

Who are the candidates in Halton-Burlington?

Gary Dawkins: PC

'A personal commitment'

Gary Dawkins immediately strikes you as the sort of guy who doesn't jump on bandwagons. Neither is he the type who takes on something without really considering the options, seeking advice and then, and only then, taking action.

So when the thought first occurred to him to take over where Jim Snow had left off when the former East Halton MPP decided to seek re-election in the new Oakville riding, Dawkins did not jump immediately into the thick of things.

He's in there now though with both feet and, since he won the PC nomination for Halton-Burlington in Milton early in the summer, those feet have barely stopped moving.

Dawkins has the most to lose in this campaign, despite the fact he probably has the most going for him in terms of personnel, strategy and support from the provincial headquarters. But to take over where your predecessor left off particularly when that predecessor happened to be of the calibre of Snow—demands a lot of retraining of footsteps.

The campaign is taking its toll, the former public school principal admits. "There are times it catches up with you," but he nevertheless has been thriving on all the hoop-la that goes along with a provincial election.

His campaign therefore has been aimed largely at introducing the new PC candidate for Halton-Burlington to as many voters in the new riding as is humanly possible, particularly to Progressive Conservative

loyalists who may not have been completely aware of Dawkins' capabilities and personality.

Dawkins' capabilities are well recognized in the Acton area where Dawkins is a respected, highly involved member of the community.

His involvement encompasses service club work, the Canadian Militia with the Lorne Scots, the Acton Legion, Knox Presbyterian Church, the Masonic Lodge, plus a life-long connection with the Acton area.

Although a PC stalwart since 1963, Dawkins had been working in the background prior to his decision to enter the campaign this year.

He's been pleased with the response that he has been getting during his campaign which, because of his early nomination, has extended over two months instead of the bare, 35-day campaign.

"I can appreciate now," he jokingly commented, "the amount of effort any federal candidate has to put into his campaign which is a lot longer than this gruelling period."

Being a candidate for the incumbent party doesn't mean that Dawkins is willing to go along totally with what has been set out in prior government policies, particularly when it comes to education. The PC candidate has very close ties with that area of concern in this provincial election, through over a dozen years of principalships in area schools.

He would like to see some changes

brought about in the educational hierarchy but at the county level where he has been providing constant input for a number of years through executive positions with the Halton Principals' Advisory Committee, the Halton Principals' Association, the Professional Development Committee and presently the Staff-Board Committee on which he represents the principals of Halton.

"The public, teachers and principals must have more influence at the county board level in order to provide the type of education that suits the needs of the mobile society of today while still maintaining high personal standards."

Other areas of provincial government policies in which he sees room for change ("It is not above criticism. No government, of any consequence, can be") is the increasing government bureaucracy ("It must be reduced") and the split between government and people ("we must come back to the people with more emphasis on individual rights").

One of Dawkins' strongest stands is on compensation to landowners who properties have become part of such provincially designated, controlled-development areas as "prime acquisition areas" of conservation authorities or the Niagara Escarpment Commission's area of responsibility.

"As a new member I would immediately begin to press for fair compensation for people being affected by large-scale plans such as the Niagara Escarpment Commission scheme.

"These schemes are certainly valuable to the proper development of Ontario's environment but, unless we are prepared to provide a form of fair compensation for those people who have property within those areas, we will be, in effect, infringing upon the rights of those landowners."

He admits that the how, when and how much in providing proper compensation still is a problem that has to be examined closely, perhaps using examples set in the Ottawa area and in Great Britain.

"We just can't jump into the whole thing without proper discussions of the problem with the people involved."

"That is certainly one of my priorities." He is fully prepared to begin to push those priorities if elected. He plans to devote his full time to the job of principal representative for the new riding and even at that expects to be running a few hours short per day during his initial venture into the business of being an MPP.

"Once you're an MPP you have to pace yourself properly so that you can do the job as best you can. You could probably work at it 20 hours a day, and I expect that may be necessary during the first weeks in the job, but to do that constantly you will not be a good MPP."

"You therefore have to approach it with a proper, organized method of handling the responsibility."

One of his prime concerns as an MPP would be to provide better communications between constituents and representative.

"I intend to develop myself as a total representative of the people I'm representing, which I admit isn't going to be easy."

"It's important that we obtain the interest and involvement of the silent majority in the workings of government."

Looking ahead to 8 o'clock September 18 when the polls finally close and the tabulation of votes begins, Gary predicted that his strongest support would come from the Acton area.

"I'm receiving excellent response from Acton because that is my established area. I'm not getting any surprises at all in Acton."

The area of his major push during the final, all-important week of Campaign '75 is the Georgetown area where Dawkins is going to be spending a fair amount of time door knocking. His aim, as it has been all along, will be "personal contact."

"I am not simply a mirror image of existing PC policies," Dawkins noted in his chief campaign brochure.

"This is a very personal commitment, it cannot be otherwise. I welcome this challenge as the most important of my career, one which will, no doubt, be very demanding but one which will be extremely satisfying."

That brochure came out early in the four-week-old campaign.

After many late nights, early mornings, long miles, numerous handshakes, endless doors to be knocked, he's tired but still totally committed to that early goal.



Bill Johnson: NDP

'Showmanship' and policies may stir up Queen's Park

Win, lose or draw Bill Johnson, the New Democratic Party hopeful in Halton-Burlington is going to enjoy himself in this election.

Thanks to his ability to live up to his nom de guerre of "Wicked Willie", Campaign '75 on the Halton-Burlington front is proving to be full of life and personal contact.

Johnson has been the total mainstay behind his campaign. He is frequently on his own as he makes the rounds of main streets, doorsteps and candidate meetings. He has been handling perhaps the heaviest individual schedule of the three candidates while still, somehow managing to fill job responsibilities.

Yet through it all he admits, "I'm having the time of my life."

Meeting with people, hearing their beefs and trying to do something about them is not an unfamiliar role for Johnson. It comes to him naturally as he has been perhaps one of the most fervent campaigners in this area for many years.

The campaign he had been involved with prior to his September 18 run-for-the-money has been on the environmental battlefield.

Finish a shift at Domtar here in Georgetown, drive 100 miles to Hope Township to deliver a brief against rural dumping to environment minister Bill Newman, hop back in the car and return to Georgetown just in time to go back to work. That's the kind of campaign Johnson is used to being involved in.

So a concerted 35-day provincial election schedule of meeting and talking with people right here on his doorstep offers a nice, although hectic, change.

His enthusiasm is not hard to catch. An

early morning interview or a weekend chat at the door, he's ready, willing and eager to express his opinion.

The response from the people to that kind of enthusiasm has been good, particularly in the new part of Burlington that has been attacked to the rest of the Halton riding. That area, largely made up of young and relatively new residents, took to Johnson's kind of crusading drive. Residents there ended up by asking him—as long as he was there—to help them organize a citizens group to represent their area.

He has ample experience in that field as he's the president of the Nassagaweya Ratepayers Association as well as chairman of GUARD (Group United Against Rural Dumping).

"Some people thought when I stood for the nomination 'What does Bill know about besides garbage?' Well, for a few examples I've been forever bugging Milton council about various problems, and through our efforts, we managed to get Bell Telephone to end the long distance charges between our area and others. "So I'm not just interested in garbage."

It was, however, his experience in dealing with the provincial government on various environmental problems that made him decide to finally take the major step into provincial politics.

"I had been banging my head against the wall, battling with the ministry and its hirlings. I finally decided it was time to take my own steps."

"If you're going to change things you've got to change things first at Queen's Park."

Bill Johnson in the normally quiet halls and chambers of Queen's Park promises to be

quite a change, but don't expect that change to spread to Wicked Willie.

"I don't want a bunch of PR men from the Premier's office making me into something I'm not." He, instead, pledges to continue to be the loud, vocal opponent of anything the public deems unwarranted, or unjustified.

"It didn't hurt Morty Shulman and it didn't hurt 'Wacky' Bennett. Without them, politics are dead and that's why there's such apathy towards politics among the public."

"Perhaps I can stir things up with a little bit of showmanship along with practical applications of policies. It certainly wouldn't hurt."

Johnson looks to party leader Stephen Lewis as being the best leader for Ontario at the present time.

"He's very open and sympathetic to people and what they think. He knows what poverty is like; he knows what sickness is like."

"He doesn't treat people as statistics."

"The Tories keep telling you how good you've got it, but you know damn well you haven't got it so good when you're paying 40-year mortgages, or putting out \$400 per month before you are even able to begin thinking about putting bread on the table."

"Humanizing" is a word that Johnson uses frequently, particularly when talking about future NDP programs.

"We want to bring grass root involvement back into regionalism in order to make Ontario a better place for human



beings, not just for experts and inhuman statistics."

Johnson is drawing some strong support from teachers in north Halton for his strong stand against Bill 100 which the provincial government recently passed to prohibit teachers from going on a work-to-rule campaign to bring about changes.

"If teachers have to strike or are put in a position to strike to get smaller classes so they can give more specialized attention to their students, is that a bad thing?"

"Obviously something is wrong in the educational system when the educators are forced into such strong actions as considering strikes."

He also raps Bill 100's position that teachers and principals must be considered on opposing sides of the negotiating fence.

One of the solutions to the problem, he notes, is to provide better local representation on school boards. That same increased responsiveness to the people should also be applied to other provincial government bodies as conservation authorities and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, he contends.

"I want to see the environment protected and for that reason it distresses me to see these various authorities padded with people who have little or no concern for the environment. I would like to see people from the Bruce Trail Association and Pollution Probe in Georgetown invited to sit on these commissions.

Those people have shown they are dedicated to conservation and have proven their abilities."

Johnson is also drawing support from his fellow environmentalists for his stand against the present environmental policies of the government which he terms "band-aid policies" because of their ability to only temporarily solve the problem.

"You have to attack the source. If you have an epidemic you don't just dig more graves for the corpses. You look for the source of the epidemic."

"The source of the solid waste epidemic is the non-returnable container."

"Whether or not I get to Queen's Park as representative for Halton-Burlington I shall continue to advocate that solid waste management be taken from the jurisdiction of the ministry of the environment and placed under the ministry of energy, mines and resources."

"The waste problem and the energy crisis go hand in hand."

Win, lose or draw Bill "Wicked Willie" Johnson is getting his points across, and in doing so is providing the spark of excitement needed for a lively interesting election.

Few are ruling out the possibility that that spark could be fanned into a strong fire beneath the platforms of the two other parties.

Julian Reed: L

He's a Liberal by choice, not by birth

In the days when charisma and election campaigns went hand in hand, Julian Reed would have been a shoo-in.



Great looks. A next-door-neighbour kind of personality. A look-you-in-the-eye-and-tell-you-where-it's-at attitude. The man whose attempt to become the first Liberal candidate to ever represent North Halton in Queen's Park comes across with super charisma.

But those days of personality politics are gone and Julian Reed is now ready to come across with what people want today: stands on solid, current issues and even some opinions on issues that haven't even come up elsewhere in Campaign '75.

The emphasis in Reed's personal campaign as he treads the gruelling road of door-knocking and hand-shaking throughout the Halton-Burlington riding has been "Think before you vote. Consider the circumstances and the problems. Then vote."

He adds that anyone who thinks carefully about the present situation in Ontario—education-wise, housing-wise, local government-wise—will cast his vote against the PC government and, instead, for Julian Reed.

Reed, a one-time card-carrying member ("one year only") of the PC party, explained that he did a lot of thinking prior to becoming a Liberal candidate.

"I'm not a rebel, nor am I a radical. I attempted first to bring about the changes that I, and others like myself, felt should take place by working within the system. But I found out it didn't work."

"What it boils down to is that I'm a Liberal by choice, not by birth. I became a Liberal and a candidate because I thought very carefully about the alternatives."

Reed's "choice" was made that much easier when the provincial government decided to close the Norval Public School

where, by a certain shrewd touch of planning, Reed has set up his campaign headquarters. Reed became spokesman for the upset Norval residents who battled hard and long to try to get the doors of the school open again.

During a meeting with Premier Bill Davis last fall to discuss the school's closure, Reed confronted the PC leader. "I tried to tell him that every situation, every person, is different and should be treated that way."

"The problems of Norval are totally different from those of Parry Sound. The problems of Parry Sound are totally different from those of Toronto. They all deserve to be examined as separate instances instead of simply with a blanket policy."

Davis wouldn't change his stand, Reed did.

Through his involvement with a research project on energy for Murray Gaunt, Liberal MPP for Huron-Bruce, Reed got a taste of the kind of leadership Liberal leader Robert Nixon packs. Reed was impressed.

"One of the things I was most impressed with was the open door approach he takes in his caucus debates."

"There's no stigma attached to disagreeing with the leader. When you're in caucus you don't have to accept the laid down policy. It's really government by debate."

Since his acclamation as Liberal candidate for Halton-Burlington three weeks ago, Reed has been constantly on the go. It's been a new situation for a man used to han-

dling all possible situations.

A farmer, musician, professional actor, a familiar face in TV commercials and advertisements: about the only thing that has remained constant has been his connection with north Halton and, more particularly, the people of Norval.

The Reed family has lived in Norval since 1868. With the exception of four years during which he moved to Montreal, Julian has spent his entire life in the small community by the Credit River.

He attended the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, graduated in 1956 with an associate diploma in agriculture. He then went into the livestock feed business. After 10 years of that he decided to study music and from there jumped into performing on the stage as an actor.

That, in turn, led into the advertising medium where he has become a familiar, although never identified, face selling everything from cigarettes to gum.

But, he notes that the days when Julian Reed could be seen in a national magazine shivering in his jockey shorts, pointing out the difference between a short and a long cigarette, are going to come to an end if he joins the slightly more dignified ranks of an MPP in Queen's Park.

"Being an MPP is definitely a full-time job. Serving a riding, especially at this particular time, is a tremendous responsibility that has to be handled in a full-time,

professional manner."

"We've got to cut the fat off the bureaucracy and clear the air finally at Queen's Park. That's what people should expect of their elected representative."

An area on which Reed hopes to concentrate his efforts, is Ontario's energy problems. It's a field in which he has some first-hand knowledge, having built his own small hydro generating plant in Norval that provides an electrical supply for his own home.

Ontario Hydro is one of his major targets. "Ontario Hydro refuses to consider generating power at the point of use. Instead they have these tremendous plans to trunk the power from a minimum of generating points all over creation using these extremely expensive hydro corridors."

"If smaller hydro generating plants located throughout the province had not been close out over the last 20 years, thanks to Ontario Hydro, the necessity and costs for a major station like Lakeview would really be questionable."

Last year, he added, was the first year that Hydro hadn't closed out any small hydro stations in 20 years.

The emphasis, instead of centering on the development of three or four large nuclear stations, should be to discover alternative sources of power such as solar energy.

"It will be entirely to our advantage to come up with diverse sources of energy which

do not use non-renewable resources to provide it."

The educational system of Ontario has also raised Reed's ire.

Ten years ago, explained Reed, the educational system of Ontario could have been termed "elitist" as only 20 percent of high school graduates were able to go on to university. "But the pendulum has swung the other way now to the point where 70 percent go on to higher education."

"Graduates, in those early days, worked hard to get into university. The reward was that they came out of university with a diploma that meant something."

"That system may be elitist but why should we deprive that 20 percent of students who are truly interested in being a scholar, from gaining a complete and meaningful education."

"No one knows what his level of accomplishment is unless the carrot of achievement is hung out in front of them."

September 18, according to Julian, will see some interesting local voting trends, particularly in the Acton area. "Originally I thought we should write it off, considering that's Dawkins' home town. But we now feel confident that we'll not only hold our own there but expect to make important gains."

There's little doubt in anyone's mind that the Liberals, with Reed leading the way, are going to give this PC stronghold its toughest test in many a year.