

Chudleigh acclaimed to carry Tory banner again

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

In a one horse race, speed isn't an issue.

So it was a relaxed Edward Logan Chudleigh who arrived at his own coronation Wednesday night under the unlikely roof of Milton's Optimist Club.

In the slightly worn out surroundings the sitting Halton North MPP was all well-pressed navy suit and flashing teeth for the handful of people there to applaud his acclamation as the Tory candidate for the new riding of Halton.

It's an early step in gearing up for the next provincial election, which must be called no later than the summer of 2000.

"In many ways I'm not being re-nominated, I've been nominated for the first time in the new riding

of Halton," said Mr. Chudleigh.

The new riding has a constituency of about 75,000 people and takes in parts of north Oakville and Burlington, as well as Milton and Halton Hills.

While there may not be much excitement in being the only heir to this particular throne, Mr. Chudleigh claimed it suits him just fine.

"I'm very happy to be acclaimed," he said. "You don't have to heal the party afterwards."

Mr. Chudleigh came to politics naturally, having grown up at the knee of his grandfather, Premier Tom Kennedy.

The family calling continued with an uncle who served as MPP for Mississauga.

Familiarity with the political path made it easy for Mr. Chudleigh to stroll it himself in the mid

1990's.

"Politics didn't hold any particular fear or mystery to me," he said. "There was no bogeyman in it."

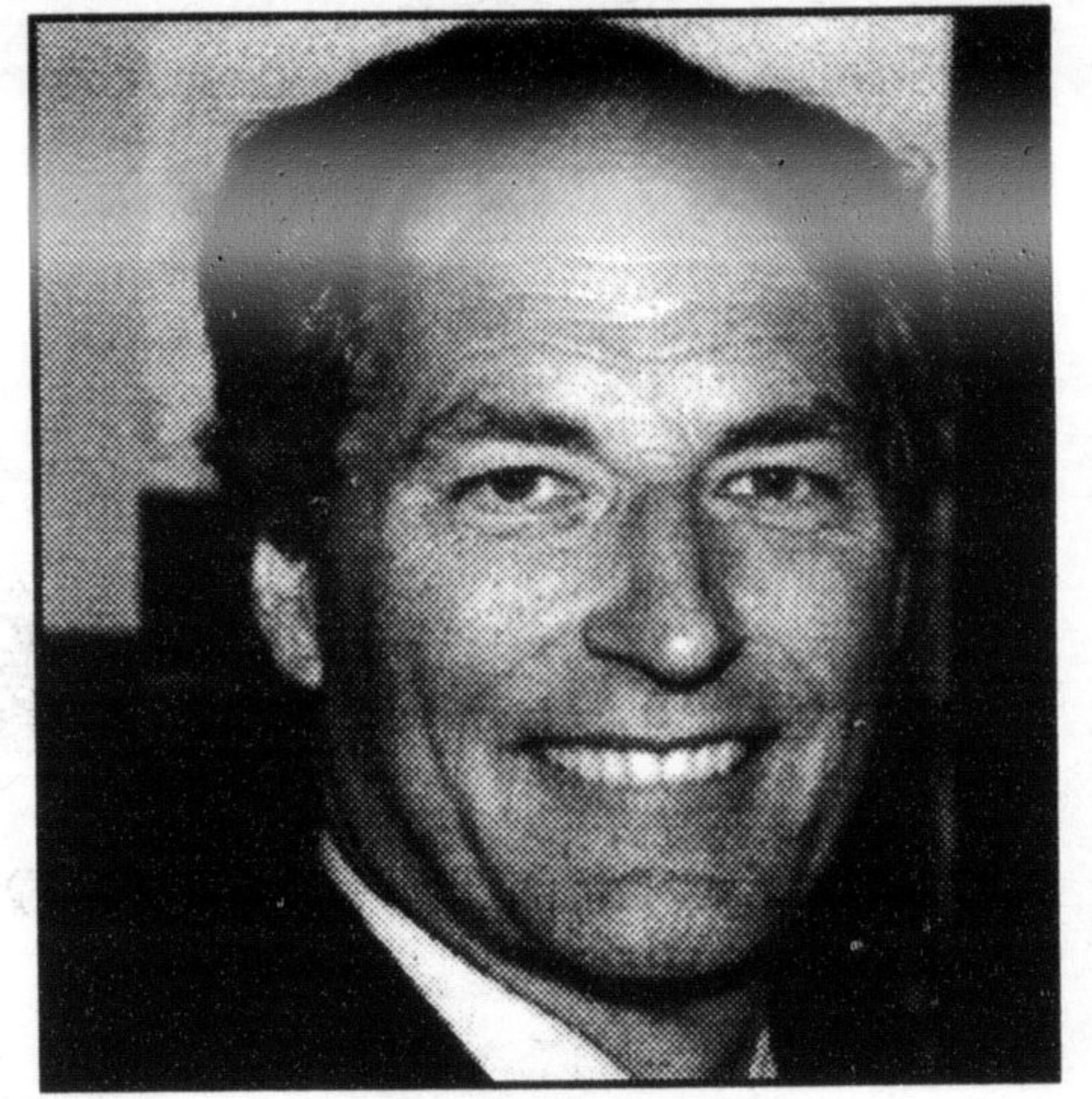
Instead there was just a province that Mr. Chudleigh considered run down at the heel.

"I ran in the last election because something had to be done," he said. "Now that things have improved it's hard to remember how bad it had been."

Mr. Chudleigh credited the Mike Harris government with creating 460,000 new jobs in the province and putting 1,000 police officers on the streets, including 42 in Halton.

The government has also increased health care spending by \$19 billion, an increase of 10 per

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Ted Chudleigh



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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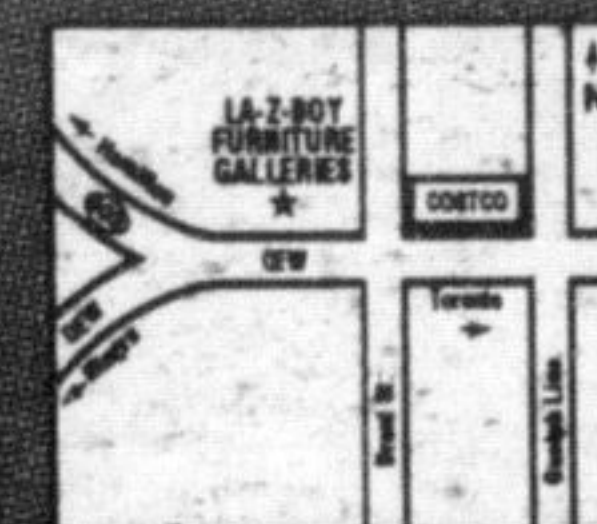
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