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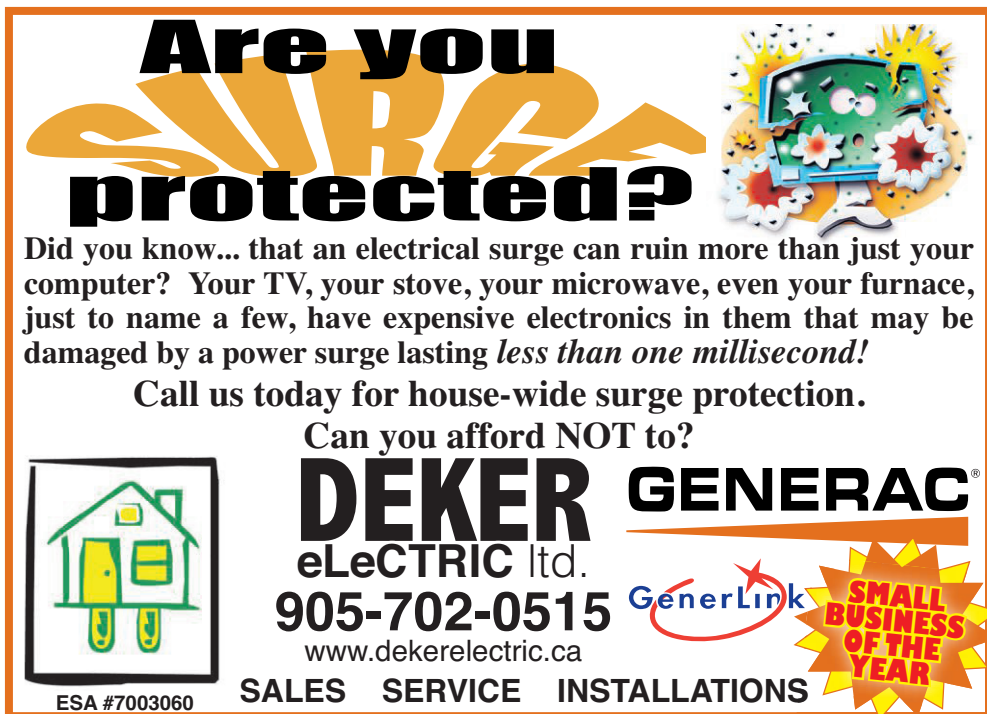
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SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

NEWS

Provincial candidates square off at CFUW all candidates meeting

ALEXANDRA HECK
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From environment, health and education to economy, candidates for the Wellington-Halton Hills riding took a deep dive into regional and provincial issues at the first all candidates debate.

The Georgetown Canadian Federation of University Women held the first debate-style event, at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown, bringing out all four candidates and a crowd of interested voters.

"We are fortunate to have more than two colours," said Diane Ballantyne, the NDP candidate in her opening remarks. She said that after 15 years of the Liberals being in power, the province is ripe for change.

"If they wanted to set things right, they would have done so by now," she said.

Jon Hurst, the Liberal candidate, was quick to defend Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal government.

"I think they have accomplished more than many are aware of," said the Halton Hills councillor, who took a month's leave of absence from his municipal role to run provincially.

"Why would I run against Ted Arnott?" he said, speaking about the current MPP who has held office for over three decades in the region. "I am running against the policies of Doug Ford."

Hurst said that in the

past weeks Ford has proven untrustworthy through his remarks about the Greenbelt, and his inability to confirm what sorts of budgetary cuts his conservative government would make.

"In the end, you will enter the poll, and you will vote for the candidate you trust," Ted Arnott, Conservative MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, said in his opening remarks, explaining that throughout his service for Wellington-Halton Hills, he has always worked with the constituency's best interests in mind.

While he admitted his party won't be leading the province, Green party candidate Dave Rodgers explained that his party can provide some integral alternative viewpoints, if members win legislature seats and work with the province.

"There are many critical environmental issues in Wellington-Halton Hills," he said, adding that he is here "to offer you a choice to vote outside the three-ring party circus."

The moderator asked questions about crucial election topics that were previously submitted by residents.

The first was about how funding is allocated for schools in Ontario.

"The Green party has a strong commitment for a unified school system," said Rodgers, who said the Greens would work to unify Catholic, public and French immersion schools

to find more efficiencies.

Arnott vehemently disagreed, saying, "We need to maintain and continue to fund Roman Catholic schools."

He did say that there needs to be a review of the funding and grant system for schools.

"The Liberal government has violated my contract," said Ballantyne, a teacher at Centre Wellington District High School, explaining that she sees first-hand the scramble at school boards each year to make ends meet with the funding provided.

Jon Hurst said that the Liberal government has worked hard to make Ontario's school system some of the best in the world.

Candidates were asked environmental questions like whether they support cycling and public transit, and how they would work to combat climate change, and fight sprawl to protect farmers in Halton Hills.

"Acton is pretty well surrounded by the Greenbelt," said Hurst, adding that Ford's statements about opening up the Greenbelt, simply can't be trusted, even after he changed his tune. "There are whitebelts that are available for development," he said.

Ballantyne said that the NDP government has a fully costed and publicly available economic plan, which includes a food and water policy that will support young farmers.

"If farmers are doing

● See CANDIDATES, page 31

Temporary Road Closure Due to Event

haltonhills.ca



Temporary Road Closure Due to Event

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2008-0020 regarding the following temporary road closure for the purpose of the following community event:

Georgetown Farmer's Market - Every Saturday between June 2 and October 13, 2018 from 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Main Street from Church Street to James Street. Organized by the Georgetown BIA.

If you require additional information regarding this road closure, please contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 905-873-2601 x2273.