

Two of five Milton candidates talk traffic, transit and hydro

Green candidate Eleanor Hayward and the Liberals' Indira Naidoo-Harris were the only candidates present at May 23 event.

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Candidates running for Milton's seat in the provincial legislature fielded questions on hydro bills, GO Transit and the CN Intermodal Logistics Hub at a local election forum on May 23. That is to say, two of them did.

Green candidate Eleanor Hayward and the Liberals' Indira Naidoo-Harris both attended the election forum at Milton District High School, organized by the Milton and District chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Noticeably absent were the rest of the candidates in the riding: Progressive Conservative Parm Gill, NDP candidate Brendan Smyth and Libertarian candidate Ben Cunningham.

When asked about the cost of hydro, Hayward reiterated her party's promise to save money by cancelling the costly refurbishment of the Pickering nuclear plant, and instead build transmission lines to bring in cheap hydro from Quebec. She noted the plan gets Ontario away from having to find a place to store nuclear waste and could help avoid a meltdown.

"There's a fault line under Lake Ontario and (the province has done) very little to prepare for something like that," she said.

Naidoo-Harris was direct as she stood by her party's efforts to rebuild Ontario's electricity grid, saying

it was something that would have had to happen eventually, and her party recognized the need and got it done.

"We had to make a choice: do we invest in a patch-job or respect that

the entire roof needs repair?" she said. "Yes, it cost a lot. But now we are ahead of the game."

The crowd quickly began humming when the candidates were asked about the controversial CN

intermodal hub, which the rail company wants to build on 400 acres near Britannia and Tremaine Roads. The hub would see significantly increased truck traffic in the area and has faced intense local op-

position, but is primarily a federal issue, noted Naidoo-Harris.

"The provincial government will be intervening in environment and transportation, where we have some say," she said.

Hayward said she supported the town in taking CN to court.

"Amen," exclaimed one woman in the crowd.

Local traffic and transit routes were also at issue, with Hayward pointing out that students at the soon-to-be-built education village would have to travel across town to access GO's Milton train station, something she doesn't see as practical or efficient.

"We want to skate where the puck is going, we don't want to be duking it out on the boards where the puck has been."

In addition to touting her government's investments in additional GO trains and additional parking spots at Milton GO, Naidoo-Harris celebrated a planned expansion of Highway 401 from six lanes to 12 between Mississauga and Milton.


"I commute in my car and also on GO," she said. "I know how frustrating it can be to be sitting in traffic on the 401."

The May 23 event was the second election forum in two days that saw only the Green and Liberal candidates take part. The previous evening's event was an education-focused debate hosted by the Halton District School Board.

Local CFUW president Kathy Sellers, the May 23 event's moderator, told the crowd that Gill alerted organizers the day before the event that he would not at-

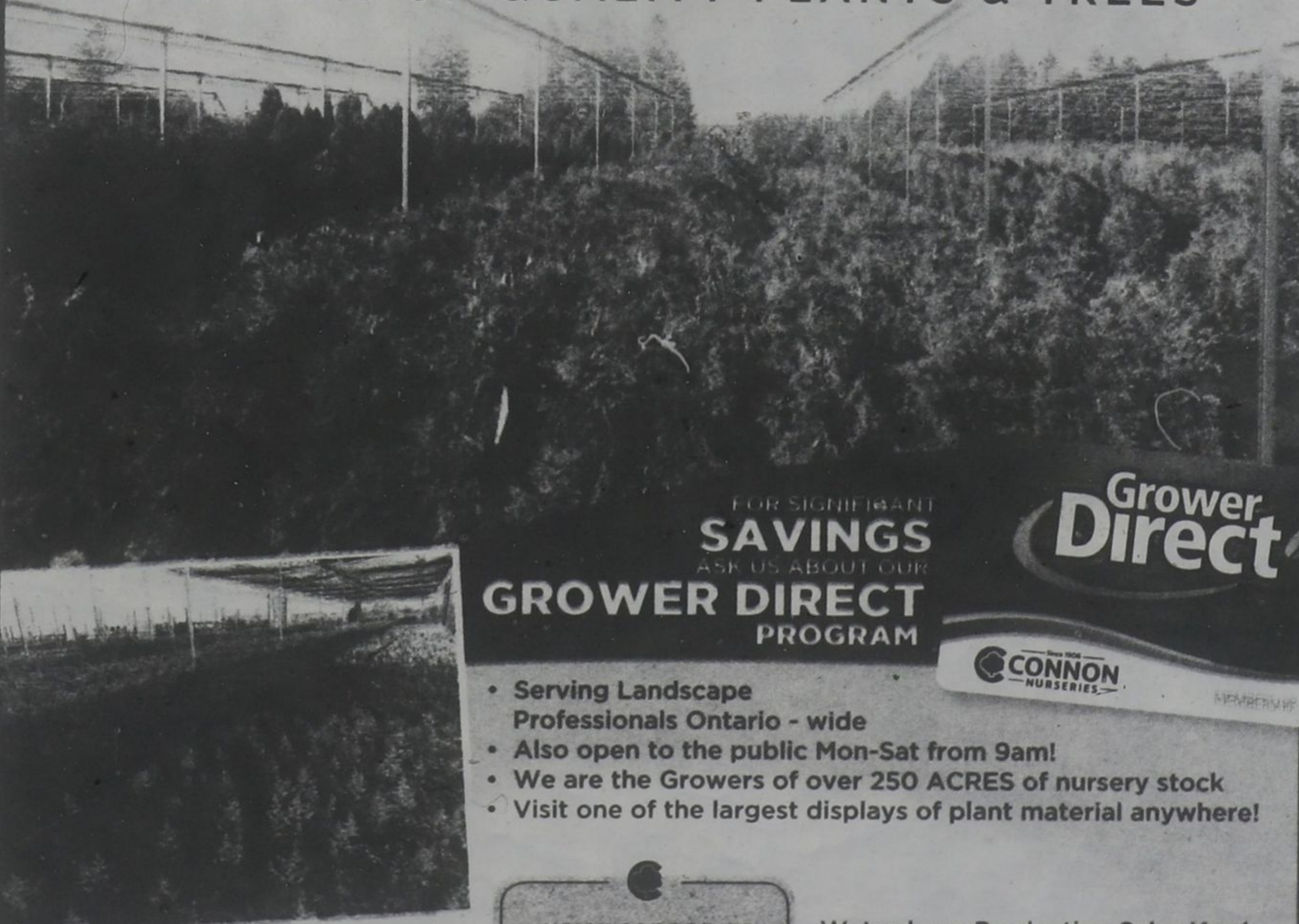
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NEWS

Halton students excel at Skills Ontario competition

2,300 compete in skilled trades and technologies contests

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Halton students fared well at last week's Skills Ontario competition at the Toronto Congress Centre with 32 finishing in the top

five in various categories.

The competition was fierce, with 2,300 students from elementary schools, high schools and colleges across Ontario vying for first place in nearly 70 skilled trades and technolo-

gies contests. It's the largest skilled trades and technology competition in Canada.

In the secondary school competitions, four students - Luca Patrick, Aidan Kolosky and the team of Ofer Weis and Matthew Wilson -

won their division.

In the elementary school competitions, two four-person teams finished second and two other four-somes finished fourth and fifth in their respective divisions.

Sheridan College had three competitors finish in the top five including winner Jake Doan in the Industrial Mechanic Millwright division.

A broad range of skills and careers were re-

presented from across the manufacturing, transportation, construction, service and technology sectors as students competed for gold, silver, and bronze

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