

# Campaign '84: a look back at THE 56 days

by  
MARK BOURRIE

The first political act for a public audience in Simcoe County took place the day the election was called, when Stephen Kaasgaard, a Green Party worker, chained himself to the Pauze landfill site.

From that kickoff, the quest for votes of the five parties seeking votes in Simcoe North and Simcoe South began in earnest.

Campaign 84 had kicked off for both Tory incumbents much earlier, when they had put together their organizations and held nomination meetings earlier in the year.

The Liberals in both ridings held late nomination meetings. For Al Martin and Bruce Owen, the campaign really got off the ground when Prime Minister John Turner visited Orillia Aug. 3.

Turner mainstreeted with both men, and shortly afterwards the Liberals finally began to put up enough lawn signs to claim credibility as challengers in the roadside war.

The war of words continued for 56 days on doorsteps, press interviews, letters to the editor and all candidates' meetings. Alan Martin and Doug Lewis set up campaign headquarters within shouting distance of each other on the main street of Midland.

In Simcoe South, Tory Ron Stewart and Liberal Bruce Owen fought a bitter battle, but by the time Tory leader Brian Mulroney visited Barrie, much of the battle had been settled by the leaders.

Both Mulroney and Turner visited regional ridings at turning points in their campaign. When Turner visited Orillia, his lead in the polls was still unchallenged publicly. But the Prime Minister had been briefed on Liberal Party polls that showed he had fallen behind.

After giving a speech in the old Opera House described as one of the best of the campaign, Turner left Orillia for Ottawa. Later that day he fired Bill Lee, his campaign manager, and hired Senator Keith Davey, bringing charges from the Tories and some editorial writers that Turner had turned to the Old Guard of the Liberal Party to save him.

Mulroney arrived in Barrie Aug. 11. Already the polls, which would become an issue in themselves by the end of the campaign, showed the Opposition leader with a healthy lead. Mulroney played it safe in Barrie.

Accompanied by Premier William Davis and a nightclub-type band, Mulroney gave his regular speech, with the regular jokes that were repeated on national newscasts for the rest of the summer.

"How can a government run a country that has lost money on its own lottery," Mulroney asked over and over.

The next day, Jean Chretien, a politician with a strong allegiance to Alan Martin and the emotional support of many Liberals in the area, visited Midland.

He attacked Ron Stewart as a "dinosaur" and, despite the fact he was over an hour late, still thrilled a crowd of about 500 who filled the floor of the Midland arena.

Chretien's speech was probably the best in the area in the campaign, but received little coverage outside the Midland area.

Within weeks, the results of poll after poll showed the Liberals trailing nationally, but never shook the confidence of the Liberal campaigners. Alan Martin claimed he had increased his support in Orillia and could get the 34 votes he needed in 1980 to pass the Tories and break the generation-long stranglehold on North Simcoe.

Bruce Owen in Simcoe South had a bigger battle to overturn the 3,500 vote majority of Stewart and as the campaign wrapped up, Owen's assaults on Stewart for his alleged opposition to bilingualism and French rights became more stinging.

The Labour Day weekend was an anti-climax, with a few more polls released (three) and stories of the leaders hunkering down for the decision.

Saturday night, the lights were burning bright in Alan Martin's campaign office in Midland, but Doug Lewis' storefront was closed. It was just a matter of getting out the votes and preparing for the results.



## For a safer town

Penetanguishene Mayor Ron Bellisle (right) unveils Block Parent Community sign at the Highway 93 entrance to town on Friday afternoon. Assisting the mayor is Penetanguishene Police Chief Robert Cummings. About 20 residents of the community who will be involved in keeping the

Block Parent program running smoothly in the community, and municipal officials attended the unveiling beside the angels. Another sign is to be erected at the entrance to town on Robert Street West.



## Trio did the legwork

Three Penetanguishene-area men who helped establish the Block Parent program in the community under the supervision of the Penetanguishene Police Department were on hand Friday for the unveiling of Block Parent Community sign. The three are (left to right): Nicholas Sklar,

Peter Juneau and Timothy Rud. Juneau, a graduate of Georgian College's Law and Security Administration program, acted as project leader. Sklar and Rud have completed one year of the two-year program. The three are headed for careers in law enforcement.

**Post  
election  
editorial**  
Turn to Page 6

## In the news

Pope John Paul II will be going to the Martyrs' Shrine at Midland on Saturday morning, Sept. 15, and this will be an unforgettable experience for those who choose to attend his service and sermon in the natural beauty of that setting, so close to the Martyrs' Shrine and Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, the reconstructed Jesuit mission village.

For details...on accommodations and transportation, call the Hospitality Hotline number, toll-free in Ontario - 1-800-461-4343.

## Woman killed on Hwy 400

An Etobicoke woman was killed Sunday on Highway 400 just north of the Highway 93 cutoff. Irene Wynne, 59, of Beaver Bend Crescent, was killed Sunday morning after her car entered the shoulder of the southbound lane of the highway. Police say she over-compensated and steered into the side of a second vehicle on the inside lane of the highway.

Wynne was travelling with her dog, which

survived the accident.

Police say once Wynne's 1978 Mazda struck the second car, her car rolled over and the woman was thrown from the vehicle.

Wynne was pronounced dead when she arrived at Royal Victoria Hospital.

Police say no charges will be laid in the accident and no inquest is planned.

The accident occurred at 11:50 a.m. Sunday.

## First-rate emergency health services is provincial goal

by  
GEORGE W. TAYLOR  
Q.C., M.P.P.  
Simcoe Centre  
Solicitor General

Over the course of the last few years, a good deal of effort has been spent devising emergency health services for the people of Ontario. Due to the size of the province in which we live, this task requires a tremendous amount of planning and local co-operation.

A first-rate emergency health services system is only

possible after careful design and implementation. One of the first steps was establishing a user friendly emergency system, 911, in major population centres across the province.

It is hoped that in a very short time, we will reach our goal covering the entire province by central dispatch services.

Important support components of an emergency health services system include trained citizens to ad-

minister CPR and first aid. By offering CPR training to government employees, the Ministry of Health has set an example.

Through our new paramedic pilot program, 54 candidates have been trained. Before continuing, the program is being evaluated to identify the most effective means of expanding paramedic services.

In other initiatives, the province's land ambulance network and air ambulance fleet are

being upgraded. Across the province, there are now 37 heliports, many with 24-hour facilities.

Currently, telehealth conference - two way radio and television link-ups - is allowing doctors and other health care workers to exchange information about specific cases.

This communications system is an important link in emergency health services, joining hospitals and ambulances and hospitals and health care providers.