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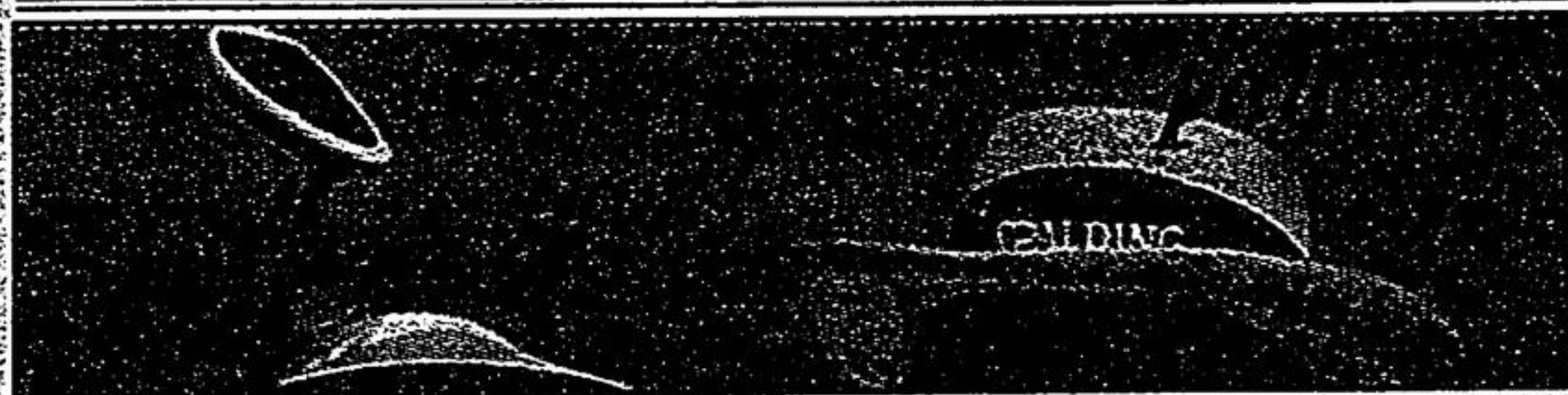
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# Wilfert takes Oak Ridges

**JOAN RANSBERRY**  
 Staff Reporter

Liberal Bryon Wilfert took the first poll in Oak Ridges and he never looked back.

While Stouffville and Richmond Hill political pundits predicted a Progressive Conservative win in the riding, the Liberal wave that swept Ontario included Oak Ridges. Wilfert won poll after poll. When the final returns were in, it showed the Liberals with 24,493 votes compared to 10,808 for PC candidate John Andersen, 6,843 votes for Reform Party standbearer Ed Sarafian and 2,136 voted for New Democrat Wynne Hartviksen. (Numbers reflect 15 polls still not counted as of press time).

Wilfert made history. He's the first MP for the new riding. With his wife by his side, he arrived at his victory party, held in a Richmond Hill restaurant. Party supporters lined up to congratulate him.

Wilfert attributed his victory to the Liberal record while stressing the party's success in reducing the deficit. On the local front, Wilfert said his 12 years as a Richmond

Hill councillor, and the fact that he's president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, all contributed to the victory.

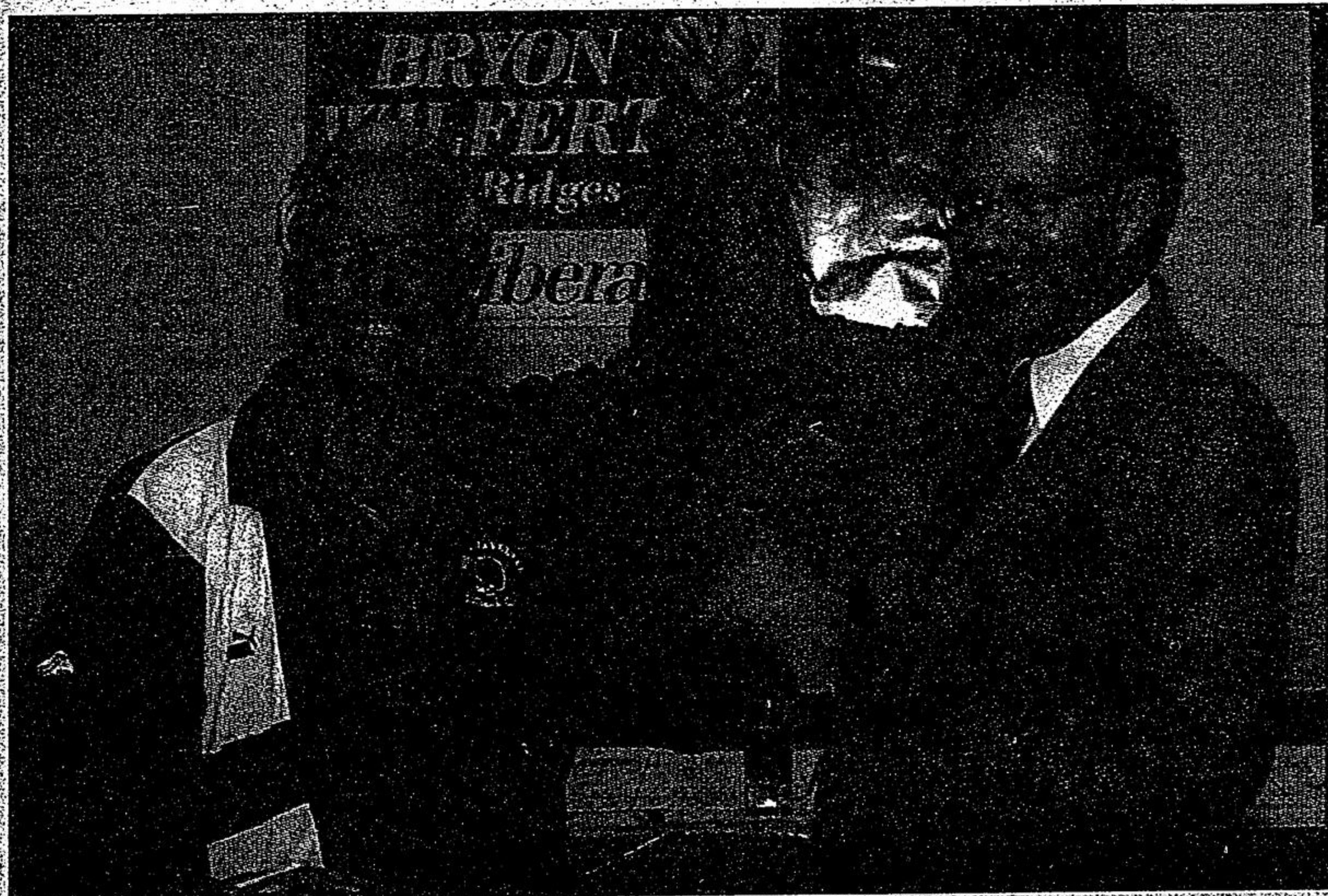
One of the first things Wilfert plans to do in Oak Ridges is to establish regular breakfast meetings with the local media. "It's important to deal with the local media. We'll be in touch on a regular basis," he said.

On the national scene, the Liberals' success in Quebec impressed Wilfert. "I am very pleased to see us pick up seats in the French-speaking part of Quebec," he said.

Meanwhile, the Reform Party's status as official opposition does not phase Wilfert. "I am prepared to work with anyone," he said.

**VICTORY:** Liberal Bryon Wilfert, far right, salutes his supporters last night, with a hand from party volunteer Steve Trentadue of Ballantrae. Wilfert easily won the Oak Ridges riding by a two-to-one margin.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE



## 'I don't think Liberals deserved it:' Sarafian

Defeated candidates John Andersen of the PCs and Edward Sarafian of the Reform Party were forced to accept the results of yesterday's election as a sign that the Oak Ridges electorate were content with the status quo.

"I guess people were satisfied with 40 tax increases in three-and-a-half years and cuts to health care," said Andersen, who finished a distant second to Liberal Bryon Wilfert. "A candidate at the local level can only influence the result so much. Our message was clear—I guess they chose to stay the course."

Sarafian, who placed third, echoed the same wry sentiment. "The voters

decided to go with the devil they know rather than one they don't know," he said, while contemplating the result from his gathering at Markham's 16th Avenue Eatery. "But I don't think the Liberals deserved it."

Sarafian took consolation in the fact that his party would at least form the official opposition.

Andersen and Sarafian both expressed surprise with Wilfert's margin of victory. "We thought it was winnable," said Andersen. "I think he (Wilfert) benefitted from a bit of a Liberal sweep in Ontario."

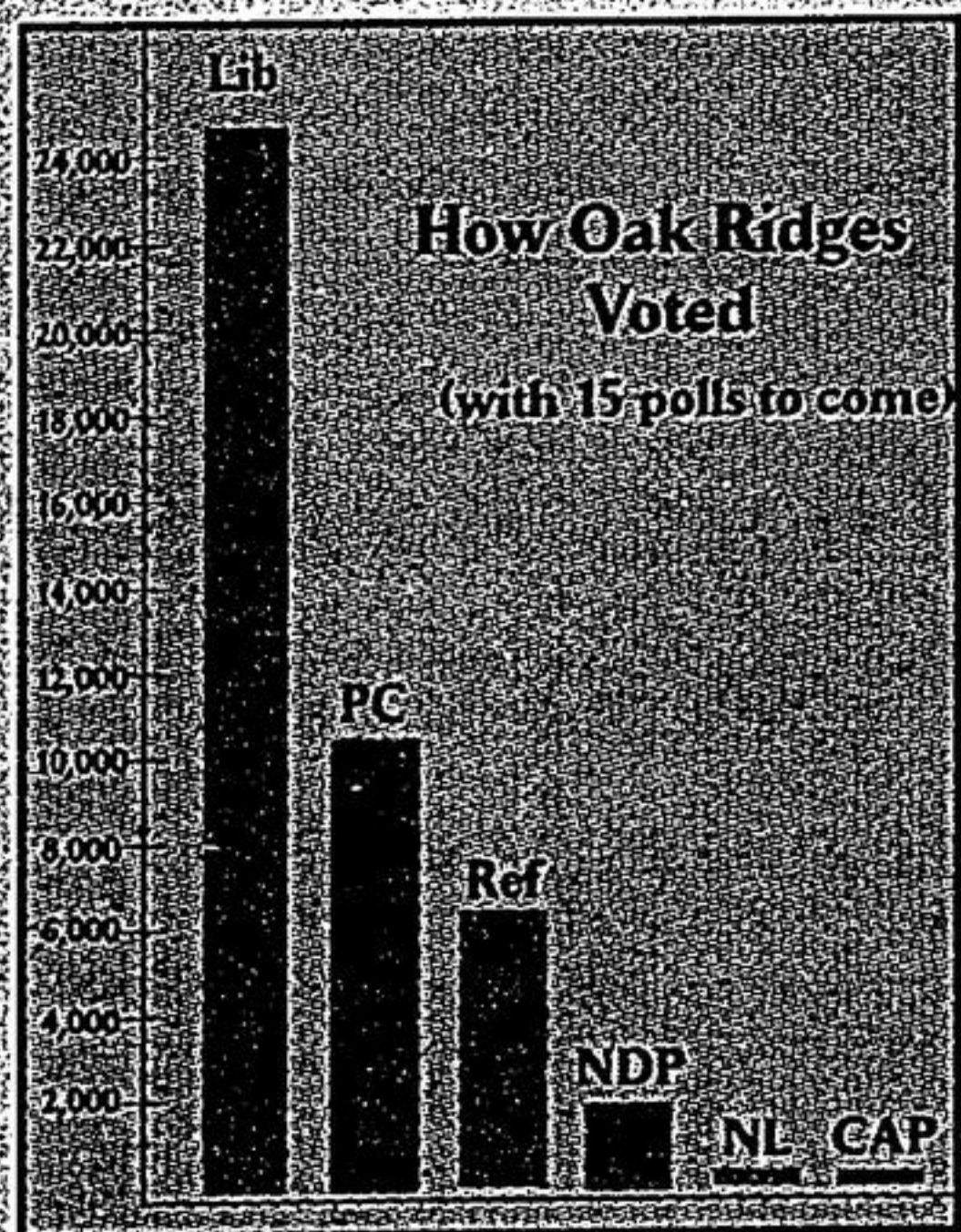
"I thought it would be closer," suggested Sarafian.

However, Oak Ridges New Democrat candidate Wynne Hartviksen was all smiles last night. Even though the 25-year-old New Democrat was soundly defeated by the Liberal candidate, Hartviksen and fellow New Democrats were elated with the NDP's across Canada performance.

With 21 New Democrats elected, the party is strong, said Hartviksen. "It's a struggle. It goes on and on. But we are breaking new frontier. We will return and we will figure out how to win," Hartviksen told 60 cheering party supporters who gathered at the Richmond Hill party headquarters.

The mood in the New Democrat camp was high throughout the evening. "Mr. Wilfert may have won, but I've got more people at my party," said Hartviksen.

—By Joan Ransberry & Bruce Stapley



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