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"Using Communication to Build Better Communities"

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Fine art

Stained glass artist Suna Reay, seen here with one of her floral pieces, is one of the local artists who will showcase their work in the Fine Arts Society of Milton's Studio Tour October 4 and 5. See story on page 14.

Candidates field tough questions

BY LISA TALLYN

Special to The Champion

Education, auto insurance and what's being done for cancer patients were just some of the issues Halton riding provincial candidates tackled at an all-candidates meeting at the Milton Leisure Centre Tuesday night.

All the candidates, except for Green Party representative Matt Smith, were on hand for the Milton Jaycees-sponsored event, which drew an audience of about 100, mostly well-mannered spectators.

After opening remarks, the audience had a chance to ask questions. One man asked PC incumbent Ted Chudleigh if health practitioners who work on soft tissue injuries and have had their fees cut by insurance companies were causing a drain on insurance company profits or if auto fraud was to blame.

"Certainly the cost of treating soft tissue injury is a major factor of increasing costs of auto insurance," said Mr. Chudleigh.

He added while personal injuries in accidents have declined by 10 per cent over the last 10 years, the costs to treat soft tissue injuries has jumped by 410 per cent.

He said his government recently announced its plans to cut insurance rates by 10 to 15 per cent.

Liberal candidate Barbara Sullivan criticized the PCs for taking so long to make a move to cut rates.

"There is no evidence of fraud by medical professionals and health professionals in the auto insurance system," she said.

A woman asked Mr. Chudleigh and Ms Sullivan about priorities in education funding.

"We are committed to putting \$1.6 billion back into the education system. Don't forget the Tories took that out," said Ms Sullivan.

Mr. Chudleigh said their government's education policy has "created accountability in schools."

"We will commit to all the money that Dr. Rozanski recommended go into the educational system," said Mr. Chudleigh.

The other candidates also chose to answer.

To a round of applause, Mr. Jackson said, "We need to take the politics out of educa-



Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh answers a question from the audience while the other candidates wait their turn.

tion" and give it back to teachers and school boards. He added the NDP believes \$2.1 billion needs to be reinvested back into education.

"What the FCP will do is to remove this confrontational aspect (fighting about funding formulas) from education by having parents choose the school of their choice and money will follow that decision," said Mr. Gori.

To a round of applause, a woman with cancer who said she had to wait five months to start treatment, asked what's being done for cancer patients.

Mr. Chudleigh said his government is

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