



It's not hard to tell who won and who lost in this photo. Liberal Barney Danson, left, congratulates a beaming Progressive Con-

servative John Gamble, following Gamble's convincing York-North victory in last Tuesday's federal election.

Searle will analyze the election results

By STEVE PEARLSTEIN
Liberal Staff Writer

Bruce Searle said he'll be spending the next two months analyzing the results of the general election — as his wife looked on in admiration, he wasn't totally sure he had had enough of politics.

"We'll want to determine if it was an anti-government vote or if it was a polarized vote. We'll also look at my performance as a candidate — was it good or poor? It may take four years to figure it out," said the NDP hopeful.

Economics will play as much a part in Bruce's decision to continue to seek public office as anything. Before moving to Markham, he held a seat on Pickering Town Council and was involved heavily with the People Or Planes group — the lobby responsible for blocking the building of the proposed Pickering airport.

"We have to get at least 15 per cent of the total vote. That's the important thing at this point. If we do, we'll recoup all the money spent on the campaign."

The NDP candidate spent \$1,100 of his own money and a total of \$10,000, mostly donations. Barney Danson and John Gamble each parted with \$27,000 for their campaigns. What hurts Bruce is that of the nearly 56,600 votes cast, he collected

just over 7,000 or 12.5 per cent. Though the final figures from the Chief Returning Officer in Ottawa were not available, it is unlikely he'll get any of the money back.

His workers campaigned hard across most parts of the constituency and by the time the election was four weeks away, Bruce had lost 13 pounds.

"We feel we ran the best campaign we could with the money available. We elected to use a certain type of strategy and we want to look at the voting to see how well it worked," he said.

From the outset, he felt he would do strongly in both Richmond Hill (the main reason he placed his headquarters in the Allencourt Plaza) and Oak Ridges.

The final tally shows he was consistently above projections for those areas. For example, of the 10 polls in Oak Ridges, he had final figures for eight and he managed to get over half the votes picked up by the winner of five of them.

In a West Woodbridge poll, traditionally a Liberal stronghold, Bruce garnered 61 votes compared with Danson's 131 and Gamble's 11. And while he did well in four polls in Maple, picking up at least 30 per cent of the votes in each case, he was sorry he couldn't win at least one poll in the riding.

"We didn't get fewer votes than in the last election — this is the best campaign the NDP has run here and across the country. We would like to have received more of the popular vote, especially in areas where we weren't expecting to do well," said Bruce.

Subdued melancholia was the only way to describe the atmosphere at campaign headquarters as polling results trickled in last week. About 18 committee workers nervously waited for the phones to ring and manned a full board of well-prepared grids showing each poll, how strongly it had been canvassed and the breakdown of voters by gender.

Bruce also paced the floor like a cat in a roomful of rocking chairs. He frequently walked the length of the building to catch a glimpse of the national returns on television.

Retrieving a slip of paper from one of the phone operators, he exclaimed: "Hey, we almost won this one (poll). At least we beat Danson, though."

That was practically the height of the evening for him, however, by 9:15 p.m. victory was already in the hands of PC John Gamble. Before leaving to congratulate the winner, Bruce remarked that he hadn't won a single poll.

Economy needs fixing - MP

By SHAARON HAY
Liberal Staff Writer

John Gamble will go to Ottawa within 10 days to be sworn in as the member of parliament representing York-North after upsetting Liberal Barney Danson Tuesday night.

Mr. Gamble is eager to assume his responsibilities and told The Liberal this week his area of interest is the matter of the economy.

One area he felt particularly strong about is

expenditure in the civil service.

"It is absolutely essential to eliminate the preferred treatment given under the present scheme to people such as members of parliament and civil servants," he said.

"I will work assiduously to convince my colleagues in caucus to eliminate the pension indexing scheme," said Mr. Gamble.

"It is a millstone around the public's neck," he added.

The newly elected member of parliament said he is very anxious to become involved to bring about economy in government departments — to reduce the number of civil servants and civil service expenditure.

"It is absolutely essential to administer government departments with economy," he said.

He hopes to develop a scheme whereby civil servants would be promoted only on reducing the expenditure of their departments, not

on the growth of departments as he feels is the practice now.

Mr. Gamble also intends to follow up on one of his campaign promises immediately.

When installed in office the local federal representative will issue his first request for instruction from constituents on what he feels are critical issues in the country.

He hopes to send out a report with information, as well as his position and the reasons for the stand he has taken.

On the back of this report constituents will be asked to indicate their views on the subject.

Mr. Gamble hopes to receive as many as 10,000 responses so he can demonstrate to fellow caucus members what his constituents wish and the path the party should endeavor to follow.

"I'm being sent up here (Ottawa) to represent my constituents," he said "and that is what I intend to do."

Danson won't remain unemployed for long

By LARRY JOHNSTON
Liberal News Editor

Barney Danson has had "about four careers" in his life and he is about to start a fifth.

The only question is what will it be. While he joked about collecting unemployment insurance (ex-cabinet members are not eligible), job offers are likely to pour in for the defeated defense minister who served York North as its member of parliament for 11 years.

Mr. Danson sold his own highly successful plastics company when he entered the cabinet in 1975 and a new career in private business is likely. But he has not ruled out running again.

Late last week, he and his wife drove to Ottawa — no more government aircraft — where there were some people he wanted to say goodbye to.

His hardworking staff, having closed the constituency office he pioneered, followed on Friday for a last weekend in the capital.

Mr. Danson spent the "best 11 years of my life" in parliament. He rode the crest of Trudeauomania into his first term in 1968 and was re-elected in 1972 and 1974.

He served first as parliamentary secretary to the prime minister, then as minister of state for urban affairs and finally as minister of national defense, his favorite post.

The re-equipping of the military, part of his mandate as Trudeau's defense minister, is being done with an eye on long-term benefits for Canadian manufacturers.

He played a role in the takeover of Canadian aircraft plants to keep them operating, in turning Harbourfront from a vacant lot into a success, and in meeting federal housing targets for the first time in years.

Meanwhile, his constituency office was

dealing with complaints about unemployment insurance, immigration, or the post office, cutting through the red tape to get the Johnsonview condominium registered, or trying to get external affairs to persuade a European government to find three paintings by a Thornhill artist that it lost on a cultural exchange.

A major breakthrough on train noise in Doncaster, to move the most annoying train assembly to Brampton, came too late to help Mr. Danson in the election.

He may have been able to move a train, but he couldn't stand up to the Tory tide which swept Toronto's suburban ridings. His plurality of more than 7,000 votes in 1972 was turned into a 7,000 vote loss May 22.

The writing on the wall in Liberal headquarters

already showed Progressive Conservative John Gamble 2,000 votes ahead shortly after 9 p.m. when Mr. Danson conceded defeat.

"We won three and we lost one," he told a long-faced crowd of supporters.

He told them the loss wasn't their fault.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate everything you have done. We had the best campaign we possibly could but the voters wanted a change."

Always a gentleman, he congratulated Mr. Gamble and also Joe Clark. "I hope he does a good job. The country is too precious."

Then a woman supporter held up a sign, "you're still a nice guy, Barney." Embraces and a few tears followed.

Margaret Cordingley

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