

Mainly economics

# Halton-Wentworth candidates grilled by members of UBCF

Trudeaumania has become Trudeau-obia, charged the Progressive Conservative candidate for Halton-Wentworth, Bill Kempling at a meet-the-candidate seminar at Fairview School, Lowville, last week.

The meet-the-candidate program was sponsored by the Upper Burlington Citizens Forum and most of the 60 people who turned out for the event were from the North Burlington area. Kempling, Liberal runner Norm McGuinness and NDP hopeful Dickson Bailey arrived at the school at almost the same time. The three men were on an open-line radio show in Hamilton and didn't reach the school until about 10 p.m.

**Five minutes**

All three candidates were allowed five minutes to deliver a speech outlining their beliefs and aspirations and tell why their particular party should form the next government in Ottawa.

The youngest of the three battlers, NDP'er Dickson Bailey, 25, delivered his political pitch first. "A local candidate should have a clear concept of his role," he suggested.

"An NDP government will provide more protection for the small businessman," he promised. Bailey also said there was a need for greater protection for Canada's export and manufacturing industries.

He knocked the Trudeau government for its lack of an employment policy. "Not since the Diefenbaker years has a government been so unwilling to come to grips with unemployment," he claimed.

Increased prices for clothes and housing, urban growth, and the need for a re-definition of what communities are all about, are key problems the next government will have to face, stated Bailey.

**Hard hitting**

A hard hitting attack on Prime Minister Trudeau—his personality and governmental record—was launched by PC hopeful Bill Kempling.

"I've been talking to people every day and I've found this election comes down to personalities. My opponents get upset at this—they are saying I'm scraping the bottom of the barrel," Kempling pointed out.

Kempling said the public is becoming increasingly concerned with the arrogance of Prime Minister Trudeau. "People are asking 'What are we going to do with Trudeau?'; Trudeau-obia has been thundered. The Liberal government is wooing the public with false images of 'walking into the future through a field of clover,'" Kempling suggested.

He cited the example of the proposed name change for the R.C.M.P. as one example of how the Canadian public has been deceived by the Liberal government.

**Deceived**

"Solicitor General Pierre Goyer denied there would be a name change. But we now know that there are plans to change the R.C.M.P.'s name. It doesn't matter whether you're for the name change or not—the point is, we were deceived," reiterated Kempling.

Kempling also knocked Liberals who compare the Prime Minister to American president Richard Nixon because of both men's tours to foreign nations. "Comparing Trudeau to Nixon is like comparing Mickey Mouse to Angelo Mosca," he quipped.

"A double dose of gloom" was how the third speaker, Liberal candidate Norm McGuinness described Kempling's talk.

"What we've heard is the typical Tory platform—nothing to do with the future; just poor mouthing and bellyaching," snorted McGuinness.

**Higher level**

He also chided his Tory counterpart for dealing with personalities. "Personally I like to keep the campaign on a much higher level."

McGuinness said if the real issue in the election was to be based on party leaders, then a close look should be taken at the performance of the Prime Minister.

"This government has been the hardest working ever—passing at least 65 bills per session."

When the American government imposed the 10 per cent surcharge on imported goods, the "cool" nerve of the Trudeau government helped the Canadian dollar to remain stable, McGuinness told the audience. "Measures were taken by the

Trudeau administration to control the Canadian dollar, when John Connally—in big Texas style—made a frontal attack on Canada," claimed the speaker.

**Tax reform**

Tax reform legislation, an economic growth which outpaces the U.S.A., laws for the protection of the environment, increased housing projects, and a willingness to listen, to the public were some of the accomplishments and by-products of the present Liberal government, McGuinness remarked.

Although the three political aspirants hammered away at a variety of issues, it appeared in a question and answer period which followed their talks, that economics and the tax structure were the main topics of concern to the North Burlington audience.

A Guelph Line resident Eric Gudgeon wanted to know why secondary manufacturing hadn't increased with the Gross National Product.

Kempling said Canada has a "balance of payment problem", caused by purchasing other nations' finished products with our raw materials.

Part of the problem is because service industries are Canada's fastest growing concern, observed McGuinness. When Gudgeon seemed skeptical, McGuinness retorted, "don't nod your head. It's a fact."

**Branch plant economy**

"We also have a branch plant economy which doesn't have access to markets," was another reason why secondary manufacturing was behind the economic measuring stick, he pointed out.

McGuinness also said Canada suffers at the hands of the "multi-national corporation"; and that every nation would have to come to grips with it.

When the audience seemed to knock this observation, he stated that "The General Motors Corporation has a larger Gross National Product than most nations. The multi-national

corporation looks at a global market."

Stronger controls and aid to industries would be pushed for by the Liberal government if it were returned, noted the speaker.

McGuinness, who tended to take more time to answer questions than his combatants, apologized for getting on a "soapbox."

"But these are things I feel strongly about," he explained.

**Lifted**

Many of his proposals were lifted from the New Democratic Party's platform, Bailey quipped. "Some of what the NDP has been advocating has had some effect. It's very fine to hear these comments expressed."

The term "corporate welfare bum" coined by NDP leader David Lewis, was brought up during the night, when Gudgeon switched his questioning from aid to industries to the status of unions.

"Your party has talked about corporate bums; would it force unions to pay taxes on their investments and to keep their money in Canada?" he asked Bailey.

Somewhat hesitantly, Bailey said the NDP would push for greater economic controls on unions, but added that unions were not businesses.

His remarks brought hoots and derisive laughter from the audience. Gudgeon retorted with, "oh yes they are" and Kempling agreed with him.

While economic matters dominated most of the night's discussion, two questions dealing with other issues were brought into focus by a Kilbride man, Tom Patience.

**Death penalty**

Patience asked the guests how they would vote on re-establishment on the continued ban on capital punishment, which he considered a key election issue.

Kempling said he would probably vote for the restoration of hanging, while McGuinness said the matter would have to be

studied. Bailey said he would vote against the re-establishment of the death penalty.

Patience's second question started a somewhat heated municipal debate which took the spotlight temporarily off the three guests.

Patience asked the delegates how their respective parties would deal with recent requests by Bell Canada to increase

telephone rates. Patience said many people in the North Burlington area were forced to share party lines with 15 neighbors.

Bailey said the NDP was against increased rates; while Kempling said North Burlington residents should push for better service, and that Bell would have to have a good case before it would be allowed to raise

charges. McGuinness admitted he didn't know how he would vote.

After the three political hopefuls had declared their position, Mrs. Ella Foote, who is the councillor for North Burlington (Ward 3) stood up. "I don't know of any line (telephone line) in the north with 15 people on it," she angrily declared.

"I know of six," Patience

stated. One man in the audience who said he was a Bell employee, claimed the maximum number of people on one line was 10. "If some people would sharpen up, they'd receive better service," he admonished.

Brad Clements, President of the Upper Burlington Citizens Forum told the crowd they were discussing something which was more of a local issue.

While Kempling, McGuinness and Bailey had clashed on numerous occasions, they supported each other when one member of the audience claimed they were shying away from one of the main issues in the election.

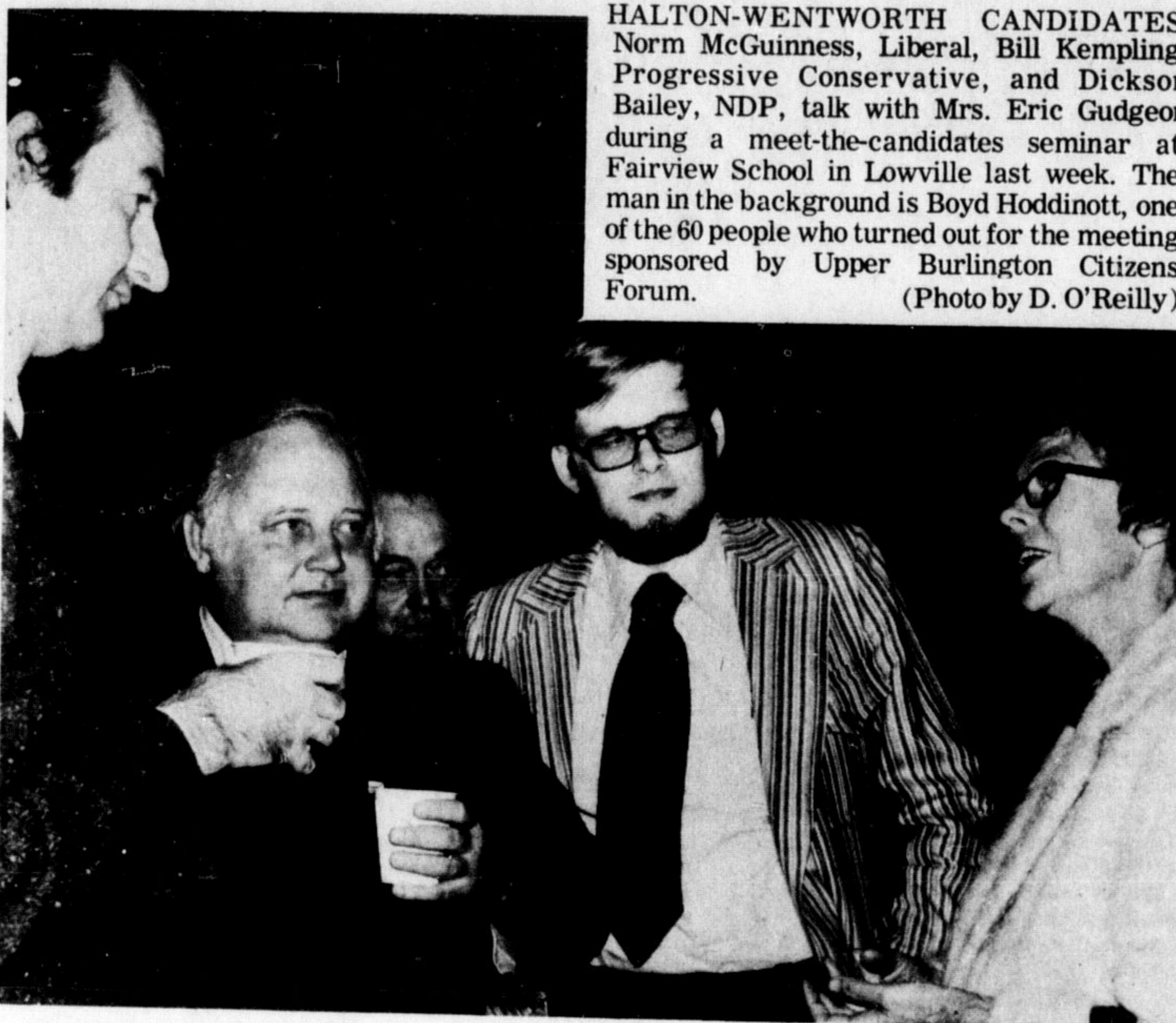
Jeff Towell asked why the

question of the cost of bringing the 1976 Olympics to Canada had not been brought up, "when it will cost \$500,000." He also asked why Montreal will be the host city and not Toronto.

Kempling said "there are so many election issues" it was hard to talk about them all. The other two men backed him up. All three rejected Jewell's suggestion their parties were afraid to discuss the Olympics because it could turn into a French-Canada versus English-Canada clash.

At about 11.15 p.m. the formal part of the evening was drawn to a close. The candidates mingled with the audience and held informal talks for about another half hour.

HALTON-WENTWORTH CANDIDATES Norm McGuinness, Liberal, Bill Kempling, Progressive Conservative, and Dickson Bailey, NDP, talk with Mrs. Eric Gudgeon during a meet-the-candidates seminar at Fairview School in Lowville last week. The man in the background is Boyd Hodinott, one of the 60 people who turned out for the meeting sponsored by Upper Burlington Citizens Forum. (Photo by D. O'Reilly)





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