Candidates debate the issues at Chamber breakfast meeting

Political hopefuls question the validity of poll results

Just 26 of a possible feel very encouraged by 500 Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce three of the four candidates in the Wellington-Halton

Hills riding had to say at a breakfast meeting Tuesday at Eagle Ridge golf course in Georgetown. And, while there were no surprises, Tory incumbent MPP Ted Arnott and challengers Liberal candidate Moya Johnson and NDP candidate Dale Hamilton were asked a wide range of questions, with focus on health care, the economy, energy conservation, and the Green Energy Act. The Green Party candidate, Raymond Dartsch did not attend.

Asked about the recent Forum Research poll showing Arnott in the lead with 46.3 per cent of the vote, followed by Johnson with 30.4 per cent, Hamilton with 16.9 and Dartsch with 5.3 per cent, several candidates said the only real poll is the one cast on October 6.

Arnott doesn't put much stock in polls, recalling one from the 2003 election that showed him trailing by 18 per cent – he won the seat by a 5,000 vote margin, making him question the validity of the numbers. "I said to my campaign team after seeing news of the poll (that) we can't allow ourselves to become complacent in any way, shape or form - we can't slow down. In fact, we have to intensify..." Arnott said.

Hamilton said the poll doesn't capture the "very recent wave" of support, much of it from younger voters. "I

the upswing in interest - my (e-mail) in-box is members heard what full of people wanting (election) signs and information, and I think that a lot more people will pay attention after the leaders' debate tonight (Tuesday),' Hamilton said, adding at 19 per cent, the NDP is more than double the results from the last provincial election.

> Johnson said everybody would like to see themselves in the lead in a poll, but said the telephone poll is not as accurate as some

others where voters are questioned by a human, not a recorded message asking them to respond by pushing a number on the dial. "I heard that the (phone) calls ranged from 40 calls per riding to a couple of hundred, so I'm not sure where our riding was, so I'm not putting any strength in it." Johnson said.

The candidates have another all-candidates meeting tomorrow (Friday) hosted by the Georgetown Federation of University Women at the Gellert Centre in Georgetown South.



CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE, FINALLY: Many Acton motorists are very happy that the \$993,000 reconstruction of Wallace Street (top) is complete, and the road, with a new three-metre wide bike/walking path, is open. Some of those drivers also breathed a sigh of relief when crews finished repaying Queen Street late last week. - Ted Tyler/Frances Niblock photos



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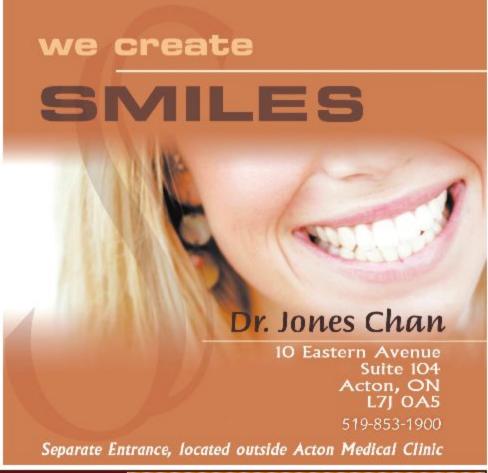
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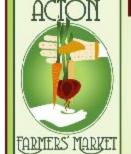
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October 6th is the last Farmers' Market for the season



Come to the Acton Farmers' Market Harvest Festival on Thursday, October 6th from 3 — 7pm

Decorate a pumpkin, face painting, bob for apples, colouring contest, free corn roast.

Check out our website at www.downtownacton.ca for the colouring contest.

