

Liberal convention

PM Trudeau makes a lot of sense Halton ONL delegates say

By John Challinor
Being a member of the Ontario New Liberals means you get to rub elbows with the member of provincial parliament in your riding—if he is a Liberal member. It means you may meet the Leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario on occasion, and if you are fortunate, you may be in the same room as the Prime Minister of Canada—perhaps once.

For Halton ONL delegates Alistair Stewart, Bruce Duncan, Bob Richardson and Steve Favro, this was the situation last weekend when they attended the ONL annual convention at the Don Valley Holiday Inn in Toronto.

"It was the first time I had ever met the Prime Minister," said Halton delegate chairman Steve Favro. "I think he gave some very good answers to the questions the delegates asked him. He made a lot of sense."

Favro, 16, is a student at Queen Elizabeth Park Secondary School in Oakville. He said the Halton chapter of the ONL has 30 members between the ages of 16 and 20.

"By the time our membership reaches the age of 20 they are in university and are attending the campus club meetings," Favro said. "ONL members range in age from 16 to 25 years of age. Presently, there is no ONL club in Milton or Halton Hills. Those areas would form Halton-Burlington riding clubs, I would think."

Guest speakers during the weekend convention included Prime Minister Trudeau, Dr. Stuart Smith, Secretary of State John Roberts and the Hon. J. J. Blais.

Guest panelists for the policy conferences included federal cabinet ministers Bud Cullen and Alastair Gillis. Provincial caucus members on the panel included Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed

and John Sweeney. Trudeau, who appeared very tired, gave no formal address. Instead, delegates participated in a 45-minute question and answer period. Trudeau mingled with the 350 delegates prior to the question period, posing for pictures with the young Liberals and answering any questions they had.

Feeling quite comfortable before the assembled group of young supporters, he answered questions about the economy, unemployment, social security, national unity, Quebec and the RCMP.

"We should not be involved with the day-to-day activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police," the Prime Minister told the audience of delegates, reporters and fellow politicians. "Thus means the solicitor-general or myself. The RCMP should have some sort of self-

monitoring device—perhaps that's a bad choice of words. "There should be no ignorance of the activities of the RCMP at any level—by myself or the senior officers of the RCMP," Trudeau stated. "We want their people to report to us about their activities, but we shouldn't have to get involved."

Trudeau said his government was working on a social security program for the poor.

"We already have a guaranteed annual income program for those Canadians who are retired," he said. "We are working on a supplementary program for the working poor."

Trudeau stated emphatically that national unity was not just a regional problem involving Quebec. "We have to alleviate the age old problem of understanding each other first," Trudeau said. "English Canadians across Canada have to understand French Canadians across Canada—

this is the stuff of politics." "Canadians have to see the country as a whole," he added. "My job is to make sure that there exists a general common good in Canada federally—while still appreciating the regional differences and the powers of

each province." Dr. Smith, hurried along by the ONL because of time Sunday afternoon, dropped his planned address in favor of a speech about the future of Canada's resources. He stressed the importance of research into renewable

energy—which was accepted as policy by the UNL earlier in the convention. Favro plans to attend next year's convention and is urging young Halton residents to consider the ONL for membership.



PRIME MINISTER Pierre Elliott Trudeau spoke before 350 Ontario New Liberal delegates on the weekend. Four Oakville boys witnessed the event and were quite impressed with the prime minister and the entire weekend. (Champion Photo by Peter McCusker).

Liberal meeting attracts few

In an effort to move the political activity around the riding and increase the involvement of people in the party work and political process, Halton Liberals held a meeting at Martin St. School Wednesday night.

MP Frank Philbrook said the meeting discussed plans for the national convention, the travelling caucus in

March as well as plans to boost membership in the party.

Dr. Philbrook said the meeting was to be part of an ongoing process to boost involvement and generate interest.

Because of poor weather and conflicting meetings, the attendance was limited to a crowd of about 15 people.

LDC denies bid by Speyside woman

The Land Division Committee stuck to its criteria in denying a separation to a Speyside woman during a meeting in the Halton Hills offices January 17.

Milton lawyer Ron Flannagan, acting for Brenda Gignac, told the committee that under the proposed regional official plan, Speyside would become a rural cluster. Within the cluster severances would be permitted for infilling, he said.

LDC member Des Morrow told Flannagan he is not swayed by the draft plan, nor by the Halton Conservation Authority, which also refers to the proposal. It's the region's interim plan that counts, he said. Under the interim plan, the Gignac separation in some ways fits the concept of infilling, he said.

Another committee member, Tom Marshall of Oakville, however, countered by saying the separation

would represent more urban development in a rural area. "Because it could be infilling, doesn't mean you have to fill it," he said.

Flannagan said there are 20 or more private residences in the area. The Gignac property is on 15 Sideroad near the first turn of Highway 25, according to Flannagan.

Marshall's motion to deny was passed.

Peanuts By Charles Schulz

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