

BRYON IN FEDERAL ELECTION, ELIZABETH IN MUNICIPAL

Politics is a family affair for the Wilferts

BY FRED SIMPSON
Staff Writer

For most of his years in politics, Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert has been the one wearing the political hat in his Richmond Hill home.

But that could change after Monday's municipal election.

He might have to share a hat rack with his wife, Elizabeth, who has thrown herself into the battle for a council seat in Richmond Hill's Ward 6.

Meanwhile, Bryon's vying for another term as a Liberal MP.

Then again, his wife isn't exactly an Elizabeth-come-lately to politics, having been the wife of a husband who spent 12 years in the very ward she is vying to represent.

"When Bryon went into federal politics in 1997, I filled out the term for him in Ward 6," she said. "People wanted me to run for it last term but I thought it wouldn't be fair."

Instead, she made a success-

ful bid for a Richmond Hill Hydro Commission seat, placing second among 12 candidates.

Now she has her sights set on being a ward councillor.

And the Wilferts are definitely coupling their campaigns.

"I'll be campaigning right up to Elizabeth's election day and then we will both doing the same thing until my election day," said an upbeat Wilfert.

He was taking time out from a grueling door-to-door campaign to share some of his sentiments of having his wife in the political trenches with him although on different playing fields.

"It's very important to me that people know our campaigns are separate," said Bryon said.

"But I'm also gratified that people recognize that we are a man-and-wife team sharing a common theme which is service to our community."

He added his wife has established herself as her own political person and has the "knowledge, experience, and dedication to do

the job".

In their previous lives, Wilfert was a history and political science teacher, while Elizabeth taught geography and law, both at private Toronto schools.

"I'm running my campaign out of our home and Bryon has his campaign quarters here," Elizabeth said.

"I believe, besides Bryon and myself, there are only two other husband-and-wife teams running for political office, one in Mississauga and another in Windsor."

While their political paths go in different directions, their togetherness runs along the same road.

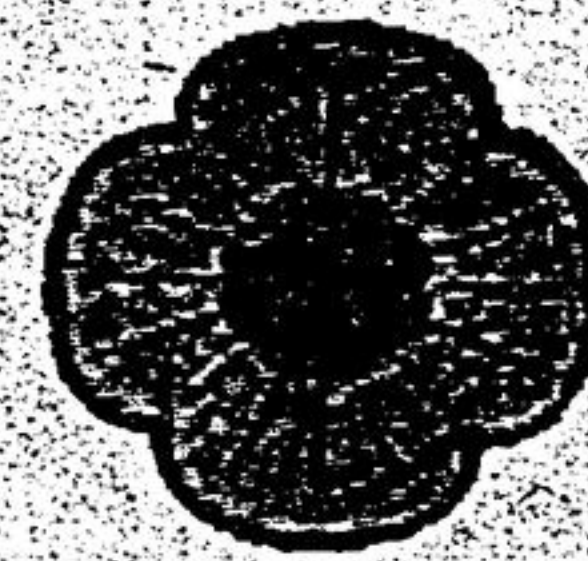
"I have always been involved with politics and am very supportive of what Bryon has done and we have always done things together," Elizabeth said.

And Bryon has the municipal experience to offer his wife the odd bit of advice.

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In honouring the men and women who have given so much for our country and for our way of life, we remember that it is democracy and the rights and freedoms that we cherish that they have given us...and that we have been honoured by their sacrifice and their selflessness.



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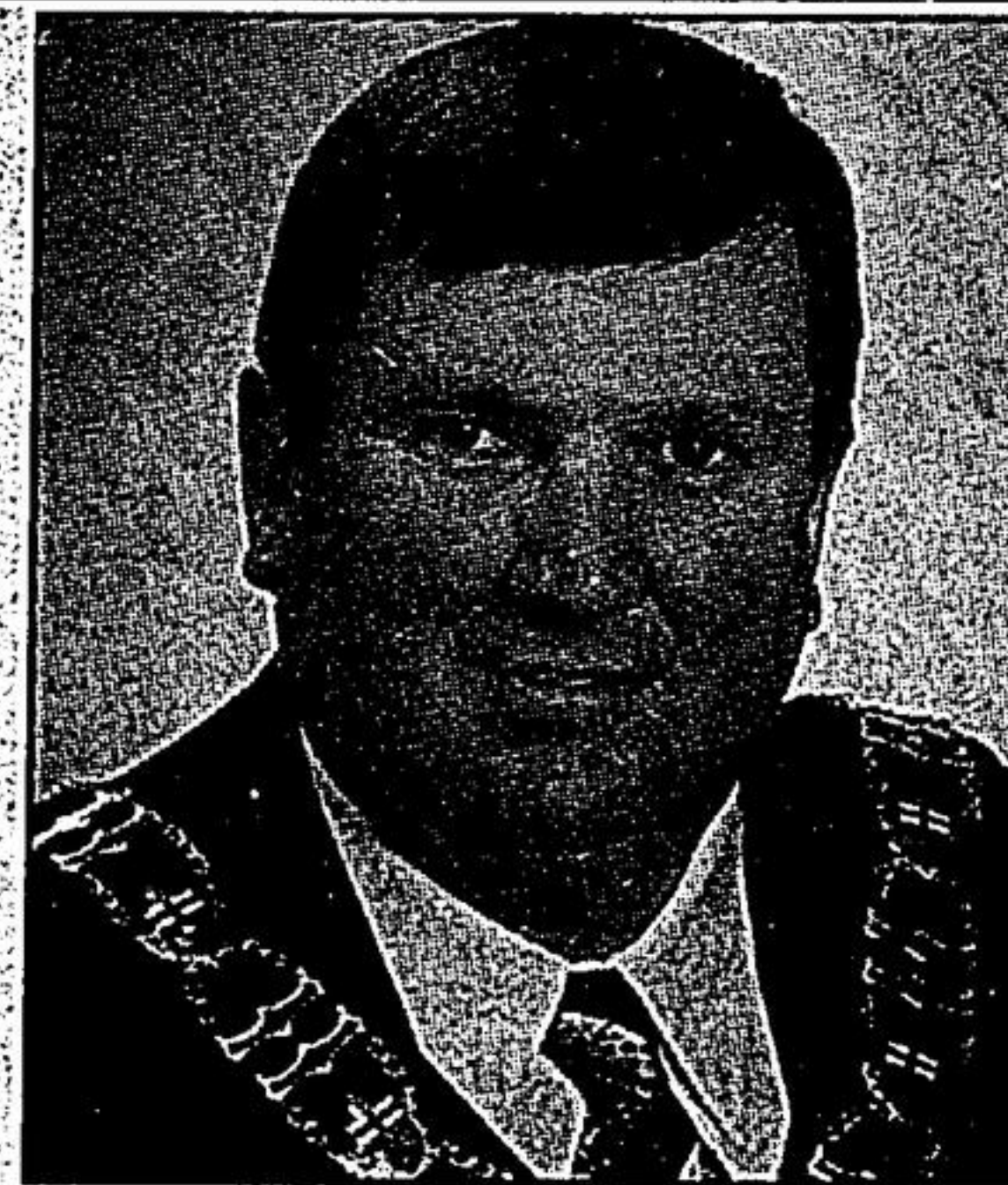
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Entrepreneur awards go provincial

BY SHANNON WALTER
Special

Business people of Chinese origin can celebrate their accomplishments by participating in the Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards 2001.

The six awards to be presented are: Entrepreneur of the Year 2001, Best Start-Up, Most Innovative, Most Improved, Best Community Service and Honorable Mention.

In order to be eligible, entrepreneurs must be nominated by

a third party and be of Chinese origin.

Their business must also be registered and have operating offices in Ontario.

The awards presentation take place at Le Parc in Thornhill on March 31, 2001.

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