

Wins York North easily

Hodgson sees early election

By Jim Irving

William Hodgson may have been returned as the Progressive Conservative member for York North, but he plans to tell his workers to go easy with his campaign signs.

Hodgson, who regained his seat with a handy 2,527 majority over his nearest rival, Liberal candidate Mayor Margaret Britnell of King Township, told The Liberal he foresaw another election within a year.

Incumbent Hodgson was one of 51 Progressive Conservatives elected in Ontario, against 38 New Democrats and 36 Liberals.

To a cheering crowd of supporters at a victory party at the Newmarket Legion, he told them they would probably have to start preparing for an election again "in the near future."

"And if I'm chosen as the candidate, I will be working just as hard as before."

For the Hodgson forces, the victory party seemed almost anti-climactic, or at least an extension of earlier celebrations at the PC committee rooms in the Newmarket Plaza.

The whole atmosphere, in fact, was carnival like, as the many supporters and campaign workers, easily identified by their happy looks and straw boaters, with the blue Hodgson ribbons on them, flashed about in a constant state of merriment from early evening on, as all signs pointed to another victory for the longtime member.

Victory came early

And victory did come early. By 9:45 most of the people had left the plaza to attend the big party at the Legion.

There Hodgson and his wife, Lisa, after first greeting arrivals at the foot of the stairs, formed up behind two young men in highland dress and were piped into the hall.

The two then circled the floor several times to the accompaniment of the pipes and staccato hand clapping from the huge crowd of some 500 to 600 people.

"I want to thank each and everyone of you from the bottom of my heart," Hodgson told the gathering.

"When you can come out with one of the highest majorities in the province, it has to be because of the great people."

Hodgson then asked his wife to speak. "She says it all much better than I," he said.

Mrs. Hodgson said they had "won the fight" without incurring any casualties or injuries and now intended to carry out what they had done for the past eight years.

On hand almost immediately after their arrival to offer congratulations, were defeated candidates Britnell, and Bob Lewis, of the NDP who greeted the Hodgsons in the centre of the floor.

Britnell not quitting

When asked how she felt about it all, Mrs. Britnell said: "I feel very good. I

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(Photo by Elbert)

"Here, dear, you can say it much better than I," is what winning PC candidate William Hodgson told his wife, Lisa, as he handed over the microphone to her at the victory celebration at Newmarket

Legion. Mrs. Hodgson said if she could, she would hand out cigars and roses to all. "We have won the fight," she said. "Now we intend to carry on what we have done for the past eight years."



(Photo by Elbert)

Timothy Britnell watches sadly as election results show the tide in York North running against his mother, Liberal candidate Mayor Margaret Britnell.

After rate increase

Exodus from region day care centres

York Regional Council has finally found an effective way of reducing waiting lists for regionally controlled day care centres.

Effective Sept. 15, it increased the rates from \$30 a week to \$40 for pre-schoolers, and from \$35 per week to \$50 for infants.

Combined with an increase July 1, this represents an increase this year of 60 per cent for pre-schoolers and 100 per cent for infants.

Day care director Betty Stokes told a meeting of the region's health and social services committee last week 38 parents have taken their children from centres in Aurora, Richmond Hill and Newmarket because of the rate hikes and over 200 have removed their names from the waiting list.

Only seven parents have accepted the new rates in full, said Mrs. Stokes, and 37 parents who had been paying the full rate have asked for subsidies.

Commenting on the report, Richmond Hill Mayor David protested, "It's going to destroy the regional day care system."

Mayor Gladys Rolling, however, was pleased with the report. The new fees

have had a positive effect, she said, because parents are looking for alternative forms of care for their children.

Markham Regional Councillor Alma Walker agreed.

"Private enterprise can do a better job than public enterprise," she said.

At an earlier meeting the committee proposed introduction of a pilot project—a network of private homes that would offer care for five or six children under overall supervision of a qualified staff person.

The proposal would involve hiring of an additional supervisor and would make care available for 25 to 30 children.

Meanwhile, despite waiting lists of 64 in Richmond Hill, two in Aurora and 135 in Newmarket, there are three vacancies in Richmond Hill, 10 in Aurora and 33 in Newmarket.

"So many have left due to the increased rates," Mrs. Stokes told The Liberal. "and when we contact people on the waiting lists, they are not willing to let their children come (to the regional centres) because of the increased rates."

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Alf Stong's York Centre majority was 1,820 votes

By Ivy Reeve

Election morning—and workers for all three parties seemed to be on tenterhooks.



Photo by Hogg

Snedker 8,140 votes



Photo by Hogg

Roman 13,083 votes

No one was prepared to say where Alf Stong, Tony Roman or Tony Snedker would be by midnight, or what their candidate's status would be.

Alf Stong's workers were worried rain might prevent voters from getting to polling stations.

Tony Snedker probably would spend most of the evening at the NDP committee room, a supporter said.

Conservatives had rented the lounge at Thornhill Community Centre for a celebration, but the woman who gave this information, although hopeful, wasn't positive it would be a victory celebration.

A number of voters were uncertain, too. Many who were questioned made favorable remarks about all of the candidates.

By 8:30 that evening, the CBC's experts were predicting the Conservative Party would form a minority government; the first major political upheaval in Ontario since August, 1943.

That year, Conservatives won in 38 constituencies, the CCF in 34, and Liberals won 15 seats.

Poll by poll, Alf Stong's majority was increasing.

Meanwhile, his supporters were becoming more confident and boisterous. Liberal headquarters was crowded with workers and well-wishers— young people, many of them—who were chewing rolls and doughnuts, drinking pop. And happily watching results.

Stong's campaign manager Jim Barry was conducting what seemed like a three-ring circus.

Standing on a chair, he was phoning in results to television and radio studios, shouting results over the hubbub, trying to find a spot for reporters and cameramen, and asking everyone to move to the back of the room so newcomers could get through the door.

While they waited for Stong, people kept asking: has Tony Roman conceded yet?

MP Barney Danson arrived and was hoisted onto a chair.

"It's never the same," he told a party worker.

"Every time, we're starting all over again."

At about 9:30 p.m. Stong showed up; was cheered, congratulated, kissed, asked how he felt.

"Super," said Stong. "Just great."

He was leading by 1,570 votes, and within the next few minutes, learned he was leading by 1,602 votes.

Yes, he said, he was very, very

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Photo by Hogg

"Super," said Stong. "Just great."

School byelection candidates include university student

Jennie Bangay, a 20-year-old university student, will contest the seat on York County Board of Education made vacant by the recent resignation of Colin Barrett of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Former trustee John McMurray, a regular attendant at board meetings since his defeat last year, and Harry Bowes, a Stouffville businessman, will be the other candidates.

Miss Bangay, an Ontario scholar, said she felt her inside knowledge of the school system would be of assistance on the board.

A byelection will be held in November.

Executives help hospital canvass for funds during coming week

Business firms in southern York Region are lending executives to help York Central Hospital canvass for funds during the campaign week Sept. 29 to Oct. 4.

Employees who work in the area are being asked to ask employers for two days during that week to help with the canvass.

A training session will be held in the hospital Sept. 29 at 9 a.m.

During the summer, the campaign slowed down considerably, but fall is seeing a revitalization in the canvassers and the campaign.

A booklet has been prepared listing needed equipment and rooms to be furnished. Canvassers will be provided with this brochure which will be helpful to those wishing to make memorial donations.

A plaque with the inscribed name of the donor will be placed on the equipment or room.

Over half of the \$1.5 million goal has been reached, so now is the time to get pledges in to help the campaign over the top by November.

Send pledges to York Central Hospital, 10 Trench Street, Richmond Hill, or phone 883-2032 for information.

Inside The Liberal

Junior hockey action starts next week

Regular hockey action starts next week for two of the three local junior teams. For details on exhibition play turn to Sports Section Page B-1.

Southern York Region merchants are offering special bargains this week through The Liberal's own eight-page tabloid section with more than 50 coupons. See inside.

The inside page index of news and advertising features is:

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Sex charge

Another man has been charged in connection with a series of sex offences against children, which resulted in 19 charges against a Woodbridge couple. William and Barbara Sylvester were committed to trial last summer for the alleged offences, which were said to have occurred over a seven-month period, ending May 31.

This week, police charged George Ashton, 65, of Main Street, Markham, with indecent assault on a female and gross indecency.

Drug lab raid nets local man

A Thornhill man was among 16 people arrested in connection with a police raid on an abandoned farmhouse near Barry's Bay in the Algonquin Park area.

A laboratory and \$13 million in "speed" chemicals were seized.

Charged with the others with conspiracy to traffic in methamphetamines, is Brian Howard King, 24, of Yonge Street, Thornhill.

The raid on the farmhouse resulted in the seizure of enough chemicals to produce 100 pounds of methamphetamines, with a street value of \$13,620,000, police said.

A combined raiding party of Metro police, provincial and RCMP officers surrounded the remote farm 12 miles south of the Renfrew County resort centre, arresting its five occupants without a struggle.

Also seized in the raid were four shotguns, 400 rounds of ammunition,

plus 30 gallons of gas, presumably to be used to destroy the lab in the event it was discovered.

Police, who had the hideaway under observation since June, also recovered a radio tuned to the police band and a radar scanning device to guard against the approach of any vehicle.

Additional arrests are expected.

Closer to home, a carefully-cultivated marijuana crop has been discovered by the ministry of natural resources in a

wildlife area near Maple.

G.J. Haarmeyer, fish and wildlife management officer, said the ministry planted grasses and small grain for wildlife in the Holland Marsh provincial wildlife area.

However, when officials inspected it, they found other cultivated plants, which the RCMP confirmed as being marijuana.

The latter have all now been removed by police.

Hill man arrested in postal theft

A Richmond Hill man has been arrested in connection with the theft of a quantity of money orders, cash and stamps from a Thornhill post office, Aug. 28.

York Regional Police said the man was picked up in Montreal with some of the money orders taken in a break-in at Top Drug Mart in Hillcrest Mall.

A search of his home later turned up some of the missing stamps.

A charge of possession over \$200 against Carl Pennick, 29, of Springhead Gardens, also involves a break-in and theft from Bannister and Jenkins Hardware, Hillcrest Mall, about the same time.