

Durham-York PCs meeting on June 4

Ross Stevenson has announced he'll seek the Progressive Conservative nomination in the revamped provincial riding of Durham-York.

The PC riding association has scheduled a nomination meeting for Thursday, June 4, in Uxbridge Arena's community centre.

Mr. Stevenson, the former riding of Durham-York's representative since 1981, has held the positions of parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment and the Treasurer. He was Minister of Agriculture in the short-lived Miller cabinet and is now agriculture critic.

After attending schools in Uxbridge and Uxbridge, Mr. Stevenson graduated from the University of Guelph and earned a Ph.D at Iowa State University in agricultural meteorology (study of environmental effects on plants and animals).

He received the University of Guelph Alumni Medal of Achievement for research, and in 1977 was recognized by the federal government as a Young Canadian Achiever.

In 1983, the MPP was honored by Nation Association of Environmental Professionals in the United States for his outstanding contribution to the environmental profession.

The 44-year-old Uxbridge-area politician has helped obtain funding for many projects in Durham-York, a riding that will contain Whit-

urch-Stouffville in the next election.

"I am pleased to report that provincial funding to new major projects in Durham-York during 1986 exceeded \$2 million," Mr. Stevenson said. "I have not found it difficult to get funding for projects from the Opposition side of the House as the record clearly indicates.

Last year, funding was secured for two libraries in Holland Landing and Uxbridge, Hwy. 48 resurfacing in Brock, the Chippewa Band Marina at Virginia, housing in Keswick under the Renterprise Program plus Neighborhood Improvement grants for Zephyr, Pefferlaw and Beaverton. Many smaller projects were also funded.

Ross is married to Elaine Stevenson and together they have three children and two grandchildren. He operates a family farm near Uxbridge.



Ross Stevenson
Durham-York MPP

Should tots go to funerals?

Dr. Ed Meade is a registered psychologist and director of the Markham Stouffville Family Life Centre. In this column, he answers questions from readers covering a wide scope of problems.

Q. My best friend's mother died recently and a decision had to be made about her five-year-old attending the funeral services. It got me thinking about my own children, and if I should take them in the event of a death in the family. What is your opinion in this matter?

A. I believe, in many cases, it is unwise to expose a five-year-old to the stark realities of death, and especially to coerce a child to look closely at the deceased.

However, a five-year-old might, when properly instructed, attend a funeral service. The decision will depend on the attitudes of the family of which the child is a member.

I have attended funeral ser-

A friend in Meade

Dr. Ed Meade

vices in which the priest or minister seemed to want to frighten the congregation to an awareness of their own mortality. On the other hand, if the remarks are sensitive and positive about the meaning of the person's life, a five-year-old could handle this type of ritual very well.

The key point is to be sensitive to the reaction of the child. If there is no discernible fear, there is no need to inhibit the child. The difficulty comes when there is pressure to view

or touch the deceased. At times a child can react with nervous laughter or giddiness. I believe in situations like this, the child should be given the opportunity to leave. If there are signs of fear, in the child's eyes, or by sweating or nervous shaking, the child should be permitted to withdraw.

I believe that, in the long run, a person is more likely to be free of neurotic anxiety if there has been no intimate exposure to the realities of death before the age of seven.

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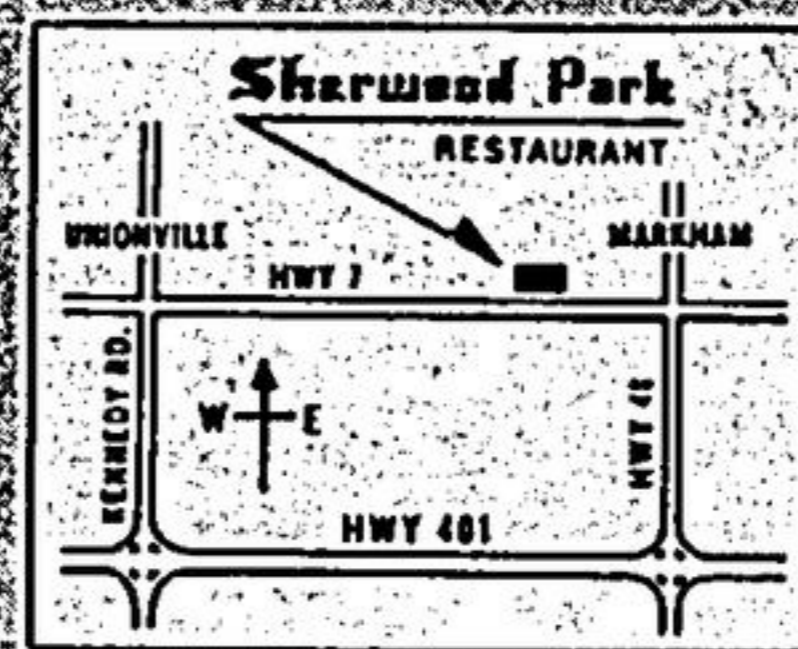
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