The Independent & Free Press

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003 40 Pages Vol. 126 No. 26

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Tory elicits laughter at all-candidates

When Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh talks about ensuring clean water, laughter erupts.

In fact, discontent with the Tory record on many fronts was audibly evident through the snorts, snickers and jeers heard at last Thursday night's Halton provincial riding all-candidates meeting.

Liberal candidate Barbara Sullivan and New Democrat Jay Jackson joined Chudleigh on the John Elliott Theatre stage.

Before 200 voters in attendance, the trio answered questions focusing mainly on education and the environment. The provincial election is Oct. 2.

Family Coalition Party's Giuseppe Gori and the Green Party's Matt Smith were absent from the debate hosted by the Georgetown University Women's Club.

See PROVINCIAL, pg. 11

See election candidate profiles pages 10 & 11

Llama love

Alex Boddington, 11, made a new friend at the Acton Fall Fair this past Saturday with a llama appropriately named Kisses. The petting zoo was one of the more popular attractions of the annual event, which once again drew enthusiastic crowds. For more on the fair see page 13.

Photo by Stephen Uhraney

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Legions fail in bid for immediate exemptions

No changes to the smoking bylaw until 2004

Halton Hills councillors sidestepped making a decision on re-opening the smoking bylaw before the municipal elections, by delaying a decision until early 2004.

Earlier this month, Acton Legion requested the town change the bylaw, which was approved earlier this year, to give its private club an exemption, but instead councillors deferred a Councillor Dobbie Frizzell motion that called for that exemption to Monday's meeting.

The town's two legions both had exemptions under the old bylaw, but were forced to comply with the new bylaw that allows smoking only after 9 p.m. A 100 per cent smoking ban in all public and private places is expected to go into place on July 1, 2004.

Acton Legion, with Georgetown Legion writing a letter, protested at council that this bylaw was creating a financial hardship for the organization as its members were going to neighbouring community legions that allowed smoking.

On Monday, before a public debate, councillors retreated to an in-camera meeting at the request of Mayor Kathy Gastle. Upon their return Frizzell immediately withdrew his motion. Gastle then introduced a motion that council consider an exemption for private clubs and that staff report back on the possibility of legal challenges.

Clerk Karen Landry said, due to the workload generated by the municipal elections, it is likely staff wouldn't be able to report back until early 2004.

All councillors approved the motion, with exception of Councillors Moya Johnson, Jane Fogal and Joan Robson.

"I think when we went through this smoking bylaw it was a hard-fought battle ... I think we should give it some time for people to get used to it. ...To make exemptions, just creates an unlevel playing field," said Johnson.

See BUSINESSMAN, pg. 7

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