

# Bill Davis

1971





The Honourable William Grenville Davis, Prime Minister. "Some refer to me as Prime Minister and others as Premier. The Opposition calls me the Member from Peel North, among other things. But I've lived with the name Bill for a long time and I prefer that. It's a lot easier."



Family: "My wife, Kathy, and five children. Neil is 15, Nancy's 13, Cathy's 12, Ian's 9 and Meg is 7. I guess you could say we are a political family. They'll campaign with me and they'll be knocking on doors. They'd like me to win.

"Every family needs a dog. So do politicians. Ours is Thor. He cost \$2.25, new. He's worth a million or so now!"

Address: "Main Street, Brampton, Ontario!"





March 1, 1971, he was sworn in as Prime Minister of Ontario, at the age of 42.

Since then?

In the first 150 days of Davis Government, the Legislature approved 131 bills, all of them geared to meeting the changing needs of Ontario's people, most of them fulfilling commitments made during his leadership campaign.

And before that?

He was 29 when he first entered the Ontario Legislature, the youngest member there.

The apprenticeship began—serving on nearly every standing committee. Then, Vice-Chairman of Ontario Hydro.

At 33, he became Minister of Education, and the youngest member of the Government. Under Davis, education in Ontario entered its greatest period of growth and progressive change.

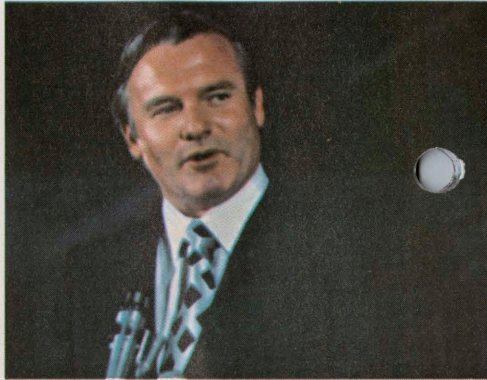
Ten years ago, Ontario had 2,752 one-room schools. There are now only 146. Five years ago, there were no community colleges. Now there are 20, with campuses in over 100 localities. In 1950, only 40% of the student population started high school. Now it's 80%.

Davis: "They were exciting years for me...I enjoyed making things happen. Sure it cost money to build better schools, train better teachers and pay better salaries.

"We've got one of the best educational systems and many of the best people in North America. Yet we spend less per student than three of our sister provinces and the five neighbouring American states and the cost of school space is levelling off.

"But we will never see the day when education will not be a foremost priority."

"I believe in a greater degree of control by Canadians over their own economy and in the development of their own resources. That's why we're lending money to Canadian companies and giving preferential treatment to Canadian firms. We've brought in special legislation to protect and encourage our book publishing industry, so that Canadians will continue to write, publish and read books about their own country. We're not mad at anybody, just glad to live in Ontario and have a hand in developing our own land. We want to keep things that way."



"I was never much for the 'melting pot' concept of society, in which all are expected to be the same. Ontario represents a diversity of cultures and interests and I believe it is important to people that, while they all feel a part of the whole, they retain their own sense of uniqueness as well.

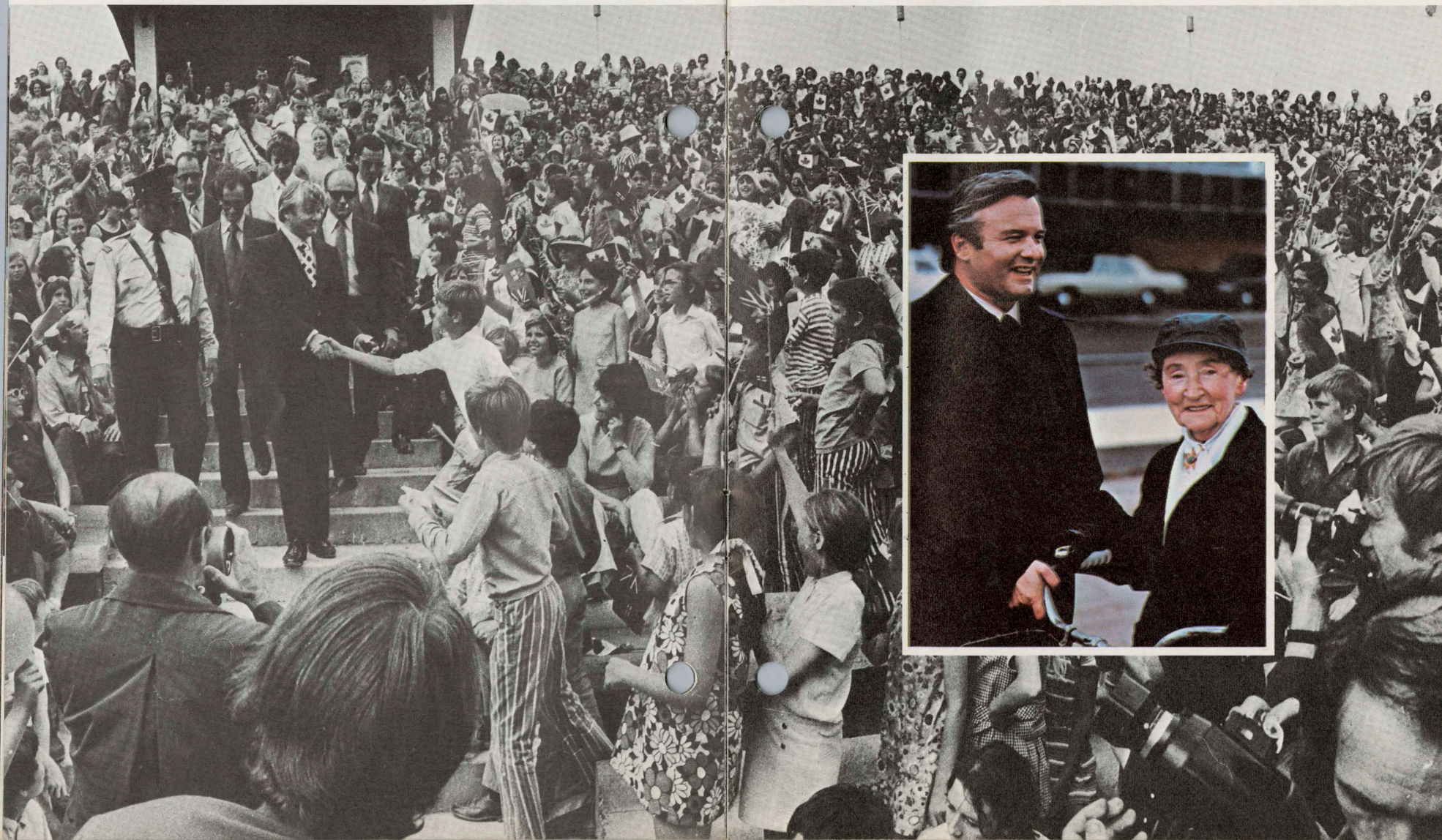
"We have passed a Bill of Rights in Ontario that is ahead of anything in North America in the protection of individual liberty.

"I enjoy the Legislature. People become impatient with it sometimes, but it works. I go there to listen; the head of a government can learn a lot listening to the Legislature."

One of the first things Bill Davis did, on becoming Prime Minister last March, was to form a new Government. With 3 exceptions, every member of the Cabinet found himself in a new job.

"I think of our team as a new government and of our party as a renewed party. In this campaign about a third of our candidates will be seeking office for the first time.

"I've had a hand in choosing some of them, persuading them to make a contribution to public life. Maybe I even twisted a few arms. But we've got a great group of candidates."





“We have to be tough about pollution. We passed the Environmental Bill of Rights—it’s been called the toughest legislation in North America on the subject of air, water and noise pollution. We’re sending teams of specialists to help industries clean things up. We laid down the law. We’re not only taking advice, but asking for it, from citizen organizations and from experts.

“We aren’t about to wait around for someone else to act. We’re going to keep at it. If you think the protection and improvement of the environment isn’t important—just ask your kids.”



"The party I lead is a people's party. The government I head is a people's government. The policies we develop are for people.

"In the Spadina Expressway decision, we said the cities are for people, not for automobiles. In the Quetico Park decision, we said that our parks are for people, not for profit. When we lowered the age of majority, we said that democracy was for the participation of all those deemed to be ready and responsive to it."

"I suppose that's what we are saying, more than anything else; despite all our modern technology and hardware, the systems and the computers—government and politics are all about people and the way they see the future, for themselves and for Ontario, Canada."



# Davis is doing things...for people.



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