



Brampton-Georgetown's former Liberal MP Ross Milne still ponders the possibility of reclaiming his House of Commons seat from Conservative incumbent John McDermid when the prime minister calls another federal election, but in the meantime, he's keeping busy with his job at TransCanada Pipeline and recently helped out friend and supporter Bob Callahan, Brampton's Liberal candidate in the March 19 provincial election. Mr. Milne is seen in the inset during a former campaign visit by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

What's our ex-MP up to?

Nice guy Ross out but not down

By BOB THOMPSON
Herald Special

Nice guys don't necessarily finish last, sometimes they finish second.

Ross Milne, a tallish version of a nice guy, managed that feat twice in federal elections after serving Brampton as a Liberal MP for five years from 1974 to 1979.

He lost to Progressive Conservative upstart John McDermid in '79 by more than 8,000 votes during the Joe Clark assault and barely missed returning to office in '80 after the Tory prime minister's return to opposition politics.

Mr. McDermid edged him out by a scant 360 votes after the ballots were counted last winter. Nice guy, indeed.

DIGNITY
"Win with grace and lose with dignity, no sense being bitter about it," Mr. Milne says more than a year after the polls, the canvassers and the party organizers had guaranteed a Liberal return to Brampton-Georgetown.

And he's not bitter. Disappointed maybe, but Mr. Milne doesn't have time to be bitter. His executive position with TransCanada Pipeline, his successful election as president of the Ontario Liberal party and certainly his assistance to friend, ally and political pal Bob Callahan, keep him hopping.

Nice guy Milne has been knocked down but not out. Sitting on a chair in his comfortable home on Richmond Drive, the 46-year-old father of three, smiles when asked about the possibility of returning to politics federally. "A lot can happen," Mr. Milne says, and probably will, when Prime Minister Pierre

Trudeau sees fit to call another election.

INVOLVED
In the meantime, Mr. Milne insists, "I've kept myself involved in local politics through the local riding association and my administration responsibility in the federal wing of the provincial Liberal party keeps me busy."

When Liberal candidate Callahan calls Mr. Milne for help in preparation for the March 19 provincial election, he comes running. He needs the action.

"I miss the excitement of the occasion," Mr. Milne confides about life as an MP. "There wasn't very much I didn't like about it."

He remembers the withdrawal from four years of Ottawa power when some constituents "thought you spent most of the afternoon chatting with the Prime Minister". He recalls the hard work, the long hours, the reports and the physically demanding schedule and, ultimately, the disappointment of being caught in the ground swell of voters' Liberal negativism in the late '70s.

REACTION
"The people's natural reaction was to point the finger at the government but the government had to react," Mr. Milne says of Liberal government measures then.

"I'd go to somebody's house with two cars in the driveway, having scotch around the swimming pool and they would be in a huff and I'd say, 'You're doing well, so what is there to complain about?'" And they'd say, "That's not the point, we should be doing better."

When Mr. Milne was defeat-

ed first in '79 and again the next year, the sobering thought of employment struck him hard.

JOB GONE
He had been an environmental specialist with Ontario Hydro

before his successful plunge into politics in 1974. The position was long gone.

With his master's degree and a little help from his friends, Mr. Milne latched onto a job with Trans Canada

Pipeline last year, a Liberal government project that rejects and approves the distribution of fuel products from western Canada.

"I was fortunate to find the job," Mr. Milne contends. "People always have the impression companies are lined up on Parliament Hill, throwing money at you when you leave but it doesn't happen."

COMFORTABLE
He's comfortable with his duties now as the pipeline's man responsible to investigate environmental impact of construction areas.

But there's still a twinkle in his eyes when he talks politics, especially Liberal politics.

He even manages cautious enthusiasm when discussing Callahan's campaign provincially, which amounts to heckling at an invisible but too powerful Premier Bill Davis. Mr. Milne sees his Liberal comrade as providing a valuable service, a frustrating one, but valuable nonetheless.

"If you only ran when you thought chances were 50-50 to win, our democratic system wouldn't last very long," he says.

Our Myles grand master of the grapes

The Herald's own Myles Gilson was declared Club Champion in the Georgetown Vintner's Club annual wine competition Sunday.

The composing shop veteran entered the best wines in three of the ten judging categories - dry aperitif, dessert and dry social - to claim top honors. The wines were tasted by an expert judge from the Amateur Winemakers of Ontario at a special judging session held at the Erin home of club members Jim and Yvette Justice.

Dave McEwen won in two categories - red table and after-dinner wines - while Hugh Webb produced the club's best white table wine, Peter Philpott the best rose, Les Smith the best sweet social, Brian Robinson the best Niagara wine and host Jim Justice the best cider.

The best of the Georgetown club's produce will again be judged for Ontario-wide status at an amateur winemaking competition set for May.

If you're interested in joining the club, contact president Brian Robinson or secretary Peter Philpott in Georgetown.

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Council extends vacations as reward for veterans

People on the town's payroll will likely get improved vacation schedules if council passes a general committee recommendation proposed Monday night.

Non-contractual employees not serving as department heads or in a supervisory role will now get four weeks' vacation after 12 years of service, instead of 15 years under the previous plan drafted in 1977. After 25 years, employees are eligible for six weeks' paid vacation.

Supervisors get four weeks off after 10 years of service, compared to the 12-year wait for similar benefits under the outgoing scheme. After 17 years, they'll qualify for five weeks of vacation time and six weeks when they reach their 25th year of service.

Department heads maintain much the same vacation benefits as outlined in the 1977 schedule, except that they are eligible for a sixth week of vacation after 25 years of service.

Cable TV listings

- Thurs. April 16
Halton Region Council
April 15
- Fri. April 17
Basketball - Mackenzie Smith vs W.I. Dick
6:55 Volleyball - G.D.H.S. vs Bramalea
7:35 Rural Fuel Economy
8:30 Sign-Off

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