

Taxes, pollution top local concerns

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Jack Hauseman, of Holland Landing, is the Durham-York riding PC association president. He is confident residents in the riding no longer trust the record of Liberal government enough to vote them again.

Pointing out that the riding has been a Tory stronghold for years, Mr. Hauseman says he can win it back.

According to Mr. Hauseman, the

LSRCA study on Lake Simcoe was completed in 1985 and it has taken the Liberals five years and an election call to put funding into the strategy. The study also asked that \$10 million over a 10-year period was needed to do an adequate clean up on Lake Simcoe. "Why do half a job," he asks?

Similarly, Mr. Hauseman says, the Liberals have given partial funding for clean up in Musselman Lake.

"The \$3 million given is one third of the recommended \$9 million needed to solve pollution problems there. Where is Whitchurch-Stouffville going to come up with the rest of the money?" he asks.

Mr. Hauseman believes what is needed is a strategy for managing development on the Oak Ridges Moraine to protect all the kettle lakes, not just one. "The government should declare a provincial rights interest on the Moraine lands and put a freeze on development through rigid criteria in place for two years," he suggests, until long-term strategy can be devised. The water table around the Greater Metro Area would be adversely affected if the proposed development of 18,000 new homes on the Moraine was allowed.

As areas in the riding continue to grow in population, provincial money to go toward building new roads must be in place. Although he agrees with the intention of Bill 170, Mr. Hauseman says "it is just paying lip service to the gravel pit issue. Revenues collected from Bill will be nowhere near the amount of money local municipalities need to upgrade and build road," he adds.

The increases in taxes which have been featured prominently in PC leader Mike Harris' campaign are also a big complaint of the people in the riding, says Mr. Hauseman.

"People are saying there mad at high taxes and mad at paying money for an unnecessary election. They are asking me to tell them where all this extra tax money has been going. It sure isn't going to education or increased hospital beds."

During the 1985 election the Liberals promised to open 4,000 new hospital beds and instead have closed half the existing ones, elaborates Mr. Hauseman. Education funding has also dropped below 60

per cent under the Liberals, he points out.

"An issue also being raised by residents in the riding is the Liberal stand on official bilingualism in Ontario. They are certainly telling me they don't want that kind of legislated bilingualism in this province. What we need is some common sense with this issue," says Mr. Hauseman.

His approach compares running the province with running a household.

"You don't have enough money to fix the roof, get new windows and replace the furnace. So what you do is prioritize the needs, because you can't afford to do them all at once," says Mr. Hauseman.

Like his PC opponent, NDP candidate Larry O'Connor, of Sunderland, says the \$5 million for Lake Simcoe Management Strategy is "simply not enough."

Keswick and Sutton residents he has spoken with say "it is too little and possibly too late. Many won't let their children swim in the lake." Ontario needs long-term environmental programs and must get tough with corporate polluters." He feels controlling development along Lake Simcoe along with adequate funding for a massive clean up and restocking should be the route taken by the provincial government.

Similarly, the environmentally sensitive lands and lakes, including Musselman Lake along the Oak Ridges Moraine should be protected from development.

On taxes, Mr. O'Connor says it is the large companies with close connections to the Liberal party that are getting away with paying no tax in the province. People are questioning why Tridel, a development company linked with the Patti Starr fundraising affair, have paid no provincial income tax in last three years.

Mr. O'Connor says two areas in the riding - Uxbridge and Georgina - are desperately in need of a new public school, but neither township was allocated funding. His party would "bring education spending back over 60 per cent and take the burden off the tax payer who pay increasing property taxes to fund education," says Mr. O'Connor. Present legislation mandating developers to build necessary infrastructure and schools in growing com-

munities hasn't materialized so far, he says.

"Funding for education and health programs has dropped substantially at the hands of the Liberals. Yes, they managed to balance the budget but at what cost to the residents of Ontario?" asks Mr. O'Connor.

Meanwhile, the Family Coalition Party is offering voters a "well-rounded platform," says candidate Jerry Young.

Originally founded as a reaction to the lack of political candidates with a pro-life stance in 1987, the Family Coalition Party (FCP) is ready for this election, he says.

The Stouffville area businessman says his party would not "provide Band-Aid solutions to environmental problems, like the present government is doing. Our party firmly believes that the survival of the family unit is intertwined with many broader issues, including preserving our environment."

He feels both the pollution problems in Lake Simcoe and Musselman Lake are similar because they are a result of over development in the area.

"We would put forth long-term, low-interest loans for people to upgrade their septic systems as well as providing money for immediate clean up," says Mr. Young.

While he is not familiar enough with Bill 170 to comment on the particulars, Mr. Young does say it is crucial to encourage free enterprise while at the same time ensuring that an ecological balance is protected.

"Getting education funding back to 60 per cent as well as a return to the three R's in school curriculums," is vital if Ontario is going to maintain its high education standards, says Mr. Young.

Rolling back the interest rate to 7 per cent has been a part of FCP platform for some time says Mr. Young. "I think it's great that the've stolen our ideas," he laughs.

One issue Mr. Young feels has been ignored in this campaign is day care and tax incentives for parents who choose to stay home with their children.

"Our whole system conspires against stay-at-home parents," he says. The FCP proposes tax benefits for families with only one parent in the work force and increased funding for day care.

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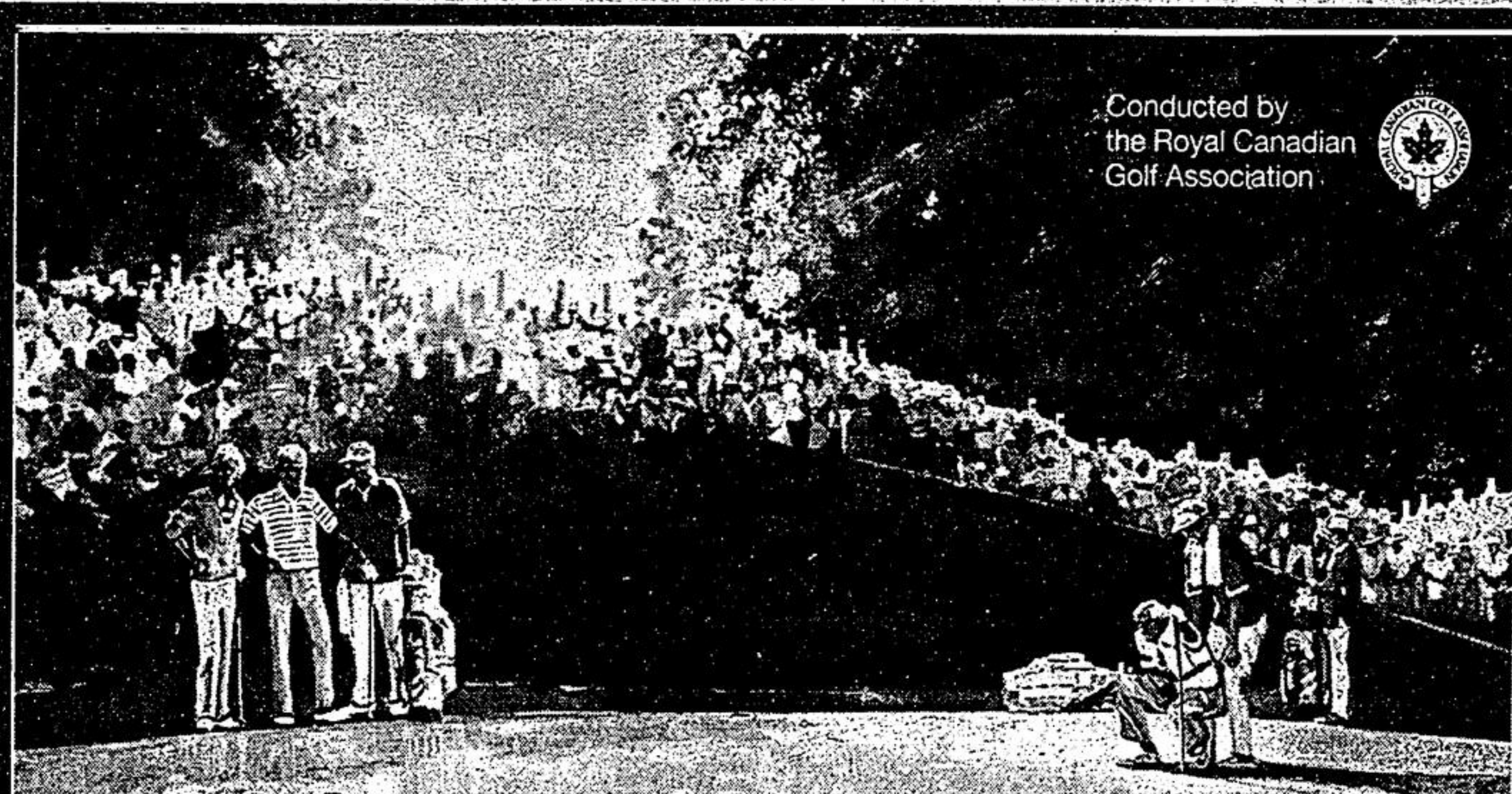
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