

Tories need to be different - candidates

By **BENDUMMETT**
the Herald

The Ontario Progressive Conservative party's new rally cry appears to be differentiate itself from the other two major parties or risk losing the next election.

At least that is the message PC leadership candidate Cam Jackson, MPP for Burlington South and Mike Harris, MPP for Nipissing gave about 70 party faithful at a North Halton Riding Association luncheon in Milton last Saturday.

"We've gone through four leaders in four years, there is no

need any longer to analyze what went wrong," said Mr. Jackson. "We have to stick to those fundamental principles that are conservative," he told the subdued but supportive audience.

But even if this happens "there is no guarantee of electoral success," he said. It will, however, make "people proud to be Conservative."

For his part Mr. Harris told audience members that after travelling the province he has learned from the people that the party has "lost sight of what it stood for."

He also said people are disillusioned with the partisan and confrontational politics practised by the three parties. "They (the people) are tired of the parties blaming each other instead of themselves" for the province's problems.

The third PC leadership candidate Dianne Cunningham was also invited to speak but cancelled at the last moment, the riding association president Ian Bourke told the audience. She had confirmed her participation at the luncheon on two previous occasions, said Mr. Bourke. But a few days

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Mike Harris



Cam Jackson

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Leather stores

Halton to hold first hearings on Sunday shopping

The public will get a chance to express its opinion March 21 on whether two Acton businesses should receive a tourist exemption allowing them to open Sundays.

This marks the first public hearing on Sunday shopping in Halton.

The president of the Olde Hide House, Steve Dawkins, has applied for two of his leather specialty stores, Flight-Line and Leathertown West Wearhouse, to be allowed to be open on Sundays under the tourist exemption provision of the province's Retail Business Holiday's Act.

The Olde Hide House and Bronte Village in Oakville are the only businesses in Halton that currently have a tourist exemption. But approximately 500 Halton businesses have applied for the designation, says the Region's executive director of business development, Brent Kearse.

Halton Regional councillors supported the idea of a public hearing Wednesday, a week after Mr. Dawkins had appeared before the Region's administration and finance committee to defend the applications.

Mr. Dawkins told committee members at this meeting that the businesses meet the "spirit and technical criteria" of the RBHA's tourist exemption provision. The businesses are aimed at tourists, they are less than 2,400 square feet in size and employ three people or less on Sundays, explained Mr. Dawkins.

Only Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkewich spoke out against the hearing at Wednesday's council meeting.

It's only a matter of time before every store in Halton applies to open Sunday under the tourist exemption provision, Coun. Mulkewich argued. Granting a tourist exemption sets a "dangerous precedent," he said.

He urged council to choose between wide-open Sunday shopping or no Sunday shopping.

But in support of the public hearing, Burlington Coun. Barry Quinn said nobody is going to convince him that grocery stores cater to tourists and therefore should be granted tourist designations.

Both of Mr. Dawkins' stores have been opened every Sunday since their inception but only in the last while have police been laying charges, Mr. Dawkins says.

Flight-line opened nine months ago and Leathertown West Wearhouse opened five months ago.

Mr. Dawkins says police started laying charges four weeks ago, after receiving a complaint. Mr. Dawkins hasn't named the complainant.

Police have laid charges three of the last four weeks. No charges were laid this past Sunday.

Det. Sgt. Mike Eacrett of Halton Regional Police's 11 Division in Georgetown said officers failed to check if the stores were open last Saturday. The law states any store can be open either Saturday or Sunday. A business can't be open both weekend days.

Police have to visit a store to check if it is open on Saturday before they can lay charges against a business for opening Sundays, said Det. Sgt. Eacrett.



Coffee, tea or...gasoline?

A picture tells a thousand words. Well in this scene of the Georgetown Little Theatre's upcoming production, it's easy to guess the play's title. If you guessed "The Burning Man" you were right. Here actors Keith Mills (standing), Gabriell Vetro (left), Shionna

Watson and Joyce Holland play out the mysterious murder scene. "The Burning Man" will be performed at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown Feb. 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24.

(Herald photo)

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