

Durham-York MPP Ross Stevenson

Politician hears riding concerns

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Durham-York's Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) says he's always willing to try and help constituents with their concerns, even if they don't reside in his riding.

And though Ross Stevenson doesn't officially represent the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville, he welcomes their questions and calls for assistance at the provincial level.

"If people come to me, I try to help them as much as I can," explained Mr. Stevenson, who was in Stouffville Friday afternoon for the first of a regular series of visits designed to better acquaint himself with area residents.

"It's just a matter of getting out and meeting people. We're getting quite a few calls from people in Whitchurch-Stouffville," he added, noting that he'll endeavor to assist people with their concerns no matter where they live.

The Progressive Conservative MPP will be the incumbent when Whitchurch-Stouffville joins Durham-York through boundary changes effective in the next provincial election. (Whitchurch-Stouffville is presently in York North, which is represented by Liberal Greg Sorbara).

The 44-year-old Stevenson plans to continue his informal get-togethers at the Rec. Complex lounge, despite Mr. Sorbara's

claim he finds this practice "a little bit offensive."

"What I am doing is certainly no exception, it's happening all over the province," Mr. Stevenson said of his visitations to the site of the planned riding addition. "With Whitchurch-Stouffville coming into my riding it seems natural to come out and meet the people."

Liberal MPPs, including a cabinet minister, have already begun setting up shop in opposition ridings in anticipation of changes recommended by the election boundaries commission, according to Mr. Stevenson.

He stressed his Stouffville meetings, planned for the second Friday of each month, are fi-

nanced by his riding association and don't come out of his constituency office budget.

Contacts

The York-Durham representative feels he can use his varied provincial government experience to effectively serve the needs of Whitchurch-Stouffville and constituents across the riding.

"I have excellent contacts into the civil service. I think I have a very good record in the riding of Durham-York, and I don't see why it won't continue in the new riding," Mr. Stevenson said.

As an example of how he has worked hard at Queen's Park, Mr. Stevenson pointed out that of 42 total library funding programs announced in 1986, two were

targeted for his riding (Uxbridge Township and Holland Landing).

The MP claimed this shows he and his fellow PCs have avoided becoming so-called "voices in the wilderness" while in opposition.

"I feel I can give excellent representation on either side of the floor," claimed Mr. Stevenson, who's presently agriculture critic after serving as minister of that portfolio in the short-lived, post-election Miller cabinet.

Background

Mr. Stevenson's initial discussions with Whitchurch-Stouffville residents have centred around "environmental issues" of which the MPP has a keen interest.

His educational background includes both a Bachelor and Masters degree from the University of

Guelph, as well as a PhD in agricultural meteorology (the study of weather and its impact on plants and animals).

He was a professor at Guelph for seven years and has received the university's Alumni Gold Medal of Achievement.

Raised in Udora, he's married with three children and operates a family farm north of Uxbridge.

Mr. Stevenson was first elected MPP in 1981, then returned for a second term in the last provincial ballot.

The riding of Durham-York was created in 1975 and will now change as a result of proposals made in 1986. Mr. Stevenson said population growth and the resulting need for continual riding redistribution will likely dictate more changes within Durham-York in 1991.



Health science student awarded

Barbara Wilson (left) of Stouffville recently received an award for outstanding achievement in the health sciences division in which she's enrolled at Etobicoke's Humber College. The Health

Sciences Faculty Achievement award was presented to Ms. Wilson during a ceremony held at the college in November.



Ross talks politics in Stouffville

Durham-York MPP Ross Stevenson (left) visited the Whitchurch-Stouffville Rec. Complex Friday to meet and chat with town residents. Here, he talks with former Town councillor Charlie Warden of Wesley Cor-

ners. Whitchurch-Stouffville will become part of Mr. Stevenson's provincial riding when new election boundaries become official.

—Chris Shanahan

\$1 BILLION SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM.

A Helping Hand for Grain Farmers

The Special Canadian Grains Program is assisting farmers with \$1 billion. This initiative, announced by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, is the largest of its kind ever undertaken by any Canadian government on behalf of farmers.

It is a national program that responds to a national need. It will help offset low grain and oilseed prices resulting from the subsidy war between the European Community and the

United States. The first \$300 million will be in the hands of grain and oilseed farmers this winter. Another \$700 million will be paid out in the spring.

The details of this historic program are as follows:

1. You will benefit if, in 1986, you grew wheat, barley, oats, rye, mixed grains, corn, soybeans, canola, sunflower seeds for crushing or flax.

Pedigreed seed, high moisture corn, high moisture barley and farm fed grain are also covered.

2. The first cheques are being mailed directly to Western farmers based on Canadian Wheat Board permit book data.

3. If your crops are not included in permit book data, or if you are a qualifying producer who doesn't receive a cheque, you can pick up an application at the following places:

- Offices of Members of Parliament
- Grain elevators
- Grain producer organizations
- Agriculture Canada offices and research stations
- Farm Credit Corporation Offices.

You can also have forms mailed to you by contacting the Administrator, Special Canadian Grains Program, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa K1A 1J3. Phone (613) 957-7078.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31st, 1987.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a strong and vibrant part of our country's economy. The Special Canadian Grains Program is a part of that commitment.



Horsepower!

Despite frigid temperatures Saturday, Bill Harzard and his horse team were kept busy during Whitchurch-Stouffville's winter carnival. Sleigh rides were one of many popular attractions offered in the park over the weekend.

—Chris Shanahan

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Volunteers will form historical committee

STOUFFVILLE — Organization of a historical committee for Whitchurch-Stouffville has been placed in the hands of a group of interested town residents.

Meeting in-committee Feb. 10, Council recommended the new committee be operated by volunteers who've expressed interest in the project.

A list of names compiled by the Town includes that of Vic Sanders, who originally suggested formation of such a body to preserve local history.

The proposal was first discussed in late October of 1986, when Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders and several of his colleagues spoke in favor of the committee.

