

**First week**

# McDermid bursts from election gate

By MICHAEL HOLLETT  
Herald editor

Brampton-Georgetown Conservative hopeful John McDermid burst from the starting gate in the young federal election campaign as he was the only local candidate involved in any 'main streeting' campaign work.

Mr. McDermid visited with Georgetown merchants last Wednesday and Thursday and also shook a few hands and kissed a few babies on Main and Guelph Streets.

NDP candidate David Moulton and incumbent Liberal MP Ross Milne spent much of last week huddling with party members and planning election strategies.

**NO VISITS**  
Neither Mr. Moulton or Mr. Milne visited Georgetown during the first week of the campaign.

All three major party candidates attended major rallies and strategy sessions involving their respective leaders. Mr. Milne attended a 'candidates school' at York University

## Election '79

Saturday along with every Liberal candidate in Ontario. The gathering was addressed by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau who gave Mr. Milne termed "a great speech".

Mr. Milne attended a similar meeting last Wednesday night in Toronto, again hearing the PM.

**HEARD BROADBENT**  
Mr. Moulton attended a candidates' conference in Toronto at the Ascott Inn Saturday as party leader Ed Broadbent spoke to all Toronto area NDP hopefuls.

Mr. McDermid joined Halton Conservative candidate Otto Jelinek and two other PC candidates at a Friday night rally at the Airport Holiday Inn, addressed by PC leader Joe Clark.

All three candidates have opened or are in the process of opening campaign offices in Georgetown, along with their Brampton offices.

Mr. Milne's Georgetown office is located in the Guelphview Square next to the Neptune restaurant and the phone number is 877-6993. Mr. Moulton's local office will be at 52 Main St. and until the phone is installed those interested in his campaign should contact Morley Mills at 877-3915. Mr. McDermid is still selecting a Georgetown office. Until the office is opened, questions regarding his campaign can be addressed to Peter Ramsey at 877-1266.

Mr. Moulton has yet to put his campaign in high gear, in fact, he is still holding down a fulltime job and won't be able to begin his campaign leave of absence until Good Friday. He said he has spent much of last week preparing campaign literature and signs and has also spent a lot of time with the media. Although Mr. Moulton has done little canvassing since the election call, he had canvassed Georgetown areas three times before last week's announcement.

**GOOD RESPONSE**  
Mr. Moulton said he has received a good response during canvassing. He said Georgetown voters said they are most concerned with prices, resources and jobs, three key NDP issues. He said many local residents also mentioned the closing of the Domtar plant as a problem.

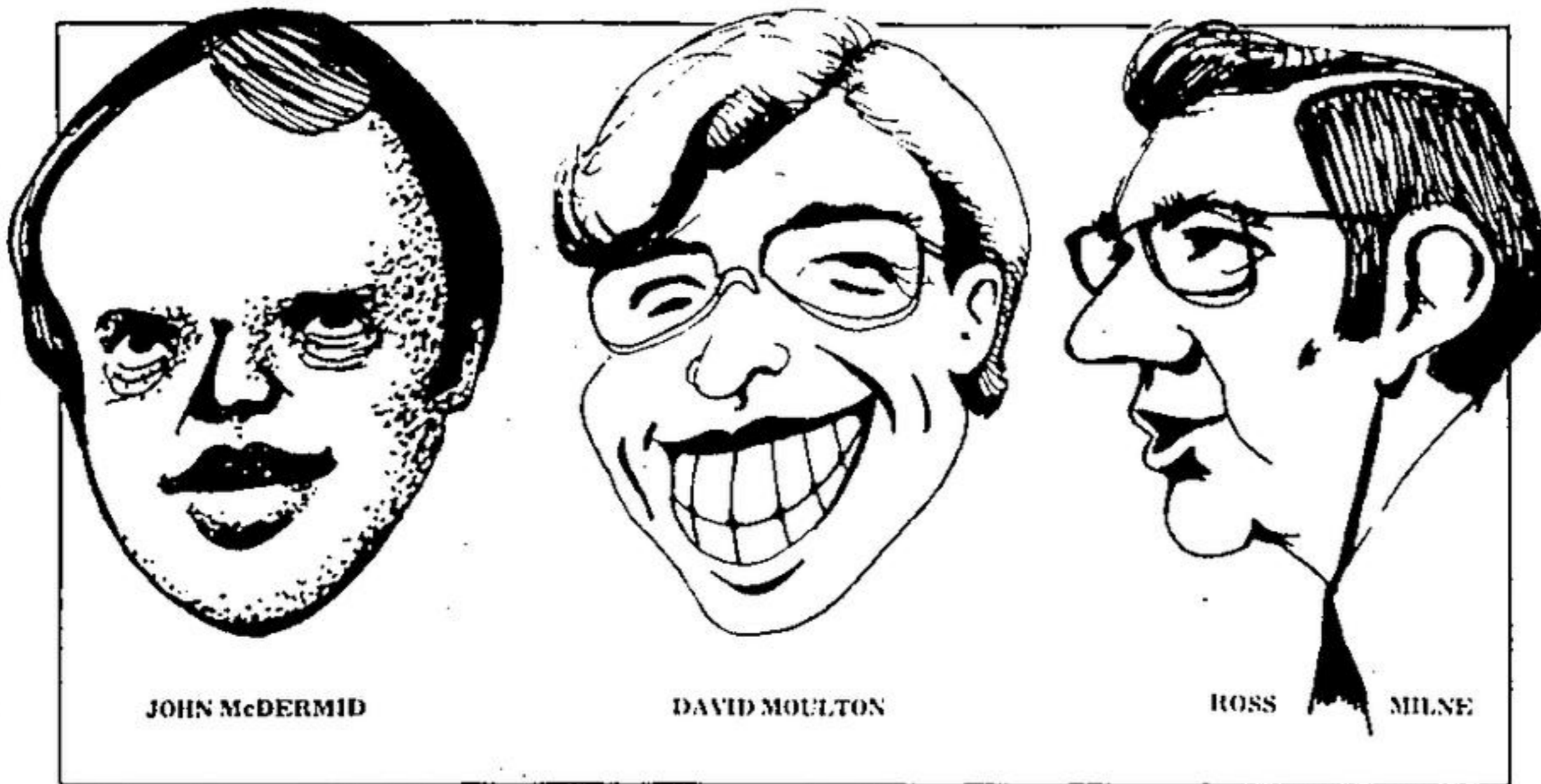
He said his party has more workers than ever for a federal campaign. He said the NDP seems to be drawing some support from disgruntled Liberals.

He calls Brampton-Georgetown a "swing riding" and says it will be hard fought campaign with the NDP in the race all the way. He predicts the election race will "heat up" around Easter and plans

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JOHN McDERMID

DAVID MOULTON

ROSS MILNE

(Herald graphics by Paul Dorsey)

to put his campaign in high gear at that time.

**SLOW START**  
Mr. Milne explained his slow start to the campaign saying that he spent the first part of the election wearing two hats, that of a fulltime candidate and a fulltime MP. He said that the Prime Ministers' surprise election call caught him with a lot of unfinished constituency work which he felt had to be completed before he plunged into the campaign.

Mr. Milne said he also wanted to lay a firm ground-work for his campaign before running hard. To do this, Mr. Milne met with party and local Liberals to discuss and plan his campaign strategy last week. He did attend the McDonald's Egg McMuffin breakfast for the cancer society in Georgetown last Sunday. He also filed his official nomination papers on Monday.

He expects to be canvassing in Georgetown during the coming week.

On top of his two days of 'main streeting' in Georgetown, Conservative candidate John McDermid also dropped

by the Crazy Boat race last week. Mr. McDermid also met with Brampton merchants last week and attended a number of events in that city during the first week of the campaign.

**MEET MERCHANTS**  
He explained his campaign tactic of meeting with merchants saying, "They meet people every day and inevitably the talk turns to politics. I wanted to let them know who John McDermid is and hopefully make a good impression".

Mr. McDermid said he is feeling "very, very good" about the election and thinks his campaign is off to a great start. He said he has been receiving a tremendous reception from the homes he has visited so far. He is either told that a person already intends to vote PC or that they are interested in hearing about the alternatives to the current federal government.

"I am finding very few Liberal supporters," he said.

Mr. McDermid said he already has 1,200 campaign workers and says that he continues to pick up supporters along the way.

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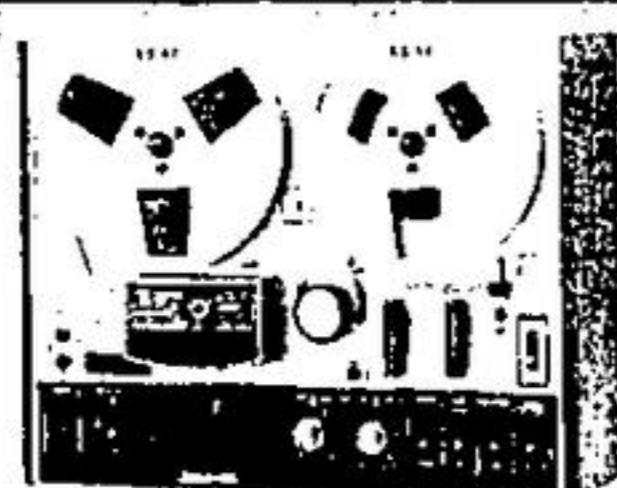
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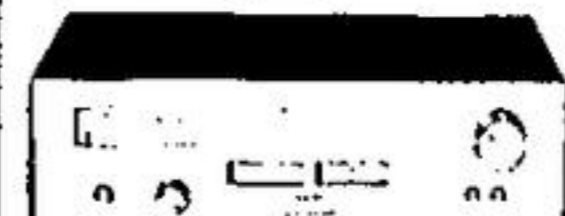
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