

HODGSON IN A LANDSLIDE

By JIM IRVING

YORK-NORTH — Undoubtedly the best lesson to be learned from Bill Hodgson's one-sided win over his Liberal and NDP rivals, Thursday is "if you want to nominate a successful candidate in the Riding of York-North, wait until the incumbent retires".

Over-all, it was Hodgson with 18,221 votes; Jim Wilson of the Liberals with 10,110 and Keith Munro of the NDP with 4,575.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville it was Hodgson, 2,923; Wilson, 1,258 and Munro, 549.

While election results can never be taken for granted, supporters at the P.C. campaign headquarters in Stouffville were celebrating victory a half-hour after the polls closed. And for good reason, for their standard-bearer never trailed, sweeping every division in the riding.

The only area where any rival came even remotely close

was at Pleasantville. There, Wilson managed 58 votes to Hodgson's 64. The Liberals took this particular poll in '77.

Munro trailed throughout although he came within three votes of Wilson at a poll, in



BILL HODGSON

Whitchurch-Highlands School. At this location, it was 77 for Hodgson; 28 for Wilson and 25 for Munro.

It was much the same story in the advanced poll, Hodgson, 122; Wilson, 54 and Munro, 12. "I must send out a few sympathy cards (to the Liberals)," said one happy Hodgson supporter as she watched the results come in.

"Let's not rub it in too much," smiled another.

"It's the organization that makes it," commented David Hill, whose wife, Bev, co-managed the Stouffville office along with Pat Beaton, "neither the Liberals or the NDP established a headquarters here".

Office or not, a picture in an area paper, displayed on the wall of the Stouffville headquarters, may have given as good an indication as any, how the vote would turn out. It showed the P.C. and Liberal

headquarters in a shopping plaza, separated by a fish and chip store. The caption read: "Oceans apart".

While Hodgson won handily, the turnout was small. Reason for this was offered by one man. He said residents on Ninth Line South, had to vote at a poll two miles away while one was located at Orchard Park School, only a block from their doors.

Whatever the reason for people voting, not voting or voting the way they did; and no matter how much the hoopla and the handshakes, it was all over at the Hodgson headquarters in the plaza at 9:30 p.m.

And a call to the same office the next morning, elicited only a recorded announcement with the message that the number was "no longer in service".

Aida Cleaners

Daring robbery

STOUFFVILLE — A break-in and robbery at Aida Cleaners on Somerville Street, has presented the owners with many problems.

In taking about 65 pairs of pants plus other items of clothing, the thieves also took the invoices, leaving the proprietors with no record of who the customers are. "We can only check when the

people come in," Ben Aida told The Tribune.

Entry was gained through a side window but footprints were visible in the snow all around the building. A car or van was parked two doors to the west.

The loss has been estimated at between two and three thousand dollars. The clothing is insured.

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For education

Homeowner is hit again

STOUFFVILLE — The average home-owner in Whitchurch-Stouffville will pay an additional \$45 on his 1981 tax bill for education.

This is the result of a record \$110,000,000 budget handed down last week, thirteen million dollars over the figure of 1980.

Out of this amount, just over \$82½ million or about 75 per cent will be required for salaries and accompanying benefits, leaving around \$28 million for non-administrative purposes.

Here, the amount paid out for education amounts to about 65 per cent of the Town's total tax bill.

Trustee representative and board chairman Harry Bowes had felt the increase should have been held to 8.5 per cent rather than ten. But instead of cutting costs from the initial draft, more was added, a practice he did not agree with. "The same thing happened last year," he said. Bowes says he's hopeful future salary demands will tend to slow down, now that

members of the teaching staff are at "a pretty fair rate". As for lower paid employees, he described them as in "a catch-up position", to be considered in future negotiations. He explained that part of the 1981 increase can be attributed to cost hikes in energy and transportation.

Aurora's Norm Weller questioned the expenditure of \$100,000 for mini-computers and the purchase of a new word processor. He claimed "typewriters are cheaper".

Board director Sam Chapman said he would report back.

Mr. Weller also drew attention to the fact that "once again", several trustees had seen fit to skip what he described as "the most important meeting of the year". Absent were Craig Cribbar (Newmarket); Patti Grande, Barbara Gilbert and David Crombie (Markham) and Vaughan separate school trustee, Vince Siciliano.



Ted Wood, Mill Street, Stouffville, is in a class by himself. A truck driver thirty years, sixteen with Imperial Oil, he's never had an accident. During this lengthy period, he's clocked well over a million miles. For this safe-driving achievement, Ted

was honored by the Ontario Safety League at an awards' banquet in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto. He will be further recognized by Imperial Oil at a ceremony next month.

— Jim Holt

Thirty years

Transport driver honored

no accidents

STOUFFVILLE — Thirty years a truck driver and never an accident.

Few motorists can boast this record — truck drivers either.

On March 2, Ted Wood, Mill Street, Stouffville, was honored by the Ontario Safety League for such an accomplishment. He was presented with an engraved plaque by Highways' Minister James Snow at a banquet in Toronto's Royal York Hotel. Ted's employed by Imperial Oil.

It was Nov. 1, 1965 that Ted first took over the controls of a huge White Freightliner and he's been handling these train-like thirty-wheelers ever since. However, his safety achievement goes all the way back to 1950 when he operated a three-ton G.M.C. for Ed Foster of Agincourt. Later, he drove for Frank Roberts and then Bruce Winterstein, buying two of Winterstein's trucks in 1953 and going into business for himself. He joined Imperial at age 32.

In spite of the responsibilities, Ted loves his work, in fact, after a few days off, he admits he's "climbing the wall" to get back in the cab. "They're an excellent company, they've treated me A-1," he says.

Fully loaded, his 68½ foot transport with dual trailers, grosses seventy tons. "Concern for safety is unreal," he says, "they don't fool around". Each vehicle is well maintained, with

no questions asked concerning replacement parts. Ted's dealer area extends to Picton, Bancroft, Parry Sound and Milton. Twenty-four hour delivery is guaranteed.

In his thirty years 'on the road', Ted's recorded well over a million miles. He sees

collisions or near-collisions just about every day.

The impatient driver is the worst problem, he says. "They go to work every morning like they hate their jobs and home again at night like they're twenty minutes late". Failure to signal also spells trouble in

many instances, he points out.

The company holds safety meetings every three weeks. Ted explained. They're extremely beneficial, he says, suggesting that car drivers too should attend, similar classes.

Ted never picks up hitchhikers, but he'll stop to assist

someone in difficulty. The C.B.'s a big help, he says, especially if a tow truck's required.

At 48, Ted gives no thought to retiring, in fact, he's set his sights on a forty-year safe, driving goal.

"Retire? Why should I? I enjoy my job too much".

"Honesty in politics"

YORK-CENTRE — A non-political approach led to an election upset in the Riding of York-Centre. Don Cousens, former York County Board of Education chairman and Progressive Conservative candidate, defeated incumbent Alf Stong of the Liberals by almost 1,900 votes, Thursday.

Latest figures provided The Tribune had Cousens with 19,097; Stong with 17,213 and John Campey of the N.D.P. with 3,780.

While backers of the Cousens' campaign were quietly confident of victory, Stong supporters couldn't believe their eyes. "How could they do that to someone who gave so much of his time to the riding," said one dejected Liberal worker.

These words were echoed in part by none other than Andy Grant, Cousens' campaign chairman. "He (Stong) was a good riding representative, God

bless him, a good man," he said.

Because of this respect, Grant and assistant organizers were well aware of the tough task that lay ahead. "We asked



DON COUSENS

ourselves, how do you take on a good incumbent like Alf Stong and hope to win?" The answer, he said, was "approach the issues in an honest, straightforward, up-front manner—win or lose".

The proposal, while frowned on by many, appealed to the masses," Grant said. "They came forward by the hundreds".

"We were truthful to everyone and that was the glue that brought everything together and held it together. Once they became attached to our team, they wouldn't let go," he said.

The chairman admitted it wasn't the usual approach. "We had advice to the contrary; we were told it was no way to win an election but we were committed, there was no turning back".

Said Grant: "It's a sad commentary on our times when anyone suggests that honesty

doesn't work in politics. It doesn't—we proved it".

Mr. Grant said he was pleased not only with the win but with the way the campaign was conducted, by all three candidates. "There was no way we were going to throw mud, we'd only end up with it on our own hands. He (Stong) responded in kind".

As for Richmond Hill, Mr. Stong's home bastion, Grant said they refused to concede that section of the riding. "As far as we were concerned, it was just as important as Markham, Unionville or Thornhill and we gave it as much attention as any other place". While Stong garnered strong support in that area, Cousens did well also, he said.

Mr. Stong, he said, came to the P.C. headquarters when the result was known and extend congratulations. "He was very gracious", he said.

Sap vandals hurt family

MUSS LAKE — For the last ten years, John and Elaine Fritz and family have been gathering sap from a half-dozen trees on their property and boiling it down into maple syrup.

While the quantity isn't large, it's sufficient to last all winter.

For awhile, the project continued without incident, then thieves and vandals moved in. Not only did they take the pails, but they smashed the spiles as well.

This year, it's happening again.

"It all adds up, we can't afford it," Mrs. Fritz told The Tribune. She likened the loss to a week's grocery money.

There's considerable work involved, she explained, "but we do it for the kids. It's a lot of fun and an education," she said.

Mrs. Fritz said they hadn't been 'possessive' about their trees; in fact they invite their neighbors to "tap in" if they wish. Some have, she said.

In an effort to deter further vandalism, Mrs. Fritz has erected the following sign: "Please don't take our pails and spiles. This would be the fifth time. We are as poor as you and cannot afford the loss. If you would like some syrup or to tap a tree, please come to the house and we'll make arrangements". Signed: John and Elaine Fritz and family.

Library staff seek parity

STOUFFVILLE — Public Library employees should be at the same salary level and enjoy the same benefits as those on the Town's municipal staff, board member Jack West told a planning meeting here last week.

It's unfair, West said, to deny the library staff similar benefits presently received by their municipal cohorts. The same scale, he said, should apply to wages.

West used the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan as an example, noting that municipal employees are subsidized 100 per cent while the library staff receives 50 per cent. The municipality also contributes to an employee pension plan for its workers while the library has none at all.

West felt it only fair that these and other related issues

should be brought to the attention of Council.

Mayor Eldred King agreed, asking that the board member present his proposals at a future date.

Budget

STOUFFVILLE — A 1981 budget of \$10,000 will be proposed by the Board of Management when members of Stouffville's Business Improvement Area meet Monday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m., in the Regal Restaurant, Main Street.

Last year, a sum of \$8,000 was established and from this figure, planters and benches were purchased to enhance the downtown section.

The B.I.A. president is Jan Lord. The secretary is Gordon Ness.