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How politics affects the candidates' wives



DEANNA REED relaxes with a cup of coffee in the kitchen of her 157-year-old Norval farmhouse which she jokingly refers to as "Grand Central Station." In recent years, Mrs. Reed has renovated several rooms in the old house and has restored some of the antique furniture, as well. The hutch behind her is an example of her handiwork.

MPP in the family means politics at dinner table

Until two years ago, Deanna Reed and her three children were only mildly interested in things political. .

But today Mrs. Reed, sons Christopher, 16, Robert, 13, and daughter Melonie, seven, open both eyes and ears wide at the mention of the words "Queen's Park", "Liberal Party" and "election."

Because ever since papa Julian Reed was elected MPP for Halton-Burlington in September 1975, day to day activities at Queen's Park have taken on a new and exciting dimension for the Norval family.

Conversation at the Reed supper table inevitably turns to some aspect of the political scene - and when "The Great Debate" between the three provincial party leaders was aired May 24, Mrs. Reed said the two boys were as engrossed in what the candidates were saying as the adult Liberals in the room.

"The children and I have absorbed a great deal about politics - especially on the provincial level - in the past two years," Mrs. Reed said. "Politics is happening all around us, but no one is pushing it at the children. They just seem to enjoy learning about it now."

Having a father in politics on a full-time basis also means increased responsibilities for the Reed children at the family's 157-year-oold, hundred-acre farm on Town Line in

"When the House is sitting, Julian is away from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. five days a week," Mrs. Reed said.

"And most of Julian's weekends are booked up with social engagements in the riding, so he hasn't time for farm chores anymore. Consequently, Christopher now looks after the Jersey cow and calf. Robert takes care of the beef cattle and everyone shares the chores of gathering the eggs," she said.

Mrs. Reed noted that Christopher has also taken over the

chore of spring plowing for his father this year. (The Reeds grow corn and hay to feed their animals.)

She said the family recently sold four of their six half-Arab horses because it was too much work to look after all of them. "I sometimes think being in politics would be a lot easier if

we didn't have the farm to look after, but we like to be selfsufficient as far as our basic food needs are concerned," she

Born in Toronto, Mrs. Reed spent most of her youth in the Inglewood-Caledon area and graduated from high school in Brampton.

She was an elementary school teacher in Georgetown from 1957-1969. She has made television commercials "off and on" for several years, but feels her children are more deserving of her attention than a job in the work force at this point in

"I believe it's important for mother to be there when the kids come home from school," Mrs. Reed said, "And I think it's especially important now that I spend time with them during the day because Julian and I must attend so many



byterian Church will hold an outdoors Covenanters Service in the willow grove. In the BEV GRAY arranges some flowers for a table in afternoon, a program will be her Georgetown home. The former registered held on the platform at the nurse is active in the local Red Cross and enjoys firehall, featuring Scottish interior decorating and the arts. A Tory long Country dancing, old time fiddlers, and the popular before her marriage to PC candidate George sheep dog show put on by

a friendly face in the

said, "but he's always been a way it is. He doesn't like wasting time."

Does she think life will Gray is elected MPP next

Gray said.

"And if he loses, it certainly won't be because he didn't try. George is a very hard worker, and he's devoted to

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Twenty-one Conservation Conservation Authority have provement and development

Proposed work to most Areas includes ground development, forestry and wildlife improvements and purchasing of conservation equipment. Erosion control, beach development and improvements to roads and parking facilities will be

Conservation Areas af-Rockwood, are Guelph, Bannister Lake, Belwood Lake, Brant, Byng Island, Chesney, Chicopee Hills, Conestoga Lake, Doon, Elora Gorge, Elora Quarry, LaFortune, Laurel Creek, Luther Marsh, Pinchurst

reading the newspapers sometimes when the stories and Caledonia. are critical of him," she said. Chack

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Reed explained. "The boys are old enough to babysit their sister and fend for themselves, but Melonie is only seven and she still likes Mommy to tuck her in. Therefore, I usually only attend those social functions in the evenings I feel I really

While Julian is on the campaign trail, Mrs. Reed is often the chauffeur. She also takes telephone calls from constituents and volunteers and does some secretarial work for her MPP husband.

She said the nicest thing about Julian's past year and a half as an MPP is that he thouroughly enjoys his work.
"He really thrives on it," she smiled. "He's happy doing

the work in spite of the long hours and pressures it involves and that's what counts." "Of course, there are times when he comes home on edge,

but more often than not, he's good humored and anxious to talk about the day's happenings." Married 17 years, Mrs. Reed said the one thing she misses

since her husband became MP'. is having the time to socialize with old friends. "It seems we're always booked up a month in advance, so it's hard to plan any kind of get togethers the way we used

On the other hand, she said, the Reed house is often like Grand Central Station when friends drop in on the spur of the

"It's nothing to have 10 people gathered around our kitchen table at night," Mrs. Reed laughed. "Our parties are never planned anymore - they just happen."

She said the family has had only one vacation since Julian became an MPP in 1975.

"In desperation, we rented a cottage -- sight unseen -- and it rained the five days we were there," she recalled. "So we're hoping after the election is over and the hay is in, we'll be able to get away for a few days together and just

relax." And what if Julian doesn't win the election? "We haven't even had time to think about that," Mrs. Reed

"And anyway," she smiled, "isn't that the wrong attitude? This family believes Julian is going to win!"

Scottish

Scottish

weekend

descent contributed much to

the settlement of Waterloo

County, and they will be honoured by a Scottish Weekend at Doon Pioneer Village June 11 and 12. Visitors on S

Saturday will see a display of

tartans, and an information

booth under the Scottish

Clans Association will be at

The local branch, Clan

Donald Society, will be on

hand at the Clan Donald log

house, which was opened last

fall. Members will perform

On Sunday at 10 a.m. the

congregation of Doon Pres-

Robert Walker of Creemore

Scottish Country dancing.

the Township Hall.

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Second time on campaign trail easier, NDP wife says

For example, Mrs. Johnson

said, in 1975 she had no way of

getting in touch with her

husband during the day, so

people often had to wait until

their call.

Though not as outspoken publicly as her NDP candidate husband Bill, Mary Johnson is as concerned about the issues facing this province as he is.

"I think we're going to leave a terrible mess for our kids if we don't do something about cleaning up and preserving our environment soon," Mrs. Johnson said during a recent interview at their Rockwood home.

"Canada is a gorgeous country, and I don't want to see it spolled with garbage dumps and pollution," she

"I'm also very concerned about the problems of housing and unemployment - and I'm not just saying this because it's election time. These are things Bill and I are serious about yearround."

Born in England, Mrs. Johnson came to Canada in 1952 with her husband and their two children - Malcolm (now 29) and Lynn (now 26.)

She joined the NDP logether with Mr. Johnson in 1961, but remembers, "We weren't too active at the time because we were busy building our house and making a living."

"But," she smiled broadly, "Bill was always a great writer of letters to the newspapers and to government officials even then." "That's why they call him

"Wicked Willy", you know. He's always stirring things up and he won't back down when he believes he's fighting for a just cause," she said. Yet, in spite of his interest

in politics, Mr. Johnson never ran for public office until the 1975 provincial election when he was chosen as the NDP candidate from his riding. "At the time Bill was asked

to run in 1975, I didn't really know if I wanted him to, because I wasn't sure if he could do it or .not," Mrs. Johnson recalled. "You see, Bill likes to win, and I was afraid of how he would feel if he lost."

As it turned out, Mr. Johnson did lose the election, but not his fighting spirit. "Even though Bill didn't

get elected to Queen's Park, he was pleased with the results of the last election because it proved to him that people were interested in the environment and other issues that have long been concerns of ours." "This meant a great deal

both to Bill and to me," Mrs. Johnson explained. She said she had no

hesitations when Bill announced he was going to run for provincial office again this year.

"I think the campaign is going a lot better this time around," Mrs. Johnson said. "For one thing we have more time (in 1975 the candidates had only three weeks to get ready compared with five and a half this year), and we know better what's expected of us and what we have to do."

"I think our campaign is a lot more organized now than in 1975, and things are running a great deal smoother," she noted.

says.

"This is a terrible situation to be in," she said, "but now Bill has his headquarters, and if I can't contact him perappointments straight and

sonally during the day, I can accompanying him to public pass the phone message along meetings to someone who will be seeing engagements him. This is a great help to possible.

late in the evening or the next campaigning with her morning for him to return husband because of polio, Mrs. Johnson makes a valuable contribution to his campaign instead by taking throughout the interview, it

"Bill's enjoying this cam-Unable to go door-to-door paign like you wouldn't believe," Mrs.

And judging from her tone of voice and glowing smile calls at home, keeping his would appear Mrs. Johnson is doing the same!

This family is 'true blue' to candidate George Gray

When Bev Pringle married her childhood sweetheart George Gray 25 years ago, she had no idea she might someday become the wife of

At the time, Mrs. Gray was working as a registered nurse at a Guelph hospital while Mr. Gray, a 1951 graduate of Ontario Agricultural College, was employed in sales by Quaker Oats Company. Mrs. Gray continued

working in the delivery room at the hospital for several years after her marriage, but gave up her career when children Cindy and Doug came along in the late fifties. "For the past 20 years I've

been quote 'just a housewife', but I've never had trouble filling in the time," she said. "Raising two children and

looking after a home have stressed. "It's something I been a full-time job." A long-time Red Cross volunteer and driver, Mrs. Gray has taken first aid courses and also gardens, enjoys sports and interior

She personally took charge of wall-papering and selecting the decor for the family's St. in Georgetown.

"But my decision to return

would be doing anyway, decorating as ways of using to a greater extent." her spare hours.

In fact, she's hoping to

develop her talents in this field by enrolling in a course in interior decorating or the arts at one of the area community colleges or universities when the election

to school has nothing to do with politics," Mrs. Gray

MARY JOHNSON takes a message from a caller

as part of her contribution to husband Bill's NDP

campaign. This is the second time Mr. Johnson

has run as the NDP candidate for this riding, and

Mrs. Johnson said she feels the campaign is a lot

more organized and is going a lot better this time

around. "Now we know what we have to do," she

because the children are becoming more independent now (Cindy is 20 and Doug is 19), and I'd like to pursue some of my own interests now Though she readily admits she's 'a very private person". Mrs. Gray has made a point of getting to know total residence of 18 years on Edith strangers through door-to- a.m. and comes home around husband.

She said so far, people have been "extremely pleasant" and she has found doorknocking to be one of the most

enjoyable aspects of the campaign. "I'm out and about quite a bit in this campaign, but then it's only 37 days and anybody

could last that long," she noted. "Anyway," she said, "I'm interested in the Issues, and having a husband as a can-

didate has made me take an even greater interest in what's going on in the world." Mrs. Gray pointed out that she's been a member of the Conservative Party for many

candidate. "You see, my father was a member of the party, and because he was a Conservative, I became one, too. But George is the one who really got me interested in politics and the issues of today."

Mrs. Gray said she's always been involved in past elections as a scrutineer or something in that capacity, but to nowhere near the extent she is involved in this election.

She said Cindy and Doug have also learned a great deal from working in this campaign - including how to get along with total strangers. Cindy helps man the phones

at headquarters while Doug does the "running around" and looks after the signs, Mrs. Gray sald. their father, they get upset

Mrs. Gray said she makes a special point of attending public functions with her husband because, in her words, "It doesn't hurt to see

Gray, Mrs. Gray is taking an active role in her husband's campaign

She added that she sometimes chauffeurs Mr. Gray to engagements while he gets his notes ready in the

"He's always gone by 8 door campaigning with her 11 p.m. or so," Mrs. Gray busy person and that's the

> change for the family if Mr. "I don't know how George

could possibly work more than he's doing now," Mrs.

his party."

years - even before her marriage to this year's PC to parks

Areas under the Grand River been given a provincial grant totalling \$500,000 for im-

carried out in specific areas.

"They're so true blue to Lake, Puslinch Lake, Shade's Mills, Taquanyah, Woolwich,

CANADA WEEK Proclamation

To honour Canada, our land created by the fusion of two founding cultures, enriched by the contribution of many other cultures, fatherland of all Canadians;

To honour this country, home of over 22,000,000 people, proud of their heritage and the freedom they enjoy;

To honour this land of peace and prosperity, this promised land of untold resources;

To honour this country which is ours, of which we all are proud. I hereby proclaim the week of June 25th to July 1st "CANADA WEEK".

Thus, I invite the citizens of The Town of Halton Hills to celebrate it by striving to know our country better. by flying our flag, by participating in CANADA WEEK and by promoting Canadian unity.

> T. J. Hill, Mayor Town of Halton Hills

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