

McDermid to engineer Joe Clark's attack



JOHN McDERMID

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald staff writer

At least in the Joe Clark camp, workers at the Progressive Conservative party leadership convention in June will be concentrating on the positive point of their candidate, rather than harping on the negative ones of his opponents, John McDermid told The Herald Monday.

The Brampton-Georgetown MP will be organizing and supervising the Clark campaign once it reaches the convention floor in Ottawa.

"The campaign is not nearly as fractious as (the media) likes to make it," Mr. McDermid said. "The odd time there is some worker who takes it upon himself to do something which shouldn't be done."

"Mr. Clark has made it very clear that he'll come down hard on anyone if that's the case. He's cautioned (his workers) to play it very cool."

Mr. McDermid doesn't expect this leadership convention to be dramatically different than previous ones.

TARGET

But unlike the 1976 race in which Mr. Clark assumed the Tory leadership from a then recently retired Robert Stanfield, 1983 candidates have an incumbent as someone to blame for past failures of the party.

"I hope the convention doesn't get into a mud-slinging contest," Mr. McDermid said. "That doesn't do anyone any good. I hope that all the candidates stick to the issues...and that's what I'll encourage Mr. Clark to do."

"All candidates are shooting at Clark; they figure he's the man to beat. And in that context it's a different convention than in 1976."

While Mr. Clark is his pick to win the Tory leadership again, Mr. McDermid acknowledged that other candidates are doing a good job of securing support, at least for the moment, from delegates.

"Mr. Clark is a superbly organized man," he said. "And he's doing very well at selling memberships and getting support. Mr. Mulroney is doing well in Quebec and other candidates are doing well to a lesser extent."

"That's the way the system works, but it doesn't mean those delegates can't be swung the other way later on. I

would hope that most of the delegates going to the convention go with an open mind and choose the best person for the job."

CLARK SUPPORT

"I'm supporting Mr. Clark. He's got the ability to handle not only the party but the country and I feel very, very strongly that he's the ideal candidate."

Mr. McDermid added that he would not want the party lead by somebody who has not held a seat in the House of Commons.

"We have those (candidates) who have been elected to Parliament, those who have tried to be elected and weren't that are running and there are those who have never run for elected office in their lives who think that all

they have to do is win the leadership convention to be Prime Minister," Mr. McDermid commented. "It's just not that easy."

Mr. Clarke, he said, has "conquered the language problem" to become bilingual and brought the party from a low in the polls of nine per cent to 36 per cent in Quebec.

"That's just done by hard work and showing a genuine interest in that province," Mr. McDermid said.

In the Brampton-Georgetown riding, the majority of phone calls and letters he has received are in support of Mr. Clark, Mr. McDermid added.

Meanwhile, the Clark Camp will run what Mr. McDermid described as a "frugal" campaign on the convention floor.

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DIMPLES AND DONUTS

Tom Ollivier, 5, (front) and David Boere, 6 eye the counter with hungry glances at Tim Horton Donuts last Thursday evening. The 4th Georgetown 'A' Colony Beavers from St. Andrews were on a field trip to see how donuts are made. Thanks to owners Jim and Faye Walkers, the boys were also treated to some free samples. (Herald photo)

'Pared until it hurts'

Town taxes rise an average 6.5%

Having "pared until it hurts, and then pared some more", town council Monday night passed a 1983 budget which will raise the Halton Hills portion of the average tax bill by about 6.5 per cent.

It will work with an operating budget of \$3,440,632 this year, about \$134,790 or 1.6 per cent more than it had last year.

Including \$1,259,471 drawn from the operating budget, this year's capital budget totals \$2,508,529.

With the town divided into four assessment areas—Esqueping, Acton, Georgetown and part of the former town of Oakville—the effect of this year's budget on residents varies.

RESIDENTS IN THE ACTON AND GEORGETOWN URBAN AREAS will face slightly higher tax increases because of urban service area charges for such things as streetlighting, crossing guards and garbage collection.

URBAN INCREASES

For an average Acton home assessed at \$4,482, taxes would rise from \$261 in 1982 to \$280.84, a 7.4 per cent increase.

There's a similar increase for the average Georgetown home assessed at \$5,617. Taxes would rise \$19.43 from \$261.42 last year to \$280.85.

Without the urban service area charges, the average Esqueping home assessed at \$4,621 would rise from \$216.26 to \$228.63 or about 5.8 per cent. An average home assessed at \$5,557 in the former town of Oakville (a strip of land between Steeles Avenue and Highway 401), taxes will rise about \$12.12, or from \$216.61 to \$228.73.

Urban service area charges make up the largest increase in the operating budget. Largely because of the establishment of a garbage transfer station in Georgetown, costs have risen 20 per cent, from \$552,788 to \$666,804.

The town added about \$114,600 for the Armstrong Avenue station where Halton Hills garbage collectors have been taking waste since the Oakville landfill site was

closed in December. Garbage is specially compacted and trucked by a private firm to the region's remaining

garbage dump in Burlington.

Town treasurer Ray King noted that while the town is paying for the transfer station, there are cost savings in gas and truck maintenance because of the shorter distances travelled by town garbage collectors who used to make the trip to Oakville.

BUDGET CUTS

Under the town's general government account, \$119,607 was trimmed from last year's \$1,301,020 budget, or a 9.1 per cent decrease. About 12 per cent was also dropped from the planning and development account.

While the planning budget was to have been \$243,117 (down from \$280,846 last year), council later Monday night agreed to add \$10,000 to pay for consultants' fees

as the town's official plan covers social and family services, including grants to senior citizens' groups and the operation of the ActiVan transit system for physically handicapped residents.

About \$2,700 will be spent in Esqueping hamlets, (Norval, Stewarttown, Glen Williams and Limehouse) for streetlighting improvements.

BIA FUNDS

While the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) will continue to levy a special fund-raising tax on their members, the town has chipped in \$55,000 for various improvement projects.

Budget committee chief Ross Knechtel praised staff for keeping department budget expectations low when the review and cutting process began

is scrutinized by a number of agencies.

The largest budget increase, aside from the urban services charges,

several months ago.

His predecessor, Coun. Harry Levy, commenting earlier on a request from the library board for more funds, said that the committee "pared until it hurts and then pared again". Coun. Knechtel paid special tribute to the volunteer fire department, without which he said, the town would face a substantially larger tax increase.

CHANGE ATTITUDE

Working to bring this year's budget down was extremely difficult, Mayor Pete Pomeroy said, adding that he expects the process to worsen next year.

The town's cash flow has slowed to a trickle because there has been virtually no assessment growth since 1974, he said.

Mayor Pomeroy advised councillors to encourage new growth and shelve attitudes that development is bad. He warned against viewing development proposals parochially.

"The issue is bigger than a few biased interests," he said. "We need help not hindrances."

Councillors agree to review policy

Parents challenge health clinics

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Halton is undermining the teaching role of parents and endangering society itself by making available contraceptives to teenagers under the age of 16, regional councillors were told last week.

For about two hours, four people who had asked to speak directly to council, expressed concern about the region's eight-year old policy of providing sex counselling and even contraceptives under certain conditions to minors.

Councillors agreed to review the policy in depth when the health and social services committee surveys all of its policies later in the year.

One couple, Burlington's Don and Shirley Pennell, were specially

concerned that birth control pills were being distributed at the region's family planning clinics in Oakville and Burlington.

The pill puts teenagers morally and physically at risk, Mrs. Pennell said, by "drawing them into a permissive lifestyle which could some day deny them a baby".

If the pill is found to harm the teen, Mrs. Pennell suggested the region could find itself liable for damages.

ALLEGATIONS

She also said, as did a letter from a Burlington resident addressed to council, that birth control pills were being distributed by public health nurses, without a physician's endorsement.

Halton's medical officer of health, Dr. Peter Cole, later denied the charge. Birth control

pills, he explained, are given on prescription from a physician and the pill is only one form of contraception discussed at the clinics when people come in for counselling.

Dr. Cole stressed that counsellors encourage teens to talk about their sexual activity with their

parents. But when a teenager, even one who is under 16, is already sexually active, unwilling to talk about sex with his or her parents and wanting some form of contraception, then help is given without parental consent, he added.

This is a provincial

policy which Halton has endorsed, councillors pointed out to the delegations.

MORALITIES

But having readily available contraceptives to young people suggests that "sex is first and foremost for recreational

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Escapes armed man

An Acton woman and her 10-year old son were forced into a vehicle Saturday while in Garden Hill, Ontario (near Port Hope) and she was ordered to drive to Acton by a man possessing a .38 calibre revolver.

A 54-year old Garden Hill resident was charged with unlawful confinement, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace, use of a

firearm while committing an indictable offence and possession of a weapon in a place other than permitted.

The 39-year old woman and her son were in Garden Hill to collect personal property from her former common-law husband. A dispute over other personal property being stored in Acton ensued and the husband forced them into a car

and ordered her to drive to Acton to retrieve the property.

Stopped for gas on Acton's Mill Street East, the woman and her son took the opportunity to escape. She went to the gas station attendant and police were called.

The man was remanded in custody to await a bail hearing in Milton provincial court Monday.

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GLT's 'Deathtrap' has such a sensitive plot that actors won't give away any secrets. Page A10

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The Streetsville Derbys power their way to a four game sweep over the Junior B Georgetown Gems. Page B1

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Acton break-in

Two homes on Acton's Norman Avenue were broken into March 21 both after a basement window was broken. Halton regional police said one home was broken into between 1 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and the second between 2 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.

A foreign coin collection and cash totalling \$1,000 was taken from one home and an unknown quantity of jewellery from the other. Police are investigating the thefts.

Tannery fire

A fire at Heller's Tannery in Acton caused \$2,000 damage to the building structure of the leather manufacturing company, March 24.

The fire department reported the fire was caused by an overhead heater unit in the processing area of the 125 McDonald Blvd. industrial plant.

Nobody was injured. The fire was detected by employees arriving for work at 7:20 a.m.

Erin man injured

An Erin man was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital by ambulance Sunday following

ABOUT THE HILLS

an accident in which he suffered minor injuries. John Gresel was driving north on Trafalgar Road when his car left the roadway and struck a mailbox on the east side.

Out of control, the driver hit the ditch and rolled over to land on the roof. There was \$7,000 damage to the car. The driver was charged with careless driving.

School taxes increase

School taxes will increase an estimated \$39.62 on the average Halton residence assessed at \$7,000, the Halton board of education treasurer announced Monday night.

Stressing the board doesn't set mill rates and it's the municipalities alone which set them, Ron Warren said Halton's average estimated mill rate for 1983 is 88.97. Last year's average mill rate was 83.31.

He told members of the board's finance committee that the increase is 6.66 mills over 1982, which works out to a seven per cent increase in mill rate for 1983 for Halton Hills.



PALMS READY

Getting ready for Palm Sunday meant a lot of weaving work for St. Albans Anglican Church members Saturday. The Glen Williams parish priest Rev. Graham Bland worked alongside Vi Halices and Charlene Hancock, 7, to fashion crosses from fresh awatches of palm leaves. (Herald photo by Anl Pederian)