

LOCAL NEWS

Galt acclaimed as PC provincial candidate

By BOB OWEN
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Doug Galt was acclaimed as the PC candidate Saturday for a provincial election which he expects to take place in the next six months or so. Dr. Galt will be seeking his third term as MPP for Northumberland.

In a Campbellford nomination meeting that was more like a family gathering, Dr. Galt opened his acceptance speech with the Bertrand Russell quotation, "Democracy is the process by which we choose the person who takes the blame."

He compared the leadership of former premier Mike Harris to the current leader Ernie Eves, commenting that Mr. Harris made change, now Mr. Eves is "Chairman of the Board".

He then went on to list the accomplishments of his party since they took office in 1995.

Over 1-million new jobs have been created. Employment is up in central Ontario by 20 per cent. Put another way, one in five workers leaving plants now is a new employee.

Forty-six per cent of jobs created in Canada since 1995 have been in Ontario.

The welfare rolls have been cut from 1.3 million, to the 636 thousand now getting benefits.

He reproached Liberal head Dalton McGuinty as a spend, tax and borrow leader, relating that he had committed to \$2 billion in tax increases.

He compared Premier Eves to Wayne Gretzky who claimed he skated to where the puck was going to be, not where it was. In Dr. Galt's mind, Mr. McGuinty skates to where the puck has been.

The PC candidate claimed that the province went from first to worst under the Liberals and has now gone from worst to first under the Tories.

During the 10 years from 1985-95 only two new hospitals were built in Ontario. If the new expansion to the Trenton Hospital is included, there have been two built in this riding. The Northumberland Health Care Centre under construction in Cobourg is the other.

He also reminded the 60 people at the Oddfellows Hall that this government has six-laned the 401 into Northumberland.

Dr. Galt gave three reasons why he is running again.

He believes in what this gov-



PHOTO BY JACK EVANS

From left: Dr. Doug Galt, Northumberland Conservative Riding President Mary Anne Irwin, Blair McCreadie, president of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Association.

ernment is doing, he likes helping individuals and he enjoys pulling things together.

Numerous projects were listed under this umbrella.

Provincial grants have been given to Campbellford Memorial Hospital for a heliport and to the RCAF Museum in Trenton.

Rural Job Strategies funding of \$1.6 million has been used to upgrade the Campbellford water filtration plant in a joint venture with the federal government.



PHOTO BY JACK EVANS

Dr. Doug Galt addresses his nomination meeting in Campbellford Saturday.

Ontario Small Town and Rural grants were used to help General Mills build a \$90 million dough factory in Trenton. The province's share was \$8.5 million.

Trillium grants have been used to provide a legion elevator, assistance to the Western Theatre, and beautification of the Warkworth downtown. Work on that project will begin in the spring.

Money for Trillium grants comes from profits off the slots and casinos. It is distributed on a per capita basis throughout the province.

On an ongoing basis his offices assist people with lost birth certificates, welfare claims, disability issues and parental support queries. Dr. Galt sees his office as a mini ombudsman's. His staff is there to open doors using the rules that are in place.

In his last term he served as chair of the Nutrient Management Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture. He was also chair of the Water Resource Management Committee the year before

the Walkerton disaster and the Rural Economic Renewal Task Force.

A report he completed with the plastics industry is due to be released in January.

Blair McCreadie, President of the Ontario PC Party was on hand to bring greetings. Mr. McCreadie waxed glowingly about the Northumberland MPP, stating that he was "tremendously proud" of him. Dr. Galt "is there working on behalf of his constituents and is a strong voice for rural Ontario."

The PC president gave three reasons for PC supporters to work hard in the next election. Ernie Eves has worked hard to bring the party together, working to resolve difficult issues as the only credible leader, Mr. McCreadie said. The Conservative government has much more to do, listing welfare reductions, teacher testing, and a tough school curriculum among the accomplishments to date, he said. Finally, he said that the Tories must beat Dalton McGuinty one more time. He added that Mr. McGuinty has not learned a lot about accountability and clear vision.

He went on to suggest that Lou Rinaldi is a perfect member of the "Dalton McGuinty" party. He "doesn't know where he's going or how to get there."

Mr. McCreadie claimed that Mr. Rinaldi will promise everything to unseat Dr. Galt. Broadening his concerns he told the audience that in every riding of the province the Tories and Liberals will be fighting a pitched battle on the doorsteps and in the meeting halls.

In the last election Dr. Galt received about 45 per cent of the vote, beating the Liberal challenger Carolyn Campbell by about 1,000 votes.

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
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POLICEREPORT

One charge was laid for driving with a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milligrams of blood as a result of a spot checking Hastings early Sunday evening. Noel Bourassa, 38, of Hastings will appear in Ontario Court in Campbellford January 15.

In addition to checking hundreds of vehicles in the cold last weekend, officers of the Northumberland OPP detachments answered 84 calls for service between 6 a.m. December 6 and 3 a.m. December 9.

Officers responded to an alarm at the Roseneath Centennial Public School on Sunday evening December 8 found a broken window and what appeared to be an attempted break in to the school. Several members of the OPP contained the outside of the school. With the assistance of the Cobourg Police Service canine unit and part of the OPP Emergency Response Unit (ERT), the interior of the school was checked. No evidence was found to conclude anyone had gained entry to the school. Anyone with information on this or any other crime is encouraged to contact the OPP or Peterborough Northumberland Crime Stoppers at 1 800 222 8477 (TIPS).

OPP officers responded to a 911 call at a Church Street West residence in Colborne shortly before 2 a.m. December 8. A 31-year-old male was arrested and will appear in Ontario Court in Cobourg December 30 to face a charge of assault. A 28-year-old female was not seriously hurt.

OPP responded to a two-vehicle head-on collision on County Road 30 at Orland shortly after 5 p.m. December 8. A 1966 Chev Cavalier was southbound when it entered the northbound lane and struck a 2002 Chev Ventura van. Both vehicles were demolished. The occupants of the van were not injured. The driver of the Cavalier, Marguerite Forbes, 61, of Mississauga, was transported to Trenton Memorial Hospital by ambulance with non-life threatening injuries. Ms. Forbes faces a charge under the Highway Traffic Act.

A single motor vehicle collision shortly after 3 a.m. December 7 resulted in minor injuries and criminal charges for the driver. The vehicle, a 1995 Plymouth Voyager van, struck a light standard on Front Street North in Campbellford. The driver was arrested for impaired driving and was taken to the Cobourg OPP office for breath tests. The vehicle, severely damaged, was later reported stolen. Jeff Scott, 19, of Campbellford was scheduled to appear for a bail hearing in Cobourg Monday, December 9. Scott is charged with impaired driving, driving with more than 80 mg of alcohol in 100 milligrams of blood, possession of stolen property, and breaching the terms of his probation.

