

MPPs need time to see the riding



Walt Elliot
MPP
Halton North
LIBERAL

The Ontario Legislature is in session again and that means more time spent in Toronto on "house duty," briefings and legislative business. When the Legislature is not sitting an MPP gets more time to travel through his riding and actually meet constituents one on one informally.

I don't feel that public meetings, office hours and formal speeches are sufficient to let a politician get a real feel for the people who are his or her constituents. It is unfortunate that most concerns must be dealt with by letter or telephone because Halton North has almost 68,000 residents, about 45,000 of them of voting age. Beyond these types of contact is the need to meet people where they work and live and play. Fifteen minutes over a cup of coffee allows someone to explain more than just their immediate problems.

These conversations often lead to other concerns which the individual had no idea you could help solve. Few people understand what an MPP actually does. Contrary to popular rumor we do not spend our time hiding in a pink sandstone palace in Toronto thinking of new and hideous ways of spending your taxes. A great deal of our time is spent dealing with the individual concerns of individual constituents.

As an MPP I must ensure that my constituents have a voice inside government. It is my responsibility to do this regardless of your voting preferences or whether I personally agree with the stand you have taken. More than this however, an MPP should act as an Ombudsman, making sure that a constituent's contacts with provincial government departments are handled properly.

Workers Compensation Board problems, housing difficulties, single mothers needing daycare and pension problems are dealt with every week in my office. If you are a business man who wants some expert advice about finding export markets we will put you in touch with the right person. Dealing with individual problems is in some ways the most immediately satisfying thing I can accomplish. With a province-wide problem a

politician may have to wait years before he or she can gauge success. When you help an individual constituent you know immediately what has been accomplished.

As an MPP, I am lucky to be able to deal with people problems. Almost all provincial responsibilities are directly concerned with people. Your health care, your children's education and the safety of the provincial highways you use for travel are the things that go into making an MPP's political life.

When larger areas of provincial policy are discussed I am able to relate it directly to the concerns of my riding. Health care means good hospitals for Halton Hills and Milton and home services for the seniors I know. Education is good schools for the kids I visit in school or during their trips to Queen's Park. Transportation is the highway or transit that you and I both use.

Being an MPP is not always "fun" but it is certainly always satisfying.

Couple wed

By KAY WILSON

Norval Correspondent

NORVAL-St. Paul's United Church, Brampton, was the setting for the marriage of Tracy Carmichael and Gary Johnson. The Reverend Dr. Morris Jay officiated at the ceremony.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a Southern Belle style gown of white satin and lace.

Her attendants wore similarly styled gowns in royal blue satin, trimmed with white lace.

The maid of honor was Mrs. Tammy Robillard, a friend of the bride from Mississauga. The bridesmaids were Mrs. Kim Marshall of Boston, Mass., Janet Johnson of Alton, sister of the groom, Carrie Robinson and Jamie Sykes, cousins of the bride from Orangeville and Jennifer Marshall, Boston as flower girl.

The groom wore a black tuxedo and his attendants were attired in gray. The best man was Greg Simpson of Brampton. The ushers were Tom Johnson, Palmerston, brother of the groom, Don Crawford, Norval, David Carmichael brother of the bride, and the ring bearer David Pitkanen nephew of the groom.

A reception followed at the Pegasus Hall in Brampton.

Following a honeymoon in

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, the bride and groom will reside at R.R. 2 Norval.

Tracy is the daughter of Harry and Joyce Carmichael of Brampton, and Gary is the son of Paul and Betty Johnson of Norval.

A presentation dance and buffet in honor of Anne Howden of R. R. 2 Caledonia and Alan Thompson R. R. 4 Georgetown was held on March 30, at the Junior Farmer Building, Brampton. The committee included the bridal party and around 150 people attended. The bridal couple were presented with a stereo system.

Craft sale

NORVAL-Huttonville Lions Club's Fourteenth Craft and Anti-

Norval News

que Show at Huttonville Community School on Saturday, April 7 and Sunday April 8, from 10 a.m. to 5p.m.

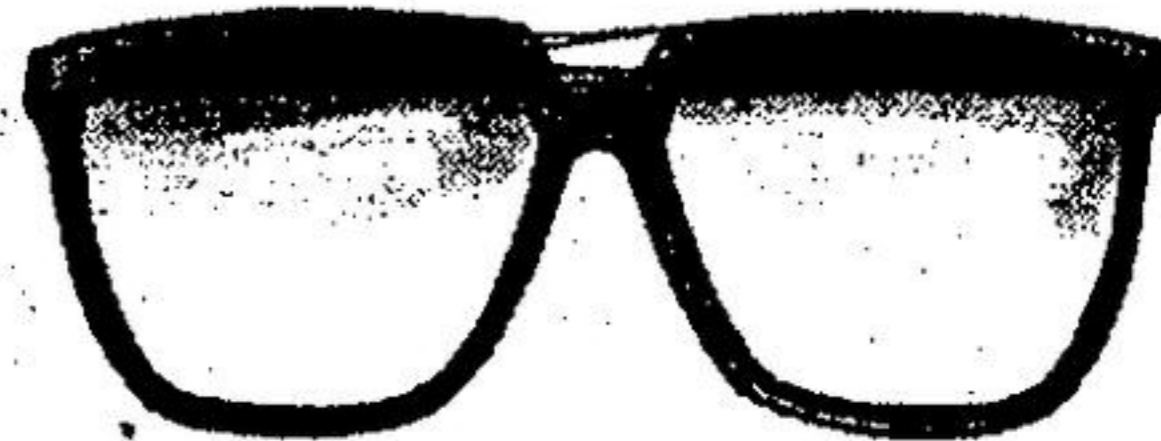
Get well

NORVAL-Get well wishes to Nellie Shea of Norval who is a patient in the Wellsley Hospital, Toronto.

In hospital

NORVAL-Get well wishes to Chester Early, Norval, who has returned home after spending ten weeks in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton.

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Mark Bulicki

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A. No. Because you are the higher-income spouse, you must report the family allowance payments on your return. Therefore, you are subject to the repayment rules. You are still entitled, however, to claim the credit for dependent children.

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