

Mike Chong chosen Conservative candidate for Wellington/Halton Hills

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

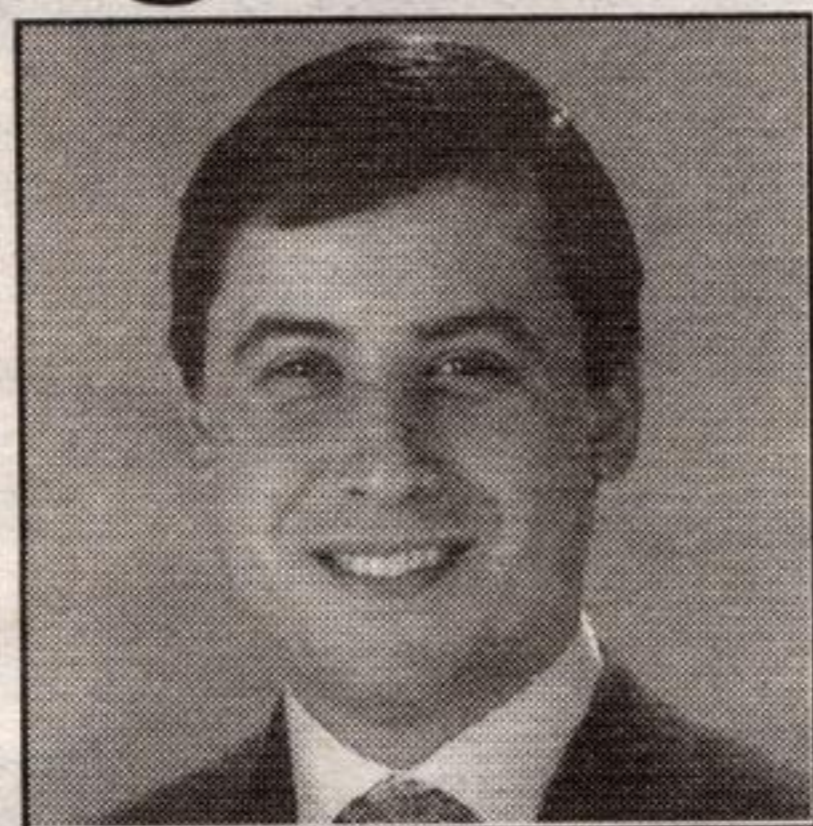
Wellington-Halton Hills voters wanting to support the Conservative party in the next election will be looking to young Centre Wellington resident Michael Chong as their candidate of choice.

In a "close vote" at the Royal Canadian Legion in Guelph on Tuesday, a majority of the party's 320 attending members supported Chong over Guelph resident Marty Burke, said

federal riding association president Andy deVries.

Promising his supporters that they will "paint the riding blue again" Chong vowed to fight hard to win the next election for the party and listen to his constituents after he is elected.

Chong was the Progressive Conservative candidate for the Fergus-Elora area in the previous federal election and his experience showed in the polished speech he offered undecided party members before balloting ended. He said he had been talking



Mike Chong

to party faithful throughout the new riding since December and their message to him was a call for change.

The son of a doctor, he said he understands the chal-

lenges facing the federal government as it seeks to fund the rising costs of our public health care system.

Growing up in a rural area and working on a farm as a young man taught him to understand the concerns of the area's agricultural community. Experience as an information technology manager with several businesses including Barclays Bank taught him about private sector financial concerns.

"I grew up here," he said, "and I'm staying here."

Spring celebration in Halton Hills

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

There won't be any outside judges, but that doesn't mean Halton Hills won't celebrate its beautiful parks and interesting attractions this summer, to please itself.

Out of the cancelled costly Communities in Bloom program that is designed to foster civic pride has come the Town and Country Showcase, slated for June 19.

"We will have it more low key, but still try to get the same results - spiffing up the place and working with many different organizations," Mayor Rick Bonnette said on Friday.

He said the list of community groups that want to participate continues to grow and includes Limehouse Kiln Society, Limehouse Town Hall, Heritage Acton, both the Acton and Georgetown BIAs and the Willow Park Ecology Centre.

"I'm hoping that this will be

a good send off for the summer - that will get the place cleaned up before Canada Day," Bonnette said, adding the event will give the Town a chance to show off.

"The Town has probably grown by 25 per cent in the last 10 years and there's probably people that don't even know about the (Limehouse) kilns, or haven't been to the Dominion Seed House Park," Bonnette said, agreeing there are people who don't know about Fairy Lake. And there's been discussion about having an event on June 19 at Pros-

pect Park.

Earlier in the week, Bonnette detailed the Town and Country planning progress to Council, saying the event has no budget, and will come at "very little, or no cost to the taxpayer," and will take a lot of volunteer time.

He invited councillors to join the growing committee that was formed after Bonnette dropped the Communities in Bloom program, which included an annual budget of \$50,000.

Showcase committee member, Wards 3/4 Regional

Councillor Jane Fogal, said they will have activities "all day long in all parts of Halton Hills," including the Georgetown BIA Village Festival and events at the old Seed House garden.



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