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## SECTION

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### Election notebook

#### Neil grabs votes

With 661 votes, the Trillium Party stole considerable votes from the two leading parties in the provincial election Thursday.

Halton Burlington candidate Neil Sivertson, a Georgetown District High School student garnered votes that could have swung the election results from a Liberal win to a Progressive Conservative win.

The 19-year old got more votes than expected by most.

"There's no question about it. I think Neil's campaign took Tory votes," PC candidate Peter Pomeroy said after the results were known.

#### School issue hurt

The chairman of the Halton board of education said the separate schools issue lost the Progressive Conservative (PC) party votes Thursday.

Betty Fisher, press officer for Halton Burlington PC candidate Peter Pomeroy, said she believed the move by Premier Miller to extend funding to the separate schools hurt the party and Mr. Pomeroy.

Mr. Pomeroy's campaign manager agreed. "It's one thing to support the idea, and another to initiate it," she said Thursday night. "All three parties supported it, but it makes a big difference to me, whomever initiated it."

#### PCs on guard

Ernest Belanger of Georgetown felt that Don Knight's aggressiveness against his PC opponent Peter Pomeroy and the Conservatives but them on the defensive.

He was at the Liberal celebration as an onlooker. At the Georgetown all-candidates meeting, each of the candidates came out even, Mr. Belanger thought.

Don Knight came out looking as the better leader throughout the campaign, he said.

#### Still a Grit riding

Don Knight, in capturing the Liberal seat, maintained a Grit dynasty in Halton-Burlington that has lasted since 1975 when the riding was first formed.

He earned the crown from incumbent Julian Reed who stepped down after serving the constituency for 10 years.

Mr. Knight won his riding by 179 votes, but it wasn't the first time the Liberals had squeaked in. Mr. Reed won in 1981 and in 1975, each time by less than 520 votes.

#### Yes -- I lost

By 9:25 p.m., Betty Fisher said she'd heard Frank Miller had 53 seats to David Peterson's 48 on the radio at the PC headquarters.

Twenty minutes later, the official figures were out, showing PC candidate Peter Pomeroy behind by 179 votes. When the backroom door opened for a minute to let somebody out, you could see Mr. Pomeroy pacing inside.

A short time later, the PC candidate emerged from the backroom.

"Have you anything to say, Mr. Pomeroy?" he was asked.

"Yes, I lost," he replied.

#### Surprises on their shift

Three Georgetown deputy returning officers found several surprises on their shift Thursday night.

"I was working in Poll 106 and I'm so surprised it was so close in the vote," Barbara-Carol Irvine said. "I expected in our own riding he'd (P.C. candidate Peter Pomeroy) have got much higher."

Barb Dean of Georgetown was working Poll 108.

"In my Poll, Knight (Liberal) actually won by two votes, and we had a 65 per cent turnout," she marvelled.

#### NDP's disappointed

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Herald Staff

Doug Hamilton's campaign manager Tom Moore doesn't know what Ontario's afraid of.

Mr. Moore was commenting on why Ontario doesn't have a stronger NDP showing at the polls, last week.

"The polls showed we had higher support than we received and that it was time for a change," he said.

Mr. Moore said that change came in the form of more Liberal votes being cast and felt the people wanted a change to a more traditional party.

Terming Ontario as "right wing" Mr. Moore said the province was the industrial backbone of Canada.

"Small business is abundant in Ontario and the small business vote tends to go to the right because they think to the right," he said.

## Liberal sunset greets Knight

By DAVE ROWNEY  
Herald Staff

Complete with his red Liberal running shoes, Don Knight stepped out of the starting gate 32 days ago and campaigned hard to keep Halton-Burlington a Grit riding.

He did just that last Thursday by defeating his nearest opponent, Norval's Peter Pomeroy by 179 votes.

From the moment he campaigned in the riding, Mr. Knight took an aggressive stance, criticizing the provincial Tories and showing he "wasn't afraid to speak out".

The new MPP for Halton-Burlington said

he thought the turning point in the campaign was about two weeks after his leader David Peterson took his message on the road.

"In Burlington I found so many saying, 'you know I think this time I'm going to vote Liberal!'"

Some of the credit for Mr. Knight's victory comes from the surge of Liberal popularity throughout the province on election night.

The Progressive Conservatives dropped from 70 seats in 1981 to 52 in 1985.

"Personally I think the people of Ontario, like in the federal election,

wanted a change," said Georgetown resident Ernest Belanger.

Premier Frank Miller hurt his campaign by refusing to debate and the separate school issue had a lot of people angry at the Conservatives, Mr. Belanger said.

Long-time Liberal supporter Dollie Moulden put the victory into another perspective: it's very often in an election you don't win it, but a candidate or party will lose it for you, she said.

"In Georgetown there was a certain amount of anti-Pomeroy feeling and we benefitted from it," she said.

Former Liberal MPP for the riding, Julian Reed, felt there were three factors leading to the Liberal Knight win.

Mr. Knight was following a trend of the electorate where many people in the province decided to vote Liberal.

Mr. Reed also felt the Progressive Conservative candidate Peter Pomeroy made a few mistakes in his campaign, chiefly by going back on his promise to not seek the PC candidacy while still regional chairman.

Another tactical error occurred in Burlington when money was released for a school at the height of the campaign.

The former MPP also praised the work of Don Knight during the campaign. He's a quality guy, experienced, and well known in the Milton area.

Other Liberal supporters felt Mr. Reed's representation after 10 years at Queen's Park had left firm foothold on which Mr. Knight could build.

In a speech to his supporters, which peaked at about 300 at the Halton Hills banquet hall in Milton, Mr. Knight

thanked those who worked at helping him forge the win.

The Knight victory didn't catch a lot of Grits by surprise.

Orienna Currie, who lost in the federal election against Oakville MP Otto Jelinek said the results of the election are a reflection on the Progressive Conservatives' leadership.

Milton resident Louise Kubinec felt Premier Frank Miller hadn't run a strong campaign and by backing away from reporters and not talking about the issues hurt

Liberal leader David Peterson in comparison ran a good campaign and candidate Don Knight was visible around the riding, she said.



Liberal supporters Dollie Moulden and Kay Lawson cheer as their candidate Don Knight speaks after learning of his election night victory. (Herald photo)

### Winds of change helps Liberal win

"The winds of change" was a popular phrase at the Halton-Burlington Liberal celebration Thursday after candidate Don Knight captured a 14,906 ballot win.

Many Liberals attending the victory celebration Thursday night in Milton felt Mr. Knight benefitted by the provincial scene but also on his strong showing in the riding during his campaign.

"I think Don won because he is an honorable man," said Dollie Moulden. "I thought we had a chance with Don because of the record Julian left for him."

Mrs. Knight expressed shock after learning of her husband's win. "I thought Pomeroy would get in because of his high profile," Mrs. Knight said. She felt it was just a matter of people getting to know her husband.

Speaking in rapid fire bursts, she said, "he's dependable, he's responsive, he listens, he's very open minded. I think Don came across as if he wanted to change things; he's very sincere and honest and good with people."

Mr. Knight said in a positive way he tried to point out the differences in the Liberal platform and that of his PC rivals.

We were up against a very capable opponent, he said of the Tory candidate Peter Pomeroy. "We had the right team and the right campaign manager and it worked," he said of his victory.

Halton-Burlington riding president Al Wilson was elated at the provincial upswing. "I thought David Peterson did an excellent job on the campaign, he demonstrated credibility and sound policies and spoke openly about the issues," Mr. Wilson said.

"I think Don Knight had the benefit of working in a Liberal riding and a good provincial campaign."

Perhaps Mr. Knight had the last word on why he won in his short speech to his party faithful. "That one extra vote that each of you in this room got out tonight won it for us," he said.

Mary Wahalen of Milton felt that people were voting for Don Knight and against Frank Miller in analyzing the Liberal victory in Halton-Burlington.



After the results came in and it was clear Peter Pomeroy (left) had been beaten at the polls, the back room door at the Milton campaign office opened and Mr. Pomeroy faced the press and his supporters. (Herald photo)

### Candidate Peter Pomeroy

## Tories ponder election loss

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff

"If Frank Miller had been Frank Miller, it would have been a lot different for me," Halton Burlington PC candidate Peter Pomeroy told supporters in his Milton campaign office Thursday night after the vote results were announced.

"I don't think there was a lot of favors done to a lot of candidates by the low profile taken (by Mr. Miller) in this campaign," Mr. Pomeroy said.

The man who managed Mr. Pomeroy's mayoral campaign back in 1978 said there was an "anti-blue machine, anti-Miller" feeling about this election.

"I know a lot of people felt that way," Paul Campbell of Georgetown said.

Mr. Pomeroy also identified that mood in his speech conceding defeat to his followers.

"There's a tremendous anti-PC vote across the province, because they've (party's) been there so long," he said.

The president of the Halton-Burlington PC Association thought there was more to it.

"I don't think it (loss) was because the Liberals have such a great candidate. It's mainly an anti-Frank Miller syndrome, because he would not be himself. He wouldn't debate on TV," Ken McDonald said of the new

PC leader in the province.

"If Frank Miller was allowed to be himself...I know him from old. He's a colorful person," Mr. McDonald said. "He was told by his advisors, 'Only say what we want you to say', and that showed."

Mr. McDonald said the same brush was painted over Mr. Pomeroy in this election.

"I think somehow the campaign team that was looking after Peter, writing his speeches, it wasn't really Peter...if Peter was allowed to speak himself," Mr. McDonald said. "Part of the blame can be laid on his campaign team and strategy. Were they all

that competent politically?"

The Association president pointed out to a blooper that linked Mr. Pomeroy's name with the Halton board of education in a press release. Ministry of Education funding for a new school in Burlington was attributed to a phone call by Mr. Pomeroy.

"That could have been handled a lot differently," Mr. McDonald said. "It could affect Betty Fisher (Halton board of education chairman) later on."

The Association president forecast a provincial election in two years time, with possibly a new leader of the party.

### Vote was close

The tight race in Thursday's provincial election was reflected in the Halton-Burlington results.

It was apparent almost right from the start that the race for the riding was going to be a close one-between both Mr. Knight and Mr. Pomeroy. After 11 of the 214 polls had been tabulated the Liberal and PC candidates opened a 330 vote edge on the NDP and a 453 vote margin over the Trillium Party.

As the poll results came into the returning office, Mr. Knight consistently was in the lead but usually by the smallest of margins. A quarter of the way through he lead Mr. Pomeroy by just six votes.

Mr. Knight again lead at the halfway mark by 18 votes. It was not until after 193 of the polls had tabulated their results that Mr. Knight took a lead of over 300 votes when he had a 337 vote margin.

## Pomeroy may leave politics

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff

Defeated candidate Peter Pomeroy may be leaving politics, after a nine year career.

Thursday night, he told party supporters he's considering leaving it all behind.

"At this point in time, I have to rethink my entire career," Mr. Pomeroy said, at his Milton campaign office, after the Liberal win became known.

He said he had "some real soul searching to do", later that night during a speech to PCs partying at the Bayrischerhof Restaurant.

"It was going to stand up here and say I was finished with politics," Mr. Pomeroy said.

Currently the regional chairman for Halton, the 46-year old Norval resident is going to spend a few weeks - deciding what's next on his life's agenda.

In his speeches, Mr. Pomeroy attributed the closeness of the results to the hard work of his supporters.

"It was the total team effort that kept this

close. I'm proud of every one of you. You're all my friends and you'll always be my friends," he said. "Smile everybody, I feel fine."

"Don't be sad because the Tories lost this riding," Mr. Pomeroy said. "We lost on an anti-PC vote this time. Don't be ashamed of being Conservatives because I still believe Ontario is a PC province. We'll probably have another 40 years of PCs."

The former Mayor of Halton Hills said he didn't understand how

the Halton Burlington PCs lost.

"My heart is crying a little, but I have to tell you, it's not so much because of my personal loss but because of the loss of all of you people who helped me on this campaign," Mr. Pomeroy said.

"We sure tried hard. I'll tell you, I really don't feel that I lost, damn it all," he said.

Three loud cheers, much applause and "For he's a jolly good fellow" followed his speeches to party supporters.



NDP candidate Doug Hamilton (middle) managed a smile or two on election night despite his third place finish. The candidate vowed he'd come back for another try. Mr. Hamilton increased the number of vote for an NDP candidate from the 1981 election.

## NDP campaign Hamilton eager to run again

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Herald Staff

Although the Halton-Burlington New Democrats finished a distant third, candidate Doug Hamilton said time is on the party's side.

"In 18 to 24 months we may find ourselves in a similar situation," he said, adding he would run again with the party's support.

As the early poll results trickled into the United Auto Workers' Hall in Milton, Mr. Hamilton wouldn't make a firm commitment on the outcome.

"I think it depends on which party gets the people out to vote," he said.

Approximately 50 NDP supporters were watching poll results closely and hoping for at least 15 per cent of the vote in order to receive matching funds for campaign costs of up to \$8,900.

Mr. Hamilton said resources were one of the biggest problems with the Halton-Burlington NDP campaign.

In the final tally the NDPs fell short of the 15 per cent goal by a margin of about one per cent with 4,902 votes.

Support for the NDPs was fairly even across the riding but Mr. Hamilton said Acton was particularly strong with about 20 per cent of their vote

in his favor and commented that Milton was also quite strong.

In a brief speech to supporters after many had cheered Liberal Don Knight's victory, Mr. Hamilton said the election was one of building for the NDPs.

"We made sure everyone in the riding heard from us with over 20,000 pieces of literature distributed and thousands of doors knocked upon.

"You'd always like to do better but the results give us a good idea where our support is and we can target those areas," he commented later.

Mr. Hamilton said he

was happy with the results and said he was proud of the way the Halton-Burlington NDP campaign was run.

"We made principal stands on things like toxic waste sites and election signs on public property and made them (Pomeroy and Knight) speak on our issues," he said.

Mr. Hamilton said the race that developed between Progressive Conservative Peter Pomeroy and Liberal Don Knight wastoo close to call.

"I think there was a lot of Tory dissatisfaction bubbling under during the election," he commented on Mr.