

Decision '95

# Julia Munro ready to get to work

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what she had been hearing on the campaign trail. "In going door-to-door it had begun to be a very positive experience," said Munro from her victory celebration at the Sutton Curling Club after the results were in Thursday night.

"This is a pretty happy place tonight," she said amid the noise and the congratulations.

But while she liked her chances, she said she was far from over-confident. "You can't tell until election day just what's going to happen." Munro likened her own campaign, and that of the Mike Harris-led Conservatives, to a well-known children's fable. "I guess it was sort of like the tortoise and the hare," she offered.

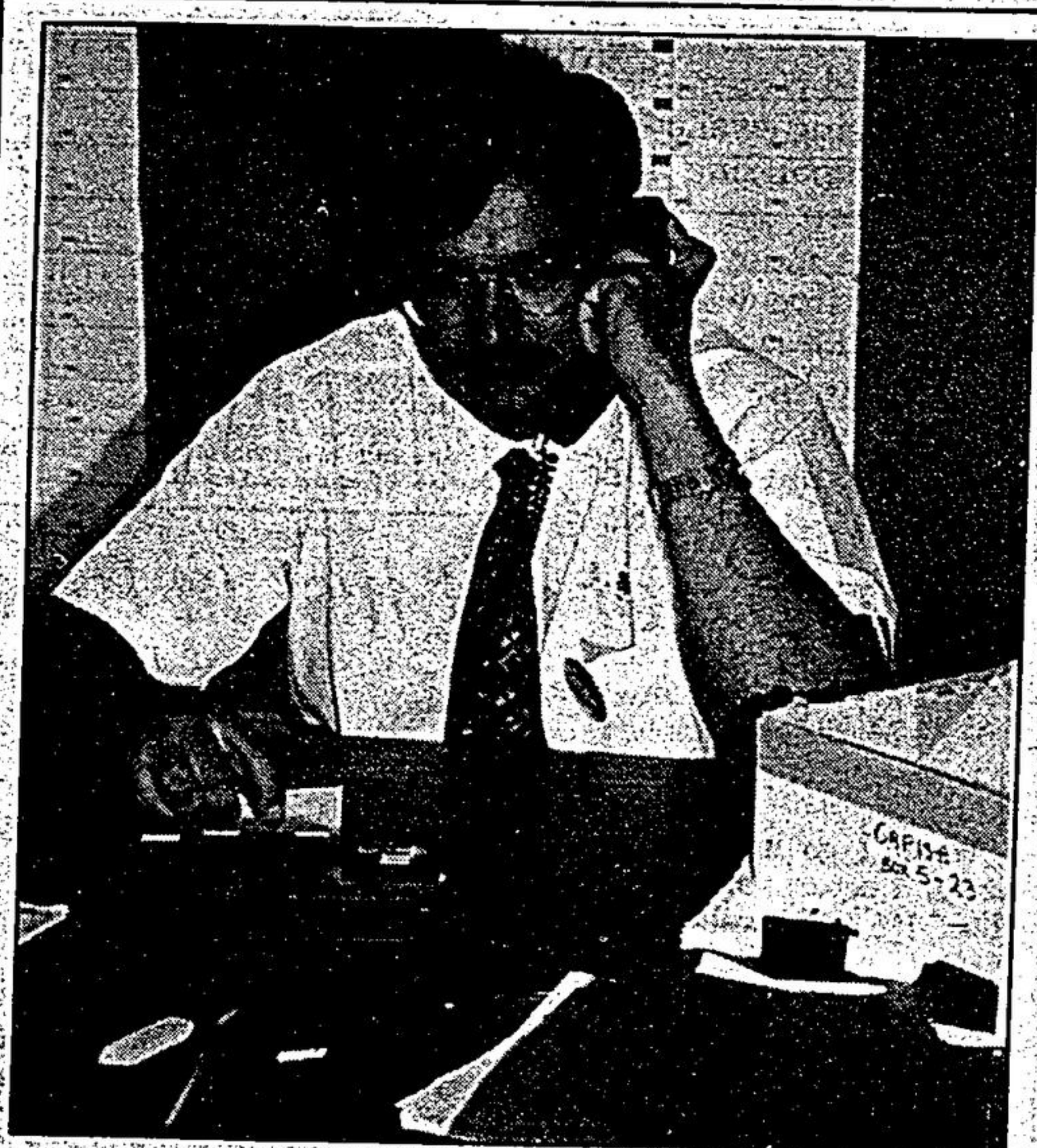
Munro acknowledged she would be interested in a cabinet post in the new Harris cabinet. "I think that's a good way of putting it," she replied when asked if she was harboring thoughts of being a cabinet minister in the back of her mind. "I have two areas of strength, the environment and education."

Munro was active with the Georgina-based anti-dump group which fought the NDP government's plans to locate a mega-dump in Durham-York. A university graduate, she has 20 years experience as a high school teacher. She is currently on leave with the York Region Board of Education. Munro said her top priority as Durham-York MPP would be to serve as an advocate for her riding to counter pressures relating to such issues as growth and

development in the Greater Toronto Area. "I plan to give Durham-York the strongest representation possible. There's lots of pressure relating to the GTA."

Munro said she felt Harris and the Tories could succeed where Bob Rae and the NDP failed after being given a similar mandate in 1990. "This is a party with a platform developed over the past five years. I think that's important."

Munro praised her campaign team, which included roughly 100 people and campaign manager Jason Pearce. Munro, who was surrounded by roughly 150 supporters at the jubilant celebration in Sutton, said she was tired after the hectic campaign. "I'll probably sleep in tomorrow morning," she allowed.



## Bad news

Larry O'Connor listens to the bad news for the NDP at his campaign headquarters in Keswick Thursday. The MPP was defeated by a 3-1 margin.

Photo/CHERYL JOHNSON



## Watching the PC tide

Surrounded by campaign supporters, David Marquis, Liberal candidate, (second from left) watches dejectedly as the results come in announcing the Conservative majority government at the Mount Albert Lions' Hall Thursday. Marquis placed third.

Photo/LORI EMMERSON

# Marquis blames leadership

"I guess that's why they call it the Blues."

That could have been the theme song of local Liberal supporters Thursday night as David Marquis and his disappointed campaign workers acknowledged Conservative Julia Munro's massive victory. "I'm obviously not pleased with the results," acknowledged Marquis from the party's headquarters in Mount Albert.

Marquis, who came in third behind NDP incumbent Larry O'Connor with 7,512 votes to Munro's 25,018 and O'Connor's 7,965, was never a contender in the race as the blue Tory tidal wave swept the province. "When you see a win like this, it's a bit frustrating as a candidate running locally, being affected by a provincial wave," he said.

"There was also a high level

of frustration in terms of our campaign. I think we ran a good campaign locally, but things went very wrong with the provincial campaign, including the leadership."

With 12 years in local and regional council, he said it was also frustrating that his experience appeared to count for little in the present political climate. "Mr. O'Connor did a good job, but he had no experience going in and Julia has no experience," he said.

And there was little the local party could do as the tide began to turn in favor of the Conservatives. "We could see it coming; we started out with some pretty nice looking numbers, but things really went wrong in the provincial campaign."

Marquis may be down, but he is by no means out. "I enjoy politics and dealing with peo-

ple and I look forward to reorganizing the riding association here," he concluded.

- Kate Gilderdale



The new MPP, Julia Munro accepts congratulations.

# MPP reflective after loss

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nor left his election headquarters in Keswick and visited the PC victory party in Sutton. In keeping with the spirit of good sportsmanship, O'Connor congratulated Munro, a 52-year-old school teacher and community activist. "She ran a very effective campaign," said O'Connor. The MPP was a 12-year General Motor's assembly-line worker when he was elected to the Bob Rae-lead government in 1990. People from all political stripes in Durham-York soon recognized that O'Connor was a hard working and especially caring MPP. However, in the end, it wasn't enough: The voters decided.

O'Connor's immediate plan is to clean out his personal belongings from the Sutton-based constituency office. After which, O'Connor will sit down with his wife Chris and son Patrick in their Sunderland home and make a career decision. "First things first. I've got an office to clean out before I go on," he said.

Party loyalist Yoli Brown took the results in stride. "What people have to remember is: we've lost many, many times. But there is no sense of depression with the New Democrats. I am, however, disheartened about what kind of Ontario we're going to have," said Brown. Surrounded by about 50 party workers, O'Connor admitted he was taken aback by the size of the defeat.

"It's going to be tough," O'Connor told *The Tribune*. "We are entering mean spirited times. People are going to do desperate things just to feed their families."

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