

Wellington-Dufferin-Peel

Election day nearing for three candidates

The attention of 46,000 eligible voters is hopefully cast on the June 9 election in Wellington-Dufferin-Peel riding to see which of the three candidates polls the most votes.

Jack Johnson, Progressive Conservative incumbent, is running against two relative newcomers, Marion

Chambers, New Democratic Party, and David Wright, Liberal candidate in one of the largest provincial ridings in southern Ontario.

The riding is bordered by Bolton on the south, Airport Road on the east, Drayton Valley on the west, and Mount Forest and Shelburne on the north. The riding is 105 miles from one extreme point to the other, and covers 5,000 square

miles. There are 170 polls in the riding, with 46,000 people eligible to vote.

This newspaper sent a reporter out on three separate interviews to speak with each candidate personally, asking basically the same questions. Each person was also allowed to add anything he or she felt was relevant to his or her campaign.



Jack Johnson

Incumbent outlines major election issues

As member of provincial parliament for one of the largest ridings in Southern Ontario, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel Progressive Conservative candidate Jack Johnson has discovered the incumbent does not have any advantage on the campaign trail as most people think.

Mr. Johnson explained campaigning for a coming election is a full time job. However, as an incumbent, he is busy campaigning, plus taking care of his constituents, which also is a full time job.

Somehow though, Mr. Johnson is managing to do both jobs.

Unemployment is the key issue in the province for the P.C.'s, says the incumbent. Premier Wm. Davis has promised 100,000 jobs a year, for the next ten years. He has also promised 900,000 housing starts in the same period.

Mr. Johnson explained the P.C.'s have proven they can do it, through records of past years. He pointed out that in the past seven years, 699,000 jobs have been created, averaging out to close to 100,000 a year. In the same period of time, there have been an average of 92,000 housing starts, which is more than the target figure for the next ten years.

The Progressive Conservative party supports the federal Liberal government in its stand on an anti-inflation program. The P.C.'s have developed a strategy to moderate inflation after the controls are lifted.

Mr. Johnson claims the New Democratic Party is creating a bureaucracy in its proposal for a total land freeze and state-imposed controls over production on farm land. The P.C.'s, according to Mr. Johnson, have developed a land use planning opportunity which is set out in the Green Paper entitled Food Land Guide Lines. "The federal government must investigate some tariff protection for our agricultural products," he said.

Canada has become the highest cost producer in the world. The loss of production

time is now higher than any other industrialized country. "Our provincial government is committed to reducing the work stoppage and slow down, through more advanced labor management negotiations, through outlawing strikes and lockouts in such sections of the economy as provincial government services," Mr. Johnson stated.

Mr. Johnson claimed his party agreed with the federal Liberal party in the eight per cent rent control. He explained the provincial Liberals and New Democratic Party both disagreed, claiming six per cent was enough. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the six per cent was assurance that the landlords would appeal, and if past records are any indication, will win even larger awards, than the government proposed. Increases as much as ten or 13 per cent could be awarded. "If, however, the ceiling of eight per cent was set, the landlords would be more willing to stick to that amount, and not bother appealing for only a small percentage amount."

There are many more provincial issues on the minds of the Progressive Conservatives, the incumbent said.

Mr. Johnson feels the riding is too large to specify any individual local issues. He explained that what is a matter of "life and death" in one area, does not concern another area whatsoever. The incumbent said all issues, all over the huge riding, receive the same treatment. For this reason, Mr. Johnson said, he would not mention any particular issue.

Where regional government is concerned however, he is adamantly opposed to it. Premier Davis has announced there will be no more regional government. Mr. Johnson says, so he has no concerns that more of his riding will be swept up in the provincial government idea. Caledon in the Wellington-Dufferin-Peel riding is the only section which has been regionalized.

As he looks back in his 18 months as MPP for the riding, Mr. Johnson can see many items he has looked into, and helped. The major accomplishment Mr. Johnson can look back onto is his feat in having a private member's bill passed, the first in 25 years. The bill was a weekly newspaper amendment to the Elections Reform Act permitting weekly papers to

advertise on Wednesdays, the last day before election day (Thursday). The previous requirement called for no political news nine days before the election. The reform helps the weeklies in reporting the issues and in keeping their readers fully informed about the issues. It also does not cheat the weekly papers out of revenue from the advertisements.

Mr. Johnson is no stranger to politics. He is a former mayor of Mount Forest, and a councillor for several years before that. He is also past president of the Lions Club and has been a member for 20 years. He is a member of the United Church, is a member and past president of the Mount Forest Curling Club.

Mr. Johnson and his wife Marlene have three children, Colin, 24, who was ordained an Anglican Deacon on May 22, Paul, 22, who is taking geodetic science (surveying) at Ryerson, and daughter Sheri, 19, who is helping her mother in the family clothing store in the town.

Marion Chambers

Must explode myths says NDP candidate

The New Democratic Party has many myths to explode, according to Wellington-Dufferin-Peel NDP candidate Marion Chambers.

Because of these myths, Mrs. Chambers said, the party has to have time to campaign, to get the people to realize just what the NDP stands for.

Mrs. Chambers said that, contrary to public opinion, the NDP is supportive of free enterprises because it is the future of the country.

Another myth, says the candidate, is that the party is dominated by the unions. Mrs. Chambers explained "the freedom of the people actually be extended because of planning instead of piece meal planning."

The NDP doesn't intend to move in and nationalize the province, Mrs. Chambers said. She explained that the NDP has never supported nationalism. She did say, however, that her party was in favor of public auto in-

surance. On the local level, Mrs. Chambers said some of the main issues are human issues, which involve farm income and unemployment. The New Democratic Party, the Erin woman says, feels employment is the main issue.

Mrs. Chambers herself feels there is a lot of anti-conservative feelings in the riding. She feels people are "anti-hydro corridor, anti-gravel pits, and anti-dam." These are some of the local issues, she says.

The NDP, Mrs. Chambers said, feel there should be an independent study on the proposed hydro corridor which will run from Bradley Junction to Georgetown, affecting farmland in her riding. She is against the issuing of permits for gravel pits in the Erin village area, and feels the construction of the West Montrose dam is unnecessary. She continued to say over half of Pilkington

township would be flooded, involving 3500 acres, and the entire hamlet of Inverhough.

Mrs. Chambers said her deepest interests lie in the farm community and education. As a former teacher, she has taught in the old system, and is a parent in the new.

Politics is not new to Mrs. Chambers. She was councillor in the village of Erin from 1974 to 1976. She did not seek re-election in the last municipal election because of her candidacy for the NDP party at the provincial level.

She has been a resident of the Erin area for 20 years—all her married life. Before that, she lived in Gray county, the daughter of a farmer.

Mrs. Chambers is not the only member of her family interested in politics. Her brother, Bob McKesock, Liberal, ran against, and beat Eric Winkler, a cabinet minister, in the last provincial election. He is seeking re-election again.

JACK Johnson P.C. candidate, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel is fighting to save his seat in Queen's Park.



MARION Chambers is the NDP candidate in Wellington-Dufferin-Peel.

David Wright

Regional government opposed by candidate

Wellington-Dufferin-Peel Liberal candidate David Wright sees regional government hanging over his riding like a huge, black ominous cloud.

Mr. Wright said the Progressive Conservative government is committed to regionalization, which brings huge increases in taxes. According to Mr. Wright, in the past seven years, areas with regional government have seen tax increases of 105 per cent, while those not regionalized, excluding Toronto, have received only an average of 41 per cent.

The Liberal candidate said already part of his riding, Caledon, was governed by regional government. However, he said Amaranth and Shelburne are afraid of regionalization with Orangeville as the focal point, and Drayton and Maryborough would be taken into the Waterloo section. All the concerned places are in the Wellington-Dufferin-Peel riding.

Gravel pits are also a major concern to Mr. Wright. The government wants control of open pit mining, he said, instead of the matter being handled at the local level, where it stands now. He thinks it is wrong to handle something this local in Queen's Park, Toronto.

Mr. Wright is upset by the lack of honest discussion in major local issues. He feels with respect to the gravel industry and the proposed hydro corridor, the Ontario government had made up their minds before they held hearings. He accused the P.C.'s of letting the people think they have a say in matters, when they do not.

Education is a concern right across the province, Mr. Wright says. He emphasized that there is need for parents and students to know how a student did in relation with others across the province, something he or she cannot tell now.

The Liberal philosophy, the candidate says, is there should be competition in the schools, as well as in free enterprise. He noted that his party feels the sooner students realize there is a world full of competition, the better they will be. Mr. Wright claimed the New Democratic Party is "not overly im-

pressed with competition," and this affects the school system.

Mr. Wright also attacked strong unions, saying that once a person is hired, it is difficult for the employer to fire that person if he or she slacks off his job. "There is a security there that some people deserve, and others do not," he stated. He continued to say, "there is an idealism in union philosophy that is good, but it is taken advantage of, and that's where it falls down."

Mr. Wright made note of the fact that Canada's wage used to be lower than the United States, but productivity was higher. Now, he says, the reverse is true.

When talking about unions, Mr. Wright said, "you are talking about big government." He claimed he had never heard of a civil servant or a teacher being dismissed because he or she wasn't performing his or her job well.

One problem at the local level, Mr. Wright said, is agriculture. He claimed the rural land market is no longer determined by the farmers.

The P.C.'s, Mr. Wright claims, feel it is not too important to save the farmers as long as the land can be returned at a later date. The NDP's he said, want to freeze the land totally.

The Liberal government, said the candidate, feels if the farmer is saved, he will save the farmland. His party feels that the farmer is a disappearing breed and must be given incentive to do the job.

Mr. Wright lashed out against the Blair Commission which suggests that farm land taxes be held at one per cent of the value of the farm.

(Continued on Page 7)



LIBERAL candidate for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel is David Wright.

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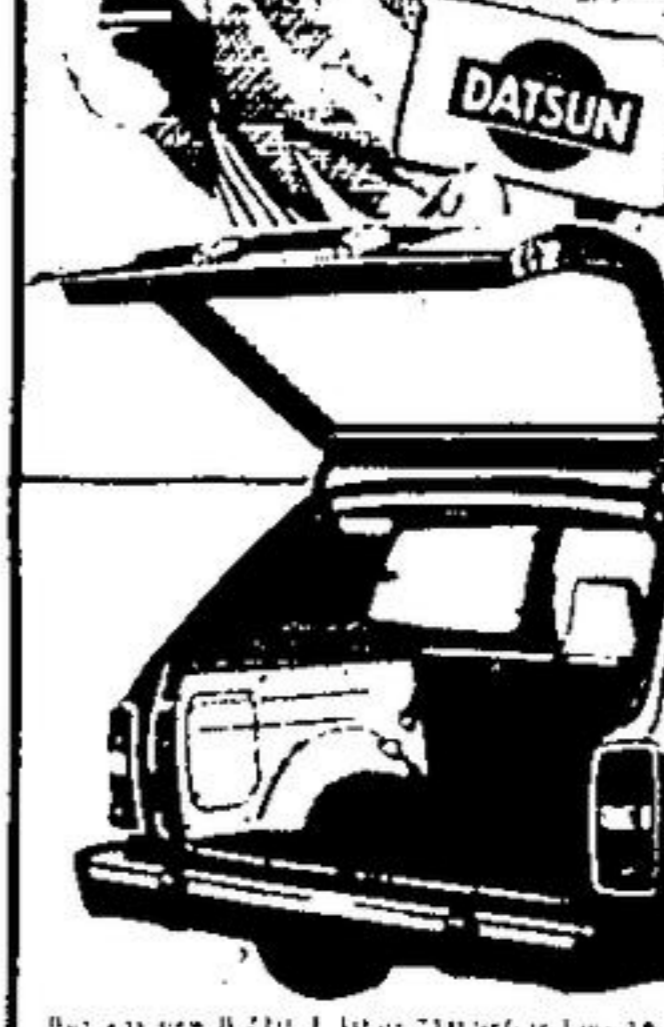
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Ontario Farmers

Classified Driver Licensing Regulations have been amended



If you hold a Class 'G' Licence you may drive a Class 'D' Farm Vehicle.

- Class "G" refers to cars, light trucks, etc. up to a registered gross weight of 18,000 lbs.
- Class "D" refers to vehicles such as stake trucks which exceed 18,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight, provided any towed vehicles are not over 10,000 lbs.

The new regulation gives the busy farmer more freedom in assigning full or part-time helpers to drive his farm vehicle — for example, during seeding or harvest time. If he or they hold Class "G" licences, the Class "D" farm vehicle may be driven provided it's owned by the farmer, registered and licensed as a "Farm Vehicle", and used for

personal transportation or trucking produce or equipment.

Class "D" Farm Vehicles may not be driven by anyone who holds only a Class "L" instruction licence or Class "M" motorcycle licence.

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