

Debt burning issue in Rutherford

BY RENE MAUTHE
Staff Writer

Percy Wickman is leaving nothing to chance.

The Liberal MLA for the former EdmoThe soccer association has been approached by a private businessman about locating another soccer field on the new Grant MacEwan College site downtown, Dance said. nton-Whitemud constituency is running hard in the new Rutherford riding.

Wickman says even though he is an incumbent, the race in the riding is tight and time in the campaign is short.

"I don't believe in wasting days or taking time off."

Wickman, who toppled former premier Don Getty in the Whitemud riding in 1989, says the campaign this time around has a different feel. "I have never, never seen the undecided rate so high."

While people are undecided, they are also seeking information to help them make a decision, he says.

"It's incredible the number of people asking for additional information. People are concerned. They know what's happening."



Olive Dickason

The biggest thing on voters' minds is the burgeoning provincial debt, and the effect it has on funding for programs like education and health care, he says.

The whole debt issue ties in also with jobs, and people's concerns about their economic future, he says.

The Rutherford constituency, bounded on the west by 119 Street, on the east by Calgary Trail, on the north by 51 Avenue, and on the south by 23 Avenue, was created under the latest electoral boundaries redistribution.

When the riding was created Wickman decided to run where he had lived for more than 20 years.

His nine years as a city alderman for the area also gives him valuable name recognition, he says.

Wickman is campaigning on

issues of Tory mismanagement, but he says the Conservative campaign style of avoiding substance and pitching personality is making the campaign tough.

"We're not running against the Conservatives, we're running against Ralph's team."

Brenda Platzer is carrying the banner for Ralph's team in Rutherford.

Politics is in her blood: her grandfather, Joe Hampson, was a mayor of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan earlier this century.

Platzer, active in the Tory party for more than two decades, concedes that the previous government's record is an obstacle to overcome. "There's baggage there. I still hear the comment about the pensions."

Voters are also concerned about the debt, and the future of health and education programs, she says.

Platzer, a first-time candidate, tells voters that she's part of a new generation of Tories, led by Ralph Klein. "I've been impressed with Ralph. He's coming across with some real straightforward ideas."

One idea she's pitching to voters is the message of restraint. "The principal concern, I feel, is we've got to learn to live within our means."

Part of that includes keeping a sharper eye on the public purse, she says. "I want to know how did we get to where we are. I'd like to know from now on, where are we spending the money?"

She says there are a lot of undecided voters in the constituency that need to be convinced of the Tories ability to govern.

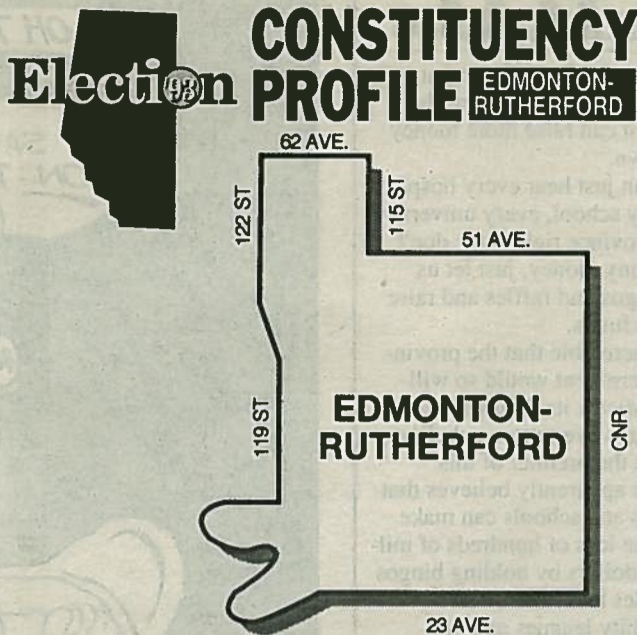
"That's the big one, if we can convince the people to trust us."



Brenda Platzer

Olive Dickason, the New Democrat candidate in Rutherford, is another first-time candidate.

The former University of Alberta history professor, now 73, made a name for herself for her unsuccessful challenge of the university's mandatory retirement



policies.

Her experience as a teacher has reinforced her belief in the value of education, Dickason says.

"I'm very keen on the importance of education and educating your people to keep them abreast of the technological changes going on in our society."



Percy Wickman

She says she's met many people while canvassing who have deep concerns about the government record. "Certainly from what I have personally experienced, people are disturbed about the record of the government of the past few years, over the bad investments, the needless spending, and this pension issue."

She says with "wise stewardship" of public funds, an education system to prepare young people for jobs in a technological society can be preserved.

Dickason also advocates an open government. "I think you should be up front. You owe the people honesty."

David Wozney, the Social Credit candidate in Rutherford, is also making his first run at office.

The Social Credit message stresses smaller government, less taxation, and debt elimination, while getting the state off the backs of ordinary people, he says.

"Social Credit political philosophy has always emphasized individual initiative and free enterprise."

He says his canvassing has showed him a lot of concern about economic issues. "Social Credit political philosophy has always emphasized individual initiative and free enterprise."

"Most people are concerned with the deficit, the debt, economy and unemployment."

Wozney, a 28-year-old engineering graduate from the U of A, says the Social Credit Party has a track record of fiscal management and responsibility.



David Wozney

"We feel that there is a need to return to the timeless principles in the governing of Alberta."

Myles Evelyn, the Green Party candidate in Rutherford, is running on an environmental campaign that also focuses on cutting fiscal waste.

Callingwood home of new indoor soccer field

By KATHY KOHUT - Staff Writer

Callingwood has been selected as the home for the new \$3.7 million indoor soccer field.

Council's community services committee is recommending support for the location, subject to public input.

Edmonton Minor Soccer Association executive director John Dance said the site will open up the west end soccer market.

"The northwest zone is the largest outdoor zone, yet the smallest for indoor soccer. We're hoping to tap into all those potential players."

The Callingwood recreational site on 176 Street and 69 Avenue was the preferred location because it was larger than the other sites, considering the four-field centre will take up about 9,000 sq. metres in addition to a parking area.

An indoor soccer building had been recommended for the Henry Singer Sports Centre,

but Dance said that proposal was ruled out because it would cost millions to service and provide an access road to the site.

Callingwood is already serviced and is accessible by the Whitemud Freeway.

Players were concerned that some of the other sites, like Castle Downs and Kaskitayo, could be difficult to get to during rush hour because some players would have to come through the downtown area.

Although committee did not disagree with the proposed location, there was some debate about whether the city should hand over \$66,500 to have the site hooked up to city services.

Ald. Allan Bolstad said the city promised the players that they would be given serviced land. Charging them \$66,500 to hook up to city services might be "leading them down the garden path," he said.

Ald. Lillian Staroszik said it is a "small request" considering what the players were contributing in exchange.

"No other group has provided this level of capital funds for a project and few, if any, provide operating costs."

The Edmonton Soccer Association is contributing \$1 million to the project, as well as taking out a \$1 million bank loan.

Dance predicts that the centre, which could be open by fall of 1994, will be used to capacity within a year if every one of the city's 300 teams is given practise time once every two weeks.

In summer, the building would be used for ball hockey, he said.

The soccer association has been approached by a private businessman about locating another soccer field on the new Grant MacEwan College site downtown, Dance said.

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After riding out three albums with his band the Range, singer Bruce Hornsby is ready to ride solo.