

Electoral Boundaries

That whereas at a sitting for the hearing of representations held in the city of Welland on February 26, 1973, the warden of the county of Haldimand, Mrs. Lorna J. D. Miller, also being the reeve of the town of Dunnville, on behalf of her respective councils and with the support of the councils of the then townships of Canboro, Moulton and Sherbrooke, respectfully requested that such municipalities as constituted at that time (now all within the boundaries of the present town of Dunnville) remain within the Norfolk-Haldimand riding;

And whereas at the same sitting, the reeve of the then township of Dunn, Mr. Keith Richardson, made a similar representation on behalf of his council as did the county warden and reeve of the town of Dunnville;

And whereas the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Ontario, 1976, excludes the town of Dunnville from the Haldimand-Norfolk riding but includes the said town in the new riding of Erie;

And whereas the inclusion of the town of Dunnville in the Haldimand-Norfolk riding would not increase the population of the riding to more than 25 per cent of the electoral quota nor decrease the population of the riding of Erie to less than 25 per cent of the said quota;

● (1610)

And whereas the council of the town of Dunnville since the inception of the region of Haldimand-Norfolk is now more adamant in its belief that the town of Dunnville is much greater allied with the Riding of Haldimand-Norfolk politically, economically and socially, being a part of the provincial riding of Haldimand-Norfolk and an area municipality with the region of Haldimand-Norfolk and has no such ties with the proposed riding of Erie;

Now therefore be it resolved that the council of the town of Dunnville strongly opposes the inclusion of the municipality within the boundaries of the proposed riding of Erie and urgently requests that this municipality be included in the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk for the valid argument set forth above and the reasons submitted to the commission in Welland on February 26, 1973.

This motion was carried unanimously. I also want to read to the House a letter written to me by the Clerk of the town of Dunnville, dated March 10, 1976:

Mr. William Knowles, M.P.
Haldimand-Norfolk,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Knowles:

Thank you very much for the copy of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

The council of the town of Dunnville is opposed to the inclusion of the municipality in the proposed riding of Erie as evidenced by the attached resolution passed unanimously in regular session last evening.

It was our understanding the commission acceded to our wishes and included the town and townships within the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk.

As a result of this change, we did not make representation at a subsequent sitting again held in Welland on October 28, 1975, and I would add that there was no official objection from the town of Dunnville as a result of the change proposed by the commission nor was there an official request to be included in the new proposed riding of Erie.

Not until the report was issued were we aware of our inclusion in the riding of Erie. It is also our opinion that when the change was made, we should have been advised and then given an opportunity to resubmit our case.

We refer again to the resolution and respectfully request you do all in your power to include the town of Dunnville in the Riding of Haldimand-Norfolk.

He goes on to add a few more words, and signs himself "Frank Scholfield, clerk-treasurer." It should be obvious to even a casual observer that Dunnville and Haldimand country have been bound together geographically, historically, socially and politically. Let me expand on the impor-

tance of these four bonds of union. In a geographic sense, it should be noted that dating back to the creation of Haldimand county in the 1800s and prior, the county boundaries have always included the town of Dunnville. Dunnville has been an integral part of the county and made important economic contributions to the mutual benefit of all. This whole eastern area of Haldimand lies in the valley of the Lower Grand River. In early days, boats and barges of commerce moved up the river from its mouth in Lake Erie through Dunnville, Cayuga and Caledonia aided by a series of locks and dams. Today these same commercial and social relations are maintained and improved by a network of provincial and regional highways and railways. Today this region is part of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Historically also, Dunnville belongs to Haldimand. At the close of the American revolution of 1774, the Six Nations Indians, under Chief Joseph Brant who had fought on the British side, were granted a large tract of land on the lower Grand River stretching from Lake Erie to Brantford. The town of Dunnville and Eastern Haldimand were within this tract. As portions of this tract were sold to white settlers, small towns and villages sprang up along the Grand at Port Maitland, Dunnville, Cayuga, York and Caledonia. Thus, it is evident that from the beginning Dunnville is part of the history of Haldimand.

Speaking from the view of social relationships, it should be pointed out that Dunnville had traditionally been the meeting place for social events for the county. Conversely, rural people of the present town of Dunnville use the Kohler agricultural centre near Cayuga as the focal point for meetings of all farm organizations, including Women's Institute meetings. Politically, Haldimand County has remained intact as a provincial constituency. The same applies for municipal politics and administration. It is important to note that the constituency organizations of the three major political parties feel that Dunnville should be in the federal riding. This is borne out by the opinions expressed in the following item appearing in the *Simcoe Reformer* of March 5, 1976. I should like to read a portion of that article. The heading is "Local party spokesmen want to retain Dunnville"

A study released recently by the Electoral Boundaries Commission, Ottawa, recommended that the town of Dunnville be included in a newly created riding of Erie. The commission also suggested that the name of the Norfolk-Haldimand riding be changed to Haldimand-Norfolk to correspond with the regional name.

Bill Knowles, member of parliament for Norfolk-Haldimand, announced his opposition to the exclusion of Dunnville from the riding after consulting with Dunnville officials.

Mr. Knowles said he would request a review of the boundary allocation and recommend that the riding boundaries coincide with regional boundaries.

Ken Green, president of regional Progressive Conservatives, said he agreed with efforts to retain the town of Dunnville in the federal riding.

New Democratic Party spokesman, Norm Walpole, said he felt it made a great deal of sense to have the regional and electoral boundaries coincide. He said he did not know how the population-figures compared to other ridings, but felt the retention of Dunnville would result in less confusion in the minds of the people.

Don Daley, past president of the H-N federal Liberal association, thinks both the federal and provincial ridings should correspond with regional boundaries.