

Conversation with Donna Jones

(This is the fourth in a series of conversations with wives of prominent Mississauga men who are in the public eye. Today we talked with Donna Jones, wife of Mississauga North MPP Terry Jones.)

BETTIE: What's your view on women's lib?
DONNA: I suppose I'm maternal and I like being at home. However, I'm certainly doing my own thing. Does that make me a supporter of women's lib?

BETTIE: The young wife of the new leader of the Conservative party has let it be known that she prefers to be known as Ms. McTeer rather than Mrs. Clark. What was your reaction to this?

DONNA: I laughed! She's given a lot of interviews and offered lots of opinions and seems to be enjoying the attention which she is getting only because of her husband's new position. But remember, she's still very, very young and still getting her education.

BETTIE: What about the problems of Margaret Trudeau?

DONNA: I don't know whether Margaret really has problems of her own or whether her problems are largely problems created by the news media.

BETTIE: Have you ever worked?

DONNA: I graduated from teacher's college with Terry's sister, married when I was 20 and

then taught school for six years until Tim was born.

BETTIE: Will you work outside the home again?

DONNA: Well, I did supply teaching for two years until little Michael was born last year.

BETTIE: What approach do you take if friends want to argue about politics?

DONNA: I've learned not to argue with friends. Terry's the diplomat in the family.

BETTIE: What is his best quality?

DONNA: His genuine interest in people. People have become cynical about politicians and it's too bad. Terry is fresh and new and full of ideas and enthusiasm. And we've always worked together on community activities. It's really important to us.

BETTIE: You always say 'we'!

DONNA: I really mean 'we'. When we have meetings, they're at home. It's not just Terry's career, we're doing it together. I'm not a politician but I feel totally involved in the social obligations.

BETTIE: What are your personal involvements?

DONNA: Jerry Townsend and I are co-chairmen of the cancer society in the Streetsville area and I'm convener of the Mississauga Hospital in Streetsville.

BETTIE: Any other personal ambitions?

DONNA: The home is the centre of the family.

That's a pretty good ambition.

BETTIE: Does Terry have his eye on Ottawa?

DONNA: I'm pretty sure he prefers the provincial parliament.

BETTIE: He must be pretty involved in activities that keep him away from the home. Are other women a problem? Are you ever jealous?

DONNA: He has great secretaries who always know where he is! No, I'm not jealous. I'm a pretty relaxed person.

BETTIE: Is he busier than he was in business?

DONNA: Well, he got the Youth Secretariat appointment which has kept him away a good deal, but that work is short term.

BETTIE: What motivated him to run for office?

DONNA: His family was strongly political, his parents, his grandparents and his great grandparents. His grandfather flew all the way from Vancouver to be here the night of the election and was more excited than any of us.

BETTIE: Has he always worked for the same party?

DONNA: He's worked in campaigns since he was very young. It's always been the PCs.

BETTIE: Obviously you and Terry are a team. How long have you known each other?

DONNA: We went through school together from the fourth grade. His sister, Anne Boniface, was my best friend. We started dating seriously when I was 16. It's been a long time!

