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Provincial election

# Elliot defends election call

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald  
"There is no doubt democracy costs money," is how North-Halton MPP Walt Elliot defended the approximate \$40 million price tag the Ontario populace will shell out to fund the September 6 provincial election, called Monday by Premier David Peterson.

Leading up to the election announcement, critics, regardless of their political stripe, had argued Peterson had no reason to call an election after only three years of heading up a majority government.

Pointing to the October court case involving fundraiser Patricia Starr and the federal government's Goods and Services Tax that is scheduled to take effect January, 1991, the critics said the premier wanted to call an early election to protect himself and his government from having to answer these issues during an election campaign.

Acknowledging an election costs money, Mr. Elliot argued it's "acceptable" for Ontario majority governments to call an election after serving three years of a five year term. The Liberals will have been in office for three years at the end of July, said Mr. Elliot.

As for the pending Patricia Starr fundraising court case, Mr. Elliot said "it played no role" in the premier calling a September election.

The MPP said he "feels good" about his government's record since the 1987 election. "Well over 90 per cent of what the Liberals promised (to do three years ago), has either been started or completed," he said.

At the local level, these accomplishments translate into the government's passage of the Aggregate Act which Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller has always wanted, said Mr. Elliot. "I sat on the committee that did the second reading (on this bill), and now it's law."

The ridings' health care system has also benefitted from the Liberal's policies, said Mr. Elliot. The government was responsible for refinancing the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and Bennett Health Care Centre so now Halton Hills has an integrated health care system, explained Mr. Elliot.

"The riding has been well served," he added.

Mr. Elliot pointed to the fact that 70 per cent of the province's budget is being spent on health care, education and social service



Walt Elliot

systems as proof of the government's province-wide accomplishments.

Mr. Elliot said he was especially proud of the government's ability bring down a balanced budget this year saying, "this is the single most important thing people were telling me they wanted."

"The overriding concern (today), is the environment and the economy so "we need a clear mandate to go on," said Mr. Elliot.

The province needs solid leadership to deal with the increased competition in the global sense from the Pacific rim countries, the United States and other provinces, notably Quebec, explained Mr. Elliot.

"We haven't yet dreamt of the technology needed to operate in an information society, he said.

As well, the province must develop policies that will keep the provincial economy vibrant, said Mr. Elliot, in light of the federal government policies such as the Goods and Services Tax, high interest rates and a high dollar.

Maintaining a united Canada is another important issue facing the province, said Mr. Elliot. "We (the Liberal government) consider ourselves to be Canadians first and Ontarians second."

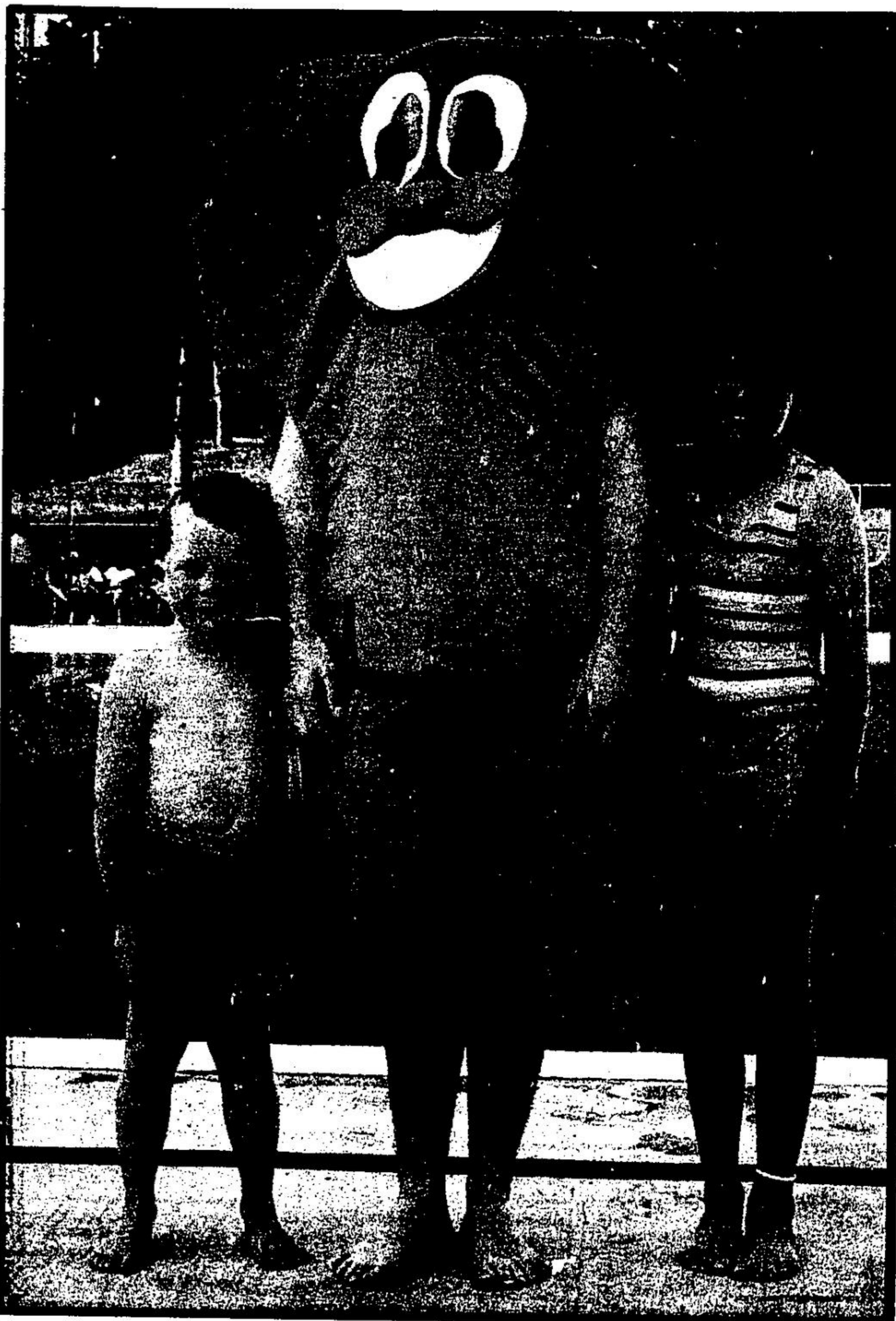
Mr. Elliot expects three all-candidates meetings in Acton, Georgetown and Milton during the campaign of which he'll be a willing participant.

"But I'm just as interested in making personal contact with as many constituents as possible," he said. Normally only the party faithful show up at the all-candidates debates, he explained.

When asked what he thought of the other three candidates; Progressive Conservative Dave Whiting, New Democrat Noel Duignan and Family Coalition Party Giuseppe Gori, Mr. Elliot refused to comment.

"I feel taking shots at the other candidates is counter-productive."

(See also Page 3)



## Safety in the pool

The Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department held its 1st Annual Summer Water Show last Friday night at the Dick Licata Pool in Georgetown, highlighting the department's 1990 summer Learn to Swim program. Students and instructors took part in the Water Show as parents and

friends of the youngsters proudly looked on. Pictures above, Mr. PFD (Personal Flotation Device — who masquerades in real life as Jason Robb) is flanked by four-year-old Mathew Tales (left) and eight-year-old Rita Castilho. Mathew is an Orange Level swimmer, while Rita is a Yellow Level swimmer.

(Herald Photo by Colin Gibson)