

Brampton-Georgetown cliffhanger

Tight race sees two victory speeches



Brampton-Georgetown election winner John McDermid takes a moment's break with wife Elaine from the pressures of a very close race against Liberal candidate Ross Milne. (Herald photo by Paul Dorsey)

By PAUL DORSEY
 Herald Editor
 A long evening of contradictory tallies and confusing reports ended in Brampton early Tuesday morning with re-elected Progressive Conservative MP John McDermid crediting Georgetown voters - including two Halton Hills politicians he singled out in the crowd - for his return to office by a scant 300-vote margin.

Not only did Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy and regional Coun. Mike Armstrong come in for some special attention from the jubilant MP, but Jim McCaig, the Maple Avenue resident who died following his collapse at an all-candidates meeting last week, was recognized by Mr. McDermid as a personal motivating force in the campaign's final days.

The official results released later Tuesday placed Mr. McDermid 367 votes ahead of Mr. Milne with a total of 25,243 votes or 40.45 per cent of the popular vote. Liberal Milne captured 24,876 votes or 39.86 per cent and New Democrat David Moulton claimed 11,978 votes or 19.19 per cent.

Communist Jim Bridgwood mustered 64 votes across the riding, compared with 40 for Marxist-Leninist Marsha Fine and 201 for Libertarian Joe Yundt.

J.A.M. CALL
 Following a 1 a.m. phone call from the office of district returning officer Judith McArthur, Mr. McDermid revealed to supporters, many of them consoling themselves in apparent defeat, that the Conservatives had in fact held onto Brampton-Georgetown riding by a margin of some 357 votes over second runner-up, Liberal Ross Milne.

Fluctuating returns throughout the evening and major discrepancies in unofficial final results saw both Liberal and Conservative candidates claim victory at their respective post-election celebrations.

Assured by supporters that he held a 178-vote victory margin of his own over the Conservative incumbent, Liberal Ross Milne accepted the congratulations of New Democratic Party candidate David Moulton at approxi-

mately 11:30 p.m. Mr. Moulton, encountering his second federal election defeat, was welcomed warmly and congratulated courteously by Liberal supporters during his brief visit to their celebration at Carl's Catering in Brampton.

An hour later at the Conservatives' Brampton Golf Club celebration, however, Mr. McDermid acknowledged his own apparent victory in the close-fought race after speaking by phone with the returning officer, who admitted there was a discrepancy of some 1,100 votes in the final tallies. The final - but still unofficial - result, the Conservatives learned, gave their incumbent a 367-vote victory margin.

FLABBIATE PRAISE
 While Georgetown's Conservative supporters came in for some elaborate praise from Mr. McDermid, Mayor Pomeroy and Coun. Armstrong were singled out as "municipal politicians who aren't afraid of standing up for the majority".

Although Brampton Mayor Leo Arehdekin visited him briefly earlier that evening, Mr. McDermid said, Mayor Pomeroy had by contrast gone out "hanging on doors".

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"We want Georgetown!" Mr. McDermid proclaimed in thanking supporters in the community that constituted his most supportive single canvassing area.

"Thank God for Georgetown," a McDermid fan echoed from the crowd, "cause Brampton let 'em down."

Punctuating his more serious remarks with humorous jibes and anecdotes, Mr. McDermid quieted the noisy supporters, shouting "Shut up, will you; I'm in the Opposition now."

The mood was sombre, however, when the MP reminded his audience of Jim McCaig's sudden death the week previous.

"I had a word with the widow of Jimmy McCaig, who spoke to me before the meeting at which he passed away, Friday night at the funeral," he said. "I told Vi (Mr. McCaig's wife Viola) that I'm going to win this election in Jimmy's memory."

Other Georgetown faithful, including Ab Tennant, president of the Georgetown PC Association, Lois Elliott and Fran Baines, president of the Brampton-Georgetown PC Association, were mentioned in Mr. McDermid's victory speech.

Mrs. Baines, the MP noted, had acted as volunteer resource chairman for four area ridings, three of which saw Conservatives re-elected Monday night in Halton, Brampton-Georgetown and Mississauga South. Tory MP Alex Jupp of Mississauga North was the only one of the four defeated.



Halton MP Otto Jelinek receives a congratulatory hug from his wife, Leata after retaining his seat. Mr. Jelinek defeated Liberal candidate Bill Perras by 5,000 votes. NDP candidate Doug Black came third, receiving 8,460 votes. Mr. Jelinek promised supporters he would "keep an eye" on the Prime Minister-elect Pierre Trudeau "and his socialist policies". (Herald photo)

PC avoids slump with 5,000 votes

By LORI TAYLOR
 Herald staff writer

Halton Conservative incumbent Otto Jelinek went against the national trend and retained his seat Monday against a determined campaign by Liberal Bill Perras and NDP candidate Doug Black.

Mr. Jelinek received 24,752, while Mr. Perras came second with 19,385 votes. Mr. Black came third with 8,460 votes. Libertarian Karen Selick received 168 votes, independent Robert Ritchie received 144 votes and Marxist-Leninist candidate Charles Shrybman received 18 votes.

In May, Mr. Jelinek defeated incumbent Dr. Frank Philbrook by about 10,000 votes, twice the margin of this election. Mr. Jelinek received 26,929 votes in May, Dr. Philbrook received 17,154 votes and Mr. Black received 7,864.

The Conservatives' share of the popular vote reflected the figures nationally, as Mr. Jelinek dropped from 54 per cent last May to 47 per cent. Mr. Perras and the Liberals gained four per cent, while the New Democrats gained about one per cent.

The election turn-out is esti-

mated at 76 per cent of the eligible voters, down about four per cent from last May.

Both Liberal and Conservative supporters had mixed emotions as the results came in. The Liberals were able to cheer for the party's sweep of the polls, even though their candidate was defeated. In the Conservative campaign headquarters, Mr. Jelinek's supporters cheered their candidate's victory, but the overall mood was grim as the Conservatives lost 36 of the 136 seats they won last May.

Doug Black's supporters had a shining moment early on in the proceedings, when, thanks to a computer error, the results on CHCH-TV, channel 11 in Hamilton, had Mr. Black leading the Liberals by 2,000 votes, and the Liberals leading the Conservatives by about 100 votes. The computer announced at about 8:45 p.m. that Mr. Black had 11,404 votes, when the actual number was 1,404. The error was corrected about 20 minutes later.

Mr. Jelinek told supporters that he and his colleagues in the opposition will "keep an eye" on Prime Minister-elect

Trudeau "and his socialist policies". He attributed his own victory in Halton to a well-organized committee, and to his reputation for hard work on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Jelinek represented a Toronto riding until it was split up in re-distribution prior to the May election. At that time, he returned to his home riding of Halton and faced off against Liberal incumbent Dr. Frank Philbrook.

Mr. Perras told supporters in his Milton headquarters that Monday night was "a great night to be a Liberal" and announced his intention of running again. He said he will be spending "the next four or five years" getting himself better known around the riding.

Mr. Black said it was too soon yet to make a decision on whether or not he will run again. He said he is "very tired" after fighting two elections in ten months.

Mr. Black said Canada will be the loser as a result of this election, and predicted that the Liberals will bring back wage and price controls within a year.

Rec office moves from arena

Tom Shepherd, who moved in as the town's recreation and parks director two months ago, will be moving his entire department from Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena in Georgetown to the old ambulance building.

Town council decided after vigorous debate Monday evening to make an immediate allocation of \$10,000 from its 1980 budget to finance the move.

The town's clerk-administrator, Ken Richardson, said making the move now, rather than after the 1980 budget has been approved, allows the town to transform the area

presently occupied by the recreation department, above the arena, into kitchen facilities that can be a revenue-generating feature for the arena. Coun. Harry Levy said he

POLICE HQ PLANS

The Halton Regional Police Commission will be hearing submissions from architects on their proposals for the new police building in Georgetown at the next commission meeting February 28.

The commission has acquired a site in front of Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena on Guelph Street from Halton Hills Council. The new building will be the headquarters for District 1, which includes Milton, Acton and Georgetown.

The Georgetown detachment is now stationed in a building on Mill Street which the commission has leased from Paradise Investments.

was concerned that if council approved the immediate allocation, a \$5,000 budget allocation for alterations to the arena might also be requested before the budget has been approved.

"I'm just voting against approving it prior to budget approval," Coun. Levy explained, indicating that he was not against the relocation itself.

Coun. Roy Booth said he was concerned that moving into the ambulance building might be disruptive to the Red Cross and Georgetown Little Theatre, which use the building for storage.



GLT's latest production "Separate Tables" debuts this Saturday at Sacre Coeur Hall.

GEORGETOWN'S CULTURAL EXPLOSION



Standing in for Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Coun. John McDonald (left) officially opened a three-week retrospective exhibition at Georgetown's Gallery House Sol recounting the illustrious career of local painter Frank Black, seen here with wife Lillian receiving a certificate of merit proclaiming the town's appreciation for his contribution to the community's cultural heritage. Coun. McDonald recalled his first meeting with Mr. Black more than 20 years ago, when the artist approached his parents in the hope of renting their Dolly Varden barn for use as a studio. (Herald photo)



Attaining new heights of virtuosity, the Georgetown Choral Society's joint concert with the Oakville Symphony Orchestra Sunday evening in Holy Cross Church treated a capacity audience to a flawless recital of Beethoven's Mass in C Major. Halton Hills Arts Council columnist Enid Williams shares her thoughts on the two groups' second co-operative venture inside this week's Herald.