

Communist candidate joins election race

By MICHAEL HOLLETT
Herald editor

A new element was added to the Brampton-Georgetown federal election race as Jim Bridgwood was announced as the Communist Party's candidate in the riding.

He replaces former candidate Gord Massie who has moved to Saskatchewan to do Party work, since receiving his party's nomination last year.

FOUR CANDIDATES
There are now four candidates in the riding including: incumbent Liberal, Ross Milne; New Democratic Party

Election 79

candidate, Dave Moulton and John McDermid, of the Progressive Conservatives.

Mr. Bridgwood is a 49-year-old auto worker who is no newcomer to federal politics having run unsuccessfully for the Communists in 1969 in the Hamilton East riding.

Mr. Bridgwood is a member and past-president of the Oakville and District Labor Council. He is an inside driver at the Ford plant in that city and currently lives in Hamilton although he will be moving to a newly purchased home in Bramalea in June.

He has been a member of the Communist Party for 20 years and says it is better accepted by the public than ever before and has a major role to play in the current election.

FUND SHORTAGE

But, he said, his party suffers from a shortage of funds and poor acceptance from the news media.

The economy, unemployment and constitutional matters are the main issues Mr. Bridgwood sees as important in the current election.

He said the economy has taken "a real downturn" since

Pierre Trudeau became Prime Minister in 1968.

The Communist Party seeks a nation-wide ban on overtime, will be at the Brampton's Shoppers' World for a short speech and tour of the plaza from noon until 1 p.m.

The party would also like to see the Autopact scrapped and a Canadian car created in its place to provide work for the auto industry.

NATIONAL UNITY

On national unity, Mr. Bridgwood wants an "equal partnership" between Canada and Quebec in a two nation state under a "made in Canada" constitution.

In other election news, the local Liberal and Conservative candidates opened campaign offices in Georgetown this week.

Liberal MP Ross Milne opened his committee room Monday in the Guelphview Square beside the Neptune restaurant.

His committee room phone number is 877-6993.

PC candidate John McDermid was expected to open his Georgetown office yesterday in a trailer located at the site of the new Georgetown mall beside Alcott arena. The office number is 877-8280.

PARTY LEADERS

Two of the major party leaders will more or less be making their presence felt locally this week. Tomorrow (Thursday) Pierre Trudeau will be the Brampton's Shoppers' World for a short speech and tour of the plaza from noon until 1 p.m.

Conservative leader Joe Clark's wife Maureen McTeer (the one who hasn't written a book) will be in Brampton for a luncheon today beginning at 12:30 and running until 1:15 p.m.

The "stand up" lunch will be held at the Trattoria Via Veneto restaurant in Brampton at

21 Queen Street East in the Four Corners area of town. Lunch will cost one dollar and include sandwiches and coffee.

NDP candidate was busy last week conducting his after-hours campaign as he is still busy with a full time job. Mr. Moulton held a campaign kick off party Saturday night in Brampton and has been spending much of his time meeting with interested groups, the media and campaign strategists.

He will begin campaigning in high gear this week as he begins his leave of absence from work on Friday.

The PC's John McDermid spent much of yesterday in Georgetown canvassing at the GO station and numerous households throughout town. He also spoke to Georgetown and District Secondary School students yesterday.



MILNE OPENS OFFICE

Brampton-Georgetown Liberal candidate Ross Milne was joined by fellow Liberals and other well-wishers Monday when he cut the ribbon to officially open his campaign office in the Guelphview Square, which will be managed for him by Alice Walker. On hand for the occasion were Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed and former MP Rud Whiting, as well as Mr. Milne's campaign manager Lynn Callahan.

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Region budget approval today?

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Halton regional council is expected to approve its 1979 operating budget, reflecting a six per cent increase over last year, at a special meeting today (Wednesday).

The draft budget was recommended for approval two weeks ago by the region's administration and finance committee and carries an average impact of six per cent throughout the region. The overall levy increase is expected to average 10 per cent, an amount that will be offset somewhat by increased assessment estimated to represent about four per cent of the budget.

Based on a six per cent budget hike, the mill rate in Acton would increase by approximately 1.2 mills for regional purposes, by 1.01 mills in Georgetown and 1.65 million in Milton. Oakville faces a 1.2 mill increase, while Burlington's would rise 1.35 mills.

HOME RANGE

Tax increases would range from about \$7 in Georgetown to about \$12 in Milton for an average home.

Since the committee meeting March 28, Halton's public works director Bob Moore has

agreed to find alternate funding for one road construction item, thus reducing the budget for that area by \$500,000, as requested by the committee. The deleted project will be financed out of reserve funds.

The Halton Children's Aid Society will be asked by its executive director to chop \$65,000 from its own 1979 budget. That amount is included in the Society's child abuse prevention program and represents an overall cost to the region of \$13,000 once provincial government subsidies have been counted.

In accordance with the committee's further wishes, another \$135,000 has been trimmed from other areas of the regional budget. Regional treasurer Don Farmer discovered that regional health care programs which are fully funded by the province have been "underappraised" this year, leaving extra cash available for other projects.

"Each committee has done a great deal of work to review each department's budget," regional chairman Jack Raftis commented last week. "The budget now meets the guidelines laid down by the administration and finance committee."

Parking problems plague council

Illegal parking in Georgetown became a major topic of conversation at Monday night's general committee meeting after two councillors identified problems in three different areas.

Coun. John McDonald once again responded to phone calls from Ward 3 ratepayers, this time describing a parking situation on Dufferin Street, a dead-end road off Temple Road. As in a similar circumstance on John Street discussed the week before, Coun. McDonald said there are cars parked along both sides of the residential road, creating turning problems for through traffic and access problems for residents.

Town engineer Bob Austin agreed to investigate the situation and to check with the Halton regional police to ascertain whether parked cars can

be towed away from the scene. Coun. McDonald pointed out that some residents who called him about the problem do not see towing as a fair solution.

Coun. Harry Levy asked Mr. Austin whether any steps had been taken to alleviate two parking problems he had previously raised before council. He was told that the problem of cars parked on boulevard medians had been brought to the attention of police and acknowledged that there has "been some improvement."

The other area of concern involved cars parked in designated fire routes along the curbside of the Georgetown Market in front of the stores. Coun. Levy complained that there has been no change in the situation, but was assured by clerk-administrator Ken Richardson that a report on the situation and alternative solutions will be forthcoming.

HALTON HILLS CENSUS

The population of Halton Hills has grown from 31,041 in 1971 to 34,477 in 1976 according to a 1976 census study done by Statistics Canada.

Men outnumbered women 17,540 to 16,935. There were 8,925 families with an average of 3.6 people per family and 1.6 children per family.

The male labor force of 10,245 had an unemployment rate of 2.8 per cent and the female labor force of 5,870 an unemployment rate of 7.9 per cent.