

NDP, Green don't make much headway

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

For two parties championing change, the outcomes of the Green Party and the NDP in the Halton Riding remained surprisingly the same from the last federal election two years ago.

At press time last night, the Green Party's Amy Collard had captured just over one per cent more of the vote, while the NDP's Rob Wagner had managed to snag about 0.1 per cent more.

But both party candidates insist it's all about baby steps.

Collard, who joined faithful supporters at the Olde Dickens last night, seemed disappointed when initial numbers flashed across the TV screen, but retained her optimism toward the end of the night.

"I feel the heart of voters is with the Green Party," she said. "I think a lot of people wanted to vote for us, but were afraid and voted strategically."



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The NDP's Rob Wagner gets a hug from his sister, Laura Wagner.

She set out hoping to get 10 per cent of the vote, and still hadn't completely given up hope by 11 p.m. — but the numbers didn't seem to be swinging that way.

But, she said, that's okay.

"I can't be disappointed when I know I've run a campaign with integrity and answered constituents with honesty and conducted myself with dignity."

She said she thinks many peo-

Raitt promises to do well for Halton

• from CONSERVATIVES on page A1 she thinks he's a "talented individual" who has superlative writing skills and great public speaking skills.

She closed by saying she's looking forward to taking her seat in the House of Commons.

"I will do everything in my power to ensure the trust you've placed in me is used to make

Halton a better place to work and to live," she said.

Going forward, Raitt said one of her first priorities will be to make sure people understand what kind of riding Halton is.

"Halton is new Canadians, it's new families, it's rural, it's farmers. It's growing so fast that we have to have attention paid to it," she said. "We have to make sure the pace of

the expansion is met by the infrastructure needs we have. I'm going to fight for what's needed in Halton, and that's infrastructure."

She said she wants to develop a plan with Regional Chair Gary Carr and the local mayors to help deliver on the infrastructure needs.

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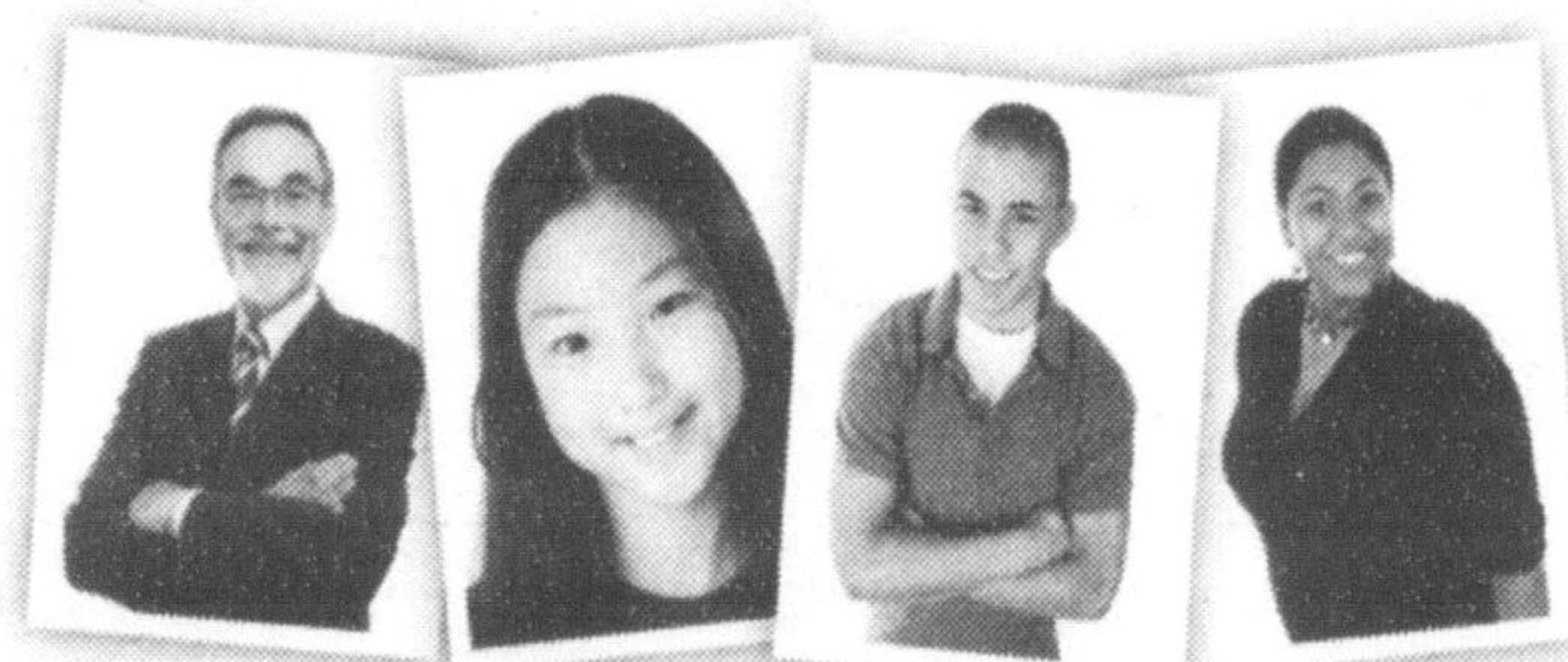
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