

Candidates thought race would be closer



CONGRATS: Tory candidate John Andersen shakes hands with the new Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert at Wilfert's headquarters at a Richmond Hill restaurant Monday night.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

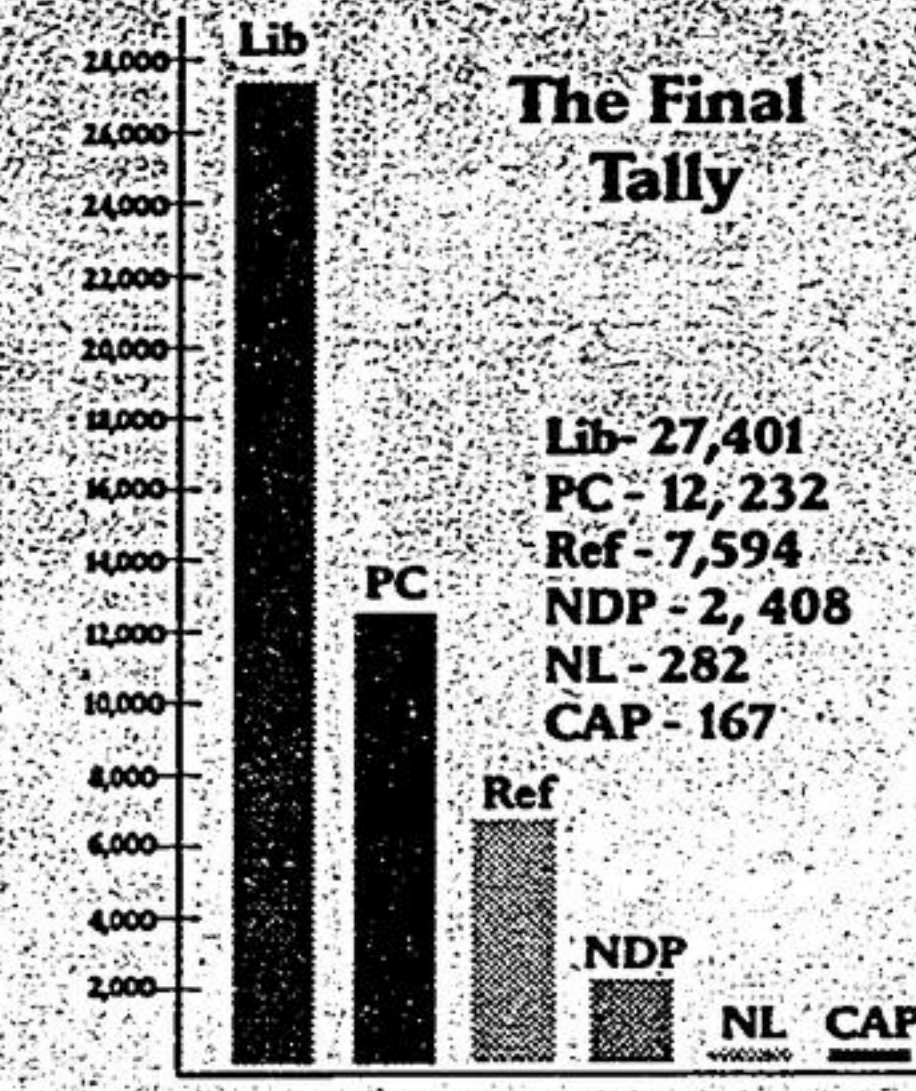
Oak Ridges New Democrat candidate Wynne Hartviksen was all smiles Monday night.

Even though the 25-year old New Democrat was soundly defeated by the Liberal Bryon Wilfert in Oak Ridges, Hartviksen and fellow New Democrats were elated with the NDP's cross 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.

Hartviksen will be returning to her job as a sales representative at Black's Photography in Markham, and she'll continue with her duties as vice-president of a garment industry union. Despite losing the election, she is thrilled with the party's success in Atlantic Canada and plans to continue to work closely with the Oak Ridges NDP.

Fellow candidates John Anderson of the PCs and Edward Sarafian of the Reform Party were also forced to accept the result as a sign that the Oak Ridges electorate were content with the status quo. "I guess people were satisfied with 40 per cent tax increases in three-and-a-half years and cuts to health care," said Anderson, who finished a distant second Monday night. "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.

~ Joan Ransberry, Bruce Stapley

I'll be back: Bhaduria

ALAN SHACKLETON
Tribune Staff

As perhaps one of the most controversial political careers in Canada came to an end, Jag Bhaduria was smiling and full of confidence.

Bhaduria, former MP for the former Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville riding, gained 1,584 votes in the seven-candidate Markham riding race, won by Tory Jim Jones with 20,449 votes. But Bhaduria vowed he'll be back

Bhaduria, first elected as Liberal MP for the Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville riding in October 1993, was at the centre of a number of controversies including questions about his academic credentials and letters he wrote to his former employers at the Toronto Board of Education.

He left the Liberal Party shortly after Parliament began sitting in January of 1994.

"Life goes on," said Bhaduria of his defeat. "My family will probably be pleased, but public service has

I'll continue to...be the unofficial MP!
~Jag Bhaduria

always been my passion. Nothing can change that."

He pointed out, though, that now he's no longer in politics — those who have blamed him for everything wrong about politicians will have to find someone else to pick on. "The Toronto Sun can't blame me for everything now."



Incumbant MP Jag Bhaduria at his Kennedy Rd. campaign office after losing Monday's election.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Bhaduria was not bitter at the voters for turfing him in favor of the PC candidate.

However, he had a blistering attack on the Liberals. "I got a very raw deal. It was outright racism from the Liberal Party. The way I was treated was definite double standard. It was a slap in the face to four million non-whites in this country. I was not treated equally."

Of his time in office, Bhaduria said his one regret was that he did not get to know more people in the riding. However, he vowed his political style will not change.

"I'm your friend, not your MP. I'll continue to help people and will be the unofficial MP," said

Councillors don't want Testa gift to go to town hall

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over our eyes," said Sherban. "Why is the (town hall) building in such a state of disrepair? said Sherban. "Nobody has asked the people if they want a new town hall."

Linda Giles, chairman of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library Board, addressed council and, once again, stressed that the library expansion is long overdue.

"Our library is tired, carpets are thread bare. Our library has regressed," said Giles.



Oak Ridges NDP candidate Wynne Hartviksen wins The Tribune's cookie poll, however, she lost the election to the Liberals. She is seen here beside the tote board being kissed by her fiancée Kevin Brown at her headquarters in Richmond Hill Monday night.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

THE TRIBUNE



JULIE CASPERSEN

Andrew Mair, Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune, is pleased to announce the appointment of Julie Caspersen as Interim Editor of The Tribune.

Julie will be assuming the duties of Tracy Kibble until her return from a maternity leave in October. Julie has been with The Tribune's sister paper, the Markham Economist & Sun since 1989, first as a reporter and most recently as News Editor. Julie will be handling all editor duties in Tracy's absence.

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