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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MUSEUMS OF BURLINGTON could use your help as a Museum Tour Guide or Education Program Assistant. Training is provided. For more information on this and other interesting volunteer opportunities, contact the Volunteer Program Administrator, (905) 332-9888. (TFN)

Queen's Park Report

My View
BY TED CHUDLEIGH, MPP HALTON

Liberals making serfs of farmers

The Liberal government is facing a conundrum. The same day the Ontario Legislature overwhelmingly passed my motion to create a permanent program to purchase environmentally significant property, the Liberal government released its intention to permanently protect hundreds of thousands of hectares of land in the Golden Horseshoe from urban development. So on one hand the Legislature understands the need to purchase property from its owners while on the other they intend to severely restrict land rights at the stroke of a pen without compensation. I'm very proud of the 52-3 vote in support of my motion to formalize the process whereby Ontario buys environmentally significant land for public use. A hodgepodge of these programs has existed but long term goals and planning were always difficult, as the programs never lasted long. With such an overwhelming vote it is obvious that MPPs of every political stripe supported the motion, to reach out to the future, and help ensure environmentally sensitive and significant lands are purchased for public use by generations of Ontarians yet to be born. Now the government needs to take action. However, Dalton's Liberals are committed to their Greenbelt Plan, which removes property rights but provides no compensation. Of course, this plan will have a profound effect on our province and the way of life of millions of Ontarians. Now that Dalton's Liberals are poised to take away the property rights of thou-

sands of farmers, it seems to me that they are obligated to extend to those same farmers either direct compensation for their loss, or though legislation, guarantee that those farmers are able to make a living. Dalton's plans have made serfs of many Ontario farmers by reducing their property rights and in effect tying them to their land economically. The Liberals have created an entire agricultural underclass and now need to step forward with plans for ensuring their futures. Outside of the very sticky issues of land rights, compensation and the higher housing densities that will result from this restriction of urban land and need to be resolved, I believe there is some merit in the Greenbelt Plan. If people can stomach smaller living spaces and higher housing prices for single family homes, they will save on road and utility costs, improve the effectiveness of public transit and prevent urban development from eating up prime farm land. My service to Ontarians will be judged by the legacy that is left. I have committed myself and the Ontario Legislature to the public purchase of significant environmental land. Dalton has committed himself and his Liberals to the reduction of property rights and higher housing densities in Halton. He needs to address these issues rising from his plan for it to gain the support of Ontarians.

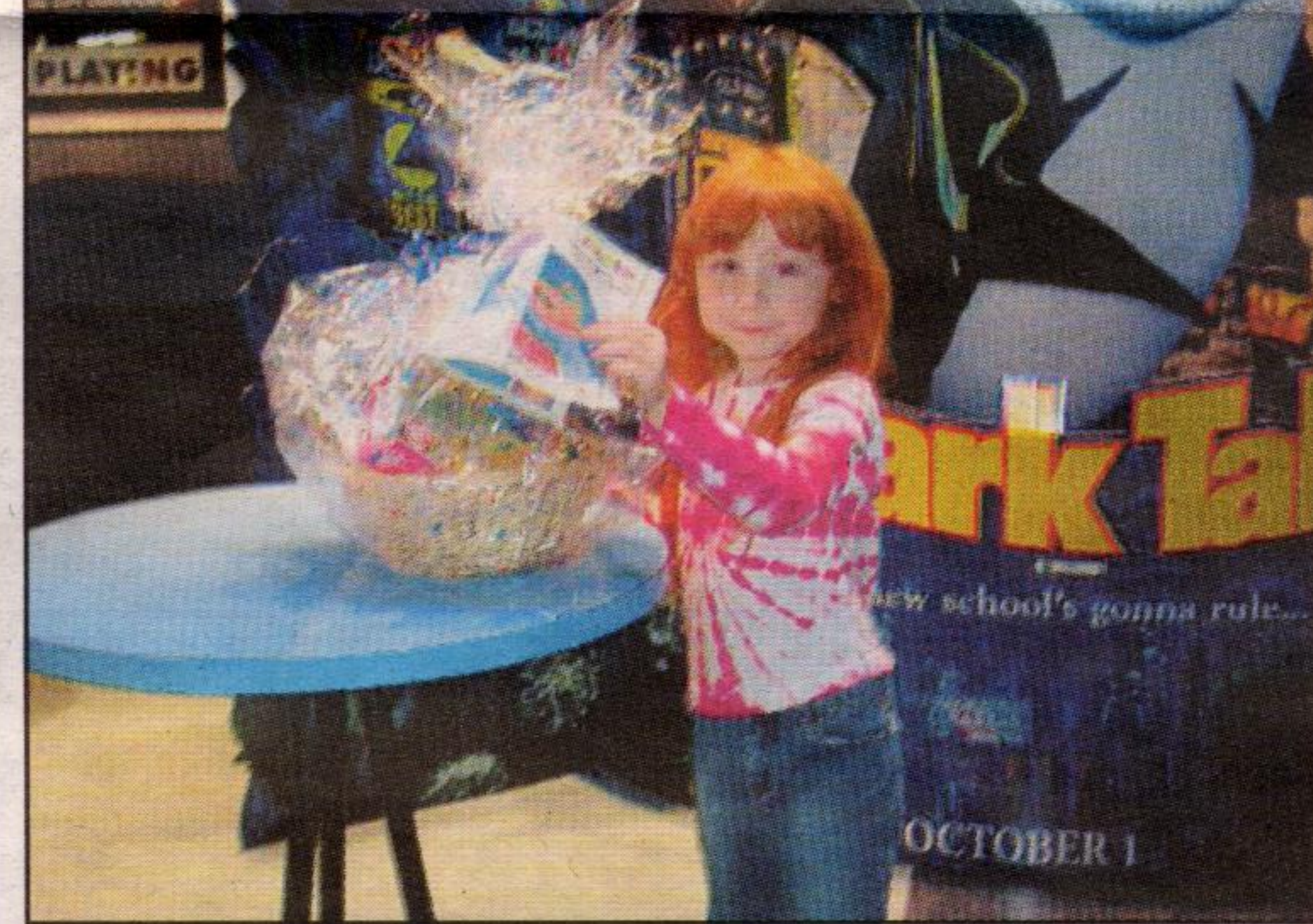


PHOTO BY TRISH BURKHOLDER
Winners of the recent Shark Tale competition, sponsored by Famous Players and Silvercity, in Mississauga were Angel McKenna, Burlington; Samantha Babic, Georgetown and Brooklyn, Erin. Angel McKenna is pictured with her prize.

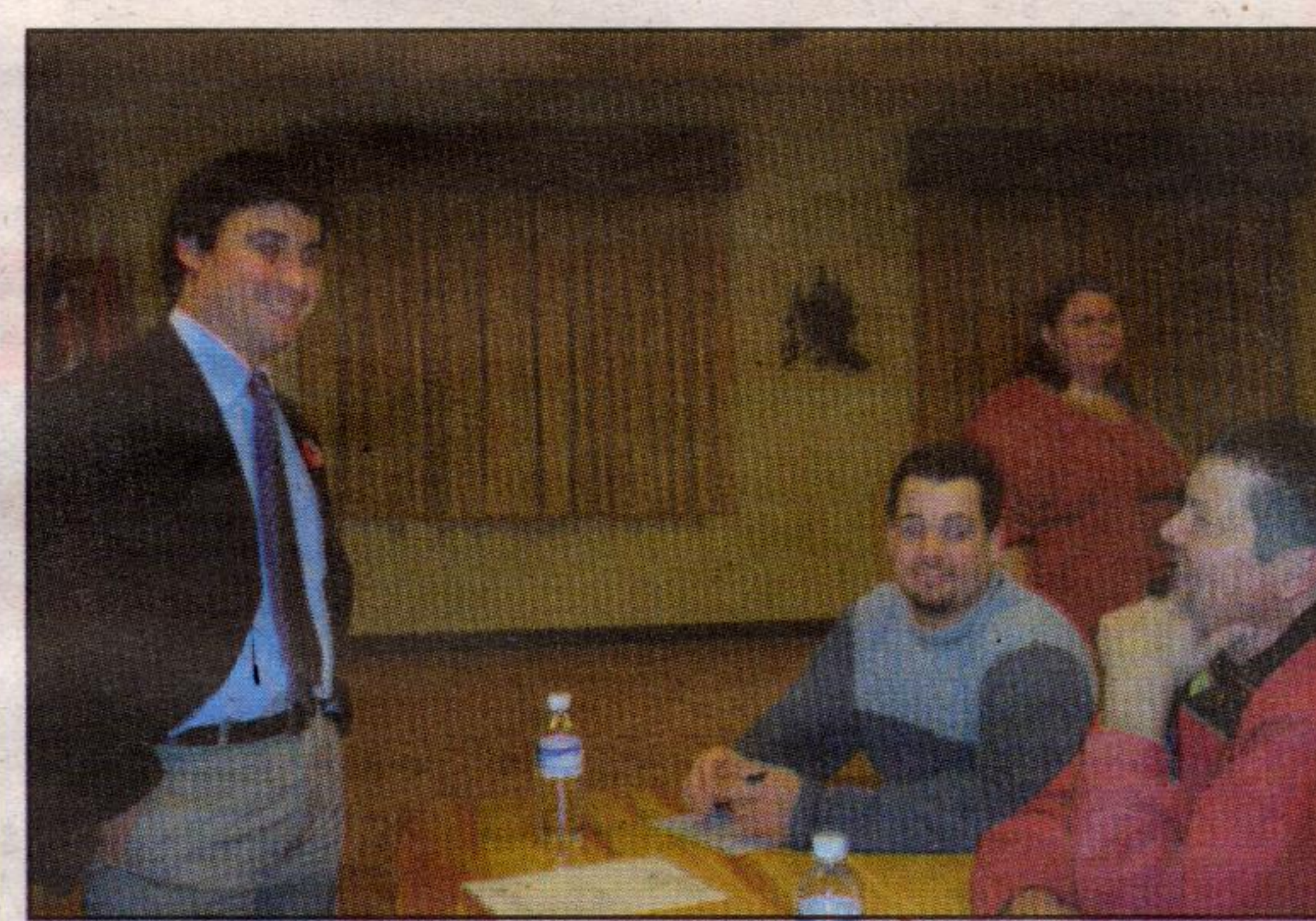


PHOTO BY STEPHEN BAKER
Scott Gordon and Arnold Vervoort discuss agricultural issues at a recent round table discussion hosted by Wellington-Halton Hills Member of Parliament Michael Chong.