

Region pushing 'Fairness to Halton'

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Local politicians are pushing the Fairness for Halton campaign message with provincial ministers this week.

Regional Chair Gary Carr and his Fairness campaign colleagues are slated to chat with the minister of municipal affairs and housing and minister of transportation at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference, which started in Ottawa on Sunday and runs through until tomorrow. "We're going to talk to them about their commitments to infrastructure," Carr told the *Champion* before he left for the conference.

The Fairness for Halton initiative was launched in March to tell the Ontario government that the region can't accommodate the thousands of residents called for in the Province's Places to Grow plan without some hefty funding for things like infrastructure. Since then, those at Queen's Park have promised to phase out GTA pooling — the system that helps Toronto pay for its social service costs. Pooling has cost Halton about \$41 million each year, or around \$180 for the average taxpayer.

Carr said while Halton is grateful to have those pooling funds back, there's still work to be done. "We want to ask that development charges (are reformed to) help pay a bigger share of infrastructure costs," he said.

The regional chair is joined by the four local mayors and some members of their councils at the AMO conference.

As the provincial election nears this fall, Carr said the Fairness campaign will take its next step — surveying the local candidates. "We want to ask all the candidates what they're going to do to fund infrastructure. We'd like to have their answers in writing so that after the election we're able to hold them accountable for what they promised."

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

The Ontario Health Coalition's Trojan horse display downtown Saturday attracted attention to the issue of health-care privatization.

Horse display protests health-care privatization

The Ontario Health Coalition rolled a replica Trojan horse into downtown Milton Saturday to bring residents' attention to the issue of health-care privatization.

The 15-foot horse aims to signify a government's potential to bring in a

hidden agenda of privatization, which the group says poses a threat to the public health-care system.

"We thought since elections are coming up, let's make health care a major issue," said Louis Rodrigues, a health-care worker and tour driver

with the coalition. "We're raising public awareness."

The Trojan horse province-wide tour was launched in Kenora on July 18.

The group plans to visit more than 60 communities to deliver its message.

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Fresh Produce No. 1 Grade

<p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Product of Ontario</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">New Crop White Potatoes</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.6em;">/10 lb bag</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Product of USA</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Bartlett Pears</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.6em;">/lb</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Product of Ontario</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Celery</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.6em;">ea.</p>
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