

## Politics

# No promises from Liberals' McLeod

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Ontario Liberal leader Lyn McLeod berated New Democrat strategies while refusing to commit herself to promises she couldn't keep at the Durham-York Liberal Association's annual meeting at Latcham Hall last Tuesday.

"If there is one lesson the NDP has taught us, it's that what may seem simple to promise in opposition can become impossible to deliver in government."

McLeod said the NDP government, under Premier Bob Rae, has failed to comprehend the complexities of governing this province, and that it is steadily undermining the confidence of the people with its botching of government affairs.

"Since the NDP came to power, there has been one incident after another of incompetence and mismanagement, and these have given the people the sense that their government simply does not have what it takes," McLeod said.

### Words and music

McLeod said while the government has finally come to understand that a strong economy should be based on a flourishing business sector, "unfortunately, the words and the music do not seem to match with this government."

She said the NDP's insistence on going ahead with its proposed changes to the Ontario Labor Relations Act show the gulf between the NDP's words about working with business and the reality of what the legislation will do to the economy.

McLeod cited the recent NDP budget as another example of the government's failure to get the province back on track.

She said Treasurer Floyd Laughren chose to fight the

recession rather than to combat the deficit in his first budget, and that a year later, it was "clear the recession is winning."

Jobs must be the number one concern of the government, she insisted, saying the new budget would not create jobs and get the province's economy moving again.

"It will kill jobs by further damaging business confidence in the government's policies. It will kill jobs by adding new taxes. It will kill jobs by delaying new investment. Our economy is on the rocks and the NDP proposes to stay the course."

### Funny money

McLeod said the budget employs "funny-money accounting devices" to try to make the deficit look smaller than it actually is.

"The numbers in this NDP budget are presented so that it's impossible to tell what the true state of the province's finances are."

Farm families, people in health care fields, university students, single mothers, owners of floundering businesses are all paying the price for the difficult times we are in," she said.

McLeod said she had sent a letter to the Provincial Auditor asking him to examine the budget to see if it is a fair assessment of the financial situation of the province's situation.

She said Ontarians are "desperate for some sense of confidence about the future."

Other business included Linn Jones being appointed president of the Durham-York Association, replacing Bruce Janes.

Paul Roney is the new executive vice president; Marshall, president, and Elizabeth Green, secretary. Bob Harris is the Uxbridge vice president and Vic Wilson is Whitchurch-Stouffville vice-president.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Back to school

From left, Jennifer Orsetto, Dan Sartor, Grade 1 teacher Catherine Brugger and Lorna Geldart sit in their children's chairs at St. Mark's Separate School on Thursday as part of Back to School for Parents Day. The parents were given a taste of what their youngsters are being taught.

## Info centre one step closer

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Local officials approved last week the use of its name to start up a non-profit information centre. Volunteers approached council last week in regards to starting up an information centre entitled Info Whitchurch-Stouffville - a centre to provide the community with a complete information package concerning the happenings, groups, clubs and services in the area.

Town chief administrative officer Bob Panizza met with centre advisory board member Marcel Bossi and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library chief executive officer Marilyn Ferguson to iron out any concerns that were raised regarding the centre's intent.

Ferguson wants to ensure there is no duplication of service which the library already may be providing, but Bossi ensures there would be an open communication between the two parties to make sure that doesn't happen. Whitchurch-Stouffville

Chamber of Commerce president Tony Arrigo told *The Tribune* he has concerns regarding the centre's intent as well.

Arrigo said he wants to meet with centre's board members to ensure there is not a duplication of service regarding tourism - an area the chamber wants to maintain. "Whitchurch-Stouffville only has 17,000 people and I want to be sure there will not be an overlap of effort here," Arrigo said. He added the centre may also be in competition with the chamber for possibility of government grants. Arrigo said he will meet with the centre's members to talk over his concerns. Downtown Stouffville member Paul Roney told *The Tribune* the group wants to stay out of the issue altogether. Information

Whitchurch-Stouffville will be located in the Community Awareness Bureau with the PC Cops volunteers, Bossi told officials last week.

The town will provide no seed money and will not financially support the centre in future, Panizza said.

### Clarification

In a *Tribune* article dated May 6, 1992, it was stated that the idea of an information centre for Stouffville had been rejected by two local groups; the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Stouffville. Marcel Bossi of the group attempting to bring the centre to town said the group have concerns but have not rejected the idea. *The Tribune* regrets any confusion this may have caused.

## Gravel fee hike possible

(From page 1)

bury admitted the increased levy "would be nice to have because of the economy," she echoed Brown's comments that road improvements and housing would suffer.

"It's an awful lot out of the industry. The price per tonne would just go up. It would go in one hand and out the other," Sainsbury said. However, Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld said it's the heavy aggregate truck traffic that ruins roads in the first place. "We're losing roadwise. Let's hit the person putting the heavy trenches in the roads," Dunkeld said.

But Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said the fee increase would "put aggregate producers out of business," and added the hike would gravely affect production of affordable homes.

Officials voted to support Caledon's petition to hike aggregate fees to 25 cents a tonne.

## Cottages helping destroy Musselman

Allowing cottages to be converted into year-round homes is adding to the destruction of Musselman Lake, council heard last week.

"Seasonal dwelling conversions have put us in the muck we're in at Musselman Lake now," said Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby.

The issue was raised after the councillor saw an application to reconstruct and enlarge a non-conforming use to permit a new detached 1,500 square-foot

dwelling. The property stretches across nearly 100 feet of land fronting on Musselman Lake on Cedarvale Blvd. Staff reports indicate the development "constitutes an improvement to the neighborhood and should be supported" provided two existing cottages, a garage and bunk house all be demolished first.

But Bellerby told officials that he wants to see "more detail before approving" any home conversions situated directly around the lake. Bellerby added

the kettle lake, already suffering from high nutrient loading, cannot take "yet another full-time residence" around the lake.

He told council that he will not approve any development around Musselman Lake without studies showing grades, drainage, water and sewage treatment plans, and water conservation methods. Bellerby said all of these planning stipulations should be paid for by the applicant.

"There is already been a vast increase of sewage around the lake," Bellerby said.

However, Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the applicant is "only enlarging what already exists."

But Bellerby called the plan a "heck of an enlargement," that should "go up subject to constraints."

Bellerby wants this request to set precedent for all future developments around the lake and for "all kettle lakes in general." Council voted to ask the Committee of Adjustment to look over the application and add any conditions it deems fit.

## Building scene improving

(From page 1)

the town's building department, revenues are actually up by \$20,000, Bennett said.

He said people instead are renovating rooms and building car ports, garages and decks this year.

Large housing starts appear to be down, as is commercial and industrial business, Bennett added.

But construction is an "arbitrary thing" and could change direction next week, he said.

Bennett added that the town's recent issuance of sewage allotments will help kickstart the building economy in town.

"It's the same situation in most other communities. The town is holding its own," Bennett said.

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