

Chong, rivals spar at all-candidates' meeting

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into a shouting match between three of the five candidates (Bowser, Duignan and Chong) and with many in the audience adding their voice to the cacophony.

Chong expressed frustration throughout the evening with his draw as first speaker on all questions (without the usual debate rotation), that did not give him a chance to respond to the criticism and answers from the other four candidates, who succeeded him. This boiled over at one point, when Chong ignored a question from the floor on how his background will help with the economic future and instead used his time to rebut the previous criticisms directed at him on the previous environmental question.

Below is an excerpt of responses to questions by the candidates:

Climate change— why are the Conservatives opposed to the carbon tax?

Chong: He said there are two approaches to managing climate change—a carbon tax or a cap and trade system. The Conservatives felt cap and trade was “the best approach to take at this point.”

Streutker: “The scientists lied to us... the hype over climate change is nothing but a propaganda campaign by politicians to support plans for global taxes by a

global government.”

Bowser: Carbon tax targets the largest polluters and gives them incentives to improve their businesses' green efficiency and “this tax is put back in pockets of average citizen.”

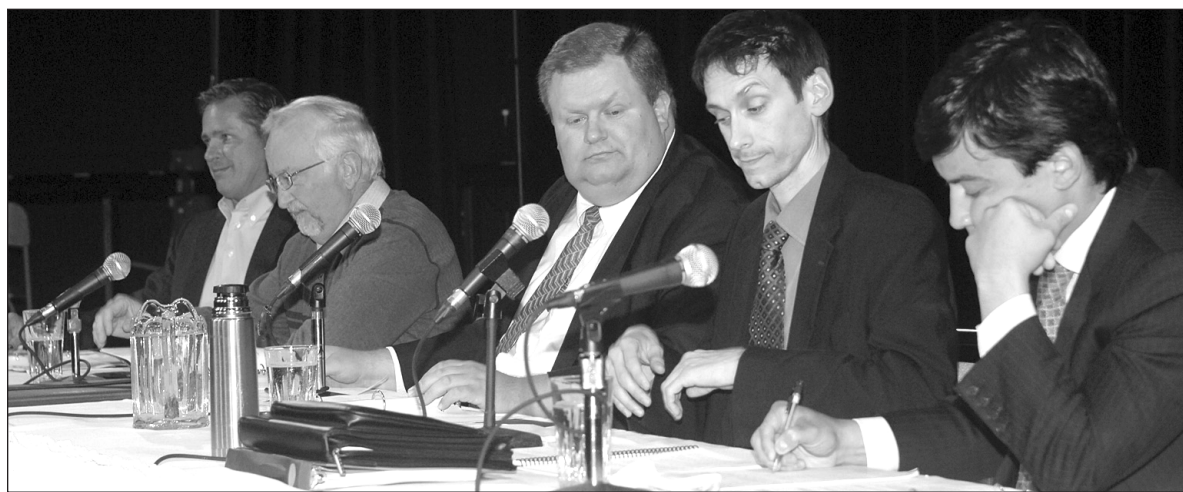
Duignan: Responding to Streutker's scientists' remark said “Nonsense!” and told Bowser the Liberal Green Shift is just a tax grab that will do nothing.

Bouteiller: The Green Party will reaffirm Kyoto Protocol commitments with set targets, will adopt a carbon tax with a set price, and a cap and trade system with a set ceiling on credits, plus require mandatory and more restrictive building and appliance standards.

Economy

Streutker: The CHP would eliminate the income tax system and put individual Canadians in charge of how much they will pay.

Chong: Said it was important to have confidence in the Canadian government— “Now is not the time for a \$40 billion shift (Liberal Green Shift plan) in economic policies in this country. ...and any government that proposes a \$40 billion shift in our economic policies is going to put a severe lack of confidence in our financial system and nothing could be more threatening to your livelihoods, your children's livelihoods than us to undergo the same kind of econom-



Wellington-Halton Hills candidates, from left, Bruce Bowser (Liberal), Noel Duignan (NDP), Jeffery Streutker (Christian Heritage), Brent Bouteiller (Green) and Michael Chong (Conservative) prepare to answer questions at Tuesday's all-candidates' meeting held at the John Elliott Theatre.

Photo by Ted Brown

ic turmoil south of the border.”

Bouteiller: Would focus on affordable mass transportation (bus and rail).

Duignan: Would look at the manufacturing sector and create an economic development agency for southern Ontario to deal with jobs lost and invest in infrastructure. Expand the transit and rail system, but also fix roads.

Bowser: Called for the creation of new jobs in the manufacturing sector with tax cuts and incentives.

PM Stephen Harper's right-wing approach:

Chong: “I don't agree with the question. I support my leader... I think he has done a good job in very difficult circumstances in a minority government. That's not to say that on every issue that I have agreed with him...When I do disagree and those issues are of fundamental import to our nation's

interest then yes, I will stand up and be heard.”

Bowser: “Facts don't match reality.” While Chong says the U.S. financial situation is scary and will spill over into Canada his PM says Canada is in a strong financial position... “Why are we having this election in one of the most serious economic times this country has ever seen?... Spending \$300 million... in the face of fixed election legislation that the (Harper) government passed to put us in a position where we wouldn't be able to do this— call an election when it was the right time for them.”

Duignan: “Here's the arrogance of the Liberals...Everybody at this table has the right to voice their party's platforms, not just the Liberals ... let's leave the choice to the people on Oct. 14.”

Bouteiller: “We're talking about the right-wing approach... the

Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America is an extreme right-wing approach” and is supported by both Conservatives and Liberals. “If implemented it would give away all our resources and all of our programs to corporate interests.

National childcare program:

Bouteiller: The Conservatives' \$1,200/year tax credit does not help families— a national childcare system is required.

Chong: Conservatives cancelled the Liberal plan for a national childcare program because they didn't think it would work and there was no provincial agreement on it; replaced it with the tax credit.

Duignan: Countered the \$1,200 is taxable... “and \$100 a month wouldn't buy any childcare space that I know of.”

Bowser: Did not address the child care issue.



The Regional Municipality of Halton

www.halton.ca

Halton Waste Management Calendar

ART CONTEST

Halton Region is looking for the next generation of artists to illustrate the covers of the 2009 Waste Management Guide & Collection Calendar!

- Students from kindergarten to grade eight, who live in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, can enter.
- The artwork theme is More Blue and Green for a Better Planet. Artwork must feature a Blue Box and GreenCart, and should showcase a positive environment.

**Contest closes
Friday, October 17 at 4:30 p.m.**

- Be as creative, expressive, bold and colourful as you like. You can use chalk, charcoal, collage, crayon, digital, graffiti, marker, paint, pencil, plasticine or photography.
- For artwork dimensions, contest guidelines and the downloadable entry form, visit www.halton.ca.



All entries will be showcased at the Halton Regional Centre during Waste Reduction Week (October 20 – 24, 2008). The winning artwork, one per Local Municipality, will appear on the covers of the 2009 Waste Management Guide & Collection Calendar distributed to single-family houses. Winners will receive a prize package, have their picture sent to local newspapers and will be recognized at Regional Council.

More Blue and Green for a Better Planet