



## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Sorry, Mr. Klees, you're not an MP

It's no secret that Frank Klees and I are friends.

Have been ever since I wrote that column about him, several years ago, calling him "Frank Who".

He was running for politics - not his first time, mind you - and I met him prior to 1995 in what was then the Canada Trust bank at Yonge and Dunning.

As far as I was concerned, if your name was Klees, you must have owned that place in Richmond Hill known as Klees Meats.

Like I said, Klees' attempt at politics was not his first.

Back in 1975, he narrowly lost to Liberal Remo Mancini in the riding of Essex South. He was 24 years old, having been born March 6, 1951, which now makes him 60.

Klees was born in Landau, West Germany. His parents were German pioneers whose ancestors settled in parts of eastern Europe that would later be known as Hungary and Yugoslavia.

At the age of five, Klees came with his family to Canada by boat and settled in Leamington.

He lost to Mancini a second time in the 1977 election, and did not run as a candidate again until 1995, but remained active as a party member.

He worked as a businessman the intervening years, beginning in the financial services sector with the Canada Life Assurance Co., then became an entrepreneur, and started a sports agency which represented professional athletes.

He also co-founded the Municipal Gas Corporation in 1990, and served as its executive vice-president until 1997. When he sold the business, which was located in the same building as the Canada Trust branch, it had grown to a significant enterprise with 55,000 customers.

From 1992 to 1994, he was third vice-president and policy chair of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. Klees was first elected to the legislature in the election of 1995, defeating former Liberal leadership candidate Charles Beer. At that time, the riding was York Mackenzie and covered Aurora, Newmarket and King.

Klees was easily re-elected in the 1999 provincial election, but that was when he ran in the riding of Oak Ridges, and he joined the cabinet of Premier Mike Harris as Chief Government Whip, Deputy House Leader and Minister without Portfolio.

In 2000, Klees was preparing to run as a candidate for the leadership of the new Canadian Alliance, but withdrew because one of his key financial backers insisted on a last-minute deal to make a significant funding commitment conditional on Klees throwing his support to one of the other candidates on the second ballot.

After returning to the backbenches for a year, he was reappointed to cabinet on October 3, 2002 as Minister of Tourism and also served as Minister of Transportation. He also carried out responsibilities as Chief Government Whip and Deputy House Leader.

Klees was re-elected in 2003 in the Oak Ridges riding (one of 24 Progressive Conservatives elected) and even though his party did not form the government, he was the Official Opposition Critic for Education and Citizenship and Immigration and a member of the Legislative Standing Committee on Justice.

Klees was a candidate in the 2004 Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership election which took place on September 18, 2004.

He was endorsed by Tory MPPs Jerry Ouellette, Ted Chudleigh and Bill Murdoch, and groups such as the Conservative Youth Coalition. The other candidates in the race were Whitby-Ajax MPP Jim Flaherty and former Rogers Communications CEO John Tory, who now is a regular on CFRB radio.

He was eliminated from the contest after placing third on the first ballot; Tory subsequently won on the second ballot.

In 2007, he was elected in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora (remember when they wanted to split Aurora in half with one riding west of Yonge Street and another east?) Following his election, Frank became the Official Opposition Critic for Transportation and Infrastructure.

Frank did better in the 2009 leadership race placing second behind the winner, Tim Hudak.

Klees lives in town and I wonder why I started to tell you all about him.

Oh yeah, it was the reference The Auroran made last week about him being a Member of Parliament.

We called him an MP, instead of an MPP, which is what he is.

He didn't say anything about the huge picture we ran of him on Page 11. You're welcome, Mr. Klees.

Several others called us to point out the error of our ways.

At any rate, to set the record straight, Lois Brown is the Member of Parliament (MP) for Newmarket-Aurora, and Frank is the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for the same riding.

Of course, when I was growing up, provincial members were known as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).

Sorry, Frank... and Lois.



If there was any doubt that the Aurora United Church once had pointed towers on it, this postcard should clear up all doubts. From the postcard collection of former deputy-mayor Bob McRoberts, comes this gem which shows the church, at the corner of Yonge and Tyler, with the pointed towers in place. The large one was taken off when a rare cyclone struck Aurora in 1893. The Aurora United Church congregation is the oldest in Aurora. The church is still used as a place of worship having stood on the corner since 1818. That year a log cabin was built for worship and served the congregation until 1855 when a new frame church was built on site, but it was gutted by fire in 1877. The current church was built in 1878 of brick with a stone foundation. It boasted two spires, the taller of which rose to a height of 146 feet, and provided the town with a prominent landmark. The cyclone destroyed the stained glass windows on the south

side, and the bigger spire. It was replaced with a shorter steeple, however, both were removed in 1943 after being struck by lightning several times. The sanctuary was modified in 2009, and was the first significant redesign of the building in more than 100 years.

### Letter to the Editor

# Pack your own food at No Frills, reader suggests

To the editor,

**Re: Packing of groceries, Letter to the editor, week of March 15.**

One way of trying to ensure that fragile items get packed on the top of the bag is to place your items on the belt in the order you wish them to be packed (heavier

items first) so there is less chance of anything being squashed or broken.

Another alternative is to shop at a store such as No Frills where you pack your own groceries to your standards and also save money on everything you purchase.

**W. Russell  
Aurora**

## THE AURORAN

### "Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.  
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Aurora, L4G 1W1

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