

Interest high in Tory nomination

The Tory nomination appears to be up for grabs as the campaign for the nomination heads into its final days.

As of Monday night there were 3,412 Tories registered as eligible voting delegates to the April 6 nomination meeting.

The number is remarkably high and reflects the interest that has been shown in the campaign over recent weeks.

Both Otto Jelinek and Tris Lett opened offices in Oakville and the two along with Dr. Art Ross have carried an unusually high profile over the past weeks.



OTTO JELINEK

While all three feel confident of victory some polls are indicating that as many as 90 per cent of the delegates haven't yet made a decision.

The number of registered delegates is so high that organizers are concerned that Blakelock High School might not be large enough to accommodate the meeting.

During an executive meeting Monday night the riding executive agreed to look at the vacant Bad Boy store in Oakville and Sheridan College as alternate locations to hold the meeting.

"We've got a pretty good idea of those who are committed to us," Lett said in an interview this week.

"There are an awful lot of people still uncommitted. Our polls show about 90 per cent haven't decided yet. That came as a total shock to me. I felt the uncommitted vote would be running at about 40 per cent," Lett said.

Lett figures that about 500

people have been to the three meet the candidate meetings. "It is impossible for any candidate to have seen half of the eligible voters. The uncommitted is very important in this race.



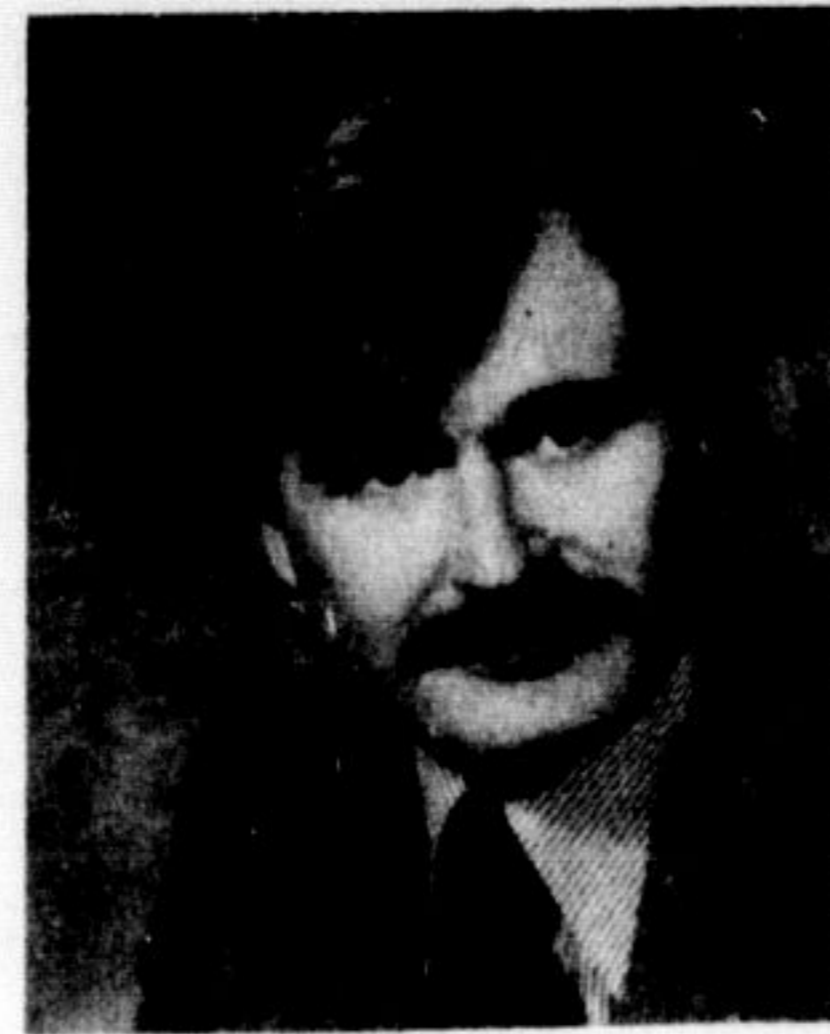
ART ROSS

"Our polls show Otto and I neck and neck with Dr. Ross a close third. But with that many uncommitted it could go anyway," Lett says.

He noted there were many disgruntled Liberals joining the Tory ranks this time around. "The way people are turning off Trudeau and Philbrook give which ever one of us that wins an excellent chance. There has been a lot of high profile stuff and if it continues going into the nomination anything could happen," he says.

Advised of Lett's survey results Dr. Ross said he wasn't impressed but suggested surveys his people have taken indicate that Lett could very well be number three man on the totem pole.

Dr. Ross said he was gratified with the response he had received. "We've moved from a standing start to a



TRIS LETT

point where hundreds of people have joined in. Many old friends have come out to offer unsolicited assistance.

"The response we've had shows how ridiculous Otto's statement was when he said he's the one that can win the riding because he's a sitting member. Hard work in every polling station will win this

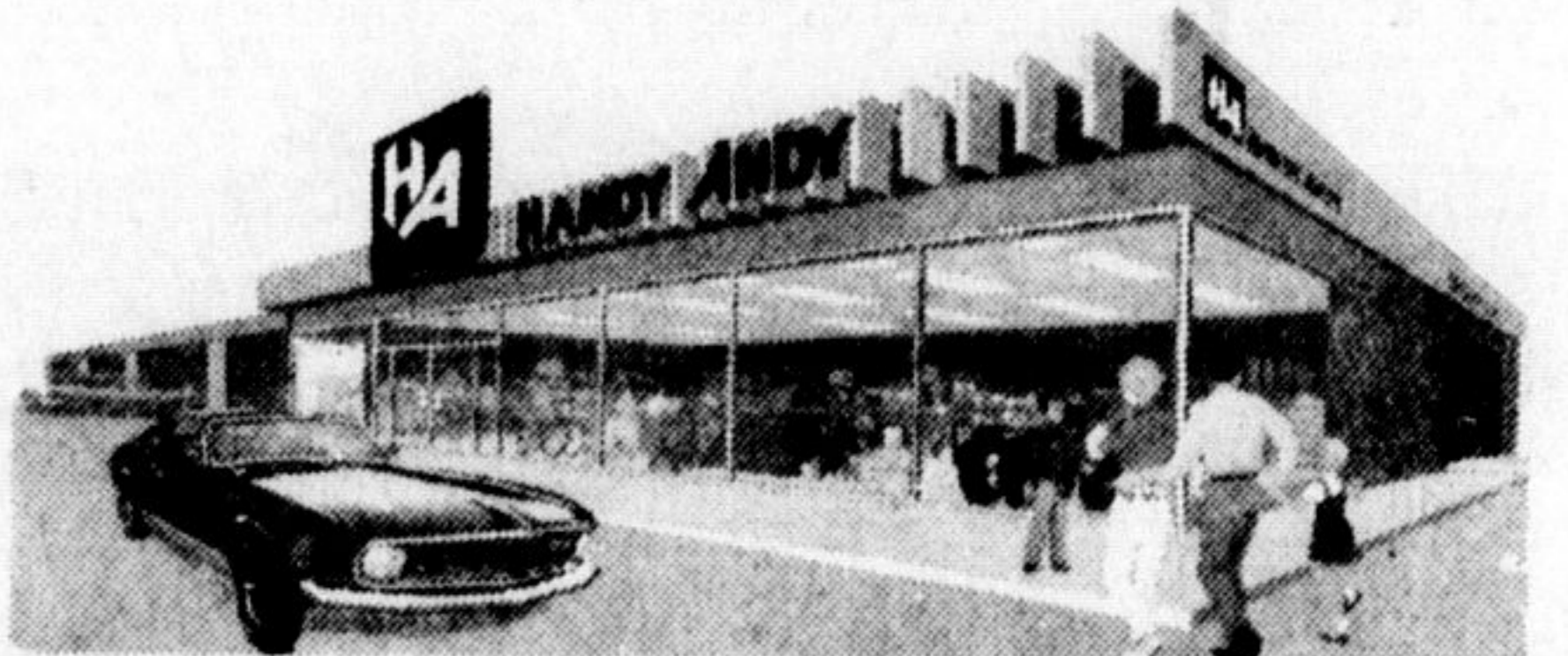
"Really to predict who is coming first, second and third isn't logical and I don't think psychological warfare will do any good," Dr. Ross said.

Throughout the campaign Jelinek has leaned heavily on his experience in the House of Commons. While all three describe themselves as being left of middle on the political spectrum, Jelinek is the furthest to the right of all three.

If he wins the nomination this will be Jelinek's third election. He has represented High Park Humber Valley since 1972 and decided to run in Halton when his riding was lost in redistribution.

Dr. Ross has done a lot of work in Mexico, Guatemala and West Africa in recent years. He practiced family medicine in Oakville prior to that.

Lett is a civil servant and senior advisor to provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough.



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At HRCA

Dump fighters seek support

Members of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group will appear as a delegation at the March 30 meeting of the Halton Region Conservation Authority in an attempt to convince the authority to become involved in the fight against a landfill site in Milton.

The site proposed by the region is at the northwest junction of Tremaine and Britannia Roads in Milton.

Anne Katz, a spokesman for the group, said that so far the authority hasn't been involved because it didn't feel the site was within the flood plain designation.

She noted that there has been considerable flooding there this spring and last fall.

"We want them to recognize the area as being within their jurisdiction," she said.

Environmental lawyer

David Estrin and engineering consultant Andy Benedek will attend the meeting along with representatives of the group.

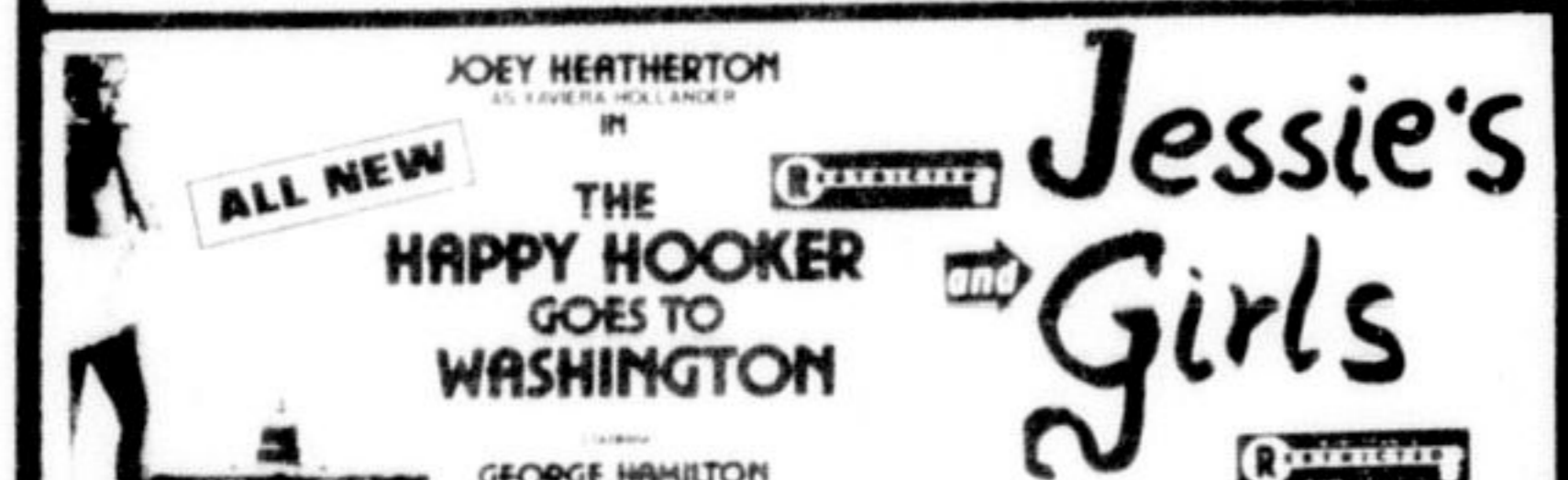


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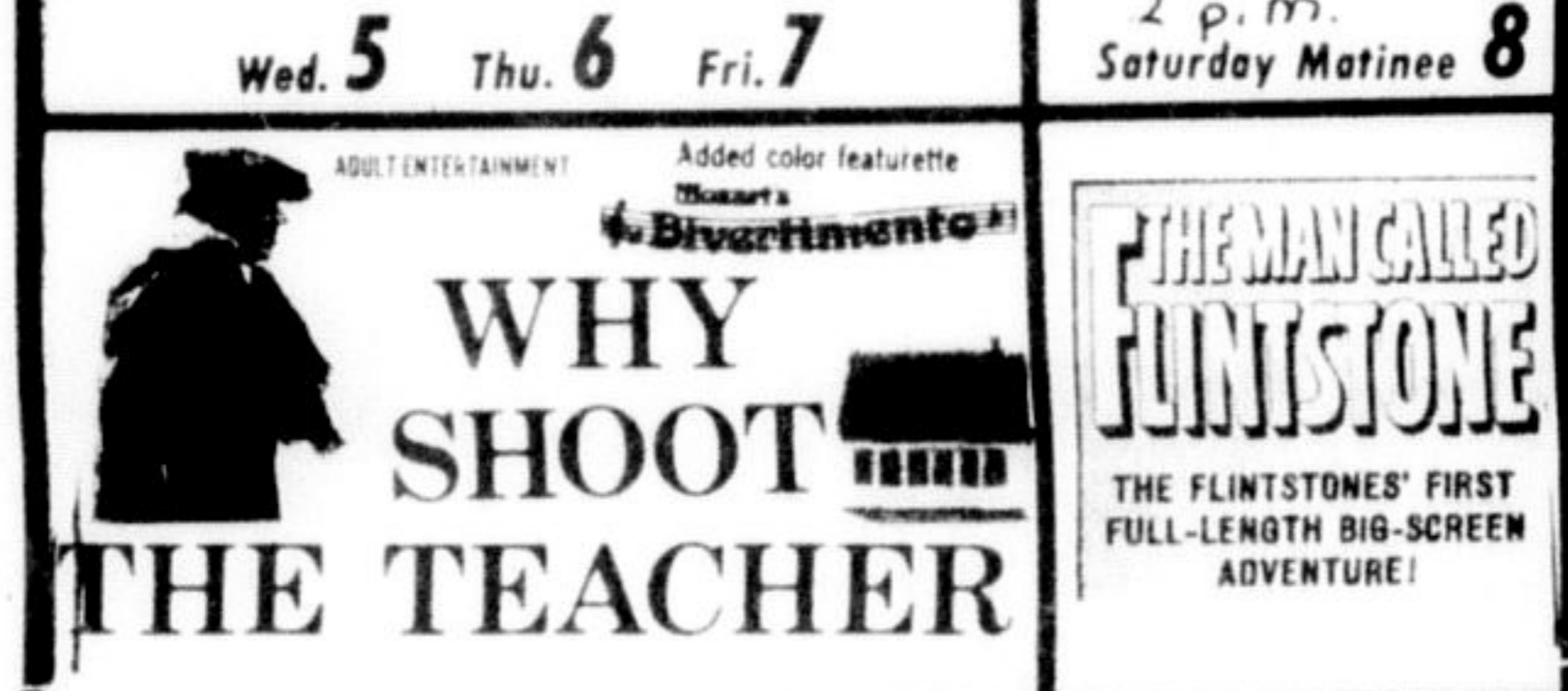
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Wed. 5 Thu. 6 Fri. 7 2 p.m. Saturday Matinee 8



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