

# Local Federal campaign begins before PM Trudeau's election call

**By PETER WEST**  
*Herald special*

Even though Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has not called the candidates to the poll, the race down the campaign trail has begun in George.

"I've been on it for a year and a half," says Progressive Conservative candidate, John McDermid. "I'm anxious for the writ to be issued. We've been ready for an election call ever. We geared up for an election in June (1978) and again in October and we've started gearing up again."

New Democratic Party candidate David Moulton says he had been out canvassing throughout the riding for the last four weeks.

"I was out in the below weather," he says. "I've talked with about 300 people so far and I would like to talk with over 1,000 by the election."

These people often the problems they bring in are complicated matters.

We should be hearing about the election in early- to mid-April for a mid-June election, says McDermid.

"I've gone so far as to say June 18," he says, "but Trudeau will call it when he wants."

Before the time, McDermid says, he or one of his representatives will knock on every door in the riding twice. There are more than 2,000 members in the PC association for Brampton-Georgetown and McDermid says he is still delivering memberships as he campaigns.

"Realistically, I'll knock on the doors of a quarter of the riding myself," he says. "On a Saturday I'll try and do a couple of polls. I'm trying to hit the newer areas. Old Georgetown know me and my family, and old Brampton is the same."

ENERGY ISSUES

"Energy will be a substantial issue," he said. "There are a lot of pressures on now with the political situation in Iran."

"There are problems with the position taken by the Conservative leader where he says he'll leave energy to private industry. Also, the NDP are very strong on public ownership of the industry. We are being middle of the road," he said. "As was shown recently by Exxon, the national oil companies don't always represent the best interests of the country. In future deals on energy will be between government and government."



**DAVID MOULTON**  
Ross Milne, incumbent Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe MP and Liberal candidate for the new riding of Brampton-Georgetown, says he really hasn't started his campaign for the riding seat. For now, he says he is too busy being the member of Parliament for his present riding. (The riding change is a result of changes in the riding boundaries brought into effect by Parliament for the upcoming election.)

**ONE ISSUE**

The number one issue people are talking about is the economy in all its various facets, says McDermid. People are concerned about inflation and the falling dollar and the unemployment situation, even though Georgetown has not suffered as much as some areas.

Capital punishment is another major issue with McDermid.

"I'm a retentionist," he says. "I've always supported capital punishment for first-degree murder, for killing of police officers, prison guards, firemen on duty, and any death resulting from high jacking."

"We owe it to our policemen. If they think this helps them in their job, let's give it to them," he says.

Summing up his stand, McDermid said, "the national



**ROSS MILNE**

small businesses and help them hire more workers, especially in smaller communities, and a capital works program for sewers, roads and other public construction will promote more jobs.

One of the NDP slogans Moulton uses on his literature is "A nation out of work can't work as a nation."

There are four major issues right now, said Milne: ec-



**JOHN McDERMID**

issues are the Georgetown issues.

Saturday, Moulton was canvassing in the Heart Lake area in Brampton. Having just started campaigning in earnest, Moulton says it was difficult to peg down specific issues.

"I would say there's been real disappointment with the Liberal government. This is especially true of people in the middle income bracket where the anti-inflation bureau has let them behind the eight ball," he said. "Yet people are being reasonable about wages. They don't want more than a piece of the pie."

**INTERESTING PARTS**

"People are worried about the size of government," he said. "How do you contend with a government that spends \$54 billion? What to do about it is one of the more interesting parts of campaigning. Our



## KENNEDY ART SHOW

John Cruise, right, shows a piece of art he has done to his friends Sarah Geh, and Blake McGowan at the kindergarten art show at George Kennedy Public School last week. The school gymnasium was converted into an art gallery, and the kindergarten students were able to show their talents to their parents and fellow students. (Herald photo)

## Local arts group gets outside help

**By LORI TAYLOR**  
*Herald staff writer*

Local advocates of a cultural centre in Halton Hills have turned to a Burlington group who have succeeded in having such a facility built for some pointers on how it is done.

Getting a cultural centre built requires people who will stick their necks out, and who will remain committed to the project until the building is finished.

That is the assessment of Betty Dawson, who was on the first board of directors of the Burlington Cultural Centres, and was involved with the project almost from the beginning.

Mrs. Dawson was addressing people interested in getting a cultural centre built in Halton Hills, at the request of the Credit Valley Artisans. As the artisan's president, Gretchen Day, put it, "We felt it was time to talk to somebody who had been where we're going."

Mrs. Dawson was involved with the Burlington Cultural Centre from the very early stages of the feasibility study, which in her case was an on-again, off-again project that lasted about seven years. The original group behind the centre in Burlington were arts and crafts people, but it expanded to include photographers, weavers, sculptors and rug-hookers.

**THROWN OUT**

The first recommendation to council suggested a building with a price tag of \$477,000 which council requested be reduced to \$277,000. When this was accomplished, council threw the proposal out, Mrs. Dawson said.

Following that setback, the arts groups banded together and formed a group called Arts Burlington, and they held an arts show called Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope was an overwhelming success, with 300 artists participating in the show, and over 3,000 people in attendance. Mrs. Dawson said the success of the show, which is now an annual event in Burlington, proved that there was support in the community for the arts.

The group working on the next stage of the feasibility study decided to look into schools and talk to gallery

owners. Other groups getting involved in the project at that time were the garden club and the choral society. The Joseph Brant museum was also involved in the early stages, but later pulled out.

"If you're going to go big, you have to have the people behind you," Mrs. Dawson said. "You can't just have the 700 people involved in crafts."

"My advice would be to bring all the groups under one umbrella," she continued. "You should have everybody in the Halton Hills Arts Council, with every group having representation on it."

**PAID HALF**

In 1973, the city paid half of the fee for the architect to conduct a feasibility study, Mrs. Dawson said. But as the costs began to get higher and the project began to expand, some of the groups involved began to get nervous about the project.

"You have to have a group of people who will stick their necks out and who will be committed to the project for the duration," she said. "The museum and the little theatre group both became afraid of the dollars involved and pulled out. We figured later that we should have had them involved at an earlier stage to make them more enthusiastic about it."

In another gallery, the sculpture section was on the second floor, but the decorative staircase to the second floor was such that most pieces couldn't be carried up on the staircase. As a result, the gallery had to install an expensive elevator, rather than tear out the staircase, Mrs. Dawson said.

The key people in any organizing committee on this type of project are the site committee, the administration and operation people and the fund-raising committee, she said.

"Just because the town is giving you the land doesn't mean you have to take the first site they offer you," Mrs. Dawson said. "Your site committee has to be firm."

Among the sites which the city of Burlington offered the cultural centre committee were an old house which the city was trying to preserve for its historical value, but which was out in the middle of nowhere and a golf course building which was also inaccessible, and not designed to allow the handicapped access to the entire building.

"If you have to drive more than thirty minutes to get to a gallery or a theatre, then you're culturally deprived," Mrs. Dawson said.

**APPROACHED GROUPS**

In designing the building, the committee approached the different craft groups and artists who might make use of such a centre, and asked them what their requirements would be. Meeting rooms which could be rented out for revenue were also included in the design.

The actual financing for the project came from three areas — one-third from the city of Burlington, one-third from Ontario grants and one-third from private and corporate donations, Mrs. Dawson said. The city's financing actually

## Award presented

Denny W.C. Andrews of Acton, was presented with the Star of Courage in Ottawa Friday by Canada's new governor-general Edward Schreyer.

Mr. Andrews, who has resided in Acton for the past year, is a native of Newfoundland, where on Dec. 28, 1977, he saved two cousins from drowning when they fell through thin ice while skating near their home.

The decoration ceremony was held in the ballroom of Government House starting at 11:30 a.m. In total the governor-general presented one Cross of Valour, nine Stars of Courage and 18 Medals of Bravery.

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