

# Lewis: task force report "courageous"

Almost 200 members of the Simcoe Centre New Democratic Party listened as provincial leader Steven Lewis tore at recent provincial government actions in a speech last Wednesday night.

Lewis was guest speaker at the Simcoe Centre party nomination meetings at the Trinity Anglican Church hall in

Barrie, following nomination of candidate Paul Wessinger a Barrie alderman and lawyer.

Lewis, official opposition leader in Queen's Park, charged the current Progressive Conservative administration under Premier William Davis with either over-reacting, under reacting or not reacting at all to the issues in

Ontario. "It's a sign they've been too long in government," explained Lewis.

He charged the Tories with badly overreacting in the area of health cutbacks and hospital closings noting "I've seldom witnessed an issue that has stirred so much emotion and caused such a strong feeling. That's not the way to do it," he jabbed at the Tories.

The NDP leader added that the provincial courts have turned back some government orders to close hospitals. "I can't remember that happening before," claimed Lewis. "It's extraordinary, but it speaks for their inconsistency. A party that cares doesn't make those mistakes."

Lewis expounded on NDP attempts to raise the standard of health services in Ontario only to

have the government trim rising expenses in the area of social services by 5.5 per cent "and suffer no sleepless nights. They have distorted priorities," charged Lewis.

Lewis felt provincial money would have been better spent in the area of health care than used for expropriating land in Pickering for an airport that will not be built or funding Syncrude oil explorations.

He accused the Tories with underreacting in the face of protecting

agricultural land in Ontario and warned the gathering that at the present rate of disappearance their will be no adequate food producing lands by the year 2000.

He termed Tory land use policies useless, yet offered some good words for the Simcoe Georgian Bay Task Force report. "It shows work and thought and takes a courageous stand," complimented the opposition spokesman, "but it will operate in a vacuum because there is no provincial pattern."



## How's your hearing?

Residents of Midland had an opportunity to have their hearing tested last Monday, with the arrival of the Canadian Hearing Society's mobile unit. The mobile was manned by ladies of the Quota Clubs, from Barrie, Orillia as well as the Huronia districts. For those who hadn't heard the news yet, May is Hearing Month.

## Simcoe Centre NDPs

# Wessinger wins nomination

Barrie alderman Paul Wessinger was enthusiastically acclaimed New Democratic Party candidate for Simcoe Centre in the next provincial election by about 200 party workers at the Trinity Anglican Church Hall in Barrie last Wednesday night.

Wessinger polled second in a three candidate race in the September 18 election seriously challenging incumbent Progressive Conservative Art Evans—a member of Queen's Park for 16 years—and besting vote totals accumulated by Liberal Margaret Kelly.

Wessinger's chances seem more promising in the next election following a recent announcement by Evans to retire from the provincial assembly when an Ontario election is called.

Wessinger acquired the greatest support ever shown a Simcoe Centre New Democrat in the last election with 11,575 less than 200 behind Evans with 13,557 and ahead of Kelly with 9,169.

In Elmvale Wessinger ran third with only 129 votes behind leader Evans with 322 and in Flos Township Wessinger was again the third favorite with 308 votes below the incumbent's total of 399.

The only municipality won by Wessinger was Innisfil Township where he racked up 2,701 votes ahead of Evans with 2,563. In Barrie he placed second with 4,940 votes while Evans showed support of 5,589 voters. Penetanguishene and

been an alderman in the city since 1972.

During a short address to party workers at the nomination meeting he voiced his disapproval of a 5.5 per cent cutback in the provincial grants by the Progressive Conservative government to the social services. "It makes me angry," he told

the gathering, "but it shows their (the PC's) priorities, not ours. The people of Ontario don't want a society like that," he closed.

Following the meeting Wessinger said, "I'm looking forward to getting into battle, but I don't expect an election until spring 1977."

## Replaces O'Donnell

# County treasurer hired

Innisfil township deputy reeve and treasurer Duncan Green of Barrie has been hired by Simcoe County to begin as county treasurer June 15.

Green will replace treasurer John O'Donnell who announced his

resignation two months ago.

The county finance and administration committee indicated they received 26 applicants for the job and conducted nine interviews.

Green will begin with an annual salary of \$20,200 with approximately \$830 more for services to the suburban roads committee. Green was with Innisfil Township since 1966 and was previously employed a payroll clerk and supervisor with Metropolitan Toronto.

# Planning steps taken

Following a recommendation from the Simcoe County planning committee councillors agreed to undertake five planning procedures.

Council agreed to continue negotiations with the Ministry of Housing commenced in 1975 to designate the county as a planning area and pledged to develop a working agreement with municipalities contained within the county, notably Barrie and Orillia.

The planning committee will complete appraisals of the present planning status of each municipality toward the establishment of a review process with an eye to alleviating disparities adjacent to mutual boundaries.

The council agreed to appoint Douglas Clute responsible to the planning committee as well as continue with his present

responsibilities to the Land Division Committee.

The county finance and administration committee will release money from their contingency fund to allow the planning committee to proceed with the scheme.

# Wolf bounty not raised

Members of Simcoe County council will not raise the bounty on wolves shot in the county from \$25 to \$40.

Council voted to retain the present bounty following a recommendation from the county agriculture and reforestation committee.

Sunnidale Township had requested the bounty raise noting the damage done by wolves and that the few townships that

were paying bounties were subsidizing the entire county program.

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