

Health care, gun violence top Miltonians' concerns

Door-to-door efforts a tough go for local NDP and Green Party candidates

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

Miltonians want shorter wait times for health care, political accountability and handguns off the streets.

With the federal election on the horizon, these are some of the things on local residents' minds that they're laying on local federal election candidates who show up on their doorsteps.

The Champion tagged along with NDP candidate Anwar Naqvi and the Green Party's Dr. Kyle Grice this week while they visited area households to listen in on what citizens are thinking.

Milton Votes



FEDERAL ELECTION 2006

For Cobban Road resident Cathrine Duke, handguns topped the list of concerns she shared with Dr. Grice as her two young children bustled around in the background — particularly since her husband is a police officer in Peel Region.

"My husband is at risk every time he goes on the street," she said.

While Dr. Grice noted that handguns are banned, Ms Duke said she thinks "there's nothing being done." The 35-year-old candidate told her he feels "guns don't commit the crimes — people do," and that programs need to be established to get youths off the street and involved in other things, like sports or volunteering.

Ms Duke said she's undecided right now as to which party she'll vote for on January 23, remarking that the Green Party's lack of a presence in the party leaders' televised debate makes the decision that much more difficult.

"I think it's ridiculous. I wanted to see all sides of the story," she said. "How is that democracy?"

"We did as much as we possibly could (to be in the debate)," Dr. Grice responded, pointing out they even had a petition signed by thousands of people who wanted to see the Green Party included.

While several other households Dr. Grice visited admitted they're unaware of what the Green Party stands for, he remained positive in delivering his message to constituents.

"We consider ourselves a party of the future for the future," he told one man who said he'd never heard of the Green Party before.

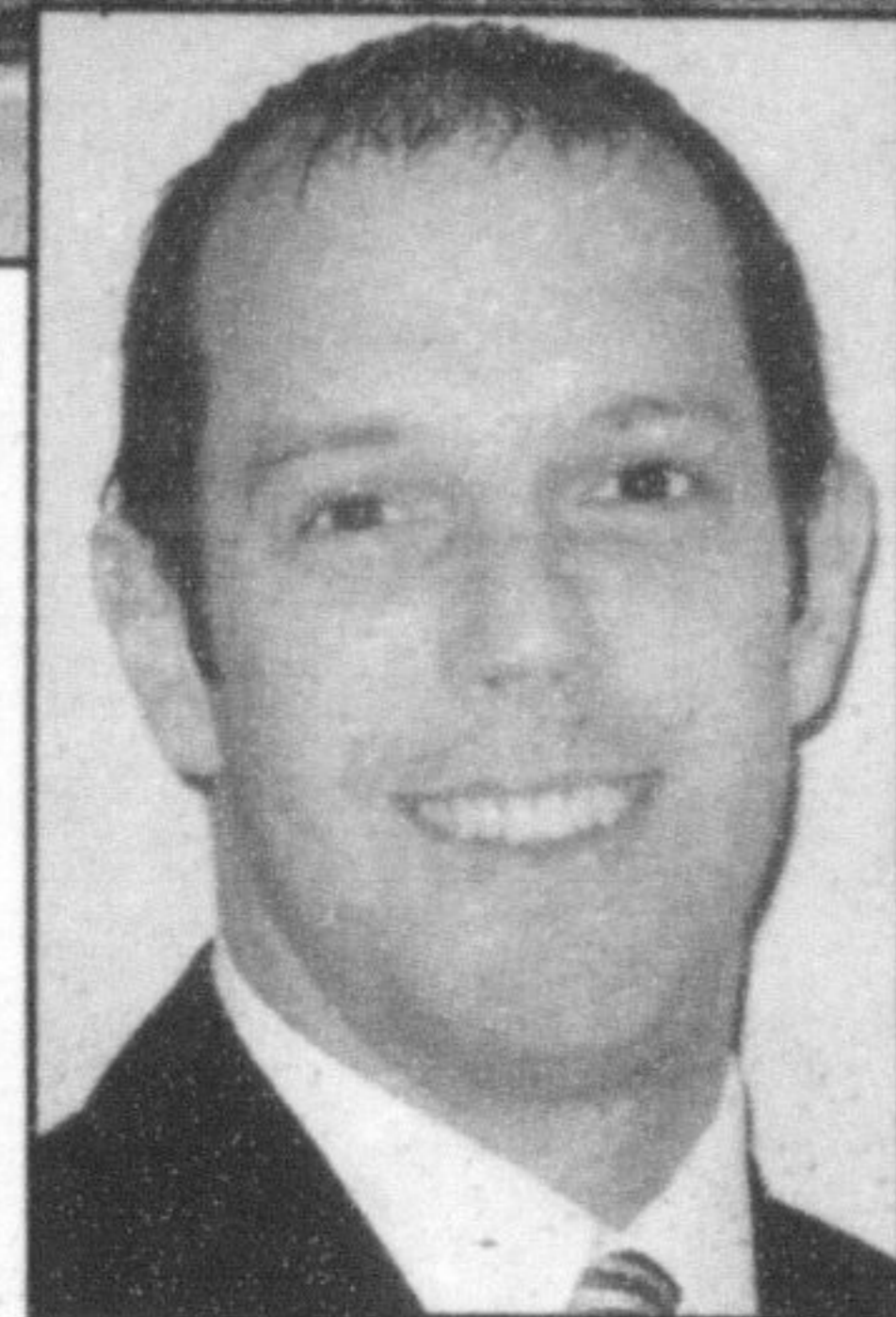
Mr. Naqvi faced a slightly different roadblock when he hit Joyce Boulevard Monday morning to knock on some doors.

Most residents in the neighbourhood were away at work, and the majority of those who were home simply took his campaign literature and wished him all the best, but the 69-year-old retired lawyer wasn't discouraged.

"This leg work pays off," he said, noting anyone he comes into contact with could vote for him simply because he took the time to come to their home.

"The important thing is whatever message in which I believe, I'm spreading it."

• see **GETTING** on page A10



Halton NDP candidate Anwar Naqvi goes door knocking in the Woodward and Wilson area of town earlier this week. He and Green Party candidate Dr. Kyle Grice (at left) say they've enjoyed getting their parties' messages out.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



Bill's
AUTO BODY
(ROYAL ATLANTIC) INC.



Ries Boers



Working #1 Harder to Stay

INSURANCE CLAIMS ARE OUR SPECIALTY

Now OPEN Saturday mornings!

Complete auto body and refinishing services

155 Nipissing Rd., Milton
(905) 878-2721

MILTON TOYOTA
& GORRUD'S AUTO GROUP



We're Growing

Due to overwhelming growth, Milton Toyota and Gorrud's Auto have the following opportunities available:

- Toyota Certified Technicians/Mechanics
- General Technicians/Mechanics (all makes and models)
- Sales and Product Consultants (New and Used Vehicles)
- Vehicle Cleaning and Detailing
- Part-time Receptionist

Gorrud's Auto Group and Milton Toyota offer excellent working conditions, compensation and benefit packages. We are also open to flexible working arrangements for most positions. Send your resume to

Gorrud's Auto Group/Milton Toyota
400 Steeles Avenue
Milton Ontario L9T 1Y4

Attention Chris Gorman
or by email to

employment@miltontoyota.com