

## Acton all-candidates meeting gets mixed reviews from audience

By Oksana Buhel

Almost 200 people listened to five federal candidates announce their plans for Canada in front of a backdrop of five tombstones, last Thursday evening at a Meet the Candidates session at McKenzie-Smith School in Acton. The meeting adjourned to the song "Achy-Breaky Heart." Fitting, or a coincidence?

Hosted by Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, the meeting began with the candidates stating their positions on Canada's current situation and its future.

Liberal candidate Julian Reed insisted "Canadians want a country where people live in hope, not fear."

Norma Peterson described the New Democratic Party's job creation program. "We must protect the workers and their way of life." Libertarian candidate Hilliard Cox agreed with Peterson's dismal depiction of the Canadian economy, asking "if the government can't manage a post office, how can it manage the economy." The audience began applauding immediately.

Cox listed various courses his government would

undertake to alleviate our problems, including the deregulation of banking, reduction of the deficit without "taxing the workers to death," downsizing the government and not using unemployment insurance to "fix the mistakes of the government."

Reform Party candidate Dick MacDuffee's suggestions of a recall provision on voting and elimination of the deficit in three years was also greeted by applause. MacDuffee said the time had come to "give democracy

**"We will give people full time democracy"**

Dick MacDuffee

back to the people." He joked how Canadians only have 50 days of democracy, before an election, to choose their next dictator. "We will give people full-time democracy," he added seriously.

Progressive Conservative MP Garth Turner took a different approach. His opening remarks were focused on Acton. He admitted "Acton has to do what Canada has to do" and insisted "Acton will grow again - I give my promise." Turner insisted he was concerned about the environment, but also pointed out there are "too many special interest groups."

Although members of the public applauded, Peterson demanded "what about the special interest groups of multinational corporations?"

The meeting quickly reverted into criticisms of current Progressive Conservative government policies. Turner was addressed by Reed as "Mr. GST," and by a member of the public as "The Lord Collector." He was questioned by fellow candidates and members of the audience on why he denounced the GST (Goods and Services Tax) in 1988 and later turned around to support it. Turner argued the tax raised \$35 billion which was used to reduce the national deficit.

One member of the audience pointed out the GST was created to reduce prices and claimed he has not witnessed any reduction of prices. Turner confidently listed various items which had dropped in price since the introduction of the GST, and MacDuffee came to Turner's defense, saying he had personally benefitted from many of these reductions. He admitted, however, the Reform party was against the tax.

Reed argued the GST cost was higher than the PCs will admit and pointed out the

## Libertarians offer democracy to taxpayers

The Libertarian Party of Canada has unveiled its answer to our complicated tax system and government spending they say is out of control.

Speaking in Toronto on Saturday, Party Leader Hill Cox (a Halton-Peel candidate) commented that "...as long as we face this annual theft by government, there is no reason why it can't be simplified. And taxpayers have some say in what government is doing with the money at the same time."

The Libertarian system combines a number of ideas the party has promoted for many years into a single page tax return "without a handbook or accountant required to figure it out."

"You can't have a simplified tax return unless you have a simplified tax system" according to Cox. To achieve this, he says a flat tax rate applicable to all income is the answer. "Why should someone whose income is from investments get a better tax deal than the person who is paid a weekly salary?"

He predicts the rate would be about 20 per cent at current government taxing and spending levels. The rate could be lowered in line with spending, deficit and debt reduction. Citing Revenue Canada data, he also noted that "...if the rate was 25 per cent, we could get rid of the 7 per cent GST."

"Politicians seem to lack common sense when it comes to spending and it's time to put a halt to it. I believe the best way to do so is to allow the taxpayers to decide using the "tax menu" part of the system."

"Tax menu" is a term describing an option on the

back of the return enabling the taxpayer to target where most of their tax dollars could be spent. Alternatively, the tax filer could tick off an option which would let the politicians decide on the spending.

Government departments or proposals that did not get adequate tax dollars allocated would have to be phased out and the cost savings passed on to the taxpayers in the form of reduced taxes.

"For years politicians have promised to be frugal with taxpayers money - to treat it as if it were their own. But it never works that way" notes Cox.

"Politicians like the democratic process when it comes to getting elected. The Libertarian system will give some democracy to the taxpayer by allowing them to 'vote' on how their tax dollars are spent. They deserve it - after all, they're paying the bills."

## Meet the candidates

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Meet the Candidates Night, Thursday, (tomorrow) 7:30 p.m. at Sacre Couer Hall, 39 Guelph St. in Georgetown.

The University Women's Club of Georgetown is sponsoring an All Candidates meeting Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. in the John Elliott Theatre at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 9 Church St. in Georgetown.

Halton Cable Systems

will be holding a televised 'Meet the Press' evening involving the Halton-Peel federal election candidates, Thursday Oct. 21 starting at 7 p.m. With the election scheduled for the following Monday, this could be the last opportunity Halton Hills voters will have to hear the views and viewpoints of those challenging for the riding.

Colin Gibson, editor of HHTW, will represent this newspaper.

## Turner opens Bolton office

Garth Turner, Halton-Peel PC candidate and Minister of National Revenue, will officially open the local Bolton office this Saturday morning at 10 a.m. The office is located at Courtyards of Caledon, lower level, King Street entrance.

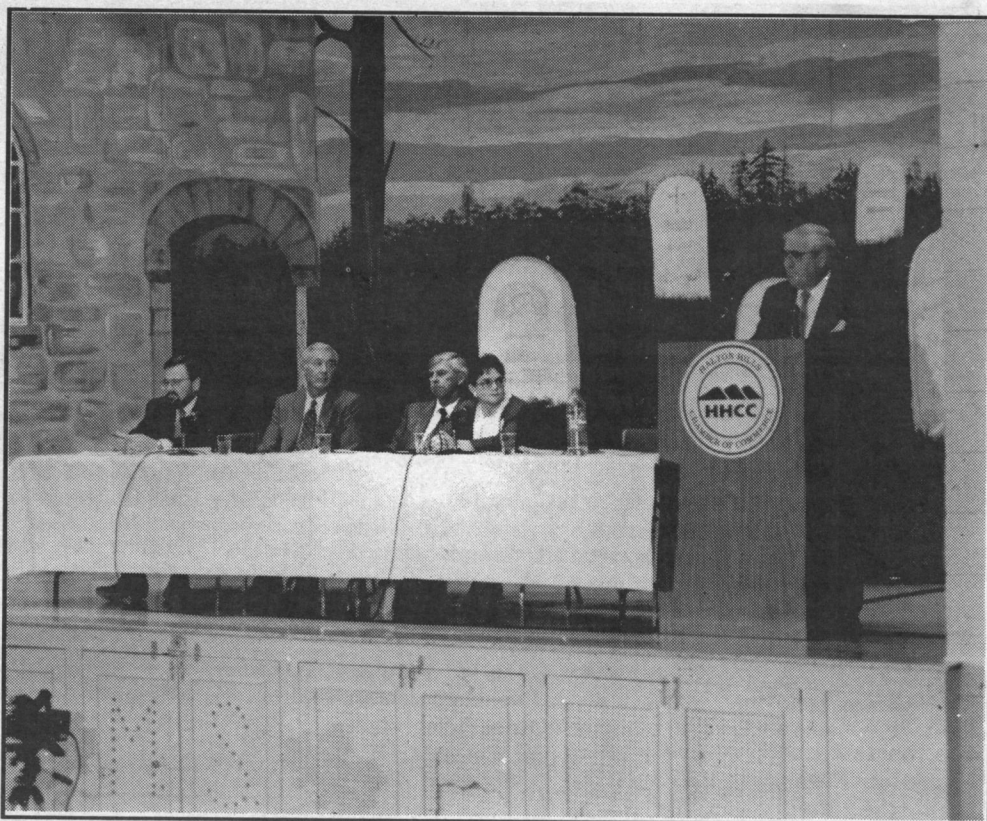
"This election is all about a choice between those who want more government and those who want less," Turner says, "and our Bolton office opening will symbolize the prime minister's commitment to balance the books and cut government regula-

tions by 50 per cent.

"Everyone's invited to drop in as we cut a few of our own. A strong team of loyal volunteers will be staffing the office daily to provide people with information on the election and on the Kim Campbell plans for a strong economic future."

Garth Turner will be available to meet interested voters.

Official Opening: Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m., Courtyards of Caledon, lower level, King Street entrance.



Liberal candidate Julian Reed (standing) outlined his party's policies Thursday evening at MacKenzie-Smith Middle School in Acton. New Democratic Party candidate Norma Peterson, and Reform Party candidate Dick MacDuffee (second from left), listened attentively, while other rival candidates' attention was more limited. From left: Progressive Conservative MP Garth Turner, MacDuffee, Libertarian candidate Hilliard Cox and Peterson. photo by Oksana Buhel/HHTW

number of people now required to manage the tax has increased from 1,200 people to 8,000.

"Let's get our facts straight," Turner shot back. He pointed out the number was closer to 5,000 and said the number of people eligible for exemptions has increased.

Turner had to account for a statement attributed to him in the Hamilton Spectator,

where he was quoted as saying that "government couldn't create jobs and should not try." MacDuffee agreed with Turner, saying the country was not created by the government, but by entrepreneurs and people. Cox was similarly complimentary. "Garth spoke it like a true Libertarian," he quipped. Although the public laughed, they were not pacified and further questioned Turner about job creation. Turner stuck by his guns, insisting the only jobs government could create would be in civil service. He reversed his course when asked by a member of the public what he will do to alleviate the growing need for food banks. "We're going

to create jobs," he responded, in an obvious contradiction of his earlier statement.

The issue of Turner's Sept. 13 press conference involving Acton development surfaced briefly and Reed demanded to know why Turner withheld a Department of Fisheries and

Oceans internal memo dated July 6, stating the Region of Halton would not be held accountable for the alteration of

fish habitat in Black Creek. This time a member of the public came to Turner's defense. She advised Reed to "check his facts" before accusing Turner of political opportunism. She also suggested Reed was being politically opportunistic for slandering Turner.

The last of 40 interested speakers asked Turner why an elected PC government would be any better than the one led by Brian Mulroney.

"Well, for one thing, we have a new prime minister with courage and guts," Turner responded. This amazed the questioner who asked, "Are you saying the prime minister runs the country and not the members

of parliament? And are we to assume the previous prime minister did not have courage and guts?"

Reed jumped in. "Surely the new prime minister would have the guts to repudiate the policies of the past nine years," he said.

The meeting ended in two hours but people milled around afterwards, discussing the event.

"I think the meeting went very well," said Linda McGregor of Terra Cotta. "A lot of good issues were brought to the forefront."

Laurie Reed of Nassagaweya claimed the meeting was a "success." "There were a lot of people here, no one was shy and there was a lot of participation," he said.

Some people were not so approving. "Oh, you don't want to publish what I think," insisted a man who asked to remain nameless. "I think the background (with the tombstones) was very appropriate for the political landscape of the provincial and federal governments. If they're not in their graves now, they will be shortly."

He added he was disillusioned with candidates who "didn't answer questions but adopted them to fit prepared answers."

## Find out how to vote Oct. 25!

By Colin Gibson

With the Oct. 25 federal election fast approaching, Elections Canada is doing its utmost to ensure that all Canadians eligible to vote have the opportunity to exercise their franchise. The voters' list from last fall's referendum-plebiscite will be the main tool in recognizing eligible voters (the list contains 13,725,966 names) but Elections Canada officials expect to be updating it on an almost daily basis.

Those whose names are on the eligible list should be receiving a confirmation card in the mail advising them where and when to vote.

An information mailing is also being sent out and there will be an extensive advertising campaign explaining the voting process.

Those who are Canadian citizens, 18-years-of-age on or before Oct. 25, are eligible to vote in the election.

Landed immigrants are not eligible to vote.

In Halton Hills, Halton-Peel returning officer Don McMillan has set up an office at

318 Guelph St. (by Beaver Lumber in the Indoor Mall) telephone 873-2220, to service area residents.

Those who are still unsure of the voting procedures are advised to call 1-800-267-8683.

To get on the voters list you can attend the office with proof of identity and residence. If you are unable to attend the office, an appointment can be made for a revising agent to visit you.

Revising teams will also be visiting areas of high turnover.

Advance polls will be open Oct. 16, 18 and 19. This year people will also have the option of mailing in their ballots.

To mail in an advance ballot, you must fill out an application form at an Election Canada Office.

In Halton Hills, the advance polls will operate at 318 Guelph St. in Georgetown and at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 in Acton.

Exercise your franchise! If you are eligible, make sure you can vote on Oct. 25.