



## MOVE OVER, TRAVOLTA

Who says the life of a politician is all work and no play? Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed and Mayor Pete Pomeroy were at Jake's Disco Friday evening to support the 29-hour dance-a-thon sponsored by the disco and by Boynton Studios to

raise money for a fetal heart monitor for the hospital. Mr. Reed and Mayor Pomeroy took time out from watching the proceedings to do a little "bumping" of their own. (Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

# McDermid takes foes to task for defeat of Conservatives

By PAUL BARKER  
 Herald Special  
 Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid has challenged his Liberal and New Democratic opponents to justify their parties' decision to bring down the Progressive Conservative government after only seven months of trying to do what he said the Liberals failed to do in 11 years.

**Milne, Moulton nominated;  
 Halton candidates confirmed;  
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Mr. McDermid's fiery, 20-minute acceptance speech followed his anticipated and uncontested nomination

Thursday as the riding's Conservative candidate in the February 18 election. Deputy Prime Minister Walter Baker

headed a lengthy list of party members and supporters who filled the auditorium at Brampton's Central Peel Secondary School for the nomination meeting.

"The Progressive Conservatives were elected on May 22 to do a job, to develop the foundation of Canada's growth into the 1990s," Mr. McDermid told supporters.

"Well, we hardly had the bulldozers on the lot to dig that foundation - as a matter of fact, we had just received the architects' drawings - when the unholy alliance of Liberals led by Trudeau and the NDP socialists thought they would be smart and stop the government before it had a chance to prove it was on the right track."

Mr. McDermid issued a warning to his two major opponents in the riding - former Liberal MP Ross Milne and New Democrat David Moulton - saying the "battle has begun."

The opposition parties, by forcing a federal election, have subjected the country to an unnecessary and unwarranted mid-winter campaign, he said.

While Liberals and New Democrats criticize the Tory energy policy, particularly the 18 cents a gallon gas hike, the Brampton-Georgetown MP staunchly defended his party's decision.

"The Clark government moved the nation towards the most comprehensive energy self-sufficiency program in our history. Our goal is clear - to move Canada rapidly away from dependence on oil imports and towards a goal of self-sufficiency by 1990."

The 18-cent excise tax presented in last month's federal budget was introduced, he said, to make up the \$2 billion paid for imported oil.

Saying he loved his job and wants to return to Parliament Hill, the 39-year-old candidate accused the opposition parties of being "opportunists."

"The work of Parliament was disrupted by a group of opportunists who saw a government effecting much-needed parliamentary reform, saw a government open and honest with the Canadian

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# Confusion continues over conflicts of interest

By RICHARD PETRASHEK  
 Herald staff writer  
 Continuing confusion and frustration among town councillors as to what does and does not constitute a conflict of interest has prompted the town's general committee to request town solicitor Ray Steele to report on possible inequities of the Municipal Conflicts of Interest Act.

The decision was made Monday after a lengthy discussion on the rash of conflict of interest declarations that have followed a December debate over the proposed Chapel Street School rest home.

Magnus Paulson, rest home consultant, suggested council members should read the Municipal Conflicts of Interest Act, but gave no further explanation.

In response to Mr. Paulson's suggestion, Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Coun. Roy Booth and Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, who are all members of the Georgetown Memorial Hospital Board, declared conflicts of interest in the rest home proposal.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
 Coun. Booth raised the subject of conflicts at Monday's meeting in a recommendation suggesting that apparent problems with the act should be brought to the attention of Ontario's Attorney General for clarification.

Coun. Booth recalled that, at a council meeting just prior to Christmas, he made a point of declaring a possible conflict of interest on at least six items related to various boards and committees on which he serves.

"This was done, as you know, to point out a problem, and I have no intention of continuing this ridiculous practice, as I can foresee an administrative nightmare for the mayor, council and staff, and in my opinion, the very purpose of appointing council members to various boards and committees is being abrogated by the solicitor's suggested strict interpretation of the act," he said.

Coun. Booth pointed out several examples of action previously taken by council members and asked Mr. Steele whether or not they constituted conflicts of interest.

"The legion made a request for a parade route for Remem-

brance Day last year," Coun. Booth said. "Now, Mayor Pomeroy and I are both members of the Legion. Does that mean there was a conflict?"

Mr. Steele responded that, technically speaking, it probably did.

Coun. Booth then asked about the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Christmas bus service, which had been brought before council last

fall.

CHAMBER MEMBERS  
 "Some council members are also members of the chamber; would that constitute a conflict for them?" he asked.

"If it was a formal request from the chamber, then the answer is yes," Mr. Steele replied.

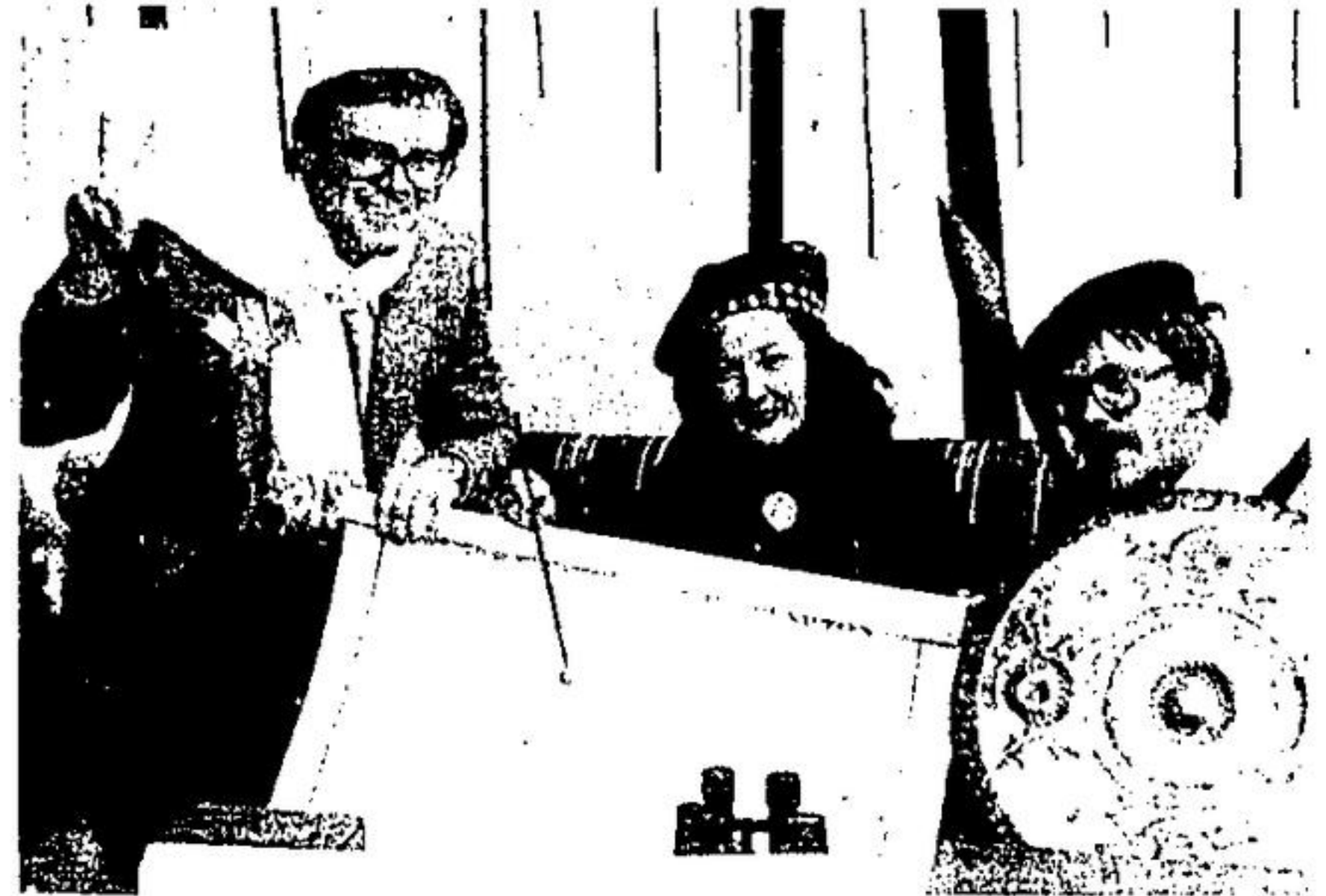
Coun. Booth pointed out three other examples and Mr. Steele indicated that, in two of

them, a conflict did exist.

"Mr. Steele has answered my concerns, but that does not clarify anything," Coun. Booth commented. "It's clear to me that we should declare a conflict on damn near everything."

"Short of having Mr. Steele at every meeting, I don't know how we can deal with it."

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## LIBERAL ARMY ON THE MARCH

Although Liberal organizers David Chapman (left), Dolly Moulden and Bob Samsing had plenty of fun mocking up a picture depicting their battle plans for the coming election, they are deadly serious about seeing their candidate, Oakville lawyer Bill Perras, sweep North Halton February 18. They intend to mount a telephone campaign from five separate "command posts" which will give voters easier access to information both on Liberal party policy and on Perras' views on the issues and his commitment to Halton.

(Herald photo)

# Trial date postponed for Dominion trio

A preliminary hearing to set a trial date for three Acton men charged with murder in the Dominion Hotel fire has been postponed for the second time.

was postponed, however, until January 21. The three men first appeared in court January 7.

Mr. Mercuri was released on \$50,000 bail following a bail hearing in Toronto January 7. Mr. Cripps was released on \$3,500 bail. Mr. McCrystal, who is still in custody in Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre, was not represented by a lawyer at that time and no application for bail had been made on his behalf by his lawyer.

The setting of the trial date

He is now being represented

by S. Smith.  
 The Dominion Hotel fire, which occurred during the night of August 18, completely gutted the century-old structure. Howard Gibbons, a permanent resident at the hotel, was missing at the height of fire, and firefighters found his body in the wreckage late the following afternoon.

Mr. Mercuri, Mr. Cripps and Mr. McCrystal were charged following a four-month-long joint investigation by Halton Regional Police and the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

# Pneumonia claims a fighter: struggle ends for Christopher



Christopher King and his mother Linda in a Herald photograph taken early last September.

Christopher William King, the Georgetown infant who was the subject of last summer's Herald articles concerning the availability of government funding for his oxygen supply, died in Toronto Sick Children's Hospital Thursday afternoon. He was 18 months old.

Christopher was born with respiratory distress syndrome and lived in the Hospital for Sick Children until August. He developed pneumonia during his regular check-up at the hospital early this month and remained in hospital.

He is survived by his parents, Bill and Linda King of Maple Avenue, his sister Laura, 5, and grandparents Olive MacLeod and Rod and Evy King, all of Georgetown.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon from the McKillop-Coates Funeral Home in Brampton with interment following in Glendale Memorial Gardens.

Christopher's long-awaited arrival in Georgetown following 13 months of protective care at Sick Children's Hospital late last August was welcomed with joy and relief by his family, but conflicting reports from the Ontario ministry of health concerning the availability of homecare funding left Christopher's parents facing annual costs of more than \$10,000 to keep their child supplied with oxygen for the initial few years of life.

A number of local residents had already responded to The Herald's August 22 story on the King's financial predicament by launching fund-raising drives when the ministry of health clarified the situation the following week. Ontario Liberal leader Stuart Smith, who contacted this newspaper personally after learning of the problem, remained dubious about the availability of sufficient funds, despite ministry assurances that there had been no policy change prompted by the King case.



## SLUGFEST AT ALCOTT

A full scale fight, involving players, management and spectators of the Gems and Dixie Bee Hives, erupted near the end of the second period of their Sunday night game sending two Gemini hockey club members to hospital. Right-winger Steve Crossman and trainer Bob 'Zeke' McCandless were treated and released from hospital that night. The fight began as a carry-over from an on-ice fight between Crossman and Dixie goaltender Bob Hughson. (The game was stopped with the score 2-2). Here Captain Bob McCandless tries to break up or aid teammate Andy Broadbent with Dixie Keith Henderson. For more details, see page 27 of Sports Week.

(Herald photo)