

ACTON FREE PRESS



Jaguars roll over Georgetown rivals in senior boys' football action

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Candidates meet several times

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FRIDAY...

The Town will soon begin considering ways of increasing population in the Georgetown core. For details about a public meeting see Friday's edition.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Enjoying a taste of the downtown

Downtown Georgetown was the place to be Saturday if you were the least bit hungry as International Flavours— A Taste of Historic Downtown Georgetown— was held. Katrina Maheu of Georgetown and daughter Claire, 3, enjoyed a chocolate mousse at The Cellar. Passports were sold in advance so participants could sample the food at several downtown Georgetown eateries. Proceeds from the event went to the Georgetown Hospital and Georgetown Bread Basket. For more photos see page 9.

Photo by Calvin Dyke

But few businesspeople turn out to listen

Candidates outline economic policies

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

An early all-candidates debate Friday morning was marked more by the dismal turnout of local businesspeople than by the blasé political point-making by the candidates.

Discounting local politicians and chamber staff, less than 20 people turned out to hear four of the five Wellington-Halton Hills candidates who attended the breakfast meeting, organized by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The four candidates were Brent Bouteiller (Green), Bruce Bowser (Liberal), MP Michael Chong (Conservative) and Jeffery Streutker

(Christian Heritage). NDP representative Noel Duignan sent his regrets.

However, being as it was a Chamber event, the candidates did focus on their economic platforms. Plus, with the Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, a few Town councillors/staff and Halton Region chair Gary Carr in attendance, municipal infrastructure funding became a recurring theme throughout the early morning speeches and question and answer session.

All candidates supported an infusion of cash to aid municipal budgets on infrastructure funding. Bouteiller pointed to the Green policy of revising the current grant system to a fairer process via a long-term pool funded through RRSPs and 1 per cent of the GST. Bowser and Chong outlined their parties' plans: \$70 billion

over 10 years (Liberal) and \$60 billion over 6-7 years (Conservative). Streutker suggested a post-Second World War program that provided interest-free loans to municipalities that were repaid over the long-term.

All of the candidates were basically on the same page when it came to Sustainable Halton with Bowser calling it the number issue he's hearing when door-knocking. The candidates supported more intensification of housing in current population centres such as Toronto and Mississauga, before moving to expand in other municipal borders.

Chong and Bouteiller added that funding for mass transit (bus and rail) is critical for the success of any growth plan.

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