

# Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey by-election candidates

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in some communities due to a lack of jobs and access to post-secondary education and would like to see students engaged in remote learning. He notes that there is a facility in Barrie doing this, but currently none in Dufferin.

The Green Party supports the concept of choice: they believe in funding for independent schools and for choices about health care as well. For instance, the GPO thinks services such as chiropractic care should be fully funded.

"People should not have to pay out of their own pocket for complimentary health care," says de Jong.

The other key to the party's health care platform involves preventative health care.

"We want people to not get sick in the first place," says de Jong. "Let's teach people how to be more healthy."

Poor diet, lack of exercises and problems with the environment are the root causes of illness, says de Jong.

In terms of solutions De Jong suggests putting nurse practitioners in schools as an education resource; setting up remote office services to reduce the number of cars on the road and increasing the amount of time children spend in physical activity.

"We need to get kids out onto the land and out into the fresh air," he says.

Although de Jong has not been in elected office before, he has been the party leader in Ontario for 12 years and is not concerned about making the transition to elected official.

"Green parties all over the world have shown us how to be in government," he says.

For more information about the Green Party of Ontario, try their website at [www.greenparty.on.ca](http://www.greenparty.on.ca)

## Libertarian - Philip Bender

First state the problem; then design a solution.

It's an approach to life that many engineers subscribe to and Philip Bender is no different.

Bender is the 54 year old engineer and small business owner who is the Ontario Libertarian Party candidate running in the Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey by-election on March 17.

Married for 34 years, with four children,

Bender is a kind-hearted sounding man who believes in the principals of individuality and property ownership.

"I believe that strong societies are made up of strong individuals," says Bender.

The Libertarian platform is derived from six core principals based on beliefs that value individual freedom above all, that a free-market economy is best and that the government should not be involved in the life of the individual.

"...Each individual must be left free to work out his own destiny and government must not interfere with the voluntary arrangements men make among themselves," says the party's literature.

The focus is on the individual, agrees Bender, who believes that freedom and responsibility go hand in hand.

Take energy consumption, for example. Bender thinks it quite likely that if people had to pay the true cost of energy, they would be more inclined to take a conservation-style approach to consumption.

Do we really need government to do our thinking for us, Benders asks.

"Everyone looks to the government to solve his or her problems," he says. "We need people to start looking towards solving their own problems."

In an effort to highlight what his party considers the flawed thinking involved in a state-run, not for profit health care system Bender wants people to consider:

"What's more important - access to free health care or access to good nutritious food?"

If the answer is food, says Bender then why don't we have a food-a-care program?

"It would be totally free; access it anytime you want and it would always be there," says Bender.

The party is clearly fiscally and economically conservative with it's free-market, low to no government involvement, values.

But, Bender asserts, the party is socially liberal and espouses the value of accepting people as they are.

For instance, the party has no problem with same-sex marriage - if that's what the individual wants.

Daycare is out, though, as it's the individual's responsibility to raise his or her own children. Employment equity is also out, along with pay equity.

"No two pieces of legislation have done more to increase costs and tensions in the workplace," says the doctrine.

A party of choice is how this party bills itself, with individual choice very high on the list of values.



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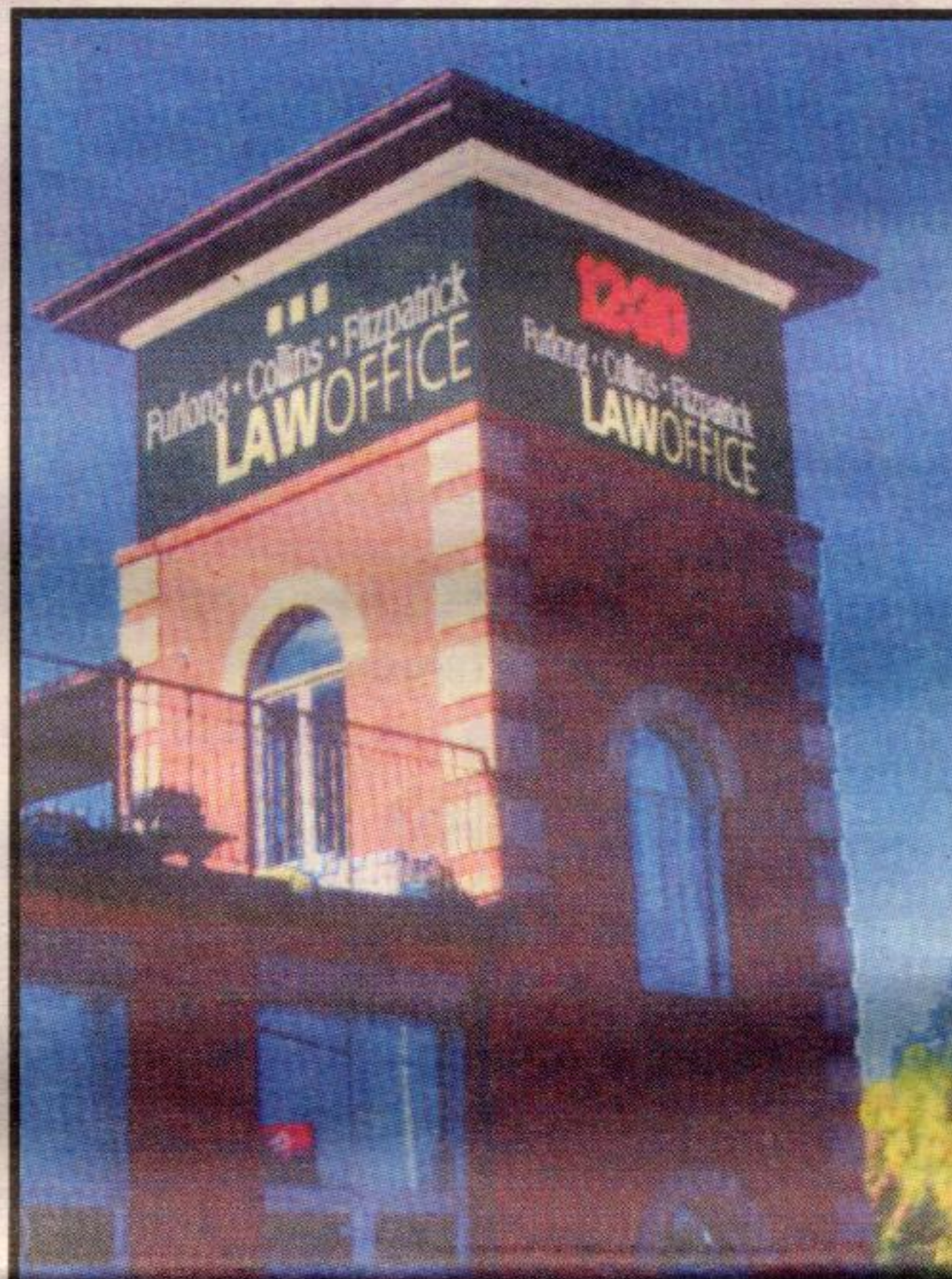


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**Brookville students win engineering awards**

PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Teams of Halton students recently competed in the 12th annual Halton Engineering Challenge. These grade eight students designed and built robotic arms for the competition in which Brookville Public School teams won gold and silver. Shown here, with one of the two arms entered for competition are : (clockwise from top left corner) Eric Small, Andy Czernicki, Will Kitching, Justin Gateby, Jacob Botelho, Sharalee Fraser, Jason Shaw, and Lauren Harrison.

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