

"Anyone's ball game"

Three parties anticipate heavy turnout at polls

All three men seeking election to Queen's Park are optimistic about the results of the provincial election in Halton-Burlington. All three feel they have been received well both at meet the candidate meetings and in the door to door canvassing.

But no one is predicting a landslide for any candidate. Each of the three candidates commented on the election campaign and the outcome during interviews this week.

Incumbent Liberal Julian Reed said he is cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the election. "I'm still running as if I were 200 votes behind and I'll continue to do that until election day."

"The most evident part of the story is the number of Tories who have come to our office with donations and offers of support," Reed said. Reed said he initially interpreted this as an anti-candidate or pro-candidate reaction but that more recently there have been many remarks favoring Liberal leader Stuart Smith's strong economic line and questions about the necessity of the election.

Asked how he'd perceived his reception at the meet the candidates' meeting, Reed said he had learned quickly that the meetings were often filled with committed voters.

"It is like church you end up preaching to the converted. I'll wait and let the people say if I got my points across or not."

Tory Candidate George Gray said he felt he had been well received by the people in his canvassing and at meet the candidate meetings.

While Gray feels he has been well received he isn't

over confident of a win tomorrow night. He said he felt leadership and job prospects have been the key issues.

Gray has been criticized publicly for trying to take credit for job creation and for getting a new school addition approved in Milton.

He said that as soon as he put his name forward for public office he was prepared to accept criticism from the masses and in the press.

NDP candidate Bill Johnson said "I can only feel optimistic. I've got 200 people knocking on doors for me. That's a big difference from the last time out in 1975 when I'd be fortunate to have had 15 people actively working for me."

"The reception at the doors has been nothing short of fantastic. This election is anybody's game."

Johnson describes himself as an activist and takes pride in being a scrapper. He feels this will work in his favor.

"Tories and Liberals come to me for help when they need it. I think they'll realize I can do more for them at Queen's Park than as an ordinary citizen."

He said there were 4,000 new voters in the riding and many of them come from ridings where they've been well served by NDP members.

"On the day after the school protest in Milton we couldn't keep up with the request for signs. People have actually said they are reluctant to vote NDP but this time they'll vote for the man," Johnson said.

Last time out Reed won the riding for the Liberals for the first time in many years. He defeated Tory Gary Dawkins 10,998 to 10,567. Johnson

polling a respectable 6,567 in that election.

All three campaign managers are looking for a heavy turnout at the polls tomorrow.

NDP Bill Cumpstey said he expected an increase in the percentage of eligible voters who will vote.

"A real good turnout is not generally good for the incumbent. People don't vote candidates in they vote them out. High turnouts usually indicate dissatisfied people who want to make a change," Cumpstey said.

Liberal campaign manager Laurie Reed said he too is anticipating a fairly heavy vote. "I've got the impression there are a lot of people with something to say and they will say it at the ballot box."

He said he felt the number of local issues spotted throughout the riding would contribute to a heavy vote tomorrow.

Questioned about how this would affect the incumbent member Mr. Reed said, "I think the heavy vote might be bad for the incumbent government rather than the incumbent member. There are so many people concerned about problems and there are so many issues working in the direction against the government," he said.

Tory manager Doc Russell said he too felt there would be a high vote. He said his canvassers had indicated that there are an unusually high number of uncommitted voters.

He acknowledged that this might be the reluctance of people to discuss their vote with a canvasser. He said he felt the interest in the election was growing as the time rolls

on and indicated that the Quebec crisis had served to make people more aware of politics.

He suggested that in a riding where so many people are

commuters it is difficult to get them fired up about local issues.

Returning officer Roy Coulter reports a slightly lower turnout at the advance

poll this year compared to last year but some people attribute that to the fact that there were three days for the advance poll last election and only two this time.



JULIAN REED'S campaign took to the streets Saturday as he rode through town in a car leading a cavalcade of cars decorated for the occasion. The words of "I saw the light," followed by a message to vote Reed were piped through a sound system. Reed is shown with his wife Deanna.



INVOLVED IN A SERIOUS DISCUSSION after last Tuesday's all candidates meeting at Martin St. School were Anne Katz of the Tremaine-Britannia group to save Site F from becoming a garbage dump, and Progressive Conservative candidate George Gray.

Not final yet

Tax hike ranges from \$26 to \$98

A tax hike ranging from \$26 in Burlington area to \$98 in Nassagaweya, based on an average home assessed at \$5,000, appeared possible for Milton taxpayers this week as Milton Council went through the final stages of approving the town's 1977 expenditures and setting the new mill rate.

On a \$5,000 assessment, the homeowner in urban Milton would face a \$52 increase, the former Oakville area a \$46 increase and the former Esquesing area a \$60 increase, town treasurer Donald Lougheed reported.

But the budget isn't yet finalized. Budget officers took what was supposed to be "a final kick at the cat" Wednesday evening, after a special meeting held to deal with the new fire hall and arena. A proposal to finalize the mill rate Monday night ran into opposition, however, and councillors Monday evening voted 6-5 to hold up the final deliberations until last night (Tuesday)—too late for coverage in today's newspaper.

If the 1977 expenditures were approved on Tuesday as they stood after Wednesday evening's meeting, the town will be spending a total of \$1,799,857 this year, an increase of \$650,000 over 1976.

But that represents only 30 per cent of the money the town must raise in 1977 taxes. The rest—21 per cent for Halton Region, 26 per cent for elementary education and 23 per cent for secondary school education—is raised by the town and turned over to those other bodies.

The original estimates for town-controlled funds totalled \$2.5 million but that was whittled to \$1.7 million in a series of budget chopping sessions.

Mill rate estimates, worked out for Monday's meeting, show the urban Milton residential rate equalized to 21.52 mills, up 10 mills or 9.35 per cent over last year. In the former Nassagaweya area, the rate is 122.93 mills, up 19.55 mills or 18.91 per cent.

The former Burlington area is listed at 96.14 mills, up 5.21 mills or 5.73 per cent. Former Oakville is 89.99, up 9.30 mills or 11.52 per cent. Former Esquesing comes in at 100.22 mills, up 12 mills or 13.62 per cent.

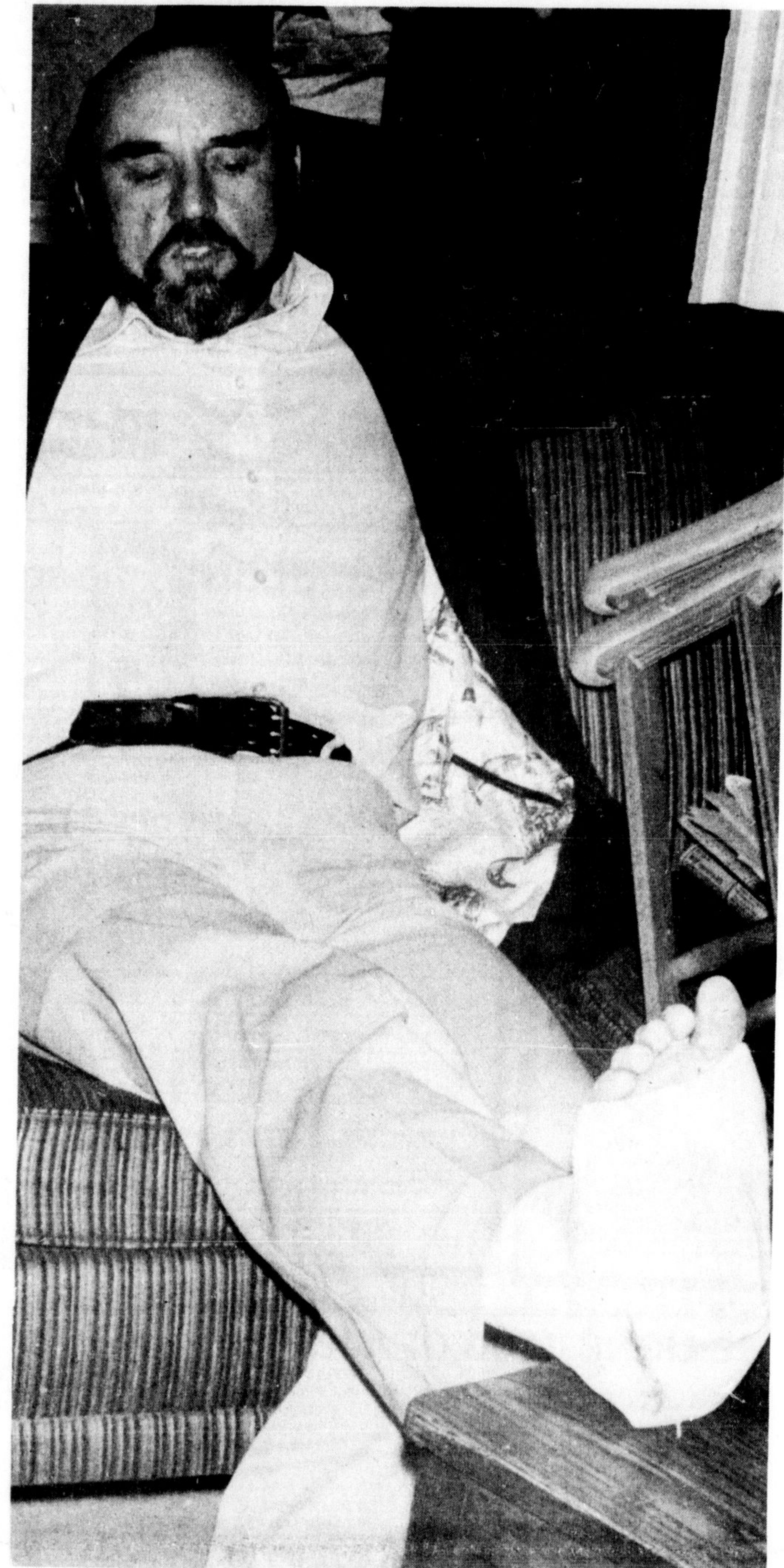
The mill rates quoted include regional and education levies.

Nassagaweya area faced a 27 mill increase this year, until the figures were equalized. To do this, councillors increased mill rates for other areas of the town to soften the blow in the Nassagaweya area. Adjustments have had to be made annually since regional government was formed.

Mayor Don Gordon said one more year of equalizing the Nassagaweya area should bring that area in line with the rest of the town.

The general rate in

(Continued on Page 14)



BILL JOHNSON, N.D.P. candidate, known as Wicked Willie, looks ruefully at a broken ankle in a cast. It was a real rolling stone that was his undoing, but undeterred he will campaign on crutches. "Some people will do anything to get publicity during an election campaign," quipped the N.D.P. candidate.

Limit price to \$278,000

Steeles fire hall gets approved

A new fire hall on Steeles Ave.—estimated to cost \$278,000—has come in with a \$267,574 price tag.

Following lengthy discussion at a special meeting Wednesday evening, Milton Council approved building the fire hall—as much of it as \$278,000 will erect—with the balance to be finished "later" when funds are available. Councillors were hopeful

the existing fire hall on Main St. could be sold quickly for somewhere between \$10,000 and \$100,000 and \$150,000 and that money could be applied toward finishing the new hall.

What appears on paper to be an \$89,000 shortage can be further whittled to \$64,000 as the pre-engineered steel building council bought last year for \$58,000 is an eight-bay structure and the fire

department only needs six of the eight bays. So two bays, worth about \$25,000, are going on the market immediately. "We've got a \$64,000 question," summed up councillor Jim Kerr.

Jim Coulson, Assistant Deputy Chief of the Milton Fire Department, presented the finished drawings and prices to councillors. He said \$278,000—the approved price—would erect the building and install some of the equipment, but the fire department could not move in and use the building.

A total of \$140,000 is to be taken from the town's capital levy fund, and the Ontario Municipal Board has already approved a debenture of \$138,000 toward the hall. Last year, the \$278,000 total appeared to be sufficient to get the hall up and operating, but inflation and necessary extras pushed the price up to \$367,000.

Mayor Don Gordon fought against the suggestion the council should go back to the OMB for another \$64,000—or \$89,000, in case the two extra bays don't sell quickly.

Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough has warned municipalities the province will take a hard line approach on new construction this year, he said. He feared "the town's credibility will suffer" if council goes back to the OMB for more money.

Another possibility discussed was the sale of the town-owned Pure Food Bakery building across from the town hall, estimated to be worth \$45,000.

And there are three surplus acres at the five-acre fire hall site on Steeles Ave. just west of the CNR tracks. Council hopes to be able to sell the excess land for industrial purposes, at a \$120,000 gain. The site was given to the town by Alliance Building Corporation, developers of the industrial area north of Steeles.

ADC Coulson said the new

fire hall is designed "to meet today's and tomorrow's needs." Four bays will be used for fire vehicles, with access from both front and rear doors and this leaves plenty of room for more vehicles at a later date.

The other two bays of the steel building would house the administration end—dispatching centre, chief's and deputy's offices, secretary's office, a small conference room, rooms for the fire prevention personnel and washrooms are in the immediate plans.

A second floor mezzanine would be included unfurnished for now. At a later date it could be used for full time personnel.

Training facilities would include an outside area, with room for a training tower in future. The building would include a hose drying tower.

Parking lot, sewer lines, seed and sod are included in the total price. "It would be ready to walk into—a complete package," said ADC Coulson.

The original building became available to council last fall through Transway Steel Buildings, when another contractor cancelled an order. The purchase price was \$58,000. Today the building is worth \$98,000, said Transway's representative Dave Bryer.

Bryer said if the construction could begin in two weeks, it would be completed by Nov. 30.

A suggestion that part of the building contain a room which could be used by the community, was shunned by ADC Coulson. He cited the hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of firefighting equipment stored there, which he didn't want the public tampering with. "No way it should be open to the public," he said.

Some councillors said a community room was subsidizable.

charged council was "nickel and diming the fire department to death," while council looks at spending \$600,000 to \$700,000 for a new arena. "Those are big nickels," chided councillor Russ Pow-

diuk. Recalling the purchase and renovations at the Campbellville fire department substation, Councillor Jim Watson noted that there was a (Continued on Page 14)

Arena tender is \$561,277

Milton council will have only three tender bids for a new arena to discuss at Monday's meeting.

Whitney Construction Ltd. of Brampton turned in the lowest bid of \$561,277. Transway Steel Buildings of Guelph tendered at \$590,000 followed by D. H. of L. Metal Buildings Systems Inc. of Milton at \$686,000. Tri-Dign Construction Ltd., one of four companies invited to tender declined to bid.

The tendered bids were

approximately \$100,000 higher than original bids accepted a month ago. Some minor design changes were requested by council at that time.

Councillors present at the tenders opening Tuesday were skeptical that the new figures would be acceptable to council.

Parks and Recreation Director Larry Arbie will review the plans and attempt to find additional ways to cut the cost for Monday's meeting.

Eligible voters up

Advance voting down this year

A total of 1,012 people voted at the advance polls in the Halton-Burlington riding this election, down from the 1,113 people who voted at the advance polls in 1975, the year of the last provincial election.

Roy Coulter, returning officer for the Halton-Burlington riding said the advance poll this year was operated for two days, whereas the advance poll was operated for three days in September of 1975, possibly because of the Jewish holiday during the election.

There will be 163 polling

stations, with eight of them split, technically bringing the number of polling stations to 171, up from the 1975 figure of 141 stations.

The advance polls closed Monday at 9 p.m. They opened Saturday at noon and closed at 9 p.m. They opened Monday again at 9 a.m. and closed that night.

The polls will be open tomorrow (Thursday) from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.

There are 43,337 eligible voters in Halton-Burlington, compared to 38,791 in the riding in 1975.

Inside today

WORKING AFTER 65

Just because a person is over the age of 65 doesn't mean he isn't capable of working anymore. In fact, several local senior citizens told The Champion they hope they'll never have to retire. "Working keeps us hale and hearty," they say. See page C1.



BERIBBONED

Karen Haaf (left) won four events at the Jr. school track meet last week. More details on sports, B1 to B5.

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- Editorials, 4.
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- Milton Council, 10.
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- Visitations, B15.

- Guide banquet, C2.
- Opti auction, C3.
- Family, grads, C4.
- Merry Fun Fest, C8.
- Air Cadets Pg. C10.

AUCTION RAISES \$4,000

Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group had a successful auction sale Saturday, raising \$4,000 toward their fight against Site F. Pg. 8.

RACING AT FLAMBORO

Milton drivers are active in the hobby division at Flamboro Speedway. Staff writer John Challinor went to the races Saturday night and his feature is on Pg. B1.

HUMAN RELATIONS AT MAPLEHURST

A year and a half ago, residents at Maplehurst formed a group called the Human Relations Association to help them cope with the dehumanizing aspects of life in a correctional centre and to learn how to express concern for others. Pages C6 and C7.