

MPP-elect promises changes

By LISA RUTLEDGE
The Herald

Circled around a small television set in the Glen Williams Town Hall monitoring the poll updates, supporters of the New Democratic Party witnessed history being made on two counts as the results came in from the 1990 Ontario provincial election. Noel Duignan became the first NDP candidate to be elected a North Halton MPP and also became a member of the first NDP majority government in Ontario.

In the early evening hours people began drifting into the Glen Williams Town Hall and joined the few huddled around the television set waiting for poll results.

The atmosphere, which was initially calm but optimistic, changed to disbelief and excitement.

What some had sweated and walked the pavement for, was becoming a reality.

The first real boost for the steadily growing group was watching the NDP gain 66 seats across the province, giving the party a majority.

As North Halton results began spilling in via television information, and local contacts, the excitement lifted to yet a higher level.

It was known before 9 p.m. that Mr. Duignan was leading by about 70 votes with 25 polls in. As more poll results filtered into the Glen Williams Town Hall revealing that

Mr. Duignan was ahead by 500 after more than half of the polls came in, all restraint broke.

As Mr. Duignan's lead in the polls grew, so did the number of people attending the NDP supporters gathering.

Campaign workers announced that Mr. Duignan would arrive at approximately 10 p.m. He was waiting to see how many Action poll stations had shown an NDP lead.

After 15 of 25 polls had established NDP majorities, Mr. Duignan made his entrance.

Arriving through the Glen Williams Town Hall front entrance, Mr. Duignan lifted his arms up in a sweeping motion to signify he accepted the challenge as North Halton MPP.

Accompanied by his wife Hilary and his six-year-old son Cein, Mr. Duignan graciously greeted his supporters.

Mr. Duignan said the turnover rejecting the Liberal government was an astounding event, however, he admitted to having some insight into the province-wide sweep two days earlier.

Mr. Duignan also said the local race was "real close for a while," creating some concern. "We didn't know which way it was going to turn. I know this isn't traditionally an NDP riding."

Breaking up small chattering groups, Mr. Duignan spoke to those in attendance and said that

North Halton voters would be granted their requests. "They want a change. And a change they're going to get," he told the cheering throng. "And that means a government by the people, for the people and of the people," he stated, to approving applause.

Mr. Duignan only fueled their reactions by saying the NDP would make polluters pay and make the tax system more fair, forcing the rich and powerful to pay their share. Bringing emotions down to a simmer, Mr. Duignan began thanking his supporters, campaign workers and even a previous NDP North Halton candidate.

Those in attendance became silent as defeated North Halton Liberal incumbent Walt Elliot walked through the Glen Williams Town Hall entrance, watching the reactions of both Mr. Elliot and Mr. Duignan as they patted each other's back and shook hands.

Hamilton's Channel 11 news team arrived at the Glen Williams Town Hall headquarters throwing lights, camera and microphones in Mr. Duignan's face.

"How does it feel to be part of the first NDP majority government?" the reporter asked. Overwhelmed by the entire election outcome, and the question, Mr. Duignan could only respond by saying "How do I feel? I feel good."



Noel Duignan

Adoption Council meets

Dr. Gideon Koren, an expert on prenatal influences on child development, will be the guest speaker at the first annual public forum to be held by the Adoption Council of Ontario on October 2nd. A researcher and Director of the Motherisk Clinic at the Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. Koren has made a particular study of the effects of drugs taken by mothers on their offspring.

The Adoption Council is a volunteer group of advocates concerned with every aspect of adoption including children in need of permanency, adoptive families and their special needs, and adoptees and birth relatives seeking to find one another. Members of the Council include adoptees, adoptive parents, social workers and lawyers.

All those interested and involved in adoption matters are welcome to attend and meet members of the Council, who hope to involve more participants in their advocacy work. Admission is free. The Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 2 at the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street in North York, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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What outstanding Ontarian would you like to see receive this honour? Nominations are now being sought for the 1991 awards. To obtain a nomination form, or for further information, please write:

The Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat
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The deadline for nominations is
Wednesday, October 31, 1990.



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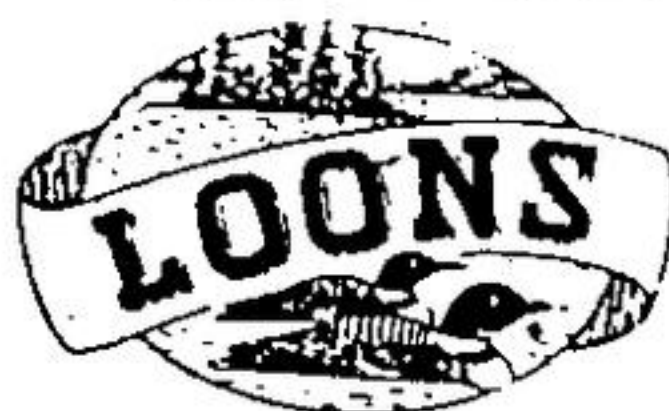
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