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Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow...

While the nasty weather forced the cancellation of the annual Hornby Rate Payers Association cleanup of Hornby Saturday (now scheduled for 9 a.m. this Saturday), a determined Kathleen Graham was spotted on Five Sideroad doing her best to beautify the area. Graham says she has been cleaning up the road every year since she moved there 38 years ago.

Photo by Calvin Dyke

Candidates square off on agricultural issues

By **LISA TALLYN**
 Staff Writer

Area farmers had the chance to grill the federal candidates largely about agricultural issues Tuesday evening.

About 20 people were at the Acton Town Hall for the meeting hosted by the Halton Federation of Agriculture. The only candidates who took part were the Green Party's Brent Bouteiller, Conservative Michael Chong and Liberal Barry Peters. NDP candidate Anastasia Zavarrella and Christian Heritage Party representative Jeffrey Streutker were absent.

The candidates were asked about federal financial support for risk management programs for farmers.

"It's very important because farmers face many things they can't control," said Peters. "We need to make sure there are mechanisms in place to protect you from those things."

He said a Liberal government would commit to a clean slate com-

mitment, a review of all the programs that exist "some of them are great, some of them help and some of them don't."

"We need to make sure they're doing what they need to do, but we need to work from the farm up," said Peters, adding they would also restore AgriFlex.

Bouteiller said "yes" a Green Party government would support the programs financially.

"Risk management is very important, we do not want to have a situation where farmers have an impact so great in one particular year where they are finding themselves completely at risk and losing their farms."

Chong said he supports "the business risk management proposal put forward by the Federation of Agriculture."

He said he thinks it's difficult for the federal government to undertake the program directly due to international trade agreements and because of the need for any federal initiative to be national.

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Liberal federal election candidate Barry Peters (top) and Conservative incumbent Michael Chong (below) at Tuesday's all-candidates' debate in Acton.



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