

# Ted Arnott supports funds for faith-based schools

Wellington-Halton Hills Conservative candidate Ted Arnott is not backing away from controversial plan his party to fund faith-based schools in Ontario. He says the governing Liberal are misrepresenting Conservative leader John Tory's position on school funding.

The subject of fair funding for faith-based schools has become a controversial and hotly debated issue in the lead up to the 2007 Provincial Election. But Arnott believes the Liberals have gone too far with their attacks on Tory.

"I have always supported excellence in our public education system, which is open to all students. By bringing together children of all ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, we teach them tolerance and respect for each other," Mr. Arnott said. "I have always supported funding for Catholic schools as well, as part of the historical compromise of Confederation in 1867," he added.

Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty sup-



PC candidate  
Ted Arnott

ports only the present system of Public and Catholic schools.

John Tory made a commitment some time ago to try to bring fairness to the funding of faith-based schools and bring them into the publicly-funded education system, said Arnott. Under Tory's plan, public funding would come with strings attached to ensure public accountability.

"I could not support funding for religious schools unless the funding problems in the public system are fixed first. John Tory's plan would also ensure that all schools receiving funding must have certified teachers, administer standardized tests, and teach the Ontario curriculum," Arnott said in a release. "In addition, I believe there needs to be regular inspection to ensure these funding conditions are being respected. If they are not, funding should be pulled immediately."

"John Tory's hope is that all Ontario students would have an equal chance to learn Canadian literature, history and geography, as well as the rest of the Ontario curriculum, regardless of the school they

attend. He wants to bring these kids into the publicly-funded system. That's what has motivated him to take this position," Arnott says.

Although Ontario goes to the polls both to elect a government and to vote on proportional representation only the Conservatives of the three major parties, have nominated a candidate in Wellington-Halton Hills. Mr. Arnott, the sitting MPP for Waterloo-Wellington was unanimously nominated to carry the Tory banner.

The Liberal party nominated Margaret Bentley, a former Georgetown school teacher, to contest the election last Thursday at the Optimist Hall in Silvercreek.

Sitting Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Chudleigh, recently married, is going to contest the old Halton seat for the Conservatives, which left the Wellington-Halton Hills seat vacant. Ted Arnott, who lives in the riding, decided it would be a better fit for him and easily won the Tory nomination.

# Letter exchange reveals dog-fighting ring here

To the editor:

I am aware that it takes all kinds to make the world go around, and must inevitably accept that there are people who have no clue what they are talking about. I do, however, believe that defending myself with respect to a pit bull attack on myself and my dogs has become one only

with K. Buchanan.

At the time of the attack, that had occurred late June, I honestly don't believe I could have done anything differently except maybe take a knife and slit the throat of the attacking dog. I did what I had to do to protect my animals. I was on my own



property, looking to enjoy some quality time with my own precious animals.

The only owner who is of blame here is the owner of the stray who set this vicious

animal free to terrorize our community. I will say that if I was ever put in that position again, and was ambushed by any animal without warning, I would not change a thing. I

will protect both humans and animals from any vicious, attacking beast.

I challenge K. Buchanan with the same question: Would you stand around, do nothing and watch a vicious animal, be it a bear, a rabid fox, or a stray pit bull attack your partner? What would you do? Go in and call ani-

mal control and wait for them to arrive so the

animal doesn't get hurt? Nevermind the human in this scenario. Meanwhile, some poor attackee is getting mauled...

I have learned, through the banter over these last few weeks, some information I would like to share with everyone and hope that as a community we can pull together. I have received calls and letters informing me that there is an underground dog fighting ring in our neighbourhood. This pit bull was potentially part of this ring in producing fighters for this incredibly stupid, senseless, cowardly sport. This is interesting timing especially with the charges laid against Mr. Vick for operating his own dog fighting ring.

If anyone has any information on the location of this ring, of the people involved I ask you to please come forward, and bring this information to the local authorities. It is this kind of thing that really puts a bad name to the pit bull, which is a tragedy for sure.

I thank all the people who called, wrote and spoke with me in passing who supported me and my actions on that frightening day. I thank all readers of the New (Acton) Tanner for continuing to keep this story alive (even Mrs. Buchanan!), in hopes that someone may know who the owner of the pit bull in question is and come forward with the information. I also thank Mr. Durgan, for his heartfelt rebuttal. I especially appreciated your last sentence and agree with it wholeheartedly.

Mrs. Frances Turk  
BSc, PTS, ND



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