

Federal election: Local groups to host two all candidates meetings next week

The Canadian Federation of University Women—Georgetown, in partnership with the Halton Hills Public Library, will be hosting an All Candidates Meeting for those running in the upcoming federal election in the Wellington/Halton Hills riding.

The debate will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre in the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, Georgetown. Candidates will be on hand beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the foyer to meet informally with the public.

For the last 40 years, the CFUW Georgetown has hosted such meetings to raise awareness of federal political party platforms. The CFUW is working with the Halton Hills Public Library in helping the public learn more about the candidates' positions on federal issues. The Library has created an Election Forum page on its website (www.hhpl.on.ca) with information and links about the riding and the candidates running.

After an introductory speech, candidates will respond to submitted questions. American Sign Language (ASL) translation will be provided. Candidates who have confirmed their participation as of August 25th in the debate include:

- Brent Bouteiller, Green Party
- Michael Chong, incumbent, Progressive Conservative Party
- Anne Gajerski-Cauley, New Democratic Party

• Dr. Don Trant, Liberal Party *****

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Erin Optimist Club is hosting the All Candidates Night for the upcoming federal election at the Erin Community Centre, Boland Dr. in Erin.

Meet and greet will be held 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., followed by the official start at 7:30 p.m. Candidates will each get a five-minute opening presentation. This will be followed by five pre-determined questions:

1. What are you prepared to do about the Senate? Reform? Accountability?
2. What are you prepared to do about the Canada Pension Plan? Enhancements? Support for the Ontario Pension Plan?
3. Health care is always a concern. What are you prepared to do regarding this? What percentage of funds is being transferred to Ontario? How does that compare to five years ago? What changes do you foresee to the Canada Health Act?
4. We see in the media that due to downsizing of the civil service, Canadians are having more difficulty accessing their needs in a close and timely manner. What are you prepared to do to improve the delivery of these services?
5. Given the state of the economy, what are you prepared to do to attempt to boost it?

A second question period may follow until closing remarks at 9:30 p.m.



Georgetown's Henriette Thompson (left) introduces an "expression of reconciliation" with Roman Catholic and Anglican bishops (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Northern National Event in Inuvik, North West Territories, in June 2011. Also in the photo are bishops Lydia Mamakwa and Murray Chatlain. Submitted photo

Georgetown woman is member of Truth and Reconciliation Commission

By Eamonn Maher
emaher@theifp.ca

A Georgetown woman who represented the Anglican Church of Canada during the recently completed Truth and Reconciliation Commission lamented that the damage caused by the abuse of indigenous people in residential schools across the country for decades will likely require many generations to heal.

Henriette Thompson sat in on many conference calls attended hearings and events across the country and as far north as James Bay during her six-year term with the commission, which resulted in the proposal of 94 recommendations named Calls to Action that were overwhelmingly supported by all provinces, but not as yet by the federal government.

The devastating effects from the residential schools that were federally funded and operated by Catholic, Presbyterian, United and Anglican churches from the 1860s to 1990s have been described as "cultural genocide" and "Canada's shame."

The result was an unknown number of deaths of aboriginal students because no effort was ever made to record that figure and in 1935 a federal government policy even allowed many of the school records to be destroyed.

Thompson co-ordinated the Anglican Church of Canada's participation on the TRC and prior to that was the representative for Anglican Church as one of the Parties to the Settlement Agreement that led to the establishment of the commission in 2008.

"As Justice Murray Sinclair, the lead commissioner of the TRC, has said many times, it took seven generations to get to this point today and it's going to take many generations to undo the effects of colonialism and the legacy of the residential schools," said Thompson, whose title is Director of Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice for the Anglican Church, who shared many of her experiences from the TRC hearings with

HALTON HILLS WARD 1
MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION
MONDAY, SEPT. 21

The 2015 byelection for Ward 1 will be offering advance voting locations at the following locations:

- Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Acton Legion or Acton Arena
- Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Acton Legion or Acton Arena.

Don't forget byelection day is Monday, Sept. 21, with voting from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at either of the locations above.

Ward 1 byelection advance polls begin on Saturday

45 Mountainview Road North
Georgetown, Ontario
905.877.7958

e-mail: hassellsauto@bellnet.ca
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