

# Tories tickled pink by latest poll

By William Lever

NEWMARKET — Last week's annual meeting of the York Simcoe Progressive Conservative Association had the predictable quota of conservative speeches and conservative reports. There was a hi-fi playing conservative music and a bartender pouring conservative drinks.

But the big hit of the evening was some radical news from a non-partisan source.

A national Gallup poll, released earlier that Wednesday, showed the Conservatives leading the Liberals in voter support for the first time in nearly a decade.

Although guest speaker John Fraser, Vancouver South MP, quipped that "we never believed in polls until they showed us winning," it was obvious he and the audience of about 90 took great delight in the party's improved standing.

The poll showed that if an election were held now, 43 per cent of those decided would vote Conservative, 34 per cent Liberal and 17 per cent New Democratic.

"The convention helped, but this support has been coming for a long time," said Fraser, himself one of the

dozen candidates for the leadership at the party's February convention.

"You have to understand what's been going on in the minds of the Canadian people since the election of 1974.

"There's the perception the Liberal party is incompetent at running the

government, and there's been a slow but steady appreciation of that fact."

Dissatisfaction Fraser said there are many different reasons for dissatisfaction with the Liberals.

"Their fundamental flaw is that they lied their way through the last election, saying they would never impose wage and price controls while all the time they had a contingency plan for doing just that."

Fraser also attacked the government for excessive spending, strikes in the public service, abuse of power and interference in the judiciary system.

Judges affair "The Grits are going to hear a lot more about the judges affair," Fraser said. "It's this kind of careless abuse of power that illustrates these men are not competent to govern any longer."

Although he never mentioned the party's new leader, Joe Clark, by

name, Fraser did say the Conservative caucus is a "very united force and there's far more agreement than disagreement."

"We're a united team, an able team, a tough team, determined to give you a new government after the next election," he said.

York-Peel. This would include the municipalities of King, Aurora, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Caledon, with a 72,100 population.

With some reservations, Stevens supported the proposals and called on his Conservative constituents "to take the lead in organizing these new ridings."

"There will be a transition period for the next couple of years, and we have to think of new associations to reflect the new ridings."

Possible changes Among the suggestions made by Stevens for changes in the electoral boundaries commission recommendations:

— The possible inclusion of Georgina with other northern York region municipalities in York-Simcoe.

— The retention of York North as the name of the proposed Richmond Hill-Markham-Vaughan riding.

Georgina, he said, has historical as well as day-to-day ties with the north (continued on A-2)

## Good question, Sinc

NEWMARKET — York Simcoe MP Sinclair Stevens says he's trying his best to get some definite answers about the future of the Pickering airport site.

But in Ottawa definite answers don't come easy.

At last week's York Simcoe Progressive Conservative annual meeting here, Stevens gave this account of a recent exchange in the Common's question period:

Lang absent "I wanted to ask Transport Minister

Otto Lang about the airport, but Lang was absent.

"So I directed my question to Prime Minister Trudeau. Trudeau dodged it, and turned it over to Bryce Mackasey, the acting transport minister.

"Mackasey said I'd better ask that question of the parliamentary secretary to the transport minister.

"And the parliamentary secretary said 'that is a very good question and we'll have to give it some consideration'."

Richmond Hill Edition

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## Amusement site is impressive to Rowe

By William Lever

RICHMOND HILL — Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe came back impressed but still open-minded after a visit to the Cincinnati amusement park owned by the company proposing a similar park near Maple.

"I knew that the critical decision on whether to allow the park will, at some point, have to be made by the region's engineering committee," Rowe said in an interview.

And as chairman of that committee, he wanted to see for himself the nature of this huge complex that would bring many thousands of visitors into the area each summer.

Rowe, who made the trip at his own expense while on vacation, said a proposal of this magnitude in a small community "has a number of pluses and a number of minuses.

"It won't be an easy decision either way."

But on the whole Rowe liked what he saw.

Landscaping impressive "What really struck me was the

absolute cleanliness of the park itself. There was beautiful landscaping, trees, ponds, walkways, picnic tables, campsites, and there were all kinds of ducks, geese, swans, exotic birds."

Rowe said he realized the quality of cleanliness was to be expected this time of year, "since the place has been shut down over the winter and they're now getting ready for the summer season.

"But one of the most impressive things, something the local opponents of the park haven't mentioned, is a brand new theatre for performing arts.

"I understand this theatre is one of the most functional in North America, and the park in Maple would eventually include a similar theatre."

Foreign stores Another feature of the Cincinnati park which impressed Rowe was the variety of ethnic "neighborhoods" with stores and restaurants patterned on originals in other continents.

"This has a certain amount of educational value," he believes, "and I could well envision a family would spend a few hours there to good educational purposes.

"The whole park is not some kind of

place where teenagers go to raise hell. It's a place for families, any age people."

The Cincinnati park, Rowe reported, also has a zoo-like exhibit of wild animals. But the owners have ruled out this attraction for the Maple proposal since they do not wish to be accused of competing with the Metro Toronto zoo.

To Rowe, possibly the biggest advantage of all would be the sudden creation of summer employment opportunities for thousands of students over the years.

2,000 employees "During the peak season work force each summer, there are about 2,000 temporary employees," Rowe said.

The rest of the year the park is maintained by a full-time staff of about 250.

"We have to weigh the good with the bad, and there are bound to be two sides to the story.

"Maybe the older people and environmental-protection people have a hang-up about roller coasters, ferris wheels and the noise associated with amusement parks.

"I have to be honest; I didn't get a real opportunity to assess this, but I don't think anybody was too hurt."

Rowe noted there were housing developments and farms near the park and "all in all, it looked very compatible."

Easy to criticize Apart from all the arguments about noise, traffic, aesthetics, employment and tourist dollars, Rowe cited one other view which not many people have mentioned.

"It's easy to be a critic of something like this and say we don't want it here.

"But not everybody is in a position to take his family up north to a cottage or somewhere for a weekend. There are probably lots of people who can't afford that and who would appreciate having a place where they can take their family on the weekend."

## ...But it still remains anathema to SAVE

MAPLE — Consultants' reports released last week won't affect S.A.V.E.'s stand against a proposed 320-acre amusement site near Maple.

The group, says chairman Ron Wilson, "is resolved to continue its strong opposition to the proposed amusement park."

A statement issued by S.A.V.E. (Sensible Approach to Vaughan's Environment) declares engineering reports commissioned by Taft Broadcasting Company have "heightened our concerns because of the rather serious implications on traffic and costs of servicing."

Taft is the U.S. parent company of Family Leisure Centres of Canada, the firm which commissioned the engineering reports.

These reports, Wilson says, "confirm that the vast majority of people in the area do not want the midway."

Questions unanswered In addition, says Wilson, the reports do not address themselves to questions raised by the S.A.V.E. group and other opponents of the proposal.

Among questions that remain unanswered, Wilson indicated are those concerning:

— impact upon Toronto sites, for example Black Creek Pioneer Village, the CNE, Science Centre and Harborfront;

— foreign ownership of Canadian industry;

— waste of non-renewable resources; — the quality of life in Vaughan; — the lack of overall planning for the Central Ontario Region, and; — the loss of prime farmland."

Wilson says S.A.V.E. will make "a more complete analysis when the developer makes all of the reports available to us."

## Overpass approved

RICHMOND HILL — Construction of the railway overpass planned for Markham Road is a step closer this week after an announcement of approval by the federal government.

The overpass, to accommodate Canadian National Railway trains and the proposed GO Train service, is to be built at Markham Road between Cedar and Essex Avenues.

Work on the project is expected to begin sometime next year.

It will cost an estimated \$3,230,000 most of which will come from the federal government and some from the provincial government.

York region council has received word from Transport Minister Otto Lang that a special grant to the region has been approved.

The region's share of construction cost has been estimated at \$250,000.



Gordon Rowe ...still open-minded



(Photo by Dunlop)

## Church stages drama

The followers of Christ came from all walks of life, and on Good Friday at 8 p.m. the drama group from St. Matthew's United Church will present the story of Joseph of Arimathea, the aristocrat who offered his tomb for the burial of Jesus following

the Crucifixion. Joseph, played by Bill Jones is shown (on left) as he talks to Nicodemus (Lloyd Linderman.) The page (centre) is played by David Linderman. The church is on Crosby Avenue, Richmond Hill, and all are welcome.

## Local women win praise for emergency first aid

RICHMOND HILL — Two local sisters, both registered nursing assistants, have been commended by Air Canada for their "quick action and cool headed approach" in an emergency situation at Toronto International Airport.

The sisters, Carolyn Andrews of Yonge Street and Arlene Cole of Cartier Crescent, were about to embark on a flight to Halifax when a North York man, William Johnston of 4000 Yonge St., collapsed in the airport.

Miss Andrews and Mrs. Cole, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Andrews of Richmond Hill, applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and professional know-how. They were credited by an airport official with preventing Johnston's condition from "drastically deteriorating."

The unconscious man was taken to a nearby hospital and after a thorough checkup was able to take a later flight to his Montreal destination.

Johnston later wrote to both women, saying, "I feel I owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for your kindness in coming to my assistance when I collapsed. . . . Words are so inadequate, but when I say 'Thank you for all you did, I mean it most sincerely.'"

The airport's passenger service deputy manager, Mrs. B. J. Martin, wrote, "I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of Air Canada

to you for your assistance in helping our passenger, Mr. Johnston. . . .

"In today's world of seeming disinterest in one's fellow man, your action is to be applauded."

The sisters and their mother, Mrs. Irene Andrews, were going to Halifax to attend the wedding of their brother, Lyndon, the following day. Lyndon has been with the Royal Canadian Navy for 12 years and is based in Halifax.

Miss Andrews works as an RNA at York Central Hospital. Her sister, prior to her marriage to Brian Cole, also worked at York Central and later at Shouldice Hospital in Thornhill.

The mother and daughters had booked standard passage for their flight, but following the incident in the airport, were given first class accommodation by the airline.

## Youth job centre opening

RICHMOND HILL — A Canada Manpower Centre for students will open May 3 at 10146 Yonge Street.

The centre will serve as focal point for information on summer jobs for area young people.

Student placement officers will assist students in finding summer employment and will aid employers who

are looking for help.

The local Manpower centre for students is one of nearly 300 that will operate across the country this summer, staffed by more than 1,000 young people.

Students who previously registered with regular Canada Manpower Centres will have their applications transferred to the new centre.

### Inside The Liberal

#### Temporary homes needed

If you've got a comfortable home, and some room to share with people who need temporary accommodation, there's a Richmond Hill-based group that would like to hear from you. A housing registry is being compiled to list homes available for a variety of people in need. See Page C-1.

Thornhill Minor Bantam Road Runners are Ontario Double-A hockey champs after downing a London team last week. The victory capped an undefeated season. See Sports, Page B-1.

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