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# FAMILY SECTION

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Page 1 - SECTION B, THE HERALD, Wednesday, April 17, 1985

## Election report

# Major party candidates discuss their backgrounds

By **ROBIN BAKEWELL**  
Herald Staff

When NDP candidate Doug Hamilton entered the political science course at the University of Waterloo he had no long term goals of running in a political election.

Now, two years after receiving his four year degree in the course, Mr. Hamilton is the Halton-Burlington New Democratic Party's choice for the riding.

With ten years political involvement in the NDP Mr. Hamilton is no stranger to party philosophies or campaign trails.

Born at Milton District Hospital in 1957 Mr. Hamilton grew up in and around the Halton area.

He attended public schools in Milton and Erin finishing his formal education at Ancaster High School.

It was in 1975, during his final year in Grade 13 at Ancaster High, that Mr. Hamilton had his first taste of politics.

Previous to 1975 Mr. Hamilton said he had a fair bit of interest in the NDP sparked by their interest in people over business and the fact that he believed the NDP had concerns about the

average person "which the other parties were losing".

His Grade 13 teacher was running as the NDP candidate in the Wentworth North riding during the 1975 provincial election and Mr. Hamilton helped out in the campaign by dropping off party literature.

"One thing that appealed to me about the 1975 provincial campaign is that while the Liberal and PC parties were bashing each other and making attacks, Stephen Lewis was talking about health and safety, equality and people's rights.

"Those were the type of issues which were getting lost in the hardball politics the other two parties were playing," Mr. Hamilton said.

During the 1981 provincial election Mr. Hamilton helped with NDP literature distribution and did scrutineer work.

A member of the election planning committee during the 1980 federal election in Rosedale, Mr. Hamilton said he helped organize quite a successful campaign.

The NDP candidate has worked in a shopping mall, painted, and has worked in unionized factories on a short term basis.

Mr. Hamilton said he sees unions as a "valuable part of Canadian society" which can work to make the workplace more democratic.

He said some of the concerns the unions have raised, such as health and safety, have been socially valid.

In the summer of 1979 Mr. Hamilton was employed as a researcher with the Burlington Social Planning Council.

He was hired to research a planning act and help with proposed changes to the act based on a white paper from the Ontario government.

He said working in conjunction with the government was quite useful and gave him a realistic idea of how the government operates which he felt could not be understood through reading books in university.



The youngest in a family of two brothers and three sisters, Mr. Hamilton said the large family made him more aware of other people's interests and was able to tune into different ideas easier.

"Although none of them have ever ran for anything, they are very opinionated and we have some interesting conversations," he said.

His father Jack, who is now retired, worked in the retail field for the United Cooperatives which Mr. Hamilton explained was a farming organization.

He said his father was never really politically active except for a stint as a scrutineer with the CCF party in 1940.

Mr. Hamilton said he enjoys playing squash and hockey. He has recently split the cost of season Blue Jay tickets with a number of friends for summer entertainment.

"I don't play any musical instruments other than a stereo," he said.

It only took Mr. Hamilton a couple of days to make a decision to become the NDP candidate in the May election. NDP riding president Jo Surich made the suggestion to him last fall.

"In the last year I've become more and more interested in the party and thought it was a good opportunity to try it.

"I don't know whether I deliver barn blazing speeches but I think I have something to offer," he said.

On a personal level Mr. Hamilton said the campaign will give him the opportunity to work with people and meet others (which he said he enjoys), and talk about things of some importance.

An editor at Carswell Legal Publications in Toronto since 1981, Mr. Hamilton has had a variety of summer work experience while attending school.



DOUG HAMILTON

By **ANI PEDERIAN**  
Herald Staff

For Peter Pomeroy, home will always be Norval.

The 46-year old Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative candidate has lived in Norval since his mom brought him home as a babe from Brampton's Peel Memorial Hospital.

Although he loves travelling and would like to see Australia, Japan, China and Europe, Mr. Pomeroy would never stay away from Halton Hills for very long.

"This is home. You can narrow it down further if you want, to I'll never move from Norval. This is home," he repeated strongly.

Mr. Pomeroy's dad came to Norval in the 1820s from Gore's Landing, a community on the shores of Rice Lake, just north of Port Hope.

The senior Pomeroy worked at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Norval until it closed. Today, the bank is David Vance's Four Winds Galleries on Highway 7 and Winston Churchill Boulevard.

Marrying during the depression, Peter Pomeroy's dad eventually ended up working 22 years as office manager at the Abitibi Price Fine Papers company until retiring in 1963.

"He was very respected in the community,"

Mr. Pomeroy said proudly. "A lot of people support me because of my father."

Today, the senior Pomeroy is 78, and he and his wife live in Gore's Landing.

Although their parents have moved away, Pete and his brother Bill Pomeroy still live and work in Halton Hills. Their sister Marion lives in Toronto, not too far away.

As children, the three attended Norval Community School, which was a two-room school back then.

During his years there, Peter Pomeroy was busy taking voice lessons and collecting medals for his singing.



His solo singing won him prizes at several music festivals. Mr. Pomeroy said he gave it all up when his voice changed.

"I still have the medals," Halton's regional chairman said with a chuckle.

His youngest daughter Jill has taken after him. She enjoys singing and has performed solo or in groups on many occasions.

In fact, Peter Pomeroy would like to do some singing with her during his current Halton-Burlington campaign.

Besides singing, Mr. Pomeroy was also into

hockey during his Norval Community School days.

He played left wing on the Norval Hornets team when he was bantam-aged. Under coach Rev. Len Self, the team collected wins from neighboring teams.

Mr. Pomeroy said Rev. Self had an effect on his life.

"He was very competitive. He stressed fairness and being the best you could be, as well as winning," Mr. Pomeroy said.

Also influencing the politician's life was the first boss Mr. Pomeroy had after graduating from Georgetown District High School.

"He was an absolute perfectionist. I'll never forget him. This guy was incredible. You couldn't leave anything unless it was done perfectly," Mr. Pomeroy said.

"I hated it. I thought I was going to quit every other day, but it turned out to be good for me. He gave me a lot of discipline," Mr. Pomeroy said.

That job at Bell Canada turned into a 13 year career which Mr. Pomeroy left to start up his own retail business in Georgetown, "Peter Pomeroy Sports".

The name was later changed to North Halton Sports Limited and sold to a long-time employee, 12 years later.

"I was mayor when I sold North Halton Sports. It had become almost too much to do to operate the business and the town effectively,"

Mr. Pomeroy said.

Elected a Halton Hills councillor in 1976, he has moved from mayor to regional chairman for Halton.

"The opportunities for political advancement, they come and go," Mr. Pomeroy said. "I feel I'm ready now and can't do much more to prepare myself (to be MPP)."

"Politics is like a different job every day. The problems and opportunities are different on a daily basis," Mr. Pomeroy said. "It's a big part of the reason I like it as much as I do."

Currently Halton regional chairman, Mr. Pomeroy came into the job from the position of Halton Hills mayor.

"I'm the first politician in my family," he smiled. "It all just happened to me very quickly."

He's hoping his eight year training period will now launch him into the provincial legislature.

"I have no aspirations for federal politics at all. That's why I went to Queen's Park, because it's close enough to travel to from home back and forth," Mr. Pomeroy said.

His favorite politician is Harry Truman, "because he had a very honest and straight-forward approach to resolving problems," Mr. Pomeroy said.

Sometimes the challenges of politics take time, and the waiting can be frustrating when it's a simple issue, he said.

By **DAVE ROWNEY**  
Herald Staff

As the family story goes, Liberal candidate Don Knight can trace his background to 1610 when his Quaker ancestors were wine merchants and mariners from Ireland.

Mr. Knight, 43, will be pounding the pavement in the weeks ahead asking for the support of Halton-Burlington residents on May 2.

The Knights' Quaker ancestors traded their wares to Jamaica. Some immigrated to Wales and others eventually made the crossing to North America.

Mr. Knight's grandfather is a Quaker, but his father is an Anglican. The candidate is a Presbyterian.

The Knight family have lived in Meaford for three generations.

His grandfather started a family business called Stanley Knight Ltd., a manufacturer of hardwood flooring.

During his childhood, Mr. Knight remembers his family always being strong Liberal supporters.

One uncle almost ran as a provincial Liberal candidate, he said.

During his childhood in Meaford with the escarpment cliffs and Georgian Bay waters so close, Mr. Knight loved to hike and collect items from his nature walks.

Growing up in a small town of 4,000, the candidate said it was an advantage because knowing everyone inspired self-confidence, plus it was hard to get into trouble without anyone knowing about it.

In high school he played volleyball, basketball and won two gold medals for middle distance running at the Central Western Ontario championships.

His first political involvement was at age 13 when he was paid \$2 to pick up a list from the scrutineers and go to the various polling stations.

Mr. Knight went to the University of Waterloo to take their engineering course, because he liked math and sciences in high school.

After spending three months on a work term during his co-op training, he decided it would be nice to be making money full-time, rather than going back for more studies.

He walked into Waterloo Trust and Savings (the forerunner of Canada Trust) and "was hired on the spot", he said.

Mr. Knight left there to become a manager trainee with Zellers, helping to manage stores in Orillia and Ottawa.

He was lured away to Kitchener to a private investigation firm now called Equifax where he

checked out insurance claims. After a year he was promoted to manage their Stratford office.

He left the firm in 1969 to go back to university in Kitchener. Doing odd jobs to pay his way through school, Mr. Knight came within two courses of completing an economics degree.

Mr. Knight then took a job in Toronto with Traveler's Insurance as an insurance adjuster. Staying there until 1979, he was promoted to supervisor of property claims and then as assistant manager of their claims department in Hamilton.



He was commissioned in 1979 to write a claims manual for their computer program.

Realizing it was a time for a career change, he started Knight Insurance Brokers, building up the business in Milton for the next six years.

He sold the business last month for a price that "has left me comfortable", he said.

He plans to enter the consulting field, helping insurance brokers with their businesses.

The candidate remarried in 1973, having met his second wife at university when he was

taking courses for his economics degree. They have one son Geoff, 9, who has a number of musical talents, his father said.

His daughter Kelly, 20, is married and lives in London with her husband and year old son. Another daughter Barbara lives at home and is taking a course in social services at Sheridan College.

Mr. Knight has been a town councillor in Milton for the past five years. He said the committee meetings and preparation work have kept him busy along with coaching a baseball team and hiking with his family.

Most of his free time is spent with his family, or working on their home computer which is an IBM PC Junior.

How does Mr. Knight describe himself? "I have a lot of interests, I like people and relate well to them," he said.

A personality test by Traveler's Insurance Company described him as amiable, analytical with a high degree of empathy and flexibility, he said.

A Herald psychic columnist called him "honest straight-forward and caring for his fellow man". He called that character assessment "very perceptive."

Mr. Perlin warned that if transcripts are requested of the secretary's tapes, there may be sections where the tape quality is poor.

"I don't want to be the source of something that isn't accurate or complete. What I'm saying is, if you're going to do something, do it right," he said.



DON KNIGHT

**Council meetings to be taped**

By **ANI PEDERIAN**  
Herald Staff

The region's committee and council meetings may be available on tape in future, if regional councillors support a request by Burlington Mayor Roly Bird today (Wednesday).

Last week, while roundly chastising the region's chief administrative officer and the media, Burlington's mayor asked that committee and council meetings be taped.

Coun. Bird's request got the support of administration and finance committee members.

They agreed to have health and social services, planning and

public works, administration and finance, solid waste management committees and council meetings tape recorded, and the tapes kept for 90 days before being erased.

The administration and finance committee also agreed that the regional clerk would provide typed transcripts or excerpts from these tapes if councillors asked for them in writing.

As well, councillors agreed that the tapes could be listened to by councillors, the media or the public if a written request is made of the regional clerk.

On the suggestion of Halton Hills Coun. Mike

Armstrong, regional staff are going to look into a more reliable taping system than the present one.

"Taping doesn't always pick up things at the far end of the table very clearly," Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin said.

Coun. Bird said tapes would help to verify reports made by the media.

"In the past I would venture to say that almost every member of council has had a complaint with the media for misinterpreting or, still worse, inaccurately reporting on statements by elected members of council," Coun. Bird said.

Mr. Perlin warned that if transcripts are requested of the secretary's tapes, there may be sections where the tape quality is poor.

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