

EDITORIAL

IN OUR OPINION

Blue tidal wave

Early returns told the story: a blue tidal wave of Tory voters were making their voices heard in greater numbers than in 1958 when Diefenbaker fever swept the nation.

After months of speculation, election results Tuesday night proved that Canadians across the nation wanted a change. Large numbers of undecided voters, that all parties had claimed as their own before Sept. 4 finally climbed aboard a winning PC team.

In the coming months Prime Minister Brian Mulroney must prove to Canadians that he is a responsible, responsive prime minister who will listen to the people despite collecting an awesome majority in the House of Commons.

The new prime minister will have to convince us that we voted for him because we believed in his promises and policies, not just because Canadians felt the government needed a house cleaning.

We believe the Progressive Conservative win will be a positive step for Canada. But it's up to the new government to allay our fears by operating as if they ruled by only a small margin of votes.

Mr. Mulroney proved in the latter stages of his campaign that being smug over his predicted victory can cause ill feelings reminiscent of the Trudeau era.

Canadians want a strong leader, but they want a prime minister that is not arrogant or deceitful.

On the local scene, both PC candidates John McDermid and Otto Jelinek are possible selections for cabinet posts in the new government.

Selection of either one to this high standing would do much to give our area a higher profile and perhaps help us in federal matters such as the VIA train stop in Acton.

We are disappointed over the showing of Halton Liberal candidate Oriena Currie. Her approach to politics was refreshing, honest and she portrayed a personality that emphasized a forthright and hard-working attitude. We hope she does try again as a federal candidate. She is approachable and confident. By contrast we find her PC counterpart Mr. Jelinek both aloft and overconfident.

Brampton-Georgetown Liberal candidate Ross Milne proved in this campaign he was an even match for Mr. McDermid, but the national trend worked against him.

Kevin Flynn made a solid effort for his first time running for the Halton NDP. He was involved, and he earned our respect on the campaign trail.

The Green Party candidates made their mark felt and we hope people will continue to realize their legitimacy in further elections.

One last thought on the election though naive it may be: we hope the PCs can keep the promises they've made to voters - especially over the Acton VIA train stop.

It would be a shame to have a fresh start marred by delays or excuses over policies that were given 'assured' promises.

NDP Flynn urges party to monitor opponent's action

By DAN RALPH
Herald Staff

Kevin Flynn is confident that after four or five years of a Tory Government, the people of Halton will be ready to send a New Democratic Party member to Ottawa to represent them.

Mr. Flynn said he feels he made an impact on the people of the riding, won by Progressive Conservative candidate Otto Jelinek. Liberal Oriena Currie finished second while Flynn ended up third. Green Party candidate Steve Kaasgaard finished fourth in the voting.

For Mr. Jelinek, this will be the third term as Member of Parliament for the Halton riding.

Mr. Flynn urged party followers to keep their eyes on Jelinek, and to monitor his actions.

"Let's keep on Otto", Mr. Flynn said at the party's reception held at the Energy Chemical Workers' hall. "They (the Tories) have fooled the people of Canada, they have pulled the wool over their eyes. Let's keep on them."

"I think once you give the people four or five years of a Tory government the people will think of us again," he said.

This campaign was the first on a federal level for Mr. Flynn, who ran for an alderman position in a municipal election here. He said the party did well all over the nation.

"If you think about where we were in the polls three months ago, I feel we've done well. Despite the Tory majority, the party's (seat) total has remained almost the same," he said.

In 1980, the New Democrats won about 31 seats nationally. This year the party won about 30.

With a solid majority behind Tory leader Brian Mulroney, Mr.

Flynn said he expects the new prime minister to become almost untouchable.

"I don't expect him to be approachable or accountable," Mr. Flynn said. "I absolutely expect the Tory commitment to disappear with the majority."

With this being Mr. Flynn's first federal campaign, he said he will not disappear just because he was not elected. Mr. Flynn said he will work behind the scenes to help the NDP capture the riding.

"I will be a round for a few years," he said. "I will be around until this riding is won by the New Democratic Party."

Back a few months ago the polls indicated the NDP would have trouble holding enough seats to qualify as an official party. But Mr. Flynn said he was never concerned the party would fail and become a thing of the past.

"I think Ed Broadbent (NDP leader) had a fantastic campaign," Mr. Flynn said. "I think

he raised every issue in this campaign that had to be raised."

One reason Mr. Flynn gave for the overwhelming Tory victory was the unhappiness Canadians felt towards former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

"More than anything I think it was anti-Trudeau," he said. "If Trudeau had run, in this election the Liberal Party would have done worse."

With speculation concerning a provincial election this November, Mr. Flynn said he would consider carrying the NDP banner provincially in the riding.

"I would strongly think of it," he said.

Mr. Flynn said he had "an awful lot of fun" campaigning that he has "never been so proud" of the party.

"I think we came of age in this campaign," he added.

As for what he plans to do today, Mr. Flynn said he will sleep in and help move furniture as a result of a recent move.



Brampton-Georgetown New Democratic Party candidate John Deamer gets a double shot of encouragement as Terri Graham (left) and Donna Wynn (right) give him kisses on the cheek. Deamer finished third in the riding behind incumbent and winner John McDermid and runner-up Ross Milne of the Liberal party. (Herald photo)



Oriena Currie manages a smile before the Liberal supporters at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Oakville. The celebrations were not to be and the supporters were invited to the Oakville Liberal headquarters for drinks. (Herald photo)

Can't buck trend: Milne

Herald staff

BRAMPTON — Tuesday at 9:12 p.m. the wife of Brampton-Georgetown Liberal candidate Ross Milne strolled into a sedate crowd and exclaimed "I'm smiling, I'm smiling."

Lorna Milne entered the Brampton Holiday Inn banquet room after the voters had given

Progressive Conservative opponent John McDermid a resounding victory.

The final tally showed that Mr. McDermid had beaten her husband by 24,521 votes.

By 9 o'clock Mr. Milne had conceded defeat and was on his way over to the PC headquarters at Century Gardens in

Tradition helps Georgetown riding

If John McDermid knew Georgetown voters liked him in 1980, he was even more sure of his Georgetown popularity after Tuesday's federal election.

The incumbent was returned to office with a three-to-one vote in his favor by Georgetown's eligible voters. He didn't lose any of the 58 polls in the Georgetown end of the Brampton-Georgetown riding. Brampton voters voted two-to-one in Mr. McDermid's favor.

In 1980, he credited Georgetown voters for his return to office, after winning by a scant 367 votes and 40 per cent of the popular vote.

Why has Mr. McDermid done so well in Georgetown?

According to Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy, it's due to the nature of the town.

Because it hasn't grown very quickly, it's very much a traditional town, and Mr. Pomeroy said "people towns" like Georgetown are often an indicator of the national vote.

He said he "wasn't surprised at all" by the resounding success of Mr. McDermid in Georgetown. During campaigning with the Progressive Conservative candidate, he said it became obvious to him there was a groundswell of support for Mr. McDermid.

"I'd never seen a response like I saw for John, except at the time I ran for mayor (of Halton Hills)," Mr. Pomeroy said. "Almost everybody said yes."

Co-chairman of Mr. McDermid's Georgetown campaign, Tom Hower, attributed the candidate's success to all the time Mr. McDermid spent in Georgetown during the campaign.

"He spent lots of time going door-to-door here," Mr. Hower said.

Town councillor Mike Armstrong said the strong support was due to the fact there isn't a mix of nationalities in Georgetown as in Brampton.

Not discouraged

John Deamer wishes PC incumbent well

By DAN RALPH
Herald Staff

BRAMPTON — The people of Brampton-Georgetown have spoken and John Deamer will accept their selection of a Member of Parliament for the riding.

Deamer, the New Democratic Party's (NDP) candidate in Tuesday's federal election, said he wishes Tory John McDermid all the best in the coming five years. Deamer said that despite finishing third in the riding behind Liberal Ross Milne he has nothing to be ashamed of.

"I hope John does a good job, and I'm sure he will," Deamer said. "I thought we (the NDP) ran a good campaign."

"We have a lot to be encouraged about. A lot of people expected the worst concerning us, but it did not happen."

Deamer and the NDP captured about 18 per cent of the popular vote, but Deamer said he had hoped for a little more.

"I was disappointed because I was hoping for about 18 per cent, but I am not discour-

aged," Deamer said at the NDP's reception hall at the United Auto Workers' hall on Beech Street in Brampton.

"On the whole, I feel the party did well."

One of the factors that hampered the NDP Deamer said was the lack of money and workers. The party budget for this election was around \$20,000 while the allowable amount was about \$53,000.

"I was involved in making signs, printing and delivering leaflets, erecting those signs, mailing letters, all the things candidates usually do not do," Deamer said.

With the Tory landslide occurring all across Canada, Deamer said he was surprised by the turn of events that precipitated the majority of support for the Progressive Conservative party.

"I was really surprised because I thought they had really peaked too early. I guess the people wanted the Liberals out. It seemed to be the way," he said.

The election was Deamer's first. He said

Currie blames recession for Liberal party woes

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

OAKVILLE — "What can I say?" Liberal candidate Oriena Currie acknowledged defeat at approximately 10 p.m. on election night and said those words to the handful of Halton Liberal supporters who were on hand at what was supposed to be the Liberal victory party at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Oakville.

In a brief speech to the loyal supporters Mrs. Currie thanked everyone involved with her campaign and said it was great being part of a team.

She called the campaign "a lot like giving birth", and commented that the Liberal party would be there the next time round.

When asked if she would be representing the Liberal party in Halton during the next election Mrs. Currie asked if she could be given 20 minutes to think about it.

A half hour later Mrs. Currie asked for an hour and 20 minutes to answer and The Herald was unable to obtain the information.

"It depends where and when. I certainly wasn't discouraged," she said.

Liberal party unity and a fresh start are priorities Mrs. Currie sees for Halton.

"I wish it wasn't that big a majority," Mrs. Currie said in a short interview.

She attributed a global recession in which Canadians have been hurting for the PC majority.

"The only way they (the public) can rectify the pain they feel is for a change. I felt pain before and ended up having the wrong tooth pulled," she said.

Campaign manager, Al Wilson said he was disappointed with the election results.

"I would speculate the people wanted a change in government rather than a change in leaders. There have

been so many promises made by the PCs that it would be unrealistic that they could be kept," he said.

Mr. Wilson said that he would be around for the next battle which he cited as the provincial election.

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Despite being defeated in his third try to regain the Brampton-Georgetown seat, Liberal candidate Ross Milne kept up his spirits and waltzed with wife Lorna Tuesday night. (Herald photo)

Election madness



Staff Comment

By ANI PEDIERIAN

The editorial staff of The Herald spent election night covering the ridings of Halton and Brampton-Georgetown. What you will find hereafter is a chronological account of the four reporters' activities election night.

BRAMPTON-GEORGETOWN
2 p.m. — Tuesday — Last minute checks of flashes, cameras, routes, then off for quick nap.

7:45 p.m. — Ross Milne headquarters in Brampton, David Blaney and four workers watch television results waiting for phone results of ridings.

8 p.m. — Eight people show up. PCs sweep Maritimes.

8:40 p.m. — Riding Tory John McDermid sweeps four of five polls.

9 p.m. — Results slow. Only 25 of 400 plus polls accounted for. Mrs. Milne concedes defeat for husband who is doing same at McDermid headquarters.

10 p.m. — Mr. Milne thanks 400 cheering party workers. Crowd subdued.

10:30 p.m. — McDermid camp. Crowd celebrates victory. Premier Bill Davis drops by.

11:30 p.m. — Back at Herald office.

5:30 a.m. — Wednesday — Finish column, do layouts.

—DAVE ROWNEY—
HALTON

10:30 p.m. — Jelinek addresses full house.

10:40 — Currie arrives and congratulates Jelinek.

12:30 a.m. — Wednesday — Drive back. Write. Drink coffee.

7:05 a.m. — Dave wants me to finish. —ROBIN BAKEWELL—
HALTON

7:30 p.m. — Tuesday — NDP headquarters. TV results being watched.

8:12 p.m. — Kevin Flynn arrives to crowd of 35.

9:04 p.m. — Results show PC winning. Flynn second on some ballots.

9:58 p.m. — Flynn thanks 70 workers, says after four years of Tories, will be time for the NDP.

BRAMPTON-GEORGETOWN
11:18 p.m. — NDP headquarters. John Deamer surprised at Tory momentum. Not upset with vote. 30 supporters remaining.

11:45 p.m. — Back to Herald office.

7 a.m. — Wednesday — Time to call it a day (or night).

—DAN RALPH—
BRAMPTON-GEORGETOWN
7:30 p.m. — PC headquarters.

8:20 p.m. — First results. John McDermid leading two to one.

8:45 p.m. — Comment. Ross Milne must be saying "Forget it!"

8:55 p.m. — Results from 120 polls give McDermid 11,837 votes, Milne 5,721, John Deamer 3,421.

8:57 p.m. — Results from 20 more polls. McDermid 13,947; Milne 6,846; Deamer 3,929.

9 p.m. — Rogers Cable.

9:10 p.m. — McDermid, wife Elaine, campaign manager Phil Upshall and two other supporters arrive at cable station. McDermid and wife interviewed.

9:35 p.m. — To victory party.

9:45 p.m. — Press conference.

10:15 p.m. — McDermid makes victory speech. Much cheering. McDermid cries for those absent.

11 p.m. — Lorne Scots play bagpipes.

11:15 p.m. — Premier Bill Davis arrives. Talks.

Midnight — Back to Herald office. Write.

—ANI PEDIERIAN—