

# McLean sees stronger Ontario economy under Premier F. Miller

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Simcoe East

The election of Frank Miller as leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party should result in a number of good things for Simcoe East riding.

I believe that with Frank Miller as Premier, there will be

more opportunity for jobs and growth in our communities.

For example, this past fall I moved a private member's resolution in the provincial legislature calling for a special fund, or incentive, to encourage manufacturing growth and in-

vestment in municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 to provide strengths to local economies.

During his leadership race, Frank Miller proposed that regional tax incentives be set up to attract new industry to smaller towns in our province. As Treasurer, Miller used a similar approach to encourage mining-related investment in Northern Ontario.

Throughout the leadership campaign, Miller has advocated the strengthening of small business and the decentralization of business activities. For example, as Minister of Industry and Trade he set up the Business Divestiture Program.

This undertaking encourages larger companies to "spin-off" some of their activities to create new opportunities for small business.

In addition, Miller proposes to reintroduce the small business corporate tax holiday and a new kind of apprenticeship program that will direct young people towards careers in small businesses.

All-in-all, the proposed Miller program offers a great deal of potential for Simcoe East riding. Opportunities are being created for new industrial growth in small business. As well, a priority is being placed to create new opportunities for "Small town Ontario".

According to Frank Miller, we have only five years to get our economic house in order. Ontario industry must get new technology onto the shop floor and meet the new challenges resulting from changed patterns of world trade.

A re-vitalized economy will bring new strength to our communities, bring down the numbers of jobless and give Queen's Park the revenue it needs to go ahead with improvements to existing healthcare and social programs.

Economic growth is not just an end in itself. A stronger economy will simply provide Queen's Park with the means to ensure that the quality of life in all our communities, that opportunity is available to all and that our environment is protected.

I believe the Miller years will be a time of growth for Ontario and Simcoe East riding.

It is up to all of us, however, to take best advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

## School buses just 'keep on truckin'

While most children pray for a big snowstorm to close down local schools, none of the approximately 120 PMCL school bus routes have lost a day to bad weather conditions this season.

Even though the winter was less severe over 1983-84, PMCL Vice-president and General Manager Brian Dubeau reports, three or four country buses were unable to complete their routes.

The previous year, he remembers when even in-town buses were grounded temporarily during a three-day blizzard.

When road and visibility conditions are questionable, at 7 a.m., Dubeau and his staff consult Ontario Provincial Police, school bus drivers on the country routes, with representatives from Tiny, Tay, and Flos Townships, and County of Simcoe.

When conditions are established to be unsafe, students are informed over three county radio stations.

No matter how bad things get, says Dubeau, schools are always open.

It is PMCL policy to leave students in the supervised shelter of the school until their normal departure time, to avoid unnecessary confusion, and to avoid interfering with the schedules of today's many working parents.

Because of their weight, power, clearance, bright colour, and the excellent visibility afforded to the driver, Dubeau claims, "You are safer in a school bus, than when riding in a car."

But he still reminds parents that they have the ultimate responsibility for sending their children to school during storm conditions.

## Mayor Roach invited to co-chair campaign

Midland Mayor Al Roach has been invited to be this year's honorary chairman of Midland Salvation Army's Red Shield Campaign.

May's campaign will be chaired for a third year in a row by Doug Reed.

This year's target is \$25,000, reports Lt. Ray Braddock, commanding officer of the local Salvation Army.

1985 also marks the Sally Ann's centennial of service in North Simcoe. The year 1985 will also see Midland Salvation Army open its new citadel at the corner of Second and Dominion.

Officially opening of the new church is Saturday, Feb. 23.

Construction of the multi-purpose facility began in early September '84.

Last year's honorary chairman was Tay Township Reeve Bruce Finney.

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