## Election too close to call in Simcoe East, Centre

by Doug Reed

With less than a week to go before the March 19 provincial election, races in both the ridings of Simcoe East and Simcoe Centre are too close to pick eventual winners.

While some provincial leaders bicker about the presence or lack of election coverage by the media, closer to home the battle appears to centre around which party can place the most election campaign signs on trees, cars and yes in one case on an old red-colored school bus.

To say the election has been low-keyed in most of both ridings is to hit the nail on the head.

It might well be after recent back to back federal elections during the past year or so that both campaigners and their supporters just can't muster up enough zip for another "last hurrah."

Whatever the reason most voters we have talked to are weary of the whole exercise which will in the end cost millions of dollars to hold.

In Simcoe East the battle will be won or lost not in Orillia or Midland

A meet the candidates

night was held in Orillia

last night for those

seeking to become

Simcoe East's

representative at

Queen's Park after

Jack Harber, the

Liberal candidate,

newspaper with a copy

of his address late

March 19.

presented

but in a section of "noman's land" between Orillia and Midland.

Balance of power It would seem to us the real balance of power will come from Warminster, Fesserton,

afternoon.

today's

Because of limited

newspaper we were

unable to reproduce

Harber's entire ad-

Owen (Lib. Simcoe

Centre) will be hosting a

meeting tomorrow night

in Midland when Dr.

Stuart Smith, provincial

Harber and Bruce

Harber to offer

yesterday

dress.

space in

his formula

this

Matchedash, Tay, Victoria Harbour, Waubaushene and Port McNicoll.

And odds throughout that section of the riding Grits have a bit of an edge...but it

leader of the Liberal

Party, will be attending.

The joint riding(s)

meeting will be held at

the Budd Watson

Midland Jaycees will

be hosting that Sunday

night event. During his

address last night

Harber was to touch on

such subjects as

unemployment in the

riding, aging, the

elderly, mandatory

retirement, inadequate

pensions, limited access

to home support ser-

vices and the govern-

ment freeze on new

remarks he intended to

say that the people of

At the outset of his

homes for the aged.

Gallery.

could all change March 19 if inclement weather keeps vast numbers away from the polls.

Tories you see have a knack of getting the vote out in good weather or foul so don't count them out, nor for that matter don't count out the NDP either.

In Simcoe Centre the race is going to be equally close with Bruce Owen (Lib.) hot on incumbent MPP George Taylor's heels.

Owen has been running a slick newspaper campaign in particular and may very well grab some of the disenchanted votes from both the Tories and NDPs in the riding.

close to call.

In the meantime meet Dr. Stuart Smith, head of the provincial Liberals when he comes

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to Midland tomorrow night, if you are of that persuasion.

Both Jack Harber (Lib.-Simcoe East) and Bruce Owen (Lib. Simcoe Centre) are hoping for a good turnout at the joint meeting to be staged at the Budd Watson Gallery when Smith comes to town at 6:30 p.m.

Although Premier William Davis reached into the riding last week in visits to both Barrie and Orillia, Smith will be the first party leader from the province who will actually be making an appearance in Midland to woo voters.

Mike Cassidy, NDP leader, was to have been But again it is too here vesterday but his visit was shelved.

So to recap, it is going you'll have a chance to to be close in Simcoe East and Simcoe Centre, but then you knew it all along, right?

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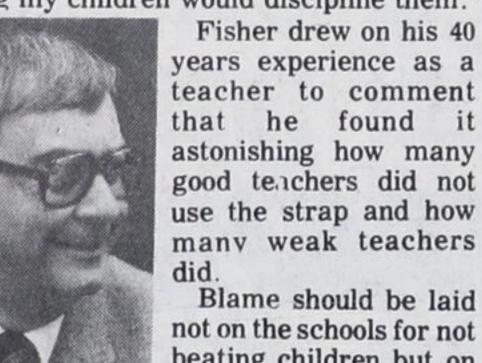
Hollywood 320N.

## Place of strap in schools warms SCBE meeting

A motion to inform the Minister of Education that the Simcoe County Board of Education favours the retention of the strap in the public schools provoked nearly every trustee at Wednesday's meeting to speak for or against the strap.

The mover of the motion, Tottenham trustee Frank Prothero, suggested that those people who think better means of maintaining discipline exist today "should look at the crime rate and the number of misdemeanours being committed. It isn't even a close argument. Our society is in a great decline."

Barrie trustee Dr. Allen Fisher, who spoke at least three times against the retention of the strap, said that he "never thought that beating my children would discipline them."





years experience as a teacher to comment that he found it astonishing how many good teachers did not use the strap and how many weak teachers

Blame should be laid not on the schools for not beating children but on any private enterprise that preys on children, he said. "Until the churches regain the grip that they (once) had on McCullough children," progress is impossible, he said.

Midland trustee John McCullough took offense at the remarks of Barrie trustee Faul Tremblay and Orillia trustee Janet Kiff that young people were not animals to be whipped, and that strapping was an act of violence.

McCullough added that the strap had never been used in that extreme manner in Simcoe County because the board would certainly have heard of it.

The motion in part declared that the banning of the strap would severely weaken the remaining authority of the teacher, and that banning of the strap by the Ministry would be an infringement of the authority of the province's school boards.

Prothero asked for a unanimous vote for the motion, but the motion did not come to a vote. It was instead referred to committee.



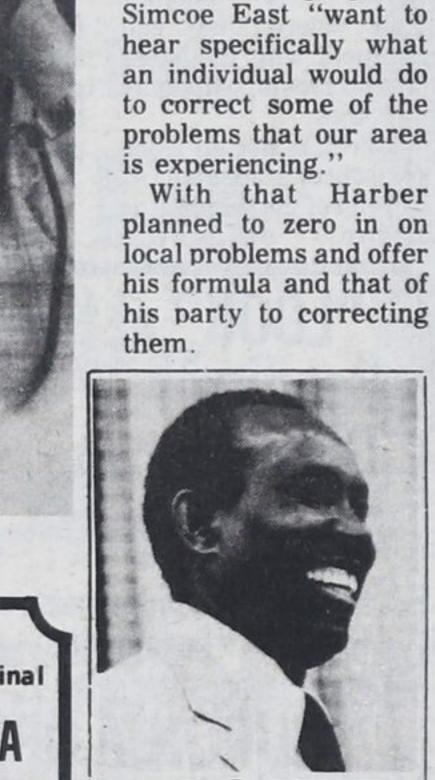
**Dr. Stuart Smith** 

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## JACK HARBER

invites you to meet

STUART SMITH



Leader, Ontario Liberal Party at

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Cash bar 6 p.m.

Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. sharp SATURDAY, MARCH 14



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