

Day in a life

Knight chairs environment committee

By Douglas Armour
Queen's Park Bureau
TORONTO - Soon after entering the arena of provincial politics, life for Halton-Burlington MPP Don Knight became "an uphill, exhilarating experience."



Don Knight

Mr. Knight, taking up Liberal banner after former MPP Julian Reed stepped down and he soon found himself swept away in the changing tide of the May 2 election and the May 28 signing of the Liberal NDP accord, which brought his party back into power after a 42-year absence.

"It was only in one's wildest dreams that one speculated on the possibility that we might have to form the government," said Mr. Knight during a recent interview in his fourth floor Queen's Park office.

Immediately after the signing of the accord, Mr. Knight found himself carried away with the committees, hearings and meetings that form part of his responsibilities as a Liberal back-bencher. During the summer months he sat with other MPPs on the Select Committee on Economic Affairs and travelled to Washington as part of the committee's research.

It wasn't until Knight and his wife, Linda, took a two-week break away from politics during the summer that he was able "to sit back and say 'Hey, I'm really an MPP,'" joked Mr. Knight.

regularly attends evening sessions at Queen's Park, when the House sits late to debate bills or emergency issues.

When not at Queen's Park, Mr. Knight can be found in his Halton-Burlington constituency office or attending public functions and generally keeping in touch with his constituents.

With the increase in responsibilities and the increased demand on his time and energy, Mr. Knight says he has to try hard to remain accessible to his constituents and remain "the ordinary Don Knight that I was before I was elected."

After four years in Milton municipal politics, during which time he was also busy with his own insurance business, Knight finds that working full-time as an MPP is easier in keeping in contact with his constituents. Being able to drive daily from Milton to Queen's Park also helps to maximize contact with constituents and their concerns.

"It's still politics," said Knight of the difference between politics at the provincial and municipal level. "And politics is serving your constituents. The concerns are the same, but now they are provincially oriented."

Generally speaking, Knight's long-term concerns are environmental, including toxic waste disposal, acid rain, gravel extraction, and the retention of farmland. He is chairman of the House Environment Committee. His short-term concerns, which he defined as problems that are immediately solvable, include youth unemployment

electoral boundary changes, water treatment and health care services, particularly in the Georgetown-Acton area.

The Bennet Health Care Centre, and its need for additional funds to finance chronic health care beds, is one issue Mr. Knight will continue to emphasize in on-going talks with Health Minister Murray Elston.

Mr. Knight is also making his concerns about planned electoral boundary redistribution known in House debates. Ensuring that "a community of interest" is maintained in any boundary changes, Knight argues that the northern part his region should be divided by a line across Derry Road, making north of that road a new riding.

Under the present proposal, Halton-Burlington would be divided by a line running north and south, making Halton two ridings. But Mr. Knight wants to ensure that in addition to keeping riding populations across the province equal to their political representation, common interests and concerns also form the basis of any future electoral boundary changes.

"If it is, then redistribution should be done so that the northern area stays together because they do have a community of interest."

Mr. Knight's future plans are clear and simple: "electorate willing" he hopes to match Julian Reed's ten-year period as Halton-Burlington MPP and "simply to do what I need to do to ensure that the profile of my riding is enhanced and increased."

Jane's spare time devoted to editing children's index

Most people may not feel a librarians job is filled with variety and interest, but those are the reasons Jane McQuarrie became a librarian. She is the Children's Librarian for Halton Hills.

Her duties include: ordering books helping plan programs, overseeing the department (there are four children's librarians) and feeding the guinea pigs. Ms. McQuarrie is also the branch co-ordinator which means she is a

and those sports she likes are skiing, skating, swimming and Scottish country dancing. If you ever visit the library she is the one with the red hair, sometimes dressed in plaid.

Jane McQuarrie grew up in Lindsay, Ontario where her parents still live. She worked as a children's librarian at her local library.

After finishing a BA with a French major at York University, Ms. McQuarrie started McGill's two year MA program in library science. She is bilingual and worked in the McGill medical library as part of her training.



Jane McQuarrie

"go-between between Acton and Georgetown," she said.

Part of Jane McQuarrie's spare time is spent editing her second book. Her first book she co-edited; it was an index to Canadian Poetry. Her second project is an index of Canadian children's books and is called Canadian Picture Books, A Subject Guide.

The books are sold to schools and libraries. We keep the price reasonable so they can afford it," she said. She doesn't make much money editing books, she added.

Spinning, weaving and sports are other past-times of Ms. McQuarrie. She is participant and not a spectator

Before coming to Halton Hills she worked four years as a librarian in St. Thomas. Her goals in her new position are "to maintain the standards of service, to make the library more visible, and make children feel more comfortable when they get there," she said.

Ms. McQuarrie believes the pre-school programs are "very successful". It is the adolescent programs that need more attention. Older children don't use the library as much because they have so many other things to do, she said. Increasing usage of the library for all children is another goal.

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Town turns down crossing guard review

An attempt to establish guidelines by which council can determine where school crossing guards should go was turned down by town councillors Monday night.

Councillors said they were happy letting Halton regional police decide where crossing guards were needed in town, and said they didn't want to meddle in that part of the decision-making.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson's request that town staff prepare such guidelines with police was turned down, as was also her request that a review be undertaken of all the current school crossing stations to see if they're still needed or where they could better serve the community.

Such a project was identified a year ago and a staff task force set up to establish guidelines for hiring a crossing guard, Town Clerk Ken Richardson said. However, because of other studies that took priority, the staff task force never finalized criteria identifying where crossing guard stations should be set up.

It was noted that since the Halton Board of Education is due to come up with a consolidation study this spring, it would be wiser to wait until the 1986 school year to do a review and re-evaluation of school crossing stations in town.

Coun. Al Cook pointed out that

schools benefit from having crossing guards and that the board of education should shoulder the responsibility of where best to locate the guards.

Mr. Richardson said the Highway Traffic Act identifies school crossing guards as employees of the municipality, so it's the town that is responsible for their hiring.

Coun. Betty Fisher, a former Halton Board of Education trustee and chairman said the town should ask the Ministry of Education to take on the school problem.

Coun. Joe Hewitt saw a study, such as that endorsed by Coun. Serjeantson,

as a time saving solution when it comes to future requests for crossing guards. Voting was tied, so the resolution lost.

\$19,999 may not be enough

Monies allocated for an addition to the town's recreation and parks office on James Street in the town's 1985 budget may not be enough.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said she doubted the \$19,000 council had put aside in its 1985 capital budget for this expansion project would be enough.

"I'm sure it won't come in at the price that's listed. It will be quite a bit higher," the councillor said at a recent council meeting.

Recreation director Tom Shepard received council permission to get quotes on the work needed and report them back to council before any work goes ahead.

With full-time staff, local co-op students and Government Youth Corp. workers, the recreation department has up to 10 people trying to work in an area of just over 1,100 square feet, including the shared use of one washroom, Mr. Shepard reported.

His plans for expansion include adding a second washroom, storage space, another meeting room and office.

The recreation director said he has looked into relocating his staff or amalgamating with other town departments until a central municipal complex can be built, but financially this wasn't practical.

Space problems have meant recreation and parks records, files, and maps are kept at the planning office, public works office and the Memorial Arena, because there's no room for them at 25 James St.

681 volunteer hours our auxiliary reports

Twelve members attended the Georgetown Hospital Auxiliary meeting Jan. 8 at the hospital. Reports indicated the Teenage Volunteer membership has increased to 38. During December there were 681 volunteer hours spent in the hospital and Bennett Centre by both adult and teenage volunteers.

Delegates at the Convention in early December reported attending some very interesting sessions.

The fund-raising convener said the Christmas Ball was a huge success. There are many events coming up in the next six months starting with the General Meeting Jan. 29. There will be a Fashion Show early April as well as the Annual Meeting. Our 2nd annual Family Fiesta will be held May 24 and June will be our Annual Pot Luck Supper and later the Strawberry Tea. Don't forget the General Meeting Jan. 29 and executive meeting Feb. 12.

Spread your warmth

Don't spend the winter behind locked doors. Get out and spread a little warmth by volunteering.

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