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*Why are these people smiling? Maybe because the election campaign is ending?*



Wellington-Halton Hills provincial election candidates, from left, Ted Arnott (Progressive Conservative), Moya Johnson (Liberal) and Dale Hamilton (NDP) were all smiles at Tuesday's all-candidates meeting, hosted by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, at Eagle Ridge Golf Course. **For election coverage see pages 4, 6 and 7.** Photo by Ted Brown

## Town loses truck distribution centre to Milton

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE  
Staff Writer

*Centre could have generated 300-400 jobs here*

Target has chosen a site in Milton over one in Halton Hills for its massive 24-hour distribution centre.

The 79-acre site on Boston Church Road, just north of Hwy. 401, west of Esquesing Line will house the 1.3 million square foot facility.

That's just down road from a 95-acre First Gulf site on Steeles Ave. and Fifth Line in Halton Hills that was also on Target's short list.

Since April, Town staff had been working with First Gulf, which was contacted by Target to assemble the Halton Hills land within the 401 Corridor. In June, the Town held a special council meeting to approve rezoning to allow the outside storage and increase the commercial waiting spaces. Late in June, Target and First Gulf reps met with Mayor Rick Bonnette and Town staff, but by July 5, the selection was

made: Milton.

"I'm disappointed but not discouraged," said Mayor Rick Bonnette, who didn't view it as a loss because Target told him that they had initially been looking at 30 sites, "and we were the final two. ... We'll be ready for the next time."

Had the distribution centre come to Halton Hills, it would have generated between 300 and 400 jobs, and

generated \$25 million in development charges and \$3.5-4 million in taxes for Halton Region, the Town and school boards. The Town also loses out on thousands of dollars in planning and permit fees.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz estimates that the centre will generate about \$400,000 a year in property taxes for his town.

"I think this community is run like a business. We have one of the lowest

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