

# Weekender

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## BALLINGER WINS!



Newly elected Durham-York Liberal candidate Bill Ballinger, (right) is all smiles as he appears on the podium in the Uxbridge Arena following his election victory, Thursday. He's accompanied here by his parents, Fred and Betty Ballinger. — Alan Shackleton

### Bill thanks Peterson

**By ALAN SHACKLETON**  
 Bill Ballinger painted the riding red Thursday night as the former Uxbridge mayor rode the Liberal landslide to victory in Durham-York.  
 Ballinger beat PC incumbent Ross Stevenson by about 500 votes to take the newly formed riding which includes Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, and continues north-east to Lake Simcoe.  
 "This is a great night in Durham-York, we really did it," Ballinger told an enthusiastic crowd of about 500 supporters at the Uxbridge Community Centre in his acceptance speech.  
 "This is a thrilling time in Ontario history," he added. "I am pleased I'm a new Liberal. I know there are a lot of people who've waited 40 or 50 years for this to happen."  
 Dressed in a three-piece blue suit and the almost mandatory bright red tie, Ballinger said the popularity of Premier David Peterson and the hard work of his local campaign workers were crucial to the win.

During his speech Ballinger was joined by his family, parents Betty and Fred, wife Donna and children Bradley, Jill and Katie, along with key members of his election team.  
 "There are two reasons we won and the number one reason is David Peterson," he said. "We're proud to be on his team for a new Ontario."  
 "The second reason was the efforts of my campaign team. They had a heck of a job to turn such a solid Tory bastion Liberal. It was a long campaign and they never once let me down. We all pulled together, and isn't it great when a plan comes together," he added.  
 There was an air of quiet confidence at Ballinger headquarters all evening as results from across the province showed the Liberals on their way to a huge majority and Ballinger holding a consistent lead of 500-700 votes over Stevenson.  
 However, with a number of polls from strong Conservative areas still not reporting there was no premature celebration, and it

wasn't until almost 11 p.m. when Ross Stevenson showed up to concede defeat that the local long-suffering Liberals let loose.  
 Stevenson shook hands with Ballinger, congratulated him, waved to the crowd and then beat a hasty retreat, as did NDP candidate Donna Kelly about 30 minutes later.  
 In an interview outside the Community Centre, Stevenson said he was not bitter over the loss, though he was surprised by the majority the Liberals gained across the province.  
 Stevenson said a number of factors contributed to the Tory defeat.  
 "The re-distribution in the riding (Whitchurch-Stouffville used to be part of York-North) cost us, and the situation with the federal Conservatives hurt us along with the popularity of Mr. Peterson," he explained. "I think Mr. Ballinger rode ever so slightly on the coat tails of Mr. Peterson."  
 It was a claim Ballinger did not deny. "Certainly the single biggest factor in the election was David Peterson," he said.

**By JIM THOMAS**  
 A Liberal tidal wave swept across Ontario Thursday, and Bill Ballinger rode the crest.  
 The 41-year-old former Uxbridge mayor recorded a better than 400-vote majority over his prime opponent, incumbent Ross Stevenson in a landslide Peterson win.  
 Although not official, the last count released at 9 a.m. Friday by the Returning Office in Uxbridge gave Ballinger 12,369 votes to 11,718 for Stevenson. Donna Kelly of the NDP was well back with 5,494 with Ken Canning of the Family Coalition barely scratching the surface with 1,071.  
 Whitchurch-Stouffville went Liberal again, giving Ballinger a plurality of over 500. The winner's

predecessor, Greg Sorbara, won handily in York Centre.  
 So also did Liberal Norah Stoner in Durham West. The Pickering regional councillor stoned incumbent George Ashe of the PCs, 16,690 to 10,963.  
 One of the few PC survivors was Don Cousens in the new Riding of Markham. Cousens is being suggested as possible Conservative leadership material in the wake of Larry Grossman's personal defeat and subsequent resignation.  
 As predicted, the Ballinger-Stevenson battle was a close fight with the outcome in doubt until more than half the polls were in. Mr. Stevenson later visited the Ballinger victory party in the Uxbridge Arena and extended congratulations.

### Subdued elation in close race

**By JIM THOMAS**  
 Tacked to the wall of Bill Ballinger's Stouffville election office was a copy of a telegram. It read in part: "Best wishes to all your workers. Many thanks for an excellent campaign." It was signed Premier David Peterson.  
 Perhaps this was the incentive needed.  
 Maybe it added spark to the Liberal fire.  
 Whatever the result, the 564 vote Whitchurch-Stouffville majority, gained by Ballinger over PC incumbent Ross Stevenson, was sufficient to win the Durham-York Riding.  
 Workers closed up shop at 9:35 p.m. Most departed for the Ballinger victory party in the Uxbridge Arena, hoping any late-poll returns wouldn't transform the win into a wake.  
 "They didn't," Stevenson later conceded defeat and offered congratulations.  
 Despite the Liberal sweep across Ontario, the mood was surprisingly subdued at Stouffville Party headquarters.

About a dozen supporters watched the proceedings on television while Elva Boyd, adorned in Party colors of red and white, posted poll by poll returns on a nearby board.  
 The defeat of PC leader Larry Grossman brought a spontaneous hurrah. "So did the loss by Toronto's Susan Fish."  
 "Good for Norah," called out a listener when word of Stoner's lengthening lead over incumbent George Ashe (Durham West) flashed across the screen.  
 "Unbelievable, just unbelievable," commented another viewer with the prediction of 94 Liberal seats.  
 Cheers greeted the announcement that Whitchurch-Stouffville had gone Liberal by over 500 votes.  
 Don Cousens' lead over Liberal Gail Newall in Markham brought the comment: "We gotta give 'em a few."  
 As organizers readied to turn the key, a sign was placed in the headquarters window that read simply: "Thank you Whitchurch-Stouffville."

Preliminary Results	
Liberal 12,369	N.D.P. 5,494
P.C. 11,718	F.C. 1,071

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