

REGIONAL COUNCIL (Rural)

Barry Lee	1,361
Gerry Brooks	1,142

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Barry Lee shares a lighter moment with wife Jane as his victory unfolds during Monday night's election.

Lee fends off Gerry Brooks

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Barry Lee will serve a third term as Nassagaweya's regional councillor after beating a council colleague.

The nine-year town councillor, first elected to regional council six years ago, squeaked by Councillor Gerry Brooks in Wards 1 and 3 by 211 votes (unofficial results).

Mr. Lee, who was acclaimed last time around, led the two-way race through the night with the exception of the first poll results posted at 9 p.m.

A seven to four count in Mr. Brooks' favour came out early, but it wasn't an indication of the final tally.

Although receiving strong support in his Campbellville constituency, Mr. Brooks couldn't pull the rabbit out of the hat.

"I've been consistent and tried to avoid playing politics," Mr. Lee said while watching the election results at the Milton Lions Club Hall.

"My motives for running were the same as they were nine years ago. I really haven't changed."

Mr. Lee, 57, admitted he considered not seeking a third time on regional council, but was encouraged by longtime supporters to carry on.

After thinking about it, he decided that the experience he gained during nine years in politics made him more of a viable candidate than ever.

"I'm probably more equipped now than I've ever been."

Of his opponent's more than respectable showing, Mr. Lee said Mr. Brooks worked hard.

"He deserves a lot of credit for the effort he put into it," he noted.

Mr. Lee said he believes he has "a good read on what rural residents want" and will fight to preserve Nassagaweya as it is today.

Mr. Brooks, who no longer has a seat on town council after two terms, couldn't be reached for comment.

Erica Andrew swamps rivals

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

With a politically incorrect activist and relative unknown providing the competition, longtime educator Erica Andrew steamrolled up the middle to become Milton's new public school trustee.

Stating that she would rather hear election results all at once than bit by bit, the former Halton Women Teachers' Association president didn't arrive at the Lions Hall until shortly after 10 p.m.

By then, with just over half the polls in, she had 1,165 votes — compared to Paul Tate's 398 and 359 for Reverend Ken Campbell.

"It's really not my style (to assume premature victory), but I'm very pleased with how things turned out," said a somewhat reserved Ms Andrew. "I think I got my point across that I'm very committed to students and the school system."

Conceding defeat moments earlier, neither Mr. Tate nor Rev. Campbell appeared surprised over the results.

Describing himself as "the candidate from nowhere," Mr. Tate said Ms Andrew is very capable of assuming the trustee's seat.

"I really didn't campaign at all, other than the all-candidates debates. However, I was happy that I had a chance to help educate the public on the issues surrounding Bill 160," he remarked.

Rev. Campbell — by contrast — felt a largely "politically incorrect" campaign cost him a serious run at the school board position, but did allow him opportunity to air his views.

Speaking in favour of Bill 160 throughout the campaign, the religious founder of Renaissance Canada said he will "celebrate" if the controversial legislation

passes final reading next week.

He's maintained all along that Bill 160 takes power away from teachers and gives it back to parents — "where it belongs."

Monday night's winner said a strong door-to-door campaign plus her experience as a teacher and education consultant are what carried her to victory.

"I know the issues, because I've worked with them," said Ms Andrew.

Although responsibilities for new school boards have yet to be defined by the province, Ms Andrew hopes to continue grass-roots consultation with teachers and students.

She'll also continue to voice opposition to Bill 160, which she believes "has very dangerous implications for the education system."



Erica Andrew

PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Erica Andrew	3,973
Ken Campbell	1,366
Paul Tate	1,310

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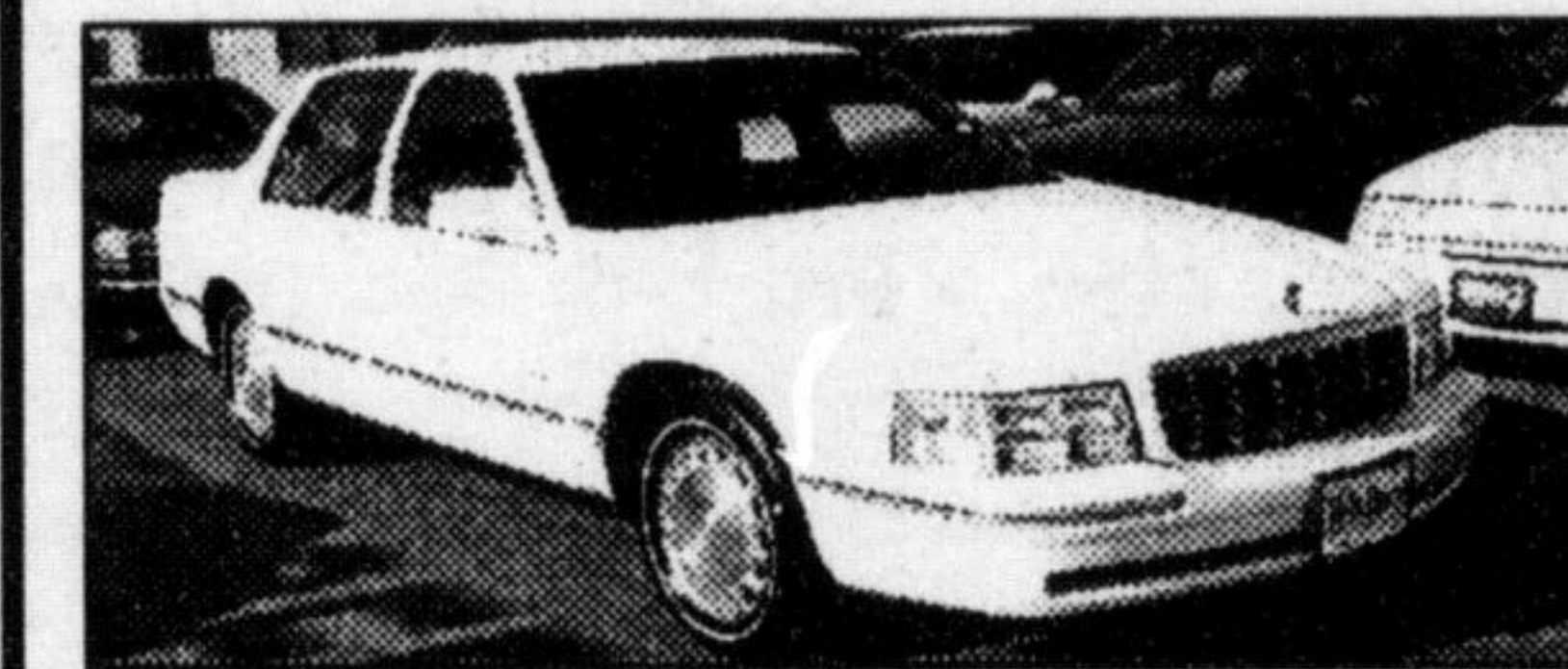
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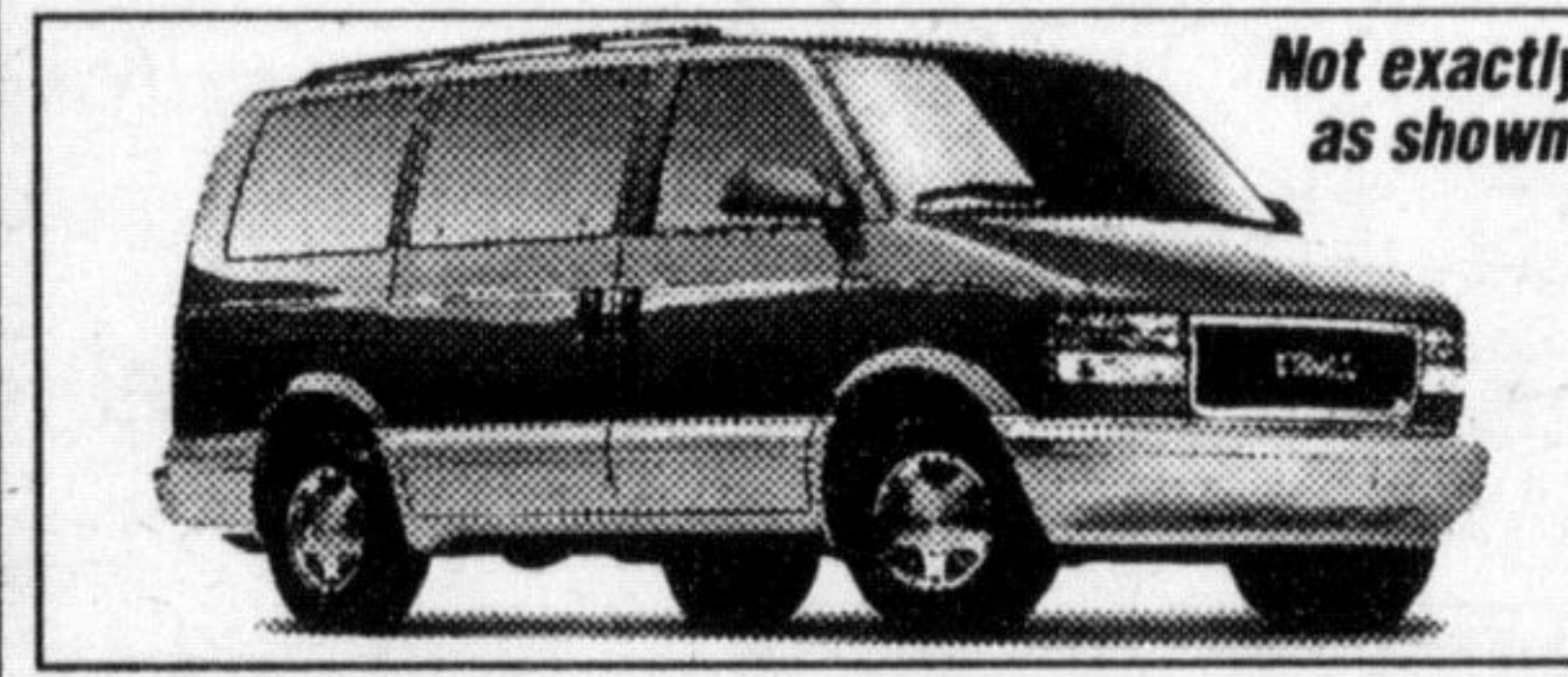
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