

PC leadership hopeful here

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

Progressive Conservative leadership hopeful John Tory rolled into Milton Tuesday morning, announcing elaborate plans to banish the province's deficit and get in touch with Ontario's people.

Over breakfast at the Millside Restaurant, Mr. Tory spoke to a group of about three dozen PC party supporters, including recently-defeated Halton Conservative Party of Canada candidate Dean Martin and Milton Councillor John Challinor.

The lawyer, who became well known when he ran for mayor of Toronto last year, said if he became the party leader and ultimately the premier, he would use his background in fundraising to clean up the province's enormous debt.

"(It would be) paid down by hundreds of people writing small cheques to the party," he said. "When people write this cheque, it's a sign of commitment. I understand how to raise money, and I know what has to be done."

He added he would have the province's budget approved by an elected executive, which would



John Tory

Mr. Tory said another one of his goals is to get in touch with the grassroots of Ontario, involving the province's citizens in the political process.

In particular, he said the party membership lacks immigrants, women and young people.

"We as a party have not done a good enough job reaching out to those people (of different cultures)," he said.

He added that right now, 75 per cent of the party membership is men. "We have to make sure women feel comfortable and at home with the Progressive Conservative Party."

Also, Mr. Tory said he wants to take away the health care premium Dalton McGuinty recently implemented and better manage the health-care budget.

He said using demographics to

have to be constantly accountable for where taxpayers' dollars are going, not just at budget time.

predict the number of people who will need different treatments down the road could improve the province's ailing system.

He also said people can help by taking on more responsibility for their health in terms of prevention and lifestyle changes, like giving up smoking.

In Mr. Tory's opinion, the PCs can come back into power in Ontario by restoring the party's image to one of accountability and integrity. "We want to be people that are not seen as threatening. We're going to have to earn our way back," he said. "We have to get to much more frequent accountability."

Mr. Tory has been an active member of the PC party for 36 years, is the past CEO of Rogers Cable and Rogers Media and has done extensive charitable work. He has been married for 26 years and has four children.

Mr. Tory will be up against Jim Flaherty and Frank Klees September 18, when party members will vote for a new leader. *Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadian-champion.com.*

Thieves take \$40,000 in jewelry

A large quantity of valuable jewelry was stolen during a residential break-in Tuesday.

Sometime between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., unknown suspects entered a First Line home through the unlocked garage door.

Halton Regional Police said the culprits ransacked through bedrooms and eventually found the jewelry.

The estimated value of the stolen property is \$40,000.

Police are investigating.

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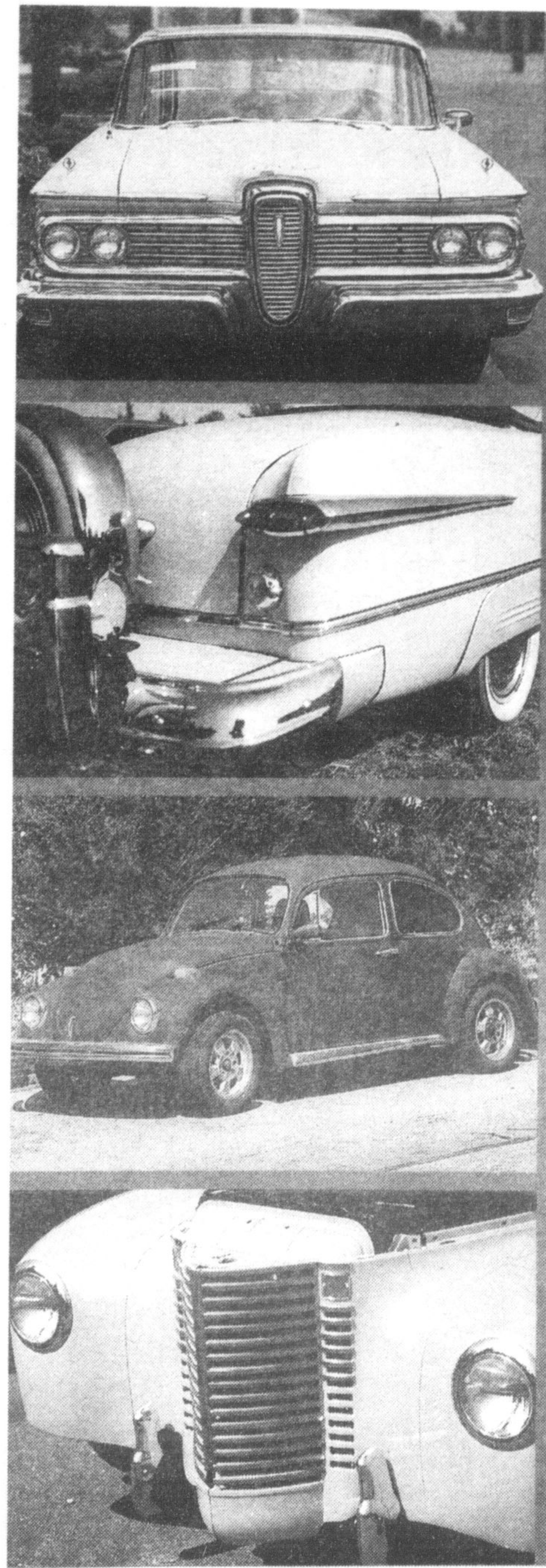
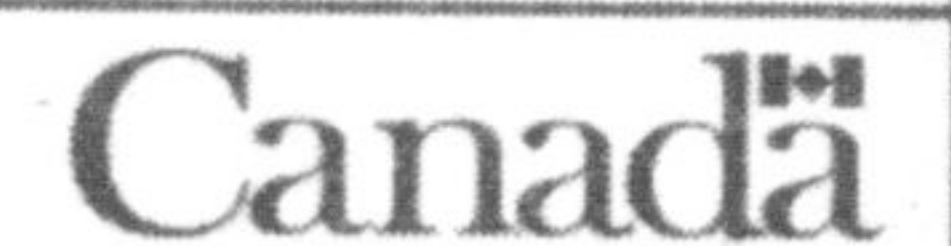
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