

#### NDP EXECUTIVE

About 20 local New Democratic Party members elected a six-member executive. Wednesday at the founding meeting of the association for the recently created Brampton-Georgetown federal riding. From left to right are vice-president Thor Jakobson, president Norm Brooks, publicity chairman Susan Gow, and financial spring.

secretary Morley Mills. Other executive members elected were Joe Ferreiro, co-ordinator, and Bill Brackman, secretary. Brooks said the executive will probably meet in two weeks to draw up plans to choose a candidate for the next national election, expected to be announced next

(Daily Times Photo)

By JULIAN REED

Libera! M.P.P.

(Hulton-Burlington)

The Canadian Conference of

Legislative Ombudsmen was held at the Sheraton Centre in

Toronto from September 12 to

16th. This came as the result of

Arthur Maloncy's initiative

which proved to be quite suc-

The Conference was chaired

by the former Canadian Ft-

nance Minister - John Turner -

the theme of which was "The

Ombudsman and Access to

Information". It was his belief

that the ultimate adjudicative

authority in this connection

should rest with the courts.

that the Ombudsman's func-

tion was quite distinct, al-

though there is considerable

M.P., who is a long-time propo-

nent of freedom of information

expressed the view that se-

crecy led to incompetence,

indecision and scandal. He

favoured the Idea of the Ombudsman intervening to secure

documents which had been

Denald MacDonald, M.P.P.,

maintained that the parlia-

mentary system cannoted by

truly democratic unless there

is freedom of information. It is

his belief that freedom of

information will lead to gen-

uinely responsible government

and reduce the alienation of

Margaret Campbell, M.P.P.,

dealt directly with freedom of

information available to the

public through the Legislature,

one of her concerns being the

right of the individual to see

his or her own file. She also

dealt in specific terms with the

right of the citizens to know

what the government is doing,

clting experience in the pro-

For example, she mentioned

an 11-page document reporting

on efforts to obtain informa-

tion from the government, par-

Health, on a private enter-

prise which receives some se-

ven million dollars annually

from the Province. Oral ques-

tions and Order Paper ques-

tions failed to obtain the in-

formation, and we resurrected

a little known procedure called

"A Notice of Motion for Pro-

duction of Papers", in addition

to letters to the Minister. All

this, however, was to no avail.

Then there is the matter of

the Toronto Island Airport,

and its possible use for Short

Take-Off and Landing (STOL)

airplanes. In April 1974, we

learned of the existence of a

Committee meeting behind

closed doors to review "tech-

nical information" on this mat-

ter. (Incidentally, not all the

members serving on this Com-

miltee had technical exper-

tise!). Originally, we sought

membership of the Com-

mittee. Subsequently observer

status was requested. This was

also denied, although it was

resolved that the minutes of

meetings be made available.

received were considerably

less than complete. The matter

was referred to the Attorney

General on the basis of an

"investigation into the falsifica-

tion of public documents, but

he ruled the Chairman of the

Committee had prepared a

summary of proceedings

which contained "All the es-

sential and basic points that

The Minister stated: "In

creating this summary there

was no attempt to distort the

facts or mislead people as to

the Committee's considera-

were discussed."

tion."

The minutes we eventually

ticularly the Ministry of

vincial Legislature.

people from government.

overlap. Gerald Baldwin,

Queen's

Park

report

cessful

denied.

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The Acton Drama club is rehearsing a curtain sometime in January. Above, Willy production of Our Gal Sal by Peggy Fernway. DeJong (left) who plays Sally Skinner, the leade, goes over the lines with Alice Schrei-

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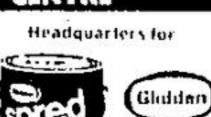
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