

Halton Conservatives search for a candidate

Herald Staff
If the bout of election fever that swept the country last week is still in your veins, take note the Progressive Conservatives in the provincial riding of Halton-Burlington are looking for a candidate.

They're in the throes of organizing a nomination meeting Oct. 11 at Milton's E.C. Drury School on Ontario Street. If you're going to put your name on their slate, be there by 8 p.m.

"Now that the federal election is gone, you've probably heard rumors about what Bill Davis is going to do. I'm as worldly as you are," Halton-Burlington PC president Ken McDonald told The Herald. "Because of all those rumors, I've got to be ready."

The rumors are that Premier Davis is going to call a November election. Mr. McDonald said he wouldn't be surprised if they were started up by the premier himself.

He said he thinks the rumors were started deliberately so that local PC associations get ready and not be caught with their pants down. Mr. McDonald said he's sent out feelers to find out who is interested in running.

Candidates consider party nomination

Back in 1983, Brian Penman took a run at the nomination for Halton-Burlington, a provincial riding, losing to Fran Baines. Today, Mr. Penman is giving consideration in trying for the PC nomination again.

He told The Herald he'll be making his decision within the week. Mr. Penman is currently a Milton councillor, a position he's held for nine consecutive years. He is also on the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

Another Milton councillor, Brad Clements, refused to confirm the rumor that he's considering going after the nomination. He said he's thinking about it and will make a definite decision in a week or two.

Mr. Clements has been a Milton councillor for 10 years and a regional councillor for four years. If he chooses to run, this will be his first go provincially.

As for Georgetown's Fran Baines, the answer was "No ma'am; some things in this life you only do once." The longtime PC member said she's working full time for the province's parole board, which excludes her from being involved in politics to the extent she once was.

"I feel very strongly that the riding can be won," she said. When Mrs. Baines ran three years ago, the PCs lost the election by a small number of votes.

Toying with decision

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz told The Herald he has indicated he's interested in running from time to time for the Halton-Burlington PC candidates position.

"At this point, I have not made a decision yet," he answered when phoned. He said he expects to be deciding whether to run for the nomination within the next week.

As for regional councillor Brad Clements, the Milton representative was not available for comment as of press time.

Rumors have also named Roy Galloway, a builder from Moffat and Brian Peuman, a Milton resident who tried for the nomination three years ago against Fran Baines who won it.

Mr. Galloway indicated he is still making up his mind whether to run, and will know by next week.

"There's a couple of things that might stop me, personal things you want to make sure are all right, and business things," he said. "You can't just jump in. People have to be behind you."

Bets are

for election

The bets are on for a provincial election.

Even Premier Bill Davis' fellow Progressive Conservative party members are wagering on when the next election will be called.

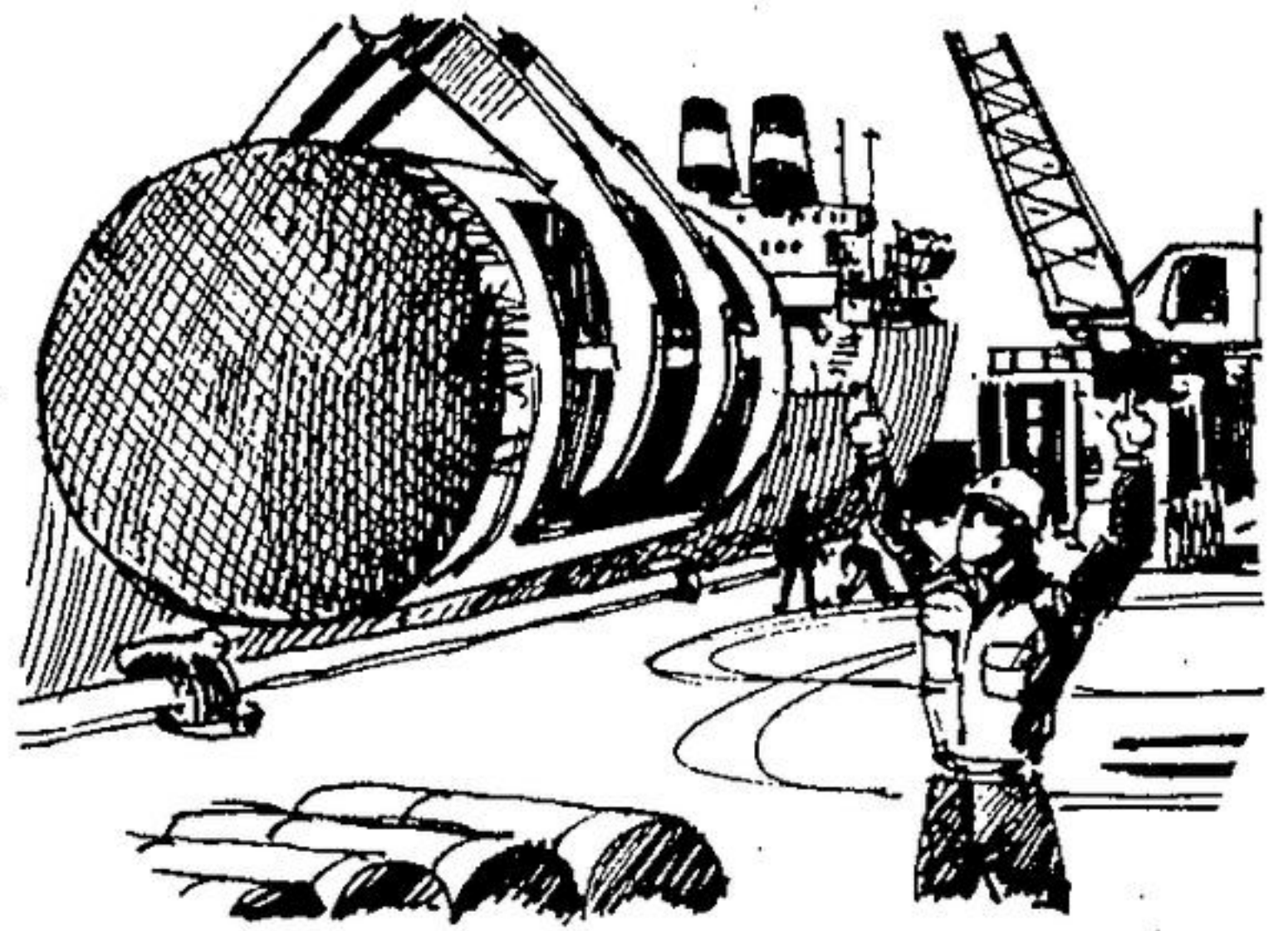
"If you think back to the old days, Davis is the greatest con artist about fooling everybody about an election," chuckled the Halton-Burlington riding's PC president Ken McDonald.

Talk in political circles is that Premier Davis will call for a November election.

However, Mr. McDonald told The Herald he'd prefer it if the provincial election were called for the spring instead.

With a new PC candidate to be selected Oct. 11, the riding's PC president wants lots of time for people to get used to the party's choice. That way, it'll give the new candidate the chance to become a face people will recognize, Mr. McDonald said.

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Pete Pomeroy

Regional chairman may enter the race

By ANI PEDEJUAN
Herald Staff
Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy may bite. The possibility hasn't been ruled out.

Mr. Pomeroy may be one of the candidates up for nomination Oct. 11 when the Progressive Conservatives in Halton-Burlington hold their nomination meeting.

"I haven't made any commitment," the regional chairman told The Herald. "I have to make one within the next couple of weeks."

He said he's trying to keep all his options open, and noted that the ultimate goal of municipal politics is to get into the provincial sphere.

"Because the jobs are so interconnected, municipal politics is almost the training ground for provincial (politics)," Mr. Pomeroy said.

The Norval resident was formerly the mayor of Halton Hills, entering politics with a background in small business in Georgetown.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say that when I started into this whole thing, my ultimate goal was to get into provincial politics," Mr. Pomeroy confessed.

"It's whether the time is right."

Adding that he likes what he is now doing, the regional chairman said, nevertheless, that he never rules any possibilities out, and "things have a habit of changing on a daily basis."

Mr. Pomeroy beat out Oakville councillor Carol Gooding for the chair-

manship less than a year ago, giving up his mayor's seat.

There's a definite "no" from Halton board of education chairman Betty Fisher, when asked if she's been considering running for the nomination.

The Georgetown woman told The Herald she has no plans to run for the nomination and is happy where she is.



Mrs. Fisher said, however, that she plans to run again in November when her one-year term as board chairman expires.

She noted not many school board trustees go into other levels of politics, using the board table as a stepping stone.

"My plans are to go for the chairman's seat again, then, I will sit back, like (Burlington trustee Bill) Priestner and be the grandmother of the board," Mrs. Fisher laughed.

Progressive Conservative Ric Morrow indicated he'd be interested in running for the party's nomination provincially, but that it isn't his intention to do so at this

time.

"I have made up my mind that I can't combine a job in Air Canada with politics," Mr. Morrow told The Herald.

A pilot with the company, Mr. Morrow will continue, nevertheless, to help out on various campaigns, he said.

Georgetown lawyer Dick Howitt, a school board trustee for Halton, also indicated he wouldn't be running for the PC nomination. He said his law practice made it impractical for him to carry on the two

consecutively.

Without a partner, his law practice would have to fold up. As well, Mr. Howitt mentioned the sacrifices political life requires of a politician's family.

Regional councillor Mike Armstrong said he hadn't given the idea serious thought and that although he had been asked if he was interested in running, that there were other priorities for him now.

"Unless there were a real short supply of candidates, which I doubt very much," Mr. Armstrong said.

Other regional councillors rumored to be interested in the nomination are Milton mayor Gord Krantz, Brad Clements and Barry Quinn.

Mr. Quinn made his candidacy public on the weekend. The North Burlington councillor has served on the Burlington City Council six years and has sat two years on regional council.

Reed will keep us guessing

MPP Julian Reed is fond of mystery. If you ask him whether he intends to run in the next provincial election, he can't be pinned down.

"I will continue to keep my options open," he says.

For nine years Halton-Burlington's MPP, the Norval resident has won three elections in the riding.

"It's been a happy, exciting experience for me and I wouldn't have traded that time for anything under the sun," Mr. Reed says.

Mr. Reed says he hasn't made an official decision about running for the Liberals should Premier Bill Davis call a fall election, "and I won't tell you get closer to an election."

Traditionally the provincial Liberals have held their nomination meeting at the beginning of election campaigns. "It allows us a rallying point to get together," Mr. Reed said. "It's a way of getting the interested Liberals out and the campaign mechanics organized. Also, it raises the general interest of the public at a time that's critical."

Councillor opposes levy on residence

By KAREN HEWER
Herald Correspondent

When a town council meeting coincides with a federal election voting day, some distraction from the agenda is understandable.

But Councillor Levy didn't let his preoccupation with the election results impede his concentration.

When it came to a decision relating to taxation by the Regional Municipality of Halton against a town resident, Coun. Levy couldn't justify the levy. He questioned why the town should support the region's collecting of a levy "we know nothing about".

After an eloquently delivered argument on the issue, Coun. Levy resumed his seat and added, "I can say all this and listen to the radio too - (awaiting the election outcome no doubt)."

However, despite Coun. Levy's protest, council ruled in favor of the levy, which was required in order for property owner Julien Creteau to erect a temporary second residence on the land.



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