

Can Halton Hills be part of Technology Triangle?

Mike Chong to use his IT roots to encourage local high-tech industries

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Promoting a relationship with the high-tech sector and possibly encouraging the development of information technology jobs in the riding of Wellington-Halton Hills is something that local MP Mike Chong plans to pursue as part of his politi-

cal agenda.

Chong, who appeared at a town hall meeting at the Acton Community Centre on September 16, feels that his constituency's proximity to an area referred to as the technology triangle may benefit the local economy. As yet, the 32-year-old politician hasn't held any talks with leaders in the high tech sector, but he said he intends to consult with stakeholders. "I want to meet with them to understand what they are looking for."

The technology triangle includes the Kitchener-Waterloo area where many high technology companies are based including RIM (Research in Motion). RIM, which has offices in Waterloo, is a world leader in the mobile communications market and known for manufacturing the Blackberry, a messaging phone.

Chong, who worked as a senior technology consultant in the GTA before he was elected, feels he is in a unique position to develop contacts within the IT industry. "I am one of the few members of Parliament who has come from the high tech sector. I would like to promote high paying, skilled jobs."

"I AM ONE OF THE FEW MEMBERS... WHO HAS COME FROM THE HIGH TECH SECTOR"

When Parliament resumes early next month, Chong says he hopes to sit on the industry, science and technology committee as well as the citizenship and immigration committee.

Aside from his interest in the high tech sector, he said he is specifically concerned with alleviating doctor shortages. He says he would like to promote the recognition of foreign nationals, some of whom are trained doctors unable to practice here in Canada. Once they arrive in this country, foreign nationals are unable to obtain licenses to work as doctors, and Chong says this situation needs to change to address the "huge shortage of health practitioners."

As of this month, his office was handling approximately 40 cases on behalf of constituents. His staff are handling some calls, but are redirecting many others concerning property taxes, an area that comes under the jurisdiction of the provincial and municipal governments. But the bulk of the caseload relates to permanent residency cards. The cards, known as PR cards, were introduced towards the end of 2003, as part of stricter requirements outlined by the federal government after the terrorist attacks in the United States.

At the moment, there are significant delays for people who need PR cards that can be anywhere from three to eight months. The cards, which are needed to travel outside the country, are issued to non-Canadian citizens residing in Canada.

The town hall meeting in Acton was the first of two held in the riding this month. The second was held in Elora on September 23. Chong's office will also be hosting an agricultural roundtable on November 8 at the Rockmosa Community Centre in Rockwood starting at 7 p.m.

Mike Chong's office can be reached at 1-866-878-5556. The web address is www.mikechong.ca.



The Regional Municipality of Halton
A Partnership That Works!

Curb Appeal

Halton Hills Urban Areas

Special (Bulk) Collection



Place items at curb by 7:00 a.m. on your designated special collection day. Check the map for your corresponding collection zone. Items will be collected on the day designated for your zone.

Special (Bulk) Waste Collection

Zone 1	Monday October 4
Zone 2	Tuesday October 5
Zone 3	Wednesday October 6
Zone 4	Thursday October 7
Zone 5	Friday October 8

The following materials will NOT be collected:

- Propane Tanks
- Tires*
- Building and Demolition Debris
- Concrete and Bricks
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Cardboard Boxes
- Tree Branches
- Tree Stumps
- Soil and Rocks
- Automobile Parts

*Old tires filled with water can be mosquito breeding sites.
These materials may be disposed of at the Halton Waste Management Site, 5400 Regional Rd # 25, Milton. Open Mon. - Sat., 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Georgetown



Acton



NEW

Metal & Appliance Collection in the Urban Areas



Appliances and metal items are collected on a call-in basis only and therefore will not be collected on your scheduled Special (Bulk) Collection day.

To receive collection, please call Halton Region at 1-866-442-5866.

Metal items and appliances include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, stoves, washers, dryers, metal furniture, broken down swing sets, barbeques (no propane tanks), bicycles (no tires), etc.

Please ensure appliance doors are removed for safety.


If you have unwanted items that are in good condition, consider donating them to a charitable organization or reuse centre. You will be diverting material away from Halton's landfill and helping people in need at the same time!

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) TTY 905-827-9833
or visit us at: www.region.halton.on.ca

Halton Hills Papers

Parliament Hill Report

MICHAEL CHONG, M.P. FOR WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Recently the Prime Minister signed a 10 year health accord with the provincial premiers. While I have some concerns, I believe that this health accord is a good first step to resolving some of the problems facing our health care system. It's good news for Canadians, and potentially good news for Wellington-Halton Hills.

This accord provides for \$41 billion in new money over 10 years. Numbers of that size become meaningless, so I'll try to break it down. The first 6 years call for \$3 billion in new money per year; with 308 ridings, Wellington-Halton Hills should expect to receive \$9.7 million in new money per year for health care. This should go a long way to fix health care in Wellington-Halton Hills. This is a very simple analysis, but it will give you an idea of what we are talking about.

Where is the money going to come from? As we argued during the election, money is available for healthcare without having to raise taxes; in recent years the government has consistently underestimated the surplus.

As mentioned previously, I do have some concerns. In Halton Hills, Acton has a severe shortage of family doctors. Family doctors are important gatekeepers in our system; without one, you can't get a prescription or get referred to a specialist. I am also still concerned about the future of Georgetown Hospital as a full service community hospital. We need to ensure that this additional money goes to solving these problems in Halton Hills. Your federal government has provided the money. It is now up to the provincial Ministry of Health to address these concerns with municipal officials, hospitals, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders. I certainly will be raising this issue with Health Minister Smitherman.

We've had one Town Hall in Acton; our next one is in Elora on October 14th at the Community Centre at 7 pm. Hope to see you there.