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Thursday, June 5, 2014

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DAN ZISTER, LIBERAL



DAVE RODGERS, GREEN



TED ARNOTT, PC



MICHAEL CARLUCCI, NDP

Provincial candidates square off in local debate

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

About 110 area residents came out to the John Elliott Theatre last Wednesday evening to hear their local provincial candidates' views on various issues.

The All-Candidates Meeting was hosted by the Georgetown chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women in partnership with Halton Hills Public Library.

Participating were Ted Arnott (PC), Michael Carlucci (NDP), Dave Rodgers (Green Party) and Dan Zister (Liberal). Jason Cousineau (Libertarian Party) and Mitch Sproule (Freedom Party) did not take part.

The candidates fielded several questions from the audience.

They were asked how many

jobs could reasonably be created over the next eight years.

"The most important thing is not just to create jobs, but it's to stop Ontario from losing manufacturing jobs," said Carlucci. He added Ontario has lost over 35 per cent of its manufacturing jobs and the NDP would try to stop that job loss.

Carlucci said he couldn't give a specific number, but that economists have looked at the PC's Million Jobs plan and determined it could create 75,000 jobs at best.

Zister said, "Mr. Hudak's plan is easily manipulated to sound good."

He said in the last year the Liberals created 100,000 jobs,

and 26,000 of those in the last month.

"I will only say that a Liberal government is well on track to continuing the economic recovery we have been experiencing since the 2008 economic crisis and voting Liberal on June 12 will assure we will continue on that track and keep the economy strong."

Arnott said the PC party has set a goal of the creation of a million new jobs over the next eight years.

"Between 1995 and 2003 when our party was last in government we did encourage the creation of one million net new jobs. It can be done," said Arnott.

He said Ontario currently has

the highest unemployment rate in Canada, and has for many years.

"The fact is we need to set our goal high, and work to achieve it," said Arnott.

Rodgers said the Green Party proposal is to double the amount of revenue a small business can obtain to \$900,000 before it loses its health tax exemption, which he said allows small businesses to grow at a crucial time.

"We are proposing cancelling the refurbishing of Darlington and buying power from Hydro Quebec," said Rodgers. He said that would save the Province \$4 billion over four years.

"We propose reinvesting this in energy efficiencies for houses and small businesses," said Rodgers.

See DEBATE, pg. 3.

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