of almost anything else and it probably will have some merit, but they are not stupid."

"Great managers" "They have no managerial competence. The deficit was well thought out politically. Now they are the great managers who will put the whole mess back into shape."

According to Phillip, the whole cutback program in health care will cost more than it will save.

Phillip blasted the government for its failure to offer protection for the small businessman and in par-

ticular, service station lessees. Phillip spoke of the danger in allowing major oil companies to own and operate gas stations as well. He warned that unless this was stopped, full fledged gas stations would be a thing of the past and self service stations would be a real problem.

Big, not free Referring to the govern-

ment's failure to intervene, Phillip said the Tories believe in big enterprise, not free enterprise.

And referring to the terrific costs of alcohol and drug related problems, Phillip said there was a real need for massive employer education programs.

He noted the costs in lack of production and car accidents made the cutbacks in health care look like a pittance.



IT WILL BE DIFFERENT this time, Bill Johnson tells NDP colleagues as he accepts the nomination as provincial riding candidate. He ran and was defeated by Julian Reed in 1975.



NEW PRESIDENT of Acton PC Association, Fred Dawkins is congratulated by candidate George Gray. With them at the annual meeting are first vice-president Bert Hinton, secretary Donna Aitken, Esquusing vice-president Ross Ballentine and past president Bob Maddeaux.

Annual meeting

## Fred Dawkins head Acton PC Association

Fred Dawkins was elected president of Acton Progressive-Conservative Association at the annual meeting in the scout hall Wednesday of last week. Others on the executive are first vice-president Bert Hinton, second vice-president Don McDonald, Esquusing vice-president Ross Ballentine, secretary Donna Aitken and treasurer Marie Shad-bolt.

A small group attended the meeting, several of them out-of-town PCs.

Past president Bob Maddeaux chaired the meeting until after the elections, which were conducted by Gail Maltby.

The slate of officers was accepted as presented.

Candidate George Gray, newly-elected PC candidate for Halton-Burlington, was guest speaker and chatted informally with the group of about 25 people.

He thanked the members for last year - "a remarkable demonstration of what a community can do." He praised Gary Dawkins as one of the finest people he had ever met, straightforward, honest and a symbol of integrity.

He said in general he is proud of the government restraint program and urged diligence. There must be confidence in business to ensure more jobs, he declared.

He predicted the Tory and Grit confrontation will grow worse, and declared he wouldn't want to see Steven Lewis step in. The real danger is socialism. We must preach that message.

Knocks Reed The sitting member, was criticized by Mr. Grey by not working on the key issues for the people in this riding.

The first half of his maiden speech concerned the closing of Norval school - a matter over and done with and has resulted in actual fact, in the parents concerned being "delighted" with the improved schooling in Georgetown.

In the second half of his maiden speech Reed castigated the government for not spending enough on solar and wind research. His second speech was a plea for a donation to the Actors (Equity) Pension Fund - "hardly a concern of Halton-Burlington."

In March he backed up independent gas dealers.

Fund He said he is especially concerned at the little feud between Reed and Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell.



YOUNG Progressive-Conservative Dave Baker of Georgetown made an appeal for Acton members at the annual meeting here Wednesday.

Mr. Reed has never spoken in the House on land use, food supply, jobs, trade deficit or the auto trade pact, Mr. Grey pointed out. Mr. Reed has personality and charisma, concluded Mr. Grey, but he's not unbeatable.

President's report In his report past president

Bob Maddeaux reviewed the "disappointing" year, saying the results of the election lost by Gary Dawkins show the people want explanations from government. He pointed out two and a half votes per poll could've given Dawkins the riding. He praised Fred Dawkins' masterminding of the "almost-perfect" campaign.

He announced a general meeting for the riding at the Roma club, Milton, April 23. He introduced Halton-Burlington president Fran Baines, vice-president Mel Phelps, Stu Cramp of Nassagaweya and Jane Holloway of North Burlington.

Mrs. Baines gave an account of the federal convention in Ottawa.

YPC's Dave Baker, Georgetown, told of the newly-organized Young Progressive-Conservative group, just a week and a half old. He made a plea for members.

Fred Dawkins explained this brother Gary was unable to attend as he was in hospital convalescing after an operation.

### Best Realty now sold

Freda Best has announced the sale of Best Realty in Milton to E. A. Mitchell Limited, Realtor of Brampton.

Mrs. Best said that the Mitchell firm was chosen because of the similarity of the two businesses. Best Realty was founded by Brian Best in 1957 and located at 310 Main Street, Milton, in June of 1959.

## Philbrook tells House changes unacceptable

The mutilation of Halton riding by the Electoral Boundaries Commission decision to lump Georgetown and north-east Esquusing in a new riding with Brampton is "unacceptable to my constituents," Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook told the House of Commons last week.

In an interview after his speech in the House Dr. Philbrook declared he and other protesting MPs are fighting an uphill battle to get new riding boundary changes reviewed.

"It's an uphill battle but it is far from over yet," he said. He said over 20 MPs in Ontario are protesting the riding changes and noted there were over 60 protests in the House last week from across Canada.

Dr. Philbrook says the Electoral Boundary Commission is now supposed to report back to Parliament on its reaction to the debates in the House last week within a month.

If the commission doesn't budge on its decisions then there is a possibility of court action.

"The only alternative after that is to take our case to the courts. I wouldn't want to proceed in this direction until

I have consulted with Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill and region chairman Allan Masson."

In his speech Dr. Philbrook said if Georgetown isn't kept in Halton at least Halton Hills should be kept together. "Halton Hills, as an integrated community should remain intact whichever riding it is in," he said suggesting if Georgetown can't stay in Halton the rest of Esquusing and Acton should be moved to the Brampton riding too.

"What about the dilemma from the federal perspective? Picture two different MPs representing two different halves of the same small town, perhaps on the same

local issue at the same time. How rational and efficient is that? What if the mayor and the town council are in the other MP's half of the town? Can I still approach them directly, or does protocol oblige me to approach the other MP first? Halton Hills must remain united, not split in half. Picture one small town council having to deal with two MPs instead of one."

Dr. Philbrook pointed out to the House that Georgetown has never had strong ties with Brampton or Peel but has long associated with its partners in Halton Hills.

He charged the commission had paid far too much attention to population distribution

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