

Pre-election rundown of York-Sunbury candidates

Editor's note:

BRUNSWICKAN reporter Gary Cameron has spent the last week interviewing the local candidates for the election. Following is his report on the NDP, Liberal and Conservative candidates in the York-Sunbury riding.

NDP offers alternative

The New Democratic Party is currently in power in three provinces, however, federally it has not really matured as an important power. The NDP in New Brunswick has been divided internally in the past, and has gotten little support as far as federal elections

Recently the NDP nominated Mrs. Beverly Wallace as the NDP candidate for York-Sunbury at a convention attended by some 25 delegates. Mrs. Wallace was the only nominee for the position and according to one delegate, "was the only one who would run."

The NDP campaign is being run from a store-front office on Carlton St., working on a shoe-string budget (less than \$500 so far) and starting late.



Beverly Wallace-NDP

According to Mrs. Wallace, the party is running to offer the voters of York-Sunbury a "viable alternative." The NDP is represented as "an alternative party capable of defending the interests of the 'little guy'."

In comparison with the professional campaigns being waged by her two opponents, whom she refers to as tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum (shades of Tommy Douglas), the York-Sunbury NDP campaign falls short with respect to slickness and organization.

One reason for this is lack of money. The New Democratic Party of New Brunswick accepts

no money from business. It is financed by personal contributions which so far have ranged from \$5 to \$50. Nationally, party funds are raised from individual donations with some 10 percent from the trade unions.

According to an NDP brochure, "Beverly's main interest in the high prices of consumer goods: food, clothing, and housing, and the government policies which have brought about this situation." The York-Sunbury NDP program is stated as "full employment, decent housing for all, a federal minimum wage of \$2.00 per hour, minimum pensions of \$150 per month, and an end to racial and sexual job discrimination in Canada.

The NDP is often called "a party of issues." Prominent among them is Lewis' charges of "corporate welfare bums." Briefly, this issue concerns the "ripping off of the taxpayer" by big corporations receiving government grants and tax concessions.

One important NDP policy is to limit foreign investment. They state that foreign owners exploit Canadian workers and take billions of dollars out of Canada while still leaving the country with a balance of trade deficit. They contend that Canada no longer depends on foreign investment since (according to them) "90 percent of this so-called foreign investment is generated in Canada or borrowed from Canadian savings."

The party also would build more homes and undertake several other expensive programs. The money would come from stopping grants and tax concessions to businesses. They contend that grants are not really necessary to attract businesses to "the poorer areas of the country" such as the Maritimes. Apparently, the main concern of the York-Sunbury NDP campaign for this election is to begin the gradual process of entrenching the party in the Maritimes.

Mrs. Wallace, age 29, is a housewife, mother of two daughters, and part-time student at St. Thomas University. A maritimer, she has nine years experience with the NDP, having helped her husband, Bruce, during two campaigns in Halifax.

Dixon expects big turnout

Twenty per-cent of the voters in the up coming federal elections this October 30 have never voted before. As Mitchell Sharp said, "It's a quiet election." Although some people have suggested that the lack of issues will leave young people disinterested, Ray Dixon, liberal candidate for York-Sunbury, disagrees. He states that "young people have strong views. I expect a big turnout."

Ray Dixon is, of course, "optimistic about the Liberal party being returned to power in the House of Commons." He puts his chances of being elected in what is traditionally a Tory stronghold as "about fifty-fifty, since Chester MacCrae (longtime M.P. for York-Sunbury) has retired and none of the candidates has any record to stand on."

Dixon has done a lot of door to door campaigning and comments that "people are definitely getting to know me." Friday night Mr. Dixon appeared, dressed informally, at a pub put on by the Young Liberals which was similar to one put on by the Young-Conservatives last Friday except that the music was far worse.

Like Howie, PC candidate, Dixon made the obligatory rounds of glad-handing and conversation.

This is all in the spirit of exposing oneself to as many voters as possible. Another effort in this direction is his bi-weekly ad called "Plain Talk by Ray Dixon" which



Ray Dixon-Liberal

appears in Fredericton's other leading newspaper.

Funds are of primary importance to any election campaign. As a candidate, Dixon stated that he is not connected with the practical side of fund raising. However, from past experience in other campaigns he suggested that most of the funds are from businesses. Interestingly enough, most businesses tend to donate funds to both of the major parties.

With regard to foreign ownership of industries, he suggested that government should step in where the danger to Canada's

future is clear, i.e. there is a conflict of interest involved. However, he feels that we "still need the American dollars."

Dixon rejects the idea of nationalizing industries, but, on the other hand, supports the Liberal government blockage of the sale of Home Oil and Dennison Mines to U.S. interests. The latter sale was blocked to prevent U.S. control of Canadian Uranium interests. With respect to the sale of Canadian land to foreigners, he suggested that perhaps in the future it might be necessary for the provincial governments to limit land sales. However, land owners shouldn't be penalized the profits they could make from the higher prices offered by Americans.

Dixon feels that unemployment is not a major issue in York-Sunbury, and has received few complaints about unemployment during his campaign. He feels that the government has taken a modern, realistic approach to unemployment, by implementing such programs as the Local Initiatives Program, Opportunities for Youth, and by concentrating on the training of unskilled labour. He stated that unemployment is "not peculiar to Canada" and that the government has created over 800,000 jobs.

According to Dixon, David Lewis' charge of "corporate welfare" is "Continued to page 12"

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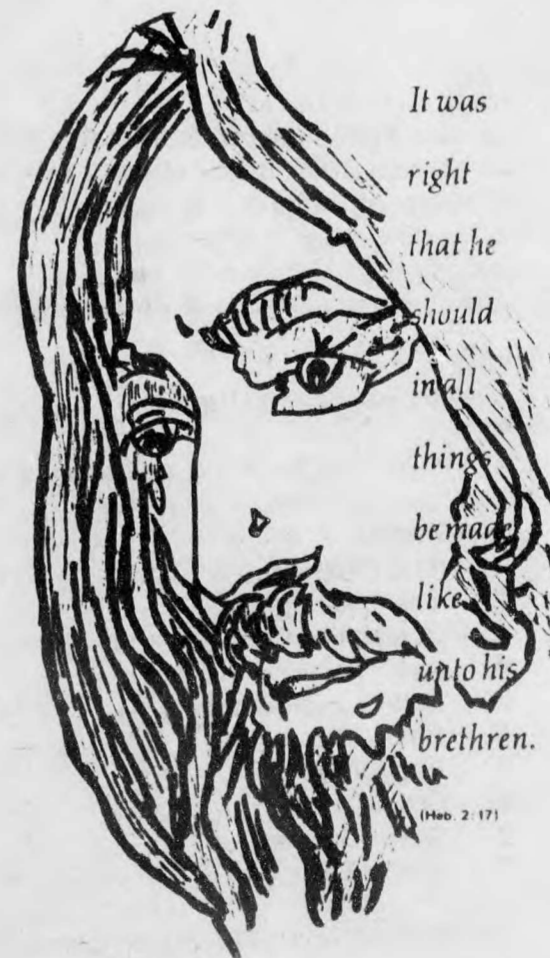
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