

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

PCs regain majority, NDP flops



Premier William Davis and his Progressive Conservatives captured their coveted majority in yesterday's provincial election as the New Democratic Party collapsed in Ontario. The Tory win further extends the longest running government in Canadian history from 38 years to 42.

The Tories jumped from 58 seats to 70, seven more than they needed for a majority government, their first since winning big in 1971. In both 1975 and 1977 the Conservatives won, but didn't capture enough for a majority.

Dr. Stuart Smith and his Liberals remain the Official Opposition. They went into the election with 34 seats and won 34 yesterday.

NDP leader Michael Cassidy's first election was a disaster as he saw his party drop 12 seats, from 33 to 21.

All 20 of the 25 Tory Cabinet ministers who sought re-election were returned.

The Tories were successful in ridings neighbouring Halton-Burlington, leaving the local winner Julian Reed surrounded. Cabinet ministers Jim Snow and George

Kerr were victorious in Oakville and Burlington South respectively while Jack Johnson was re-elected in Wellington-Dufferin-Peel. Davis won in Brampton by almost 25,000 votes.

Both the Conservatives and Liberals saw their popular vote go up from the 1977 vote. The Grits saw significant gains in urban areas while holding their traditional rural base. The Tory share of the popular vote went up four percent, the Liberals one-and-a-half and the NDP dropped six percent.

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Reed beats Baines by 494



A jubilant Julian Reed is congratulated for his third straight provincial election victory in Halton-Burlington by his wife Deanna and daughter Melanie at his Milton headquarters last night. Reed won the riding by 494 votes.

Julian Reed held on to Halton-Burlington for the Liberals, last night in a squeaker election that ended with Reed leading Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines by only 494 votes.

The unofficial final tally according to the Halton Returning Officer saw Reed with 13,303, Baines with 12,873, and Chris Cutler NDP with 3,527.

It was Reed's third winning election, from his entry into politics in 1975, and Fran Baines' first run at elected office.

There was little jubilation in either Tory or Liberal headquarters through the two hours of watching the returns come in as they saw-sawed back and forth in polls, but Reed in total always in the lead. The lead narrowed down from approximately 800 to the final 494 difference.

Around 8.15 p.m. a worried Reed was heard to comment, "It's too close".

In the PC headquarters criticism was heard about the nomination battle. "I hope they're happy now", said one angry PC.

Despite the nomination fight in Milton, Baines topped the advance poll 209 to 170. While losing in the new areas of Milton, she did well in the rest of the urban area.

Georgetown, Glen Williams and Norval polls gave Reed a win by a slim 152, with Reed polling 3,197, Baines 3,045, and Cutler 852.

In the 1977 provincial election Reed polled 13,085 or 46.8 per cent of the vote and his PC opponent George Gray drew 10,267 or 34.4 per cent. NDP Bill Johnson took 5,598 ballots or 18.8 per cent.

In Acton Reed polled 1,423, Baines 1,097 and Cutler 484, losing only two polls out of the 14.

In his home poll of Norval Reed was tops with 97, followed by Baines with 68 and Cutler with 24.

In her home poll in Stewarttown, Baines lost to Reed, polling 38 votes

to his 58. The turnout was down from the 1977 election, when 69 per cent of the voters cast a ballot. This time only 55 per cent of the 53,150 eligible voters went to the polls.

Reed termed Baines, "The toughest opponent I've had yet," and said the closeness of the vote reflects the provincial trend.

He said he was concerned about the Tory sweep, and said there is a danger issues like ReMor will disappear. He felt Ontario voted for the status

quo and said under minority government there was constructive input from the opposition, but now predicted they would be heard mainly in the question and answer period and in debate.

"Hope my win sobers them up a bit. It doesn't auger well for the progress of Ontario, with Davis depending on electricity and not having other energy programs."

A Norval neighbor of the victorious Liberal, former councillor Pat Patterson called from Florida to congratulate.



Son Brian gives mum Fran Baines a comforting kiss when the results tell the tale.

Split blamed for Tory loss

"If we had all the Tories in this riding working like you we would have taken this seat," Fran Baines told

Progressive Conservative supporters last night in Georgetown just before leaving to concede defeat to Liberal Julian

Reed.

"If my opposition in the nomination race had got on board like most others we could have taken this riding," Baines said admitting she felt a little bitter about the dissension within the Halton-Burlington Tories since the nomination night when Milton's Brian Penman was defeated.

Baines said they closed the gap considerably losing to incumbent

Julian Reed by only 494 votes. In the previous 1977 election Reed romped home with 2,800 votes over Tory George Gray. "It's a rough way to lose but we gave it a good shot. There are a lot of people who were confident we could do the job," Baines told the supporters.

Election night in photos...

... see page 3.

Special issue

As a special service to the readers The Acton Free Press and The Georgetown Independent are publishing this free special election issue to inform readers of the results of yesterday's provincial election.