

Gray says:

Davis best candidate for Premier's job

George Gray doesn't figure there is much question in anyone's mind as to which party is offering the best candidate for the Premier's job. The Halton-Burlington Conservative candidate says Bill Davis is the best man to lead Ontario through the difficult days ahead.

Davis has the experience to lead Ontario through the expected constitutional changes which will undoubtedly be coming up and help solve the difficult Quebec problem Gray stated in an interview this week.

He is the only one qualified to be Premier, Gray says, and Gray bases his decision on the fact he "knows, respects and likes Davis. He is one of the main reasons I'm running."

Minority government was both a good thing for Ontario and the party Gray says but a strong majority is needed now "because of the vacillating in Ottawa, lack of economic direction from the federal government and the threat of Quebec separation. The leadership and depth of senior personnel in the Conservative party makes it obvious the strong majority government which is absolutely necessary in Ontario now must be Progressive Conservative."

He says majority government will stabilize industry and promote expansion because industry has adopted a wait and see posture because it doesn't know what kind of government there will be for the next few years.

During his canvassing Gray says he has discovered many new Halton residents have come here from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec because they don't like all the

problems which are inherent in socialist governments.

He says after the Tory landslide in 1971 few people paid much attention to party conventions and that is where the government gets ideas for legislation.

Minority government rekindled interest at conventions and the resolutions coming from grass routes of the party resulted in good legislation. Gray pointed out the opposition parties like to take credit for good legislation passed in the last year but it all came from a convention last spring and was introduced by the government.

Young people who decide to drink will drink regardless of the drinking age so Gray is forced to agree with Premier Davis that raising the legal age won't do much good.

He notes he has a 20 year old daughter and a 19 year old son and they don't have problems with alcohol. He believes young people's drinking habits are influenced, regardless of age, by home life, something the government could never legislate.

Gray says he plans to work closely with all municipalities, boards and commissions in Halton if elected because an MPP must keep in touch with local government bodies and assist them in any way possible.

He says there shouldn't have been any deviation from the Halton Board of Education's list of building priorities and he understands the incumbent candidate ignored both the board's priorities and ratepayers' requests for help in securing new school accommodation in

Queen's Park should honor any changes suggested by making the necessary legislative adjustments. Gray hopes residents throughout the region will present their views to the committee.

Gray has found when he tracks complaints down that rising taxes are the reason most people are upset about regionalism, but he says people forget taxes are going up just as fast in the counties, too.

Rising taxes are a concern of his so he is working hard to bring more industry to Halton so the residential-industrial tax base will be improved. In addition he is trying to lure industry here because more jobs are needed and energy can be saved if commuting is cut down.

"If it wasn't regional government then at least we would have had to completely revamp the old county system," he stated in a recent interview.

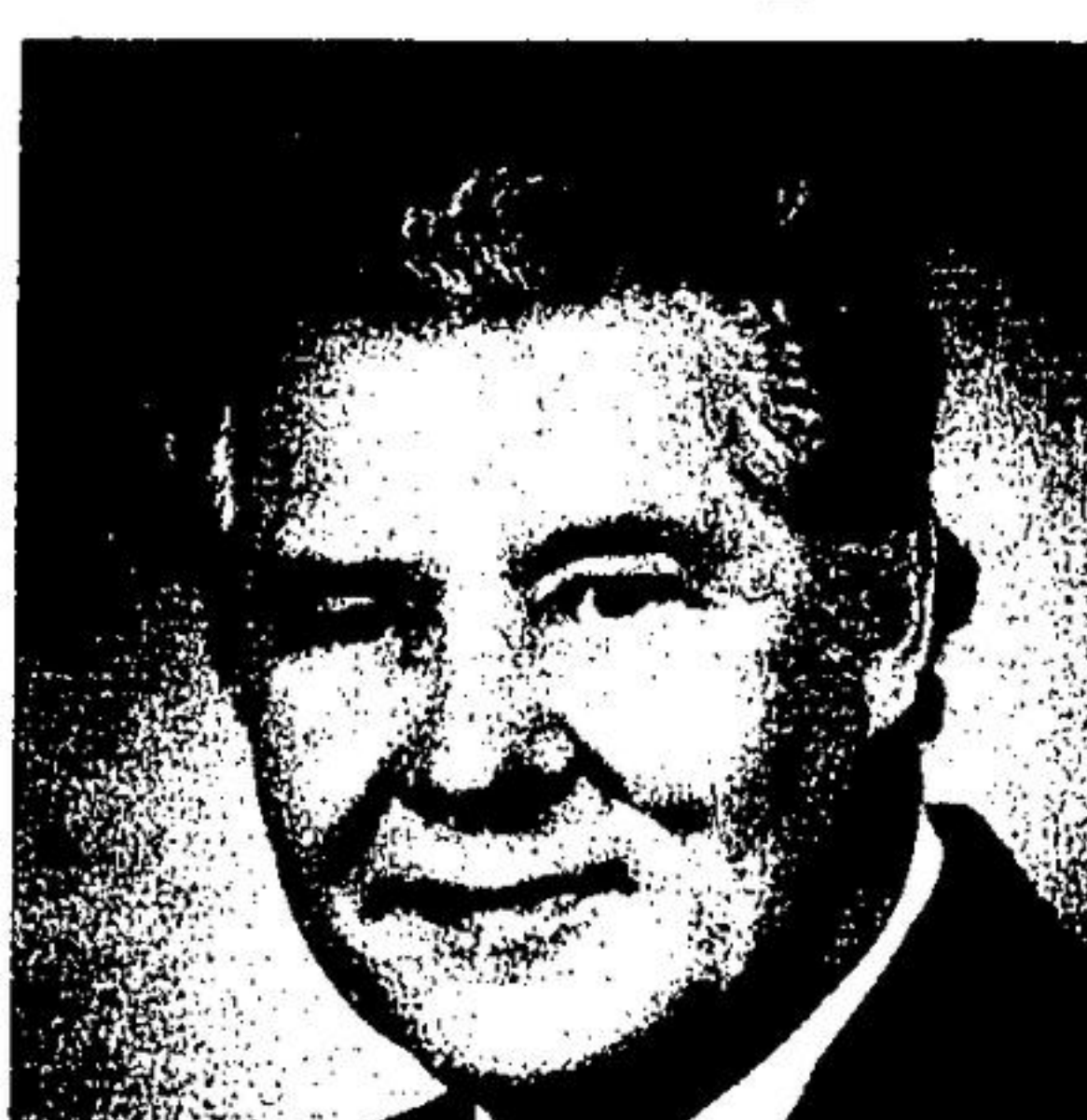
Now Gray believes regional government is a "must" in light of population projections, which call for 400,000 residents in Halton by the year 2000. He thinks with 175,000 people expected to join Halton's swelling ranks in the next 23 years the staggering job of providing services, water and sewers and garbage disposal will have to be handled by a strong central government.

Gray observed that the region is already proving itself in the money market by borrowing at least one per cent lower interest rate than the county ever was able to.

Another plus he sees for regional government is regional planning which he terms a necessity and a larger government body is important with the Niagara Escarpment and J Parkway Belt slicing through the region. With Peel and Hamilton-Wentworth both being regions it is only natural Halton should be a region, too, he says.

He suggests people in Acton who are opposed to regional government should stop and take a look at the fine regional waterworks which has been done in the town in recent months. Gray believes this should make them appreciate the region more.

He pointed out he lobbied for the regional Bill 151 review committee and believes changes to regional government, which he readily admits isn't perfect, should come from within. He believes



George Gray - Conservative candidate

Milton. Gray said he was pleased to assist in the negotiations which have now resulted in school additions in Milton.

He supports the return to core-curriculum in Ontario and is glad to see Halton ahead of the rest of the province in this respect. Gray advocates standard exams being written yearly at every school in Ontario so educators will be better able to judge student achievement and their relative standing as compared with everyone else in the province.

Gray would also like to see boards return to the old teacher inspection system so it can be ensured the daily teaching program is being adhered to.

Ontario needs industrial expansion and it needs it quickly Gray says because a

rapid increase in the Gross National Product is essential to help finance programs like OHIP now that the federal government is reducing its support.

Reed Paper is only partly responsible for the mercury pollution in the English-Waubigouin river system Gray thinks, noting the lake near Peterborough where his cottage is located also has mercury pollution despite the fact there isn't any industry or mining in the area.

He understands from talking to geologists that natural mercury sediment has been created in waters all over Ontario by erosion.

Gray says from talking to geologists and medical people he has learned the heavy concentration of Silem in the Northern Ontario rivers has acted as a retardant on the

mercury so the Indians don't show severe poisoning symptoms like people in Japan.

He says the government is correct in keeping the rivers open to sport fishing because otherwise the taxpayers would have to foot hefty lawsuit bills brought on by legal action by lodge owners.

Gray believes supplying the Indians with fresh supplies of uncontaminated fish while warning against eating the fish in the polluted rivers makes economic sense. The fact the Indians refused an offer to be moved shows there is no easy answer to the problem.

Gray is concerned about farmers and believes his experience in the business can help him reflect their concerns. He wants to see a continued supply of good food at prices consumers can afford and at the same time provide farmers with comfortable income.

He wants to see farmers' opinions taken into account before any of the Blair-Commission recommendations for tax revisions are implemented.

Gray forges a number of major problems coming in the area of farm produce marketing and thinks his 12 years as Chairman of the Board of the Ontario Turkey Producers' Marketing Board will be helpful in solving these problems.

Georgetown with his wife and two children, is an experienced builder and farmer and president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

Architect, teacher and writer Anthony Adamson will be on Georgetown Cable TV tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m. It was expected yesterday he would include the Acton town hall in the subjects to be discussed.

Gray says power line has to go somewhere

Tory candidate George Gray has never liked the idea of the Bradley to Milton hydro corridor crossing over Halton-Burlington riding but then it is hard to speak to sensible people who won't admit the line has to go some place. It's a tough problem Gray says because no matter where the corridor goes people will be unhappy.

His major concern is that wherever the corridor goes people are properly compensated for their land and the inconvenience they are put through.

"If I am elected I will make it my responsibility to see there is fair and proper compensation no matter where the corridor goes," Gray declared.

He can't understand why Liberal leader Stuart Smith is opposed to the line going diagonally across Dufferin County since this will allow the line to parallel an existing 230 kV line. "Who in the world would suggest striking out in a new direction when there is a line there already?"

Gray believes there may be a conflict with the Niagara Escarpment Commission since Dr. Solandt said the north-south corridor should cross at Limehouse and now the expropriation hearing officer will be hearing evidence about alternative routes following a recent court ruling.

He says Ontario Hydro must get as much power as possible ready for industrial expansion and noted it "doesn't make much sense to push industry to provide more jobs if we can't

supply them with power." Gray likes the idea of the Niagara Escarpment Commission since it will preserve one of the most beautiful pieces of landscape in the world.

He believes the commission will be more lenient about building after the final Escarpment plan is finalized but is convinced that at the same time the plan will control things so the Escarpment isn't junked up with ugly buildings, billboards and painting on rocks. Gray says the controls will mean the color and types of homes on the Escarpment will look pleasing.

Last year he did a survey of residents on the Escarpment and found only one person out of 600 opposed to Escarpment controls but found 25 per cent of the people do have questions which need to be answered.

The Parkway Belt is also necessary if solid asphalt of the Metro Toronto area is to be prevented Gray says.

He sent out a questionnaire on this topic, too, and found

very little outright opposition but like those on the Escarpment people in the Parkway Belt have questions which must be answered.

Gray wants to see the service corridor kept green but thinks the rest of the belt could be developed for estate homes covering 20 or 30 acres and strictly controlled to prevent subdividing later.

"This would maintain the original purpose of the belt and still make sure people are properly compensated for their land."

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Agent — Jean Petrie, 330 Williams Avenue, Milton
3. JULIAN REED: LIBERAL PARTY
Agent — Allan Martin, R.R. 4, Norval

Signed,
A. Roy Lester
Returning Officer

Date: May 26, 1977
At: 65 Millside Dr., Milton

Think of future — Gray

Most people who rap regional government are thinking only of themselves and not of their children and their children's children who will have to live in Halton in the years ahead, Progressive Conservative Halton-Burlington candidate George Gray says.

Gray said when regional government came to Halton four years ago he was apprehensive. The one big advantage he could see was a unified police force which he thinks is necessary "for the coverage, depth and equipment necessary to prevent the area from becoming plagued by serious crime like so many other large centres are."

Despite his apprehension he realized some kind of changes were needed since the old county system was antiquated after 100 years of life.

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