

Conservative MPs stop in core as part of tour

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Downtown business people had a chance to voice their concerns and talk politics with Conservative MPs and Halton MP hopeful Garth Turner Wednesday.

Opposition House Leader John Reynolds, who's also an MP in west Vancouver, and Leeds-Grenville MP Gord Brown stopped by Milton as part of a cross-country tour to support Conservative candidates like Mr. Turner.

The trio ventured down Main Street, stopping to chat with people like lawyer Lorne Greenwood, who expressed his thoughts on everything from what he sees as the need to amend immigration policies to taxes.

"I think we're being overtaxed," he said.

And Mr. Greenwood wasn't alone with that sentiment. The MPs said taxes was one of the main issues raised by the downtown business people, along with child-care.

In an interview at The Champion office, Mr. Reynolds agreed that Canadians are too highly taxed, while Mr. Brown detailed how the Conservatives would address taxation and child care issues together through a tax credit.

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OPPOSITION HOUSE LEADER JOHN REYNOLDS

"We want to put money into the hands of parents so they can make a choice," he said, meaning the credit could be spent on the kind of day care they prefer, whether it be with an individual or a company.

Mr. Turner said for example, this could benefit local residents who do shift work at the Ford plant in Oakville who most likely don't use the traditional day-care centre that's only open during the day.

The MPs also touched on the upcoming federal election that's expected to be called sometime this winter.

Turner already campaigning

While that's still several months down the road, Mr. Turner said he's ready and has already been campaigning, going door-to-door to speak with local residents.

"People have been quite receptive," he said, noting the Halton Conservative riding association membership has more than doubled in the last few months.

Mr. Turner went on to voice his concern with the current government's "overspending" — which he said in turn drives mortgage interest rates up — and how it will impact local residents.

"When these rates start to move up, it's going to hurt families," he said, noting that many people who live in Milton's Hawthorne Village are financing 95 per cent of the cost of their home, so even a quarter or half per cent interest rate increase would be a burden.

"There will be consequences for people here in Halton," he said.

Those who didn't have a chance to speak with Mr. Turner Wednesday can take their thoughts and concerns to town hall meetings he's holding September 27 at Hugh Foster Hall and October 5 at the Nassagaweya Community Centre on Guelph Line in Brookville. Both meetings start at 7 p.m.

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MP John Reynolds (left) and MP hopeful Garth Turner (right) talk with lawyer Lorne Greenwood downtown Wednesday as part of the tour.

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Only 50 tickets left for mayor's gala

Almost 300 tickets have already been sold for the celebration of Gord Krantz's 25th year as Milton mayor. The event has a 350 capacity, and organizers expect tickets to sell out in the next few weeks.

The celebration, hosted by the Milton Chamber of Commerce, will take place at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club September 24 at 6 p.m.

Tickets for the black-tie event cost \$125 per person and include a full five-course meal, seafood bar and cocktail reception. Jim Paulson of AM 740 and Father Mark Curtis will act as masters of ceremony, and several guest speakers will pay tribute to Mayor Krantz.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Milton Chamber of Commerce Legacy Fund in the name of Gord Krantz to improve and maintain community landmarks. Allison Mang, co-ordinator of the celebration, hopes the event will raise close to \$60,000.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sandy Martin or Allison Mang at (905) 878-0581 or e-mail sandy@chamber.milton.on.ca.

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