

INDIAN RIVER DIRECT CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE GEORGETOWN

FRIDAY, Jan 27, 10 am - 11:30 am Yoyo Japanese Restaurant 357 Guelph St., (beside Ford dealership)

ACTON

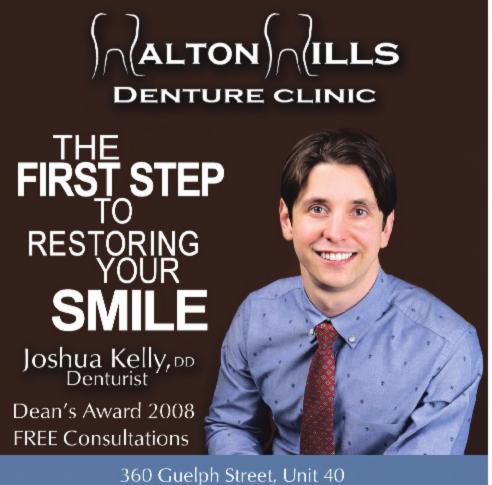
FRIDAY, Jan 27, NOON - 1 pm The Hide House (Eastern & Mill)

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NEWS theifp.ca

MP Michael Chong shares views ahead of leadership race

Continued from page 21)

I think the way to go about doing that is through a new set of civil remedies rather than criminal penalties for marijuana use. I think we should leave in place criminal prohibitions on organized crimes role in the trafficking of marijuana. I think we should leave the prohibitions in place on large-scale trafficking, but I think we should come forward with a new civil regime to combat small use. I also believe if someone who wants to smoke marijuana, who is an adult in the privacy of their own home, I don t think it s the role of the state to go after those people and criminally charge them. As a conservative I believe in individual liberty. I don t support (pardons for those previously convicted), the law is the law at the time and I think that s the way it should be.

On immigration and Syrian refugees:

I think Canada has one of the most robust immigration systems in the world, but we have to be careful not to play politics with it, and I worry that the current government has been playing politics with it. I think we need to ensure that public support for the system remains strong and I think when governments play politics with our system it undermines the integrity of that system. We are obviously a welcoming country and we ve welcomed millions of immigrants and refugees over the years. Whatever we do should be in Canada's interests to ensure high levels of public support remain in place for that system.

On the increasing cost of living and Ontario hydro rates:

Quite simply, we need to reduce the cost of day-to-day living in the province. One of the things that is driving house-

hold unaffordability is the skyrocketing cost of housing. That is due in large part to the government s mortgage insurance and securitization program. I m advocating that we privatize the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporations (CMHC) mortgage insurance and securitization program. This is a long-term solution to moderate housing prices and to ensure the middle class can afford to buy a home. I think that s the single biggest thing we can do.

On working with the incoming U.S administration:

Any Prime Minister has to work with the U.S. President. I think rebuilding the relationship with Washington should be our top foreign policy priority, simply because 20 per cent of our economy relies on exports to the United States. One in five Canadian jobs produces goods for export to the U.S. and those jobs are at risk, because the incoming administration has indicated that it wants to get rid of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which protects those jobs. So I think working with the incoming administration should be the government s top priority. We need to find out where our interests align. Whether it s in the far-east, Europe or the Middle East, work closely with the American government on those aligned interests, then use that as leverage to ensure the border remains open for exports and Canadian goods and services We have to make the case to our American friends that we are their closest ally and trade partner. Whatever they do, their most important interest along the world s longest undefended border is to maintain a tight relationship with the Canadian government.







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Page 22 - Thursday, January 19, 2017 - The IFP - Halton Hills - www.theifp.ca

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