

# Keene taking another shot at Conservative nomination

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Miltonian D'Arcy Keene is taking another shot at the local Conservative nomination now that Halton MP Garth Turner has been told he can't run under the Tory banner again.

The long-time party supporter, who was defeated by Turner in the 2005 nomination contest, announced Tuesday that he'll be seeking the candidate position again for the next federal election. "The Conservatives in Halton deserve a candidate who will honestly represent their views as a member of the Stephen Harper team," said the 46-year-old.

While outspoken MP Turner was known to not always tow the party line, Keene has pledged to "remain faithful to our party and constituents once elected."

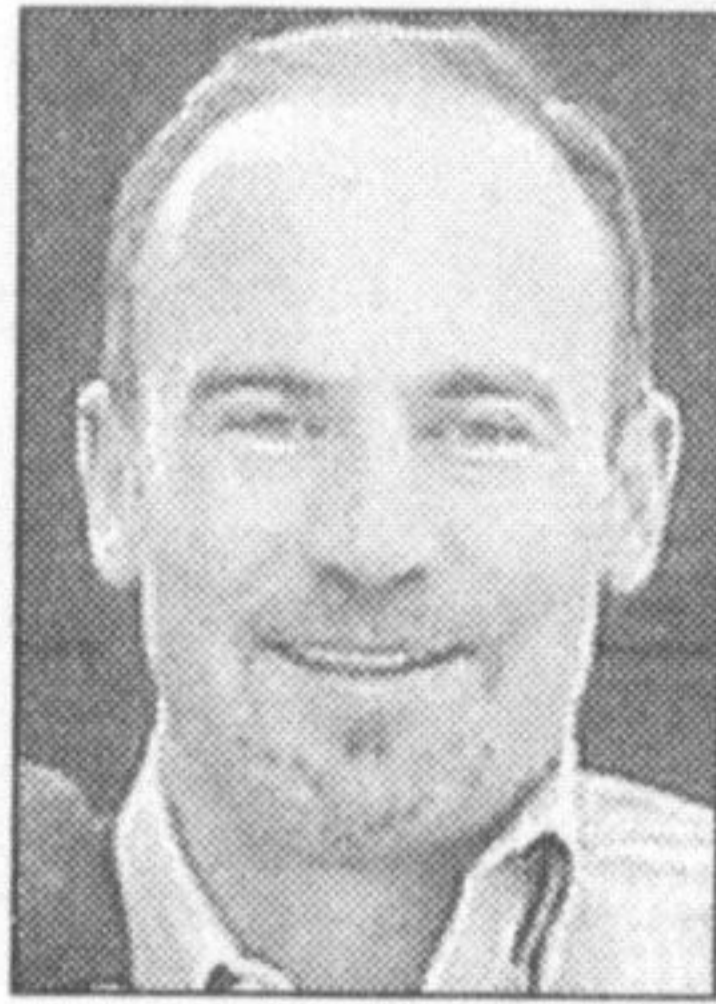
"In the last election, people in our community voted for our party's platform of lower taxes, accountability in government and stronger law and order," he said. "Any MP elected because of his party's platform needs to remain true to the principles he campaigned on."

Keene, who works in the information technology sector, has a long history in Conservative party politics at the provincial and federal levels. He stood as a federal candidate twice in the past, served as a vice president of the Ontario Progressive Conservative party under Mike Harris and managed and chaired several campaigns.

"With my experience and background, I'm confident we can keep Halton in the Conservative family," he said, adding he would start campaigning immediately if nominated to ensure Halton is ready for the next election.

And in that next election, Keene said he sees the Conservative party moving forward with its economic agenda and its push for toughening up on criminals. "As Milton grows, it (crime) is going to become more of an issue for us," he said.

Keene's name was recently in the news, since it was thought he may run against Turner for the nomination in September.



D'Arcy Keene

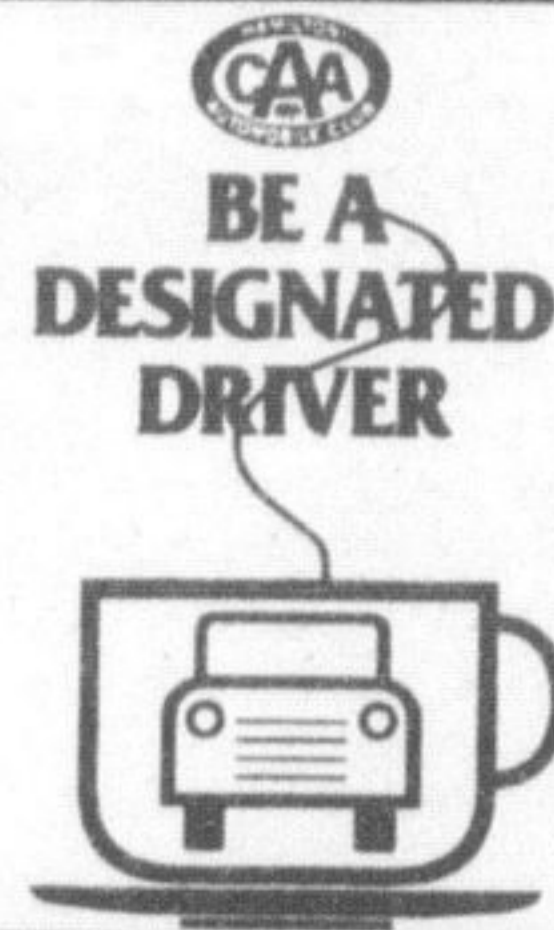
He was encouraged to contest Turner by the Defend Marriage Coalition, which has promised to try to overthrow MPs who favour same-sex marriage. But in the end, he didn't go for the spot.

He told The Champion in September that while he received a lot of support from the community, he felt there wasn't enough time to sign up the new members needed to challenge Turner at the nomination meeting. The Conservatives had only allowed about one week for nomination candidates to state their intentions and for new members to sign up.

When asked if the Defend Marriage Coalition encouraged him to run this time around, Keene said no. He noted he does support the traditional definition of marriage and reopening the same-sex marriage debate.

According to Halton Conservative riding association president Patric Whyte, the next nomination meeting could be held as early as mid-January. He also said a nomination committee could be established this month.

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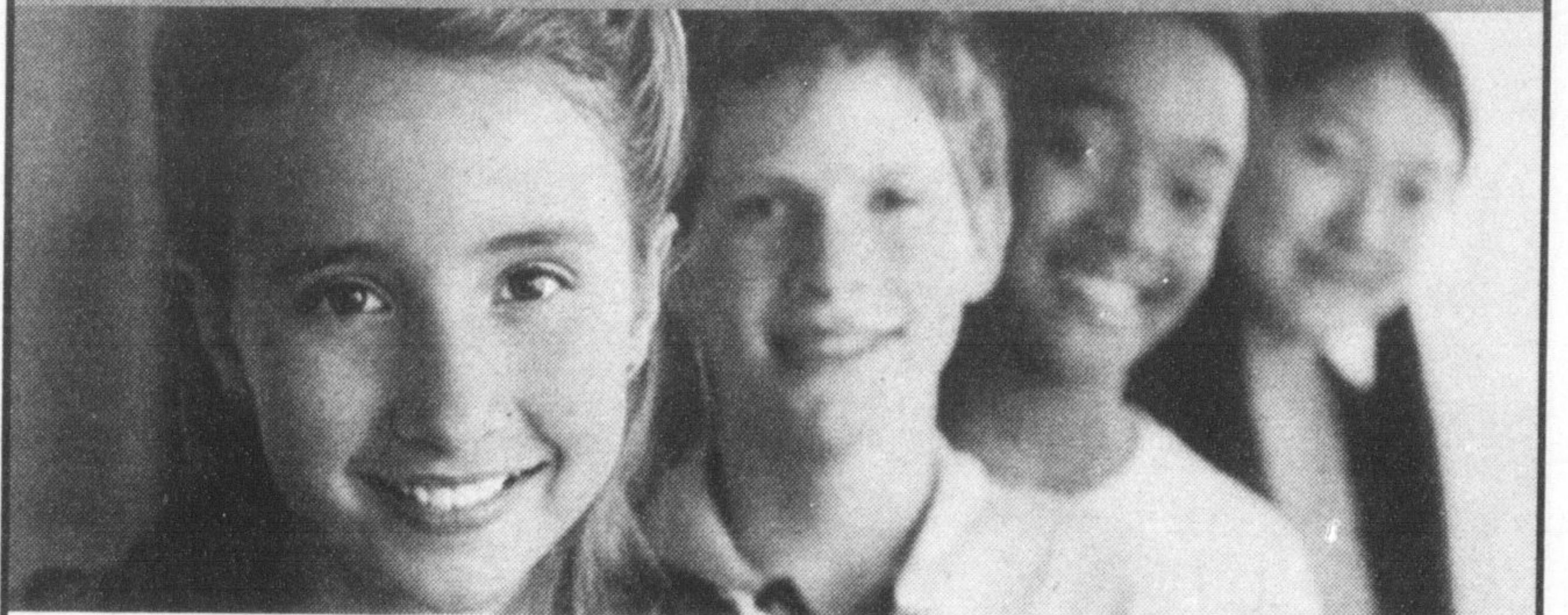
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