

Drea says provincial gov't isn't dull in listing assets

by Ken Regan

Simcoe East Progressive Conservative Association held its annual dinner meeting at the Odd Fellow's Hall in Midland Wednesday night and the partisan gathering of ranking Torv officianados and enthusiasts from the riding were treated to a spirited speech by the Hon. Frank Drea, provincial minister of consumer and commercial relations.

Without doubt, Drea's presentation was the highlight of the evening for the PC's at the dinner and he didn't disappoint the group, despite arriving a little late for the dinner, due to delays in getting out of Toronto.

There were the usual accolades heaped upon the minister by local dignitaries, including Simcoe East M.P.P. Gordon E. Smith who said, "I can honestly say this about (the minister), he really understands people's problems...he is very responsive of feelings given through caucus by members from people in their ridings."

Midland Mayor Moreland Lynn performed the formal introduction of Drea, outlining briefly Drea's position of parliamentary assistant to the consumer and commercial relations ministry for three and a half years.

Lynn mentioned his term as minister of correctional services and finally Drea's current job as consumer and commercial relations minister.

Taking his place at the small portable podium set up at the head table, Drea looked tired but poised, standing at the front of the room in his grey, three-piece suit.

Accomplishments

Drea's speech was direct and relaxed, stressing what he called the less publicized aspects of his ministry's and the Davis government's accomplishments.

"I think sometimes we take for granted...things that are considered to be great accomplishments in other areas," he said, and added that he felt, "the keys to the type of government people want...are the little things."

Continuing the theme, Drea said the provincial government is often accused of being a dull government, but he disagreed with that attitude and felt it might prevail because, in his opinion, much of the good work performed does not make headlines.

As an example he mentioned the work done in the area of assisting senior citizens by implementing the drug card which allows seniors to acquire necessary drugs at little

expense.

The main thrust of Drea's speech however, outlined the direction his ministry and the Conservative government in Ontario is taking in the area of giving more responsibility for governing back to those presently being governed, such as Insurance companies and municipalities.

"By Dec. 12," he explained, "we'll have produced self regulation of a totally regulated industry, (the insurance industry), for the first time in the history of this continent."

He enlightened his audience further by explaining that with the passing of Bill 118, all regulatory powers will be passed to the insurance agencies themselves and those agencies will then have their own regulatory body.

He also mentioned the government is considering the same type of set up for the real estate industry and casually mentioned that it was interesting the province of Saskatchewan, (historically Canada's most socially oriented province) is very interested in looking at the new policy.

The move doesn't mean the government is leaving a void in the regulatory area, said the minister, but it is promoting more responsibility in the market place. "We feel", Drea stated, "the public will be better served by stimulating that sense of responsibility in people out there in the field."

Drea also marked municipalities; those that could afford and want to, as candidates for assuming more responsibility in

commercial development and regulation.

Courses

Courses will be made available for municipal representatives and private individuals to upgrade themselves to allow a better understanding of the problems and issues involved in the areas of consumer and commercial relations, so they can become more independent if they so wish.

In this way said Drea, public servants in municipalities will be given an even greater role to play.

Drea also emphasized the principles which his Ministry and the PC government promote in Ontario, sometimes to choruses of criticism from individuals opposing government influence in such areas.

Mentioning the field of censorship he said, Ontario has higher goals and higher standards than the U.S. for example, and he stressed his ministry insists on high standards.

"We are conservatives...we believe in principle. We believe in a public stand for principle."

"The true measure of a government isn't the notoriety it achieves," Drea continued, "...it is whether we have a province of opportunity."

Drea concluded his speech saying, "We are not a boastful government... (and) of course we're going to face problems and challenges..." "But", he continued, "all of us do have something in common...We want our province to be a better place for us being here...we do have that goal and working together...with business

and municipalities, we will go a long way toward achieving our province's destiny."

Following his speech Drea was presented with a momento of his appearance in Simcoe

East: a book entitled "A Pictorial History of Simcoe County", a book which Drea admitted to

coveting each time he saw a copy owned by his colleague, M.P.P. Smith.

PCs for Simcoe East elect exec

Simcoe East Progressive Conservative Association elected their 1981 executive Wednesday night at the riding's annual dinner meeting held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Midland.

Fred Hacker, the nomination committee chairman announced the names of those he, along with committee members Dave Edwards and Larry Miller, had selected as candidates for the new executive.

Following a call to the gathering of Tories for any other candidates for nomination, Hacker then called for a motion and adoption of the new executive as designated by the nominating committee.

The new president of SEPCA is Midland mayor Moreland Lynn. First Vice-President is Larry Miller, Second Vice-President is May Moriarty, Secretary is Norma Burton, Treasurer is Don McIsaac.

Regional vice-presidents in the riding are: in Orillia, Alan Byers, in Rama, Joan Page, in Mara, Grace Lam, for Coldwater, Gladys Dale, representing Oro is Pat McCracken, in Port McNicoll it is Robina Fair and in Midland, Greg Rice will serve.

Last year's president of the riding association was Dave Edwards. Moreland Lynn, the 1981 president was last year's 2nd vice president.

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