

Chudleigh rides Blue Wave to landslide election win

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Neophyte politician Ted Chudleigh was not surprised by his win in Halton North on election night, but he was very surprised by the size of his win.

Chudleigh garnered three times the votes of Liberal Walt Elliot, and incumbent New Democrat Noel Duignan ran a distant third.

Chudleigh's early lead proved to be insurmountable.

As he accepted congratulations from family, friends and campaign

workers at his victory party at former MPP Jim Snow's Hornby farm, Chudleigh joked that he would be down at Queen's Park early the next morning to get a good parking spot.

Chudleigh told the cheering crowd of supporters that Ontario is a "sick company" in need of immediate attention.

"The job ahead is perhaps going to be more difficult than the 16-hour days of this campaign.

"Ontario is in extremely sick condition. The people of the Prov-

ince have given us a tremendous mandate and that carries with it an awesome responsibility. We feel that responsibility and look forward to getting on with the job," Chudleigh said.

Chudleigh feels the local issues in Acton are business-oriented.

"As well, people are still worried about the Acton quarry being turned into a dump. Our position

on that reassured people that we want to preserve and enhance the Niagara Escarpment."

Chudleigh's big win included victory in all but one poll and he lost by just one vote at that poll in a Georgetown seniors' home.

Rural and urban Acton's voting pattern reflected riding results, with Chudleigh getting three times more votes than the Liberals.

Defeated and dejected incumbent candidate Duignan briefly stopped by the Chudleigh party to offer his congratulations.

"What next? Well, I'll have to wait and see what happens," Duignan said.

"I will take one day at a time and see what happens. I want to rest and regroup and get my health back into shape."

Election losers pause to reflect

ELECTION WRAP-UP

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

MPP Noel Duignan will be looking for a little R&R after Tory Ted Chudleigh is sworn in on June 26.

As in rest and relaxation, not revenge and redemption.

Duignan, speaking from his Toronto office Monday, was rather upbeat after Thursday's provincial election, which saw the NDP relegated to third-party status locally in attracting just 4,383 votes.

"People bought the Mike Harris package," explained Duignan. "I believe every candidate has a 50-50 chance of winning, but I did my best. You would always like to do a little more, but there's only so much energy and resources."

Duignan said he left an impressive legacy, including his Private Member's Bill protecting the Niagara Escarpment, and a new seniors' centre in Acton.

"Mike Harris pushed the right

buttons," answered Liberal Walt Elliot, when asked for his reaction to the Tories' victory. "I wish him well and hope he gets to it."

Elliot, who ran in the 1990 election without success, says his latest campaign was his best and expressed disappointment that he didn't win, "despite out-hustling the other parties."

Elliot said his immediate plans will be to concentrate on family matters.

"My political interests, though, will continue."

Alex McKee, of the Family Coalition Party, said he was disappointed with his vote count of 1,346, but figures many people, surprised by the NDP's victory in 1990, feared anything but a Liberal or Tory government this time.

"The tide of the Mike Harris campaign became overwhelming. The Tories offered change to the people at the last minute. If we had an election 10 days ago we would have had a minority government."

It was business as usual on Friday for McKee, who runs Network International in Georgetown. "My first call this morning was to my partner in Markham."

He went on to say his campaign strategy — to heighten his public profile and increase his attendance at all-candidates meetings from three or four — worked, as he sat in on 12. He also praised his "army of volunteers" for getting brochures into people's hands.

Libertarian John Shadbolt, who hoped to improve his 450 count in the 1990 election, doesn't think his total of 198 told the story.

"I have no regrets; I had fun," commented Shadbolt of his recent campaign. "I think the majority of people wanted a government they perceived as right wing."

Shadbolt, who resigned on Friday as his party's provincial leader, said he will sit back and reflect, and will soon involve himself in marketing the hovercraft concept as possible future transportation.

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