

All candidates debate ...

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the environment is threatened.

Elliot countered that, under Premier Peterson's leadership, legislation is in the works to ban smoke stack emissions and CFCs. He added that a water commission, similar to Hydro's, is to be set up in order to deal with ground water across the province.

He also stressed that environmental concerns are not only the responsibility of politicians, but should be shared between the government, corporations and the citizens.

"Recycling, and large scale home composting must be the norm, and not the exception," Elliot said. "Companies must assume responsibility for their own products — all industries must assume major responsibility to look after residue of their respective products."

Whiting also took verbal shots at Peterson's government by criticizing its policies on the current garbage crisis. He noted RSI's proposal to dump solid waste into the Acton Quarry should have been stopped by the Province before thousands of tax dollars were spent opposing it.

"If it makes no sense to dump garbage next to a 3,000 square mile aquifer and if it makes no sense for us to spend thousands of municipal tax dollars to keep trying to get this area rejected as a garbage dump, then why, with such a huge majority, didn't the Liberals ban the dumping of garbage in our quarries?" Whiting said.

Whiting noted that he had initially supported incineration as an alternative to landfill in the early 1980's, but admitted he now feels there are better ways to deal with garbage.

"We...know that we can't — never could and never will — control what comes out of landfill, so we have to, absolutely have to control what goes into landfill," he added. "We need legislation. That's right, legislation. While I'm a believer in and a supporter of the private sector, they simply don't move far enough or fast enough on environmental issues. Legislation is the 2X4 we need to get their attention."

Libertarian John Shadbolt supported Elliot's argument that everyone is part of the garbage problem, but it will take strong legislation and support from the public in order to get things changed.

"The big question is garbage, but we're all part of the problem," he said. "There's no easy solution — I can't say any government

can cure the problem because it depends on everyone here. How do we get anything done about it? Well, I'm not sure, but I've got a lot to learn — that's why I'm here.

"We're not here as a political group, because the problem transcends politics. We all have to live on this planet, so we must decide what will be right and wrong, and to hell with the buck if (the problem) is going to kill us all."

Kammerer concurred with Shadbolt, but added that control of all resources must be regained in order to help the environment. She stressed that the government must take a leading role towards that goal, and should be questioned if it doesn't.

"The loyalty of the government must be questioned when big business dictates its policies," she said. "Time is running out — we cannot allow the backing of further destruction by businesses. The garbage crisis is the most important issue — landfills and incinerators are not the answer, because they are unsafe and no one wants them."

"The fact that I'm running, the Green Party has a candidate, shows how concerned we are about the environment," Gori said. "Many environment groups have been formed in this area, which is proportionate to the amount of problems we have here. Many have been accused of saying 'not in my backyard,' but that is pretty good. If everyone takes care of their backyard, it will be a better place to live."

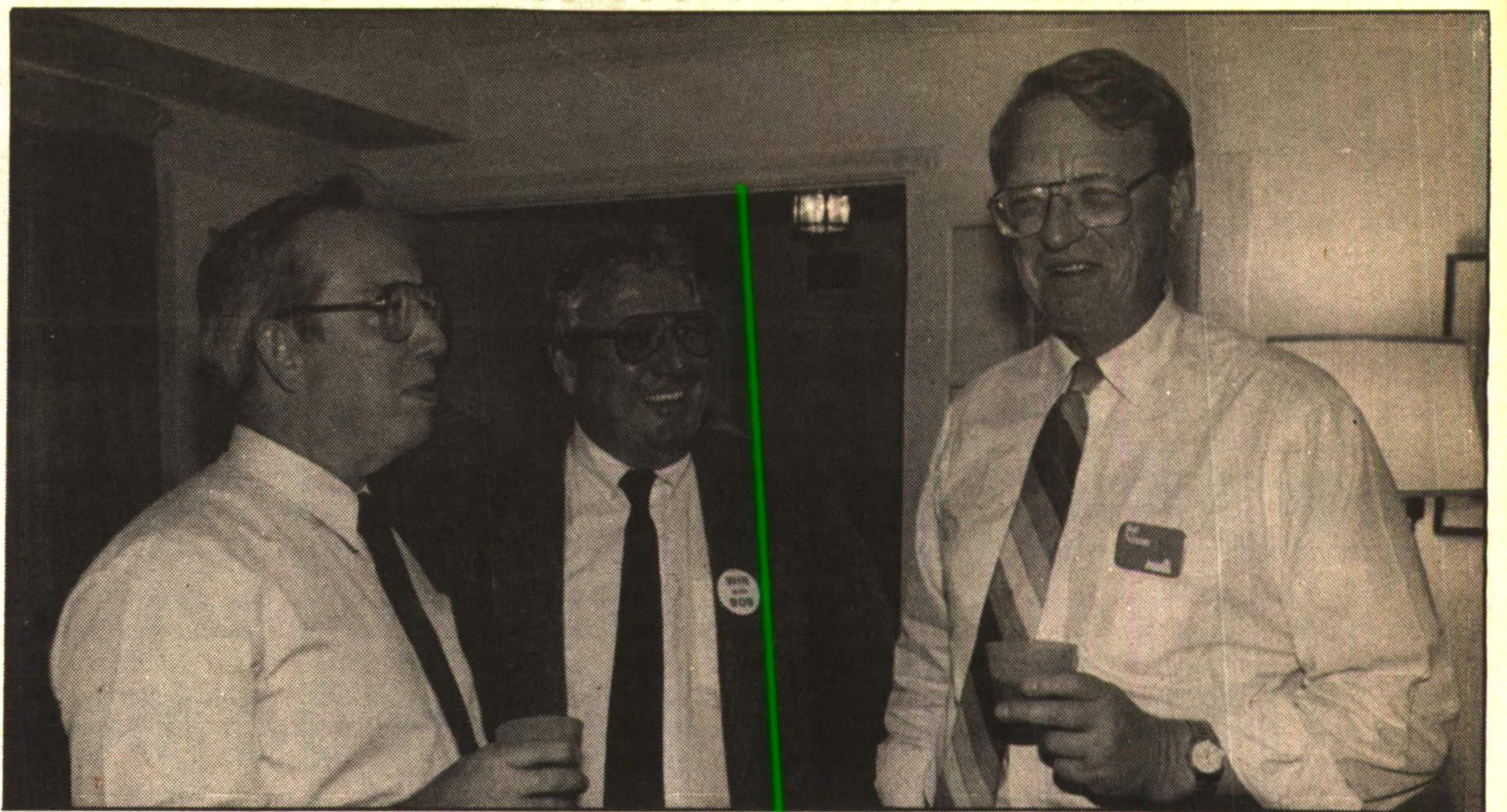
In response to questions from the audience, all of the candidates agreed that quarries on the Niagara Escarpment should be banned, or at least strictly controlled.

They also concurred that greater control over allowing developers to use prime agricultural land must be legislated.

All candidates except Elliot verbally supported Whiting's view that Halton should withdraw from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). He received much applause from the audience after he stated that each area should look after its own garbage.

However, Elliot countered that "we can't be holier than thou about this subject," adding garbage is not simply a regional problem, but should be everyone's concern.

"Without the GTA, a lot of the large challenges in environmental matters wouldn't be addressed as they are right now," Elliot said. "Simple solutions are not realistic in this day and age."



Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon made a brief visit to town Wednesday to support Liberal candidate Walt Elliot. Between the two men is former Liberal MPP for the riding Julian Reed who was first elected to Queen's Park when Nixon was head of the Liberal Party in the 1970s.

Nixon promises to reduce sales tax

By SCOTT KLINE

Ontario's sales tax will be reduced to soften the blow of the Federal Government's Goods and Services Tax, provincial Treasurer Bob Nixon told a group of local Liberals Wednesday.

Nixon told approximately 20 campaign workers for Walt Elliot, the government would reduce the sales tax from 8 to 7 per cent.

Premier David Peterson announced the proposed tax reduction while campaigning in the Cornwall area Wednesday.

"The Premier and I have been talking about this situation for about six weeks," Nixon said. "What to do? What to do?"

He said the proposed GST — which should come into effect January 1 — combined with high interest rates would reduce Ontario's rate of economic growth and likely cost 15,000 Ontarians their jobs.

"The Premier said he could not sit idly by and allow high interest rates to give us the kind of unemployment rates that we find simply unacceptable," Nixon said.

He and the Liberal leader agreed they "had to buoy the economy in a way that is going to mean jobs and a way to more economic growth."

Nixon — who made a whistle stop in Georgetown — lashed out at the Federal government for putting the province in its economic bind.

He said the sales tax reduction is needed to counteract Federal policy.

"I predict real growth will return and we'll get out of the economic doldrums caused by inappropriate federal policy and inappropriate leadership by the governor of the Bank of Canada," Nixon said.

He added that all members of the provincial Legislature work toward maintaining a balanced provincial budget.

"We feel our fiscal position effective," Nixon said. "We are not perfect, but we are doing a better job than the Federal government."

He defended the move to reduce sales tax which Tory leader Mike Harris has called an attempt to buy

votes.

Few takers for debate offered at Christian School

By SCOTT KLINE

A spokesman for the Georgetown District Christian School says he is "disappointed" Halton North's three main party candidates declined participation in an all-candidates meeting the school's board was trying to arrange.

"It is very close to a snub of our community," John Van Egmond said in an interview Wednesday.

He said during the last election campaign an all candidates meeting at the school attracted about 500 people.

According to a press release from the school's Board of Directors the meeting would "allow (our) members to be informed on the stands of the candidates."

While Family Coalition Party candidate Giuseppe Gori and Green Party candidate Patricia Kammerer indicated they would participate, the three main parties declined.

"We regretfully declined," Liberal Campaign manager David Blaney said. "By the time the school asked us they were the sixth group to request a meeting."

He said campaign managers from all the parties met shortly after the election call and agreed to participate in three general meetings and one focussing on the environment.

According to the school's press release, the hoped for meeting was going to focus on three issues: abortion, funding for independent

schools and protection of workers and their families who refuse to work on Sunday.

Bill Chard, Halton North's New Democrat campaign manager, said while the meeting was to be held at the school "there only seemed to be one party setting it up (the FCP)...we would steer away from something like that."

He compared such a meeting to "the NDP hosting an all candidates meeting in a union hall."

"We can deal with all those issues at the general meetings," Chard added.

Progressive Conservative campaign manager Rob Inglis, said that the 37 day campaign made it difficult to honor all of the requests made of the candidates.

"If the candidates are tied up in all candidates meetings for the whole campaign they are not on the streets," Inglis said. "It is important that they are on the street."

Blaney and Inglis agreed four meetings "are ample opportunity" to pin down the candidates on various issues.

Meanwhile, the school board has sent a questionnaire about their concerns to each of the candidates.

Replies were expected Friday and the results should be available this week.

"We let our membership know who agreed to participate in our meeting," Van Egmond said. "We will be circulating their answers."

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