

404 completion his aim

YORK NORTH — "Hodgson Helps people" is his campaign slogan, and incumbent Progressive Conservative in York North, William Hodgson, feels that this is his greatest strength.

He prides himself on aiding groups and individuals who have problems in dealing with government.

Although he has not taken a stand for or against the Pickering airport, Mr. Hodgson has arranged a meeting between anti-airport groups and Premier William Davis.

In recent press releases, Mr. Hodgson expressed support for

policies initiated by Premier William Davis in the past four years.

He points to recent government efforts to fight inflation including the freeze on gasoline prices and the decision to drop the 5 per cent sales tax on both domestic and foreign cars.

Mr. Hodgson has also stated support for Premier Davis' stand on law and order and gun control and points to Ontario's health and hospital facilities as "the best health and hospital care to be found in Canada."

After 25 years in politics, he classified himself as an average politician, who enjoys the

"game". He is seeking his third term representing York North.

His earlier career included service as school trustee, municipal councillor, including seven years as reeve of King Township, and service as Warden of York County.

"I have always endeavored to give the problems of our citizens close attention," he said.

He was first elected to the legislature in 1967, and was returned again in 1971. In the past session of the legislature, Mr. Hodgson was named deputy speaker.

Although Mr. Hodgson sees few immediate issues in York

North, there are several projects he would like to follow through if elected.

A pet project is the completion of Highway 404 to Newmarket, a project which was stalled for a number of years. Recently the first contract has been let on that highway's construction.

A separate judicial district for York is also one of his prime concerns and he points to the plans to build a new courthouse in Newmarket as evidence of his commitment to that cause.

In dealing with regional government, Mr. Hodgson said that the former county council asked for it and denies it was imposed by the provincial government. He said that regional

government in York was designed to prevent the southern part of the region, north of Steeles Ave., from being absorbed into Metro.

Mr. Hodgson said that he supports many of the policies of the government, adding that he supports his leader, but doesn't hesitate to disagree when a policy would adversely affect York.

He listed the major achievements of the Davis government adding that "the need for a strong, responsible government in Ontario is now greater than ever before, one which can intelligently and realistically guide and protect our future destinies."



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PC Roman hits buzz saw at Thornhill meeting

THORNHILL — Progressive Conservative candidate Anthony Roman found himself on the defensive last week, in the all-candidates meeting at Thornlea Secondary School.

He debated with Liberal Alf Stong and York Centre NDP hopeful Tony Snedker. Mr. Roman however found himself defending the PC government.

He replied a number of times, "you had better ask Mr. Davis about that," or "I feel that's an issue between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Davis."

An audience of 500 attended.

Mr. Roman did stress some of the strong points in the PC platform and listed some of the accomplishments of the term just completed, including creation of new jobs, financial assistance to senior citizens, action against increased energy costs, reduction and removal of sales tax on building materials and automobiles. On a more local level, he pledged his

support to regional government, advised closer co-operation between administration and teachers and placed stress on the completion of the official plan for York Region.

Mr. Roman cited experience as an important issue locally and promised to use his knowledge in the best interests of all residents in the Riding.

Tony Snedker pointed to inflation as a number one problem, not only in Ontario but around the world. He suggested that to bring about some sort of relief, politicians must get down to the "grass roots" of the situation and work from there. He recommended a reduction in personal income tax; the setting up of a price review board "with teeth" in Ontario; the appointment of a mediator to deal with all labor management disputes and the assessing of fines against parties who do not bargain in good faith. "As soon as we start keeping people honest, the number of strikes will be reduced," he said.

On the subject of regional government, Mr. Snedker admitted "we're stuck with it." He suggested several changes, however, including the election rather than the appointment of a Chairman. He criticized the Ministry of Education for placing different values on elementary and secondary school students. He placed "proper planning" at the head of his priority requirements in the Riding.

Liberal Alf Stong hit hard at the Davis Government in three main areas — education, regional government and the airport — parkway belt land "freeze".

The Richmond Hill lawyer won applause for his recommendation that, what he termed a "core curriculum" be introduced that would guarantee high school graduates a "place" in society.

"The education system in Ontario is failing us," he said. "Students are wondering if their diplomas will be worth anything to them when they complete Grade 13."

He said the strike by teachers in the spring of '74 was not prompted by "a group of radicals", but because "they had their backs against the wall". He criticized the Conservatives "for going

haywire" on school construction and recommended a return of education to a more local level.

He condemned the Tories for "freezing" thousands of acres of land without adequate compensation for owners and called the proposed Pickering Airport "unnecessary". "The government," he said, "should be responsible and responsive to the people."

The Liberal candidate condemned regional government as "too costly" and said his party, if elected, would not extend it beyond its present form. He stated that area municipalities and local communities should have a greater say in affairs at the regional level and costs should be kept within reason.

"Suddenly," he concluded, "the Government has become interested in people, but this can hardly make up for the last four years of arrogance."

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Teen Pick of the Week

This week's Teen Pick of the Week is involved in an activity that might be termed unusual for a girl. Barb Broadbent of Mount Albert takes part in the Junior Plowing Match, held recently at Gormley. She is the "Queen of the Furrows" for York North. The Teen Pick of the Week is sponsored by Murray Wilson Shoes, and a \$15 voucher at this store is received by each participant. — Don Bernard.

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