

Election 79

Acton voters have 6 choices

Halton candidates discuss issues

By JOHN BOTTOMLEY Herald special

Halton voters face an election choice of six candidates in the campaign including two incumbents.

Liberal Frank Philbrook won riding in 1974, while Progressive Conservative Otto Jelinek was the sitting member for High Park in Toronto until redistribution erased his riding.

New to the election race this year are Doug Black, NDP, Robert Ritchie, Independent, Charles Shrybman, Marxist-Leninist and Karen Selick, Libertarian.

Dr. Philbrook has stressed throughout his campaign that the Canadian economy is not in the terrible condition which other parties are giving it credit for.

"Canada without question, in the difficult times of the 70s has done very well," he points out. "Canada has the best record in creating jobs, despite what he calls the 'paradox of high unemployment'."

Dr. Philbrook credited the Liberal government's shoe import policy for a 400 per cent increase in the work force in Beardmore's, the town's largest employer.

UNITY QUESTION The economy is linked to the problem of national unity, in Dr. Philbrook's opinion. He places the unity question first in his list of priorities.

"To achieve national unity we must have a strong central government...now is the time to stop acting as 10 countries and start acting as one effective one."

In order to keep Canada

united a government must have strong representation in Quebec, he says, while admitting national unity involves more than just Quebec. "We do a good co-operative movement between Ottawa and the provinces."

Conservative Otto Jelinek agrees that a strong economy and national unity go hand in hand, but does not believe the Liberals under Pierre Trudeau can achieve either.

"It's strange, Trudeau talks about it (national unity) but doesn't tell us what he's going to do. He yells at everybody, puts French against English, East against West and poor against rich."

BILINGUALISM Mr. Jelinek blames the Liberal's preoccupation with policies like bilingualism for what he describes as Mr. Trudeau's failure to deal with the economy.

The Conservatives "have come up with programs which, by providing incentives to business, will return Canada to the system it was built on, according to Mr. Jelinek."

The party will cut government spending, reduce the civil service through sunset laws, and eliminate loans to places like Cuba and Uganda, he said. "The Liberals have borrowed from the United States at 12 per cent and loaned the money to Pakistan interest free."

Mr. Jelinek responds to suggestions he has been parachuted into Halton riding by reminding voters he has lived and operated a business in Oakville since 1962. "If

anything, I was parachuted into High Park."

Doug Black, a 33-year-old lawyer from Oakville, says the race is one between Mr. Jelinek and himself. "Nobody's voting Liberal. Where is that substantial block of votes going to go?"

The Tories, he says, have a base of 25 per cent of the vote, while he feels the NDP controls 20 per cent.

UNDECIDED VOTE Mr. Black is counting on the undecided vote swinging in his favor. He says the Liberals and Conservatives are two sides of the same coin, and hopes voters will agree with him when voting time comes and go with the NDP.

Ms. Selick is fighting a campaign based entirely on the economy. The twin issues in the election are inflation and unemployment, he says.

A fair prices commission has been proposed by the NDP to deal with inflation in the short term. "The fair prices commission is distinct from the AIB because it is not trying to control everything. It will by nature be efficient, low cost, and yet beneficial."

In the long run, Mr. Black believes, inflation and unemployment have the same cause: the exporting of resources at "bargain basement prices" and the importing of manufactured goods. "There is a \$10 billion trade deficit in manufactured goods."

Until we have a government which is committed to re-establishing our manufacturing sector, we're never going to overcome the problems of inflation and unemployment."

LEAST GOVERNMENT Twenty-six year old Karen Selick could not disagree more with the NDP's position that planning and intervention are

solutions to Canada's economic woes. She represents the Libertarian party, which believes with Thomas Jefferson "The government governs best which governs least."

"We are the only party which believes people are intelligent enough to make their own decisions," Ms. Selick says.

According to her figures, taxes add up to 45 per cent of the average Canadian income. "We work from Jan. 1 to June 13 to support the government," she declared, comparing this to the feudal system, where a serf worked only one day a week for his lord.

Ms. Selick would cut taxes drastically, realizing this would mean an equal cut in the budget. To make room for the cuts, she proposed among other things that crown corporations not showing a profit be removed from the budget, to "let stand or fall on their own." There are 59 crown corporations, she said, and only 21 of them are self-supporting.

POSTOFFICE The post office could be opened to private enterprise, she believes, saying "every-time there is a strike, within a week people jump in and deliver."

People are bogged down in red tape, according to Ms. Selick. "At the Bank of Commerce we employ an army of people filling out forms for the government."

The Libertarian party is also opposed to RCMP break ins. Ms. Selick says the Liberals and Conservatives "have shown they don't care."

Because the party has just become a recognized political party in the last five weeks, it has not collected very much creditable donations, and relies on volunteers. Ms. Selick does not say she expects to win

this election, but hopes to let people know there is an alternative.

Robert Ritchie has taken a strict accountant's approach to correcting Canada's weak business climate. He became a registered industrial accountant through McMaster and for 20 years has been self-employed as an accountant, practicing what he is now preaching for Canada to help businesses earn a profit.

FULL STRENGTH Mr. Ritchie has developed a five to seven year program to bring Canadian manufacturing up to full strength, a program which he says is "completely workable."

Among his ideas are plans to reduce interest rates to six per cent for mortgages and eight per cent for business loans. Unemployment and welfare payments should be partially applied with employers' wages, he argues. This would induce hiring for newly created jobs, according to Mr. Ritchie.

Indexed pensions get his approval. "How many people do you know over 65 who can't retire?" By indexing pensions these people will be able to retire with dignity and open jobs for younger people, he

says. A fully Canadian manufactured car is something Mr. Ritchie would work for. "I found it criminal when they dropped Bricklin," he says. "We can wait two years, get American dies and molds and make our own cars."

Mr. Ritchie is optimistic about his chances in the election. "I'm an issues man and I have leadership qualities," he told the Mercury.

The sixth candidate in the Halton riding is Charles Shrybman, running for the Marxist-Leninist party. The Mercury has been unable to contact Mr. Shrybman, who lives in Toronto.

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MNR may open local brickyard

By SIGNE BALL Herald special

The Cheltenham brick yard is one of nine quarry operations the ministry of natural resources is expected to ask the Niagara Escarpment Commission to consider for development approval within the next few weeks.

On April 12 Provincial Resources Development Secretary Rene Brunell announced the government was lifting a six year freeze on new licences for pits and quarries in the Niagara Escarpment.

In a letter also dated April 12 and received by the commission at their regular meeting last week, Minister of Natural Resources James Auld asked the commission to remove the restrictions on one quarrying site outside the development control area in Stoney Creek and to consider applications for two other sites in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Sydenham Township.

SIX SITES "At this time my staff have tentatively identified six other situations where I may request your consideration of a development permit", Mr. Auld said.

He said he would advise the commission of the locations of the additional sites "over the next few weeks, as I have opportunity to review them."

NEC chairman Ivor McMullin told the commission the Cheltenham site would likely be one of the six sites designated.

In lifting the freeze last month, Mr. Brunelle said, a number of aggregate producers are encountering severe difficulties in meeting immediate demands for their product in some areas of the escarpment.

The Cheltenham brick yard, now owned by the ministry of natural resources has been dormant since 1958.

The ministry announced in February it would accept proposals for the redevelopment of the 245 acre Cheltenham site which is estimated to contain in excess of 35 million tons of good quality Queenston shale suitable for brick or tile manufacturing.

NEW BOUNDARIES However, in April the ministry said the request for proposals had been premature due to a misunderstanding between NEC and the ministry concerning the boundary for

the Pits and Quarries Restrictive Zone.

Several commission members expressed concern that the ministry was seeking the commission's approval merely as a formality.

The government appears determined to allow the development of certain pits and any objections the commission might have could be overruled by the Minister of Housing as in the case of the Cantrakon Conference Centre in Caledon the members suggested.

Mr. McMullin said the members concerns were premature.

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