

Gori says he has solutions to various issues in Halton

By **JASON MISNER**

The Champion

On the second floor of a Mississauga office building overlooking Hwy. 401, a receptionist phones Giuseppe Gori to tell him a reporter is ready for his 2 p.m. interview.

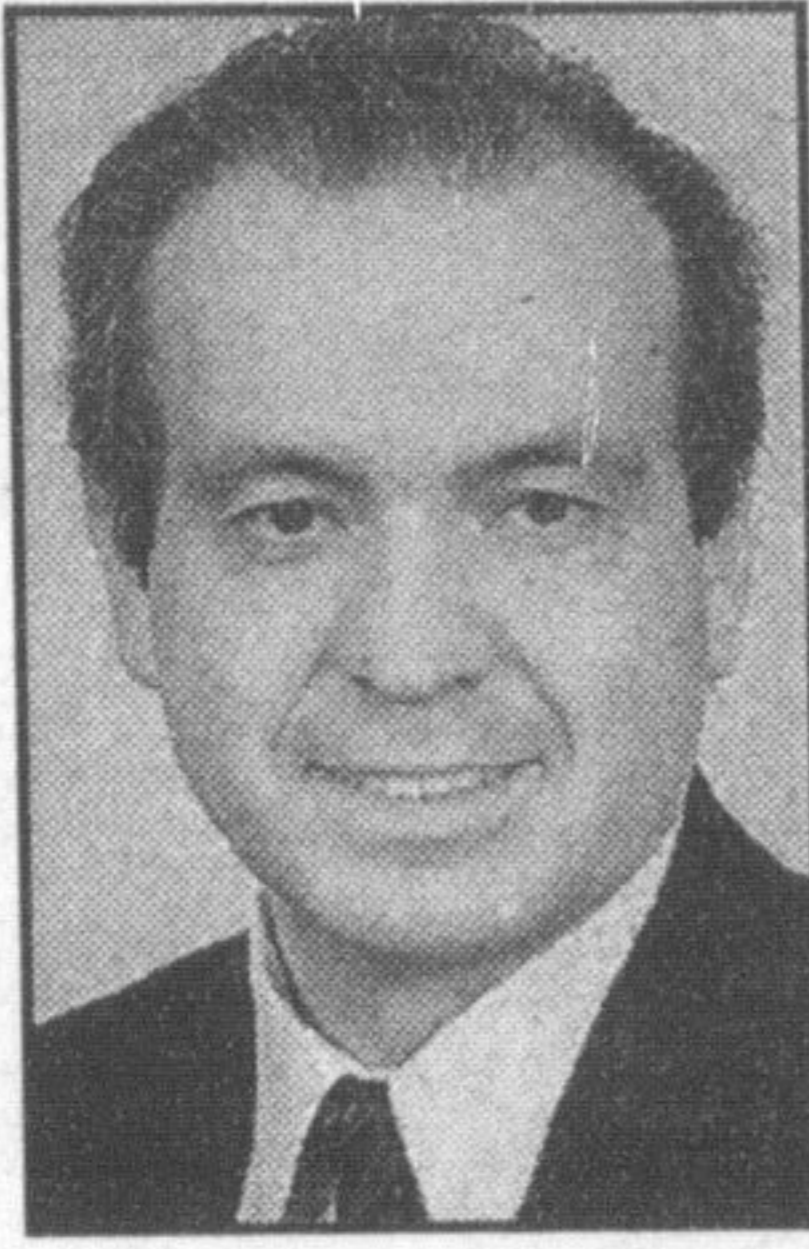
Following a friendly handshake, the leader of the Family Coalition Party of Ontario and Halton provincial candidate meanders through a winding hallway to the modest office that's serving as the party's election headquarters.

The office is simply decorated. It's bright, has high beige walls, with the only splash of colour beaming from the deep cherry-coloured desk and a table tucked in the corner.

It's the kind of space that fits the 15-year-old party's current needs, said the Italy-born Mr. Gori, who has been party leader since 1998.

"How effective is it to spend a lot of lot money on things like signs and brochures?" asked the long-time Halton Hills resident.

The party — which is known for defending the traditional definition of marriage — seems to be moving forward with the way it's doing things.



Giuseppe Gori

In the last election, it had 37 candidates. This election, it has 51 candidates running in the 103 provincial ridings.

For Mr. Gori, a goal for the party is to keep increasing its profile, to provide voters with a choice that he hopes will inevitably lead to more Family Coalition candidates running in future elections.

He proudly pointed out when he ran in the 1990 election, he garnered 9.2 per cent of the vote — or 2,500 votes — in the Halton riding.

In this election, Mr. Gori said he has solutions to some issues in Halton that he hopes will see his voting percentage climb even further.

He said too much development has focused on the Toronto area. He said it needs to branch out to allow other "satellite cities" to thrive.

To make that happen, his government would build a high-speed

transit system — trains — that would reach places like Halton, London and Peterborough.

Mr. Gori said better and environmentally-friendly access would entice businesses to look outside of Toronto and locate in other cities.

"Development in Halton is really dependent on the GTA," he said. "On one side Toronto is becoming too big. Transportation to Toronto is becoming more and more a serious problem. We can connect them (other cities) with a very high-rapid transit system."

Affordable housing, Mr. Gori stressed, is an issue in Halton because young families are moving into the riding looking to buy, in some cases, their first home.

He said he has a plan that would entice private developers to build attractive-looking duplexes that can fit two families, in a subdivision they could buy into.

Mortgage payments would be lower and the down payment, which can be a hindrance for many Mr. Gori said, would be less in a duplex and would provide both families the opportunity to own.

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