

# Champions again

The Canadian Champion staff attended the 31st annual convention of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association in Toronto on the weekend, to be presented with seven awards the paper won in the 1980 better newspapers competition.

The Champion was named second best all-round paper in the class for papers with 8,000 to 20,000 circulation, and won first prizes in this class for best front page, best editorial page and best news and features on the inside pages.

It also received the Frank Prendergast Award presented by Imperial Oil for the best broadsheet front page in Ontario.

News Editor Jim Robinson's feature on the problems of the regional dump site in Milton (Site F) won the Environment Ontario Award for environmental features; and his in-depth report on little theatre through the eyes of Milton Players won the Ministry of Culture and Recreation Award, arts section.

Judges' scoring, released at the weekend convention, showed The Champion second in its circulation class in the composition and layout and sports categories, and fourth in photos and local advertising. Winner of the Waterloo Chronicle, which scored one point more than The Champion — 394 to 393 out of 500 possible points. Third was The Champion's sister paper in Georgetown, The Independent, with 365 points.

The front page category, open to all broadsheet papers in Ontario, had 54 entries this year. Judges reported The Champion was "clearly the winner in this competition. Even discounting the use of color photos, the front page is a classic example of planning, forethought and artistry. It is clearly and tidily laid out, and an enticement to the reader."

Of reporter Robinson's Site F feature, (Continued on Pg. 3)



The Champs. Canadian Champion staff members are shown with trophies won at the OWNA convention. Identifications in story.

# The Canadian Champion

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Majority bound? Fran Baines, Halton-Burlington PC candidate is shown with Ontario Premier Bill Davis at a breakfast meeting early in the campaign. Mrs. Baines supports the Davis campaign unreservedly.

## Baines is backing Davis

By Linda Kirby

With just eight days left to go until election day, Halton-Burlington's PC candidate Fran Baines is hot on the campaign trail, spending most of her daylight hours banging on doors and addressing groups during the evening.

She doesn't sell a particular platform. "The issues that concern me are the ones that I hear at the door," she explained.

Bread and butter issues, as she describes them include growing interest rates, cost of housing, food and the general climb in the cost of living.

The 47-year-old Georgetown resident pointed out many voters however, do not differentiate between the various

levels of governments and their respective responsibilities.

Housing prices, as an example, are dictated by the market place, she said.

With the exception of specific subsidies, there is a great reluctance on the part of the public to involve the government in housing, she said.

She is very much in support of low-rental housing in Milton, pointing out the town suffers a "real" problem with the lack of non-profit accommodation.

Mrs. Baines is cautious about making any radical changes with the present regional government.

"One of the things I find is a total lack of understanding for the cost of regional govern-

ment. "People think it is a lot more than it actually is. A lot of people are concerned with the regional deficit and so am I," she said.

"But to dismantle it is not the right thing to do. I don't really think the people want the province to come in with a heavy hand."

Energy and the subject of alternative fuels may not be on every voter's mind, but it is a popular theme with Mrs. Baines.

In full support of Premier Davis's planned BILD program, she is excited with the prospect of developing increased use of electrical energy.

"There is a real push to use electrical energy and therefore cut back on our dependency for outside energy," she said, adding

many new buildings including schools are taking advantage of solar energy to cut fuel costs.

"One of the initiatives I like to talk about in the BILD program is a plan to upgrade food storage, so that crops may be kept longer and stored, cutting back on our need to import."

Part of the plan would include changing the present crop yield regulations, she said, to allow increased productivity.

Research is now being done on the cost savings of heating greenhouses with nuclear waste in the Bruce Peninsula, and the response from the public is good, she said.

"People seem to be pleased if anything is being looked at.

"The response is interesting. Many say, 'anything to keep the oil barons from holding us for ransom,' while others feel we just have to meet world fuel prices.

Bitter feuding within party ranks of the local association and publicity concerning the recent supreme court case against Mrs. Baines has not discouraged her.

"I don't think it has affected the campaign," she said.

The founding president of the Halton-Burlington PC Association, Mrs. Baines is known for her extensive Tory background on both the provincial and federal levels.

A director with the Milton Chamber of Commerce, she has a list of community service achievements.

## Baines, Cutler, Reed . . . it's your decision

# Just eight days to go

By Jim Robinson

Halton-Burlington voters go to the polls in eight days to decide the next provincial government and who will represent this area at Queen's Park through what will be a decade of spiralling costs and a withering economy.

In their only appearance together in Milton, the three candidates took to the podium at E.C. Drury School last Wednesday to discuss Halton regionalism and the province-wide issues, centred on the economy.

The meeting, held only two hours after Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines had been declared the legal PC in the race, attracted about 200 people including Campbellville resident Oriena Currie, who had sued Mrs. Baines for not being allowed to vote at the PC nomination meeting.

The meeting was restricted to statements by the candidates and was followed only by partisan party supporters asking questions amenable to one camp or the other.

## Dissenting PC changes mind, won't seek office

Fran Baines, PC candidate for Halton-Burlington has been given a clear field to run.

But only just. A Supreme Court decision rejecting an application to have a second nomination convention prompted one PC member to register himself as a candidate last Wednesday evening.

But the following morning 57-year-old Ken Hassard of Milton and former area campaign manager for federal Conservative MP Otto Jelinek, decided it would be an impossible feat.

Justice R. E. Holland issued a written statement Wednesday afternoon, turning down an application by Campbellville businesswoman Oriena Currie to have Mrs. Baine's nomination overturned.

Mrs. Currie issued the writ after she was denied her right to vote at the party's nomination Feb. 9.

Mr. Hassard who resigned from his position as chairman of the Milton area for the PC association over the ensuing controversy, said he considered running as an independent PC candidate to offer dissatisfied Tories an "alternative" to Fran Baines.

"I called it off first thing in the morning," said Mr. Hassard, because there was insufficient time for a successful campaign.

One of many local PC members who has refused to work on the Baines' campaign, Mr. Hassard said he was strongly supported by area Tories on his initial decision to run as an independent.

He added it would have been physically impossible however, to acquire the 100 needed signatures in time for a Thursday (Feb. 5) nomination deadline.



KEN HASSARD

Mr. Hassard's candidacy came as a surprise to many who anticipated Mrs. Baine's opponent, Brian Penman would have been the likely candidate to leap back into the race.

Mr. Penman signed an affidavit Wednesday noon (Feb. 4) stating he would be prepared to run as a PC candidate if Judge R. E. Holland granted an injunction and a second nomination meeting was called.

(Continued on Pg. 14)

## Taxation reforms anchor platform

Admittedly only partially aware of local concerns, Halton-Burlington New Democratic Party candidate in the March 19 election, Chris Cutler, is well versed in provincial NDP platforms including a series of property tax reforms.

Mr. Cutler, 21, and a native of Flamborough-Township, opened his campaign for the Milton-Georgetown-Acton riding by outlining the four-prong NDP program to "base property taxes on a fair assessment system as well as a real relationship to ability to pay."

By basing the taxation system on property assessment, Mr. Cutler

believes property owners are being "asked to pay for more services than

they were intended to pay for." A prime example,

according to Mr. Cutler and Burlington NDP (Continued on Pg. 14)



Liberal team. Ontario Liberal leader Dr. Stuart Smith is shown with Halton-Burlington incumbent MPP Julian Reed. Mr. Reed says he is confident of victory March 19.

## Reed confident

By Jane Muller

Although certain polls predict a Conservative majority government, Liberal MPP Julian Reed says a majority will not be reflected in Halton, "if we continue with a hard fought campaign."

The Liberal energy critic is "cautiously confident" heading into the final week of campaigning the Halton-Burlington riding.

He points to the economy as the major issue in the Liberals' province-wide campaign, claiming a fundamental downturn in the rate of economic growth over the last 10 years in Ontario.

"Ontario was a leader

in the rate of growth but is now back to 10th place," said Mr. Reed.

"The Liberals will deal with the problem in a realistic way rather than put together a patchwork of old programs which is what they (Conservatives) have done with 'BILD'."

For the past five years the Liberals have been calling for an industrial strategy. Mr. Reed said there is a tremendous potential in the money being spent outside the province for energy imports. Last year \$7.5 billion was spent on energy imports and half of that bill goes to fuel. By the end of the decade \$20 billion will be spent on energy imports.

"This is the challenge which the present government has not come to terms with."

Mr. Reed says the government is now involved in its fourth study for the feasibility of liquid fuel, despite the fact the federal government and his party have each conducted similar studies which have confirmed the feasibility of alcohol as a fuel alternative.

The provincial Liberals' study dealt specifically with methanol and Mr. Reed said the results which concurred with the federal study were promising.

"We have a chance to replace all imported (Continued on Pg. 14)

## Inside today

### Now it's sludge cakes

Halton Region is considering incinerating sludge, storing it, and even solidifying it for use in landfill sites. Complete report on the state of sludge, Pg. C1.

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Special Supplements: K-Mart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Milton YMCA, Simpson's.



Junior Citizens will be honored in a new award program, see story Pg. 2.



NDP newcomer, Chris Cutler, Halton-Burlington NDP candidate says he will improve on tradition NDP, third place showing.