

Chudleigh claims Halton North for PCs

Tory rides wave to Queen's Park

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Independent/Free Press

They arrived expecting a victory, but even the most faithful Ted Chudleigh supporters were stunned as the numbers began rolling in from last night's election.

"Unbelievable" and "amazing" were the words uttered most often by the crowd of several hundred local Progressive Conservative members gathered at the James Snow farm for last night's victory party.

"It's an incredible mandate," raved campaign manager Darryl Demille, as volunteers posted the poll results on the wall.

Chudleigh, 51, carried at least 141 of the 144 Halton North polls throughout the riding.

In the process, he ousted NDP incumbent Noel Duignan.

With almost three times the number of votes as runner-up Liberal Walt Elliot, Chudleigh had reason to beam.

"It's an amazing feeling," he kept saying, as updates were posted on the wall.

With all 144 polls in, the numbers were (unconfirmed): 19,461 votes for Chudleigh, 6,620 for Elliot, 4,383 for NDP incumbent Noel Duignan, 1,346 for Family Coalition Party candidate Alex McKee and 198 votes for John Shadbolt of the Libertarian Party.

Chudleigh said his campaign team was guessing he would receive 40 per cent of the vote. He was rewarded with more than 60 per cent of ballots cast.

"Those numbers indicate the people of Halton North have given us a mandate — they want change," Chudleigh told his crowd of cheering supporters.

Chudleigh, who is the first Progressive Conservative representative for Halton North in 20 years, said the provincial government would introduce legislation outlined in the party's Common Sense Revolution by August 1.

The main issue he heard from voters throughout the election campaign was the need to restore Ontario to health and prosperity, said Chudleigh, the former executive vice-president of the Ontario Food Processors' Association.

"Ontarians want Ontario to be healthy again," he said.

Demille said the local election campaign was a "gentlemanly" one, with few difficulties among candidates.

And while voters began the campaign undecided, he said many were pledging their support to Chudleigh in the final few days.

"The mandate that has been given for change is unquestionable," said Demille.



An ecstatic Ted Chudleigh is congratulated by his campaign manager Darryl Demille following his overwhelming victory in the Halton North on Thursday. Chudleigh supporters met at James Snow's farm to celebrate the Tory sweep of Ontario.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Elliot irked by ink

By KAREN SMITH

Special to The Independent/Free Press

It was deja vu. The last time the NDP snatched victory away. This time the Tories intercepted.

The Liberal who served Halton North from 1987 to 1990 failed in his attempt to regain the provincial seat last night.

Walt Elliot, a former educator, fell victim to the Progressive Conservative tide just as he did in the 1990 NDP sweep.

Elliot trailed PC candidate Ted Chudleigh from the first poll and ended up losing by 12,841 votes (unconfirmed at press time).

The big smile that he had carried throughout his campaign was tighter as he greeted his supporters at Halton Hills Place.

Elliot, upset over an editorial in *The Milton Champion's* Wednesday issue, refused to grant an interview to a reporter from the community

newspapers.

In part of his speech, a furious Elliot attacked *Champion* editor Rob Kelly and other Metroland newspapers, with the exception of *The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press*, for coverage published a day before the election.

He also called the Tory campaign "a Republican style of politics from south of the border."

He told members of his campaign team they should be proud of the work they did.

"Nobody should feel ashamed at all about the job that's been done in Halton North," said Elliot.

He added that he's "never seen so many interested people come into the campaign."

Elliot told supporters he wouldn't comment that night on his future in politics.

"It's not appropriate on election night to make any speculation in that regard," he said.

Duignan runs a distant third

By JANET BAINE

Staff writer

Noel Duignan was just one of many New Democratic Party MPPs that got caught in the Tory tidal wave that washed through Ontario on Thursday evening as he lost his Halton North seat to Ted Chudleigh and the Progressive Conservative Party.

About a dozen supporters were at Cedar Springs Motel, north of Georgetown, to greet the defeated MPP on Thursday night.

Duignan arrived at the

subdued event after stopping briefly at Chudleigh's victory party in Hornby.

Duignan said he thought he had a 50-50 chance of winning the campaign.

Duignan added that he has no regrets and didn't feel he was hurt by his decision not to attend some of the all-candidates meetings.

"Walt Elliot went to them all, and he only got 19 per cent of the vote," he noted. Voters, instead, preferred Mike Harris's platform of tax and spending cuts.

"He offered a very simple message and people liked that message. I think that's what happened. I have a problem with a simple message for complex problems," Duignan said.

"The five years (as MPP) was a tremendous experience. It was certainly a learning experience. I worked with the people of this riding and left a legacy of a number of things," he said.

These include Bill 62 to protect the Niagara Escarpment, new schools, seniors centres in Georgetown and Acton, a supportive housing development in Halton Hills and a wide range of other projects.

Before his surprise 1990 victory over Liberal Walt Elliot, Duignan worked at

Homestarts, developing non-profit housing. At the present time he is unsure that the future will hold. He plans to take a couple weeks to close his two offices, then spend a couple months regaining his health.

Family Coalition Party (FCP) candidate Alex McKee was disappointed with the results.

"Ten days ago I thought we had a real shot at it because I envisioned a minority government," McKee said. "But a large undecided vote went to Harris because of fear, their concern about leftist intervention. If anybody was to win, I would prefer to see the Tories."




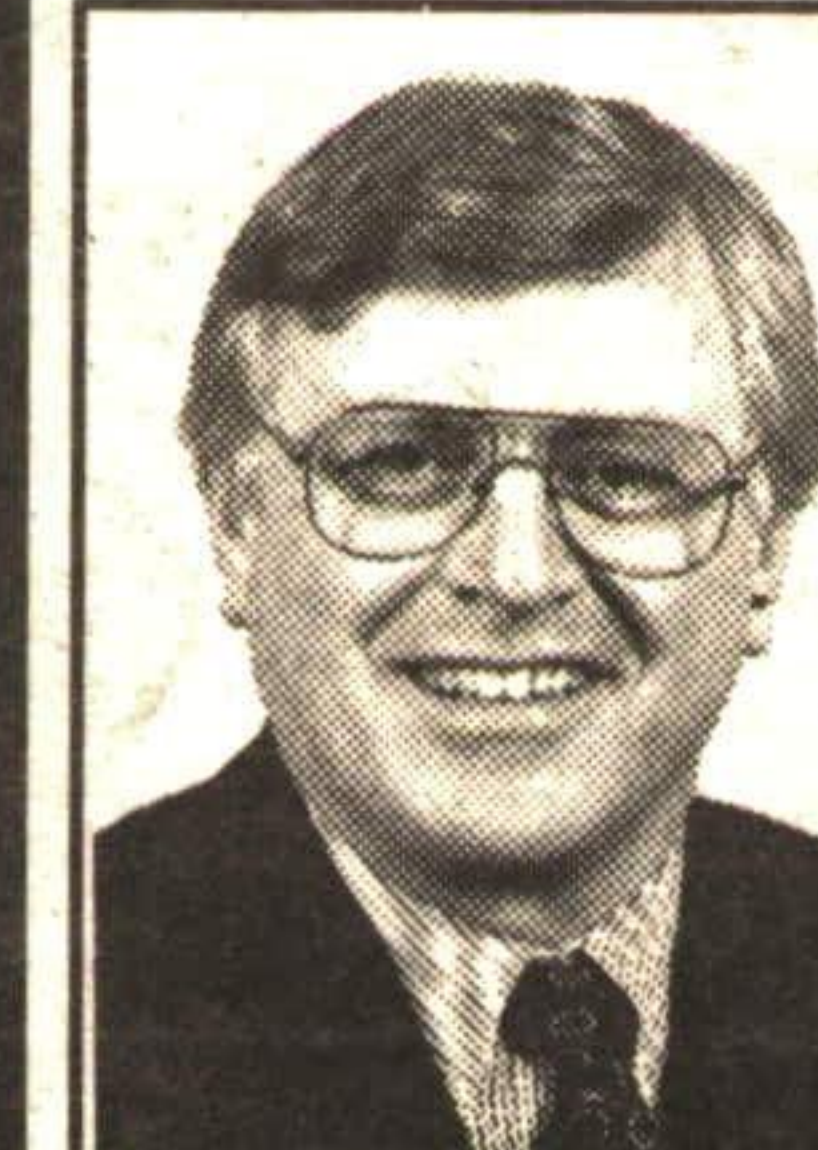
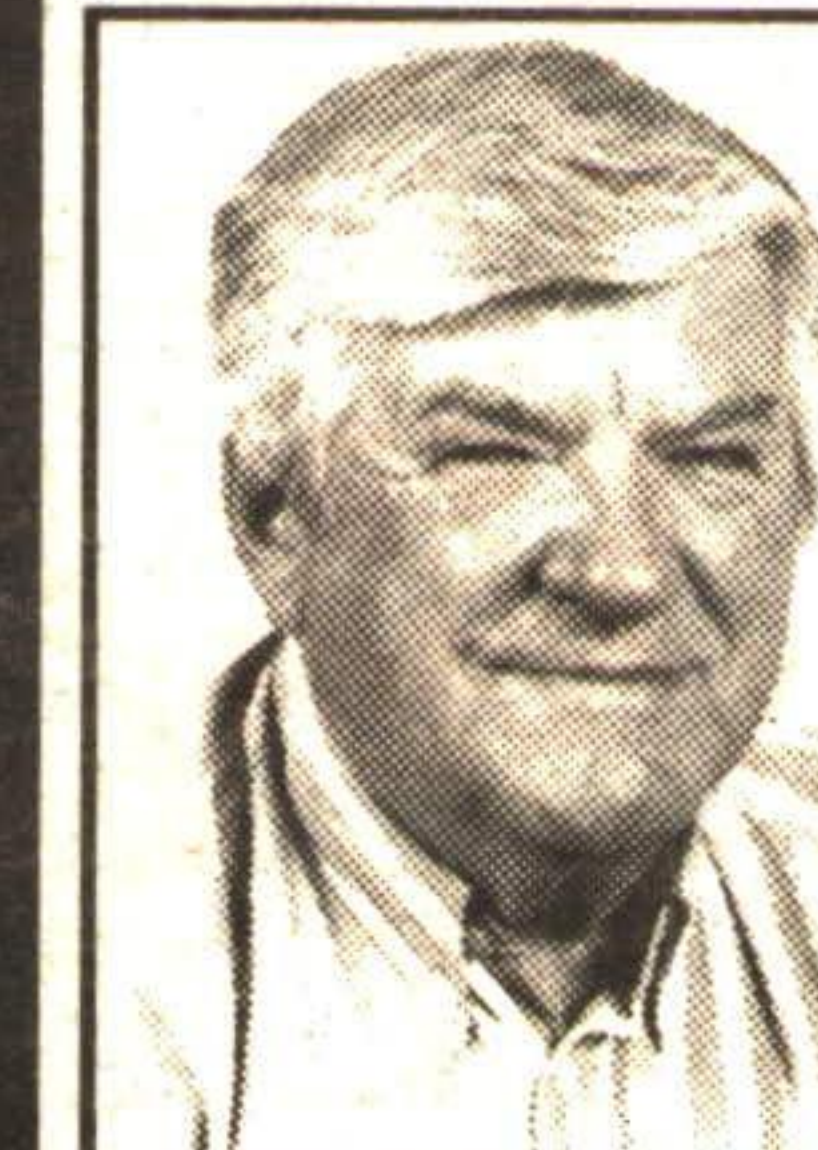
McKee, a longtime PC supporter until late last year, severed ties to that party before deciding to run for the FCP.

"What the scary thing about it is now (the PCs) are going to have to deliver," he said. "I'm really concerned for Ontario if these guys can't deliver."

John Shadbolt, leader of the Libertarian party, garnered less than half the 450 votes he got last time round.

He said that as party leader, he had obligations to help other candidates out and was unable to do any door-knocking in his campaign.

Election scoreboard (unofficial)

PC	Liberal	NDP	FCP	Libertarian
				
TED CHUDLEIGH	WALT ELLIOT	NOEL DUIGNAN	ALEX MCKEE	JOHN SHADBOLT
19,461	6,620	4,383	1,346	198