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An Education Beyond Today

Chudleigh's absence draws disappointment at meeting

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Champion

Four out of five might not be bad for dental surveys, but surely isn't great for all-candidates meetings.

The organizers behind what turned out to be a 'some-candidates' meeting at Martin Street School Monday night were disappointed that PC MPP and Halton candidate Ted Chudleigh didn't attend.

"It isn't that he couldn't come, but that he wouldn't come," said Colin Best, who helped organize the meeting that focused on education issues.

Mr. Best said he was told by Mr. Chudleigh's office that the candidate would attend only two meetings in each community in the riding. In Milton, he was to attend the meetings organized by the Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees.

But Terry Jackson, a campaign spokesperson for Mr. Chudleigh, denied that and said the Tory candidate was busy with a fundraising event Monday night.

"We did regret that we were not able to be there," she said. "We've done all the events he's been able to accommodate with his busy schedule."

In addition to the Martin Street School meeting, Mr. Chudleigh also failed to appear for an all-candidates meeting at an Oakville high

school earlier in the day Monday.

Organizers weren't the only ones disappointed that Mr. Chudleigh was a no-show.

Several of the about 50 people who showed up for the debate said they had specifically wished to question Mr. Chudleigh about Tory educational policies.

"I'm personally insulted that (Chudleigh) is not here," said one man.

The evening, organized by the school's parent council, allowed candidates an opportunity to outline their party platforms in the area of education. Liberal candidate Barbara Sullivan told the audience that her party would spend an additional \$1.6 billion on education, cut class sizes for young children, raise the drop-out age to 18 years and improve relations with Ontario teachers.

"You can't take \$2 billion out of the education budget and expect that we will have a system that will work and produce the highly educated young people that we need in our society," said Ms Sullivan, criticising Tory policy.

Jay Jackson, the NDP candidate for Halton, said his party would spend an additional \$2.1 billion on education, introduce full-day junior and senior kindergarten, reduce waiting lists for special education and cut post-secondary tuition fees by 10 per cent.

Family Coalition candidate Giuseppe Gori told the audience that his party would spend less money on both education and health care, but improve the quality of service.

Mr. Gori said the Family Coalition Party endorses a voucher-style education system, which would allow parents to shop around for any school they believe their children would succeed in.

He suggested that system would improve the quality of schools by introducing an element of competition, as well as allowing parents to have direct control over the type of curriculum their children learn.

"Education centralized and big doesn't work," he said. "It needs to be decentralized."

Matt Smith, who represents the Green Party, said he believes Ontario's education system is currently in disarray.

"I think everybody agrees that the Progressive Conservatives have been destroying our educational system," he said.

He said his party would keep small neighbourhood schools open by introducing community use of the buildings.

Candidates also fielded questions about teacher training, school boards, curriculum, testing of students, programs for exceptional students and literacy testing.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION YOU CAN VOTE BEFORE OCTOBER 2

If you are qualified to vote and your name is on the Voters List, you may vote before election day at any advance poll in your electoral district. Ballots cast at advance polls will be counted at the close of the regular polls on election day.

If you have not received your Notice of Registration card and you would like to vote at an advance poll, you can apply for a Certificate to Vote at your Returning Office or at the advance poll location itself when you go there to vote.

ADVANCE POLL VOTING WILL BE HELD

X In your Returning Office
from Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 20**
through Friday, **SEPTEMBER 26**
(Sunday excluded)
between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

At Area Advance Polls
Wednesday, **SEPTEMBER 24**
Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 25**
Friday, **SEPTEMBER 26**
between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

In HALTON

Returning Office
X 360 Steeles Ave E, Milton
905.876.1131 or 1.866.271.6881

- Royal Canadian Legion, 15 Wright St, Acton
- St John's United Church, 11 Guelph St, Georgetown
- St Andrew's United, 89 Mountainview Rd S, Georgetown
- St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 2600 Headon Forest Dr, Burlington
- St. Joan of Arc Catholic School, 2912 Westoak Tr, Oakville
- Tansley United Church, 2111 Walkers Line, Burlington
- Southside Community Church, 2850 Derry Rd W, Milton
- Croatian Catholic Mission, 2110 Trafalgar Rd., Oakville

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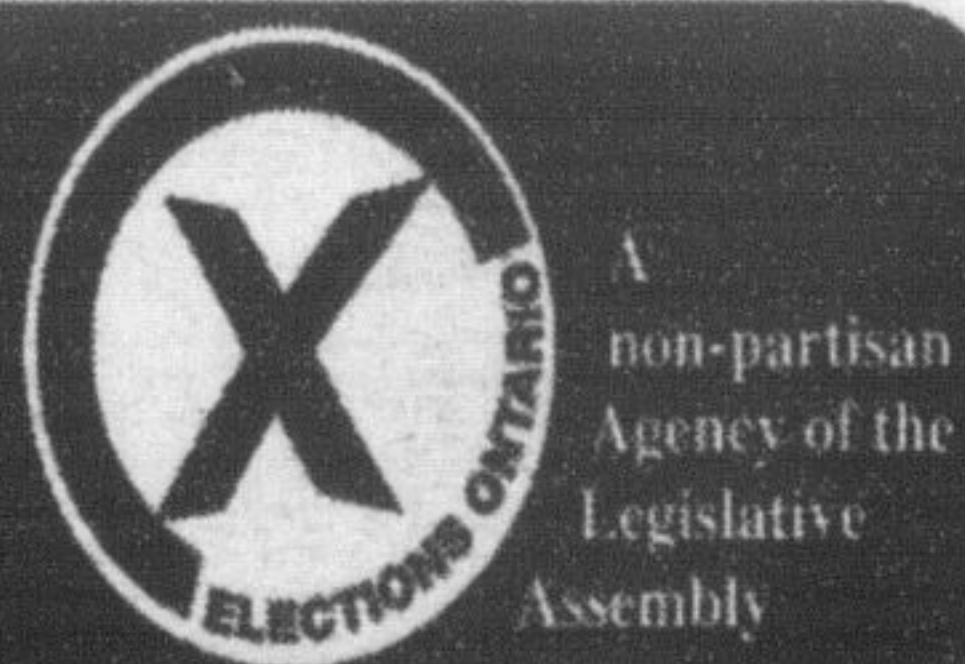


Published on behalf of electoral district Returning Officers by **John L. Hollins, Chief Election Officer**

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