

# Potential Liberal candidate pushing for public debate

By SAL BOMMARITO  
Special to The Champion

One of the candidates vying for the nomination of the Oakville-Milton federal Liberal riding association has accused the organization of dragging its feet on calling an all-candidates meeting.

And challenger David Bazar, a newcomer to the riding association, pins the blame on former Oakville-Milton Liberal candidate Bonnie Brown and her supporters. He says they want to delay an all-candidates debate as long as possible.

Mr. Bazar is angry and frustrated that the riding association's executive recently voted against a proposal to hold a meet-the-candidates evening December 10.

He said he has been pushing the riding association to hold an all-candidates debate without success. Mr. Bazar suspects that the reason the idea has met with resistance is that Ms Brown, who won the riding association's nomination in 1988, has nothing to gain by debating the other candidates.

"The former candidate is trying to keep things as quiet as possible," until the nomination meeting, said Mr. Bazar.

Ms Brown argued the decision not to hold the meeting was made solely by the association's executive.

She said it's not unusual an all-candidates meeting hasn't yet been held. Ms Brown expects a debate will be held sometime between "the membership cut-off and the vote," adding that she has "total faith" in the executive's ability to handle the issue.

"I'm very much looking forward to those debates," Ms Brown said. "Mr. Bazar does not control the riding association," she added.

Audrey Cairns, the riding association's president, confirmed that the proposal to hold the meeting was rejected by the organization's executive.

Ms Cairns said the meeting was never intended to be an all-candidates debate, but merely a social event designed for the riding association's memberships to meet the candidates and renew their memberships.

The executive rejected the idea because of the feeling that the date was too close to Christmas to expect proper attendance, she said.

Ms Cairns said she too is eager to hold an all-candidates debate.

"I would like to have an all-candidates night. It will probably be in the new year," she said.

But Mr. Bazar's complaints don't stop at the association's handling of the issue of an all-candidates debate.

He said Ms Brown has an added advantage in her bid for the nomination since she has in her possession a voter's list from the last federal election.

Ms Brown has refused to make the list available to the other candidates, he added.

Mr. Bazar said the list is invaluable because it gives the candidate easy access to voters' names and addresses, saving time and effort during canvassing.

Ms Brown said the list is traditionally handed over to the "duly nominated candidate" following the election and is considered property of the candidate's campaign. She said she has no intention of making the list available to Mr. Bazar.

"It's a very naive position. If you ask any politician, they'll tell you the same thing. These lists are gold. They take years to build up," said



David Bazar



Bonnie Brown

Ms Brown.

Despite his protests, Mr. Bazar has never called her personally to raise the issue of the list, she said.

But Ms Cairns said the

association's position is that the list "belongs to the riding association" and should be "equally available to all candidates."

Meanwhile, a fourth candidate is expected to go public with his bid for the nomination this week. Mohan Anand has announced to the riding association's membership his candidacy for the nomination to and has been officially registered as a candidate, Ms Cairns confirmed.

Anand joins Ms Brown, Mr. Bazar, and Bruce Hood in their bid for the riding association's nomination for the next federal election.

## CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to error, the Chevy Astro ad which appeared on page 16 of the Milton Champion on November 18, 1992 was incorrect. The following is the correct information which will appear in the Nov. 25th publication.

- 1) Offer applies to the Chevy Astro Van, NOT the Chevy Astro Extended Van as illustrated in original ad.
- 2) A minimum down payment of \$1,500 is required for lease.
- 3) Lease rate based on a 48-month GMAC lease and capital cost of \$18,095 (includes \$1,500 down payment) NOT \$17,995 as stated in original ad.

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15—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, November 25, 1992

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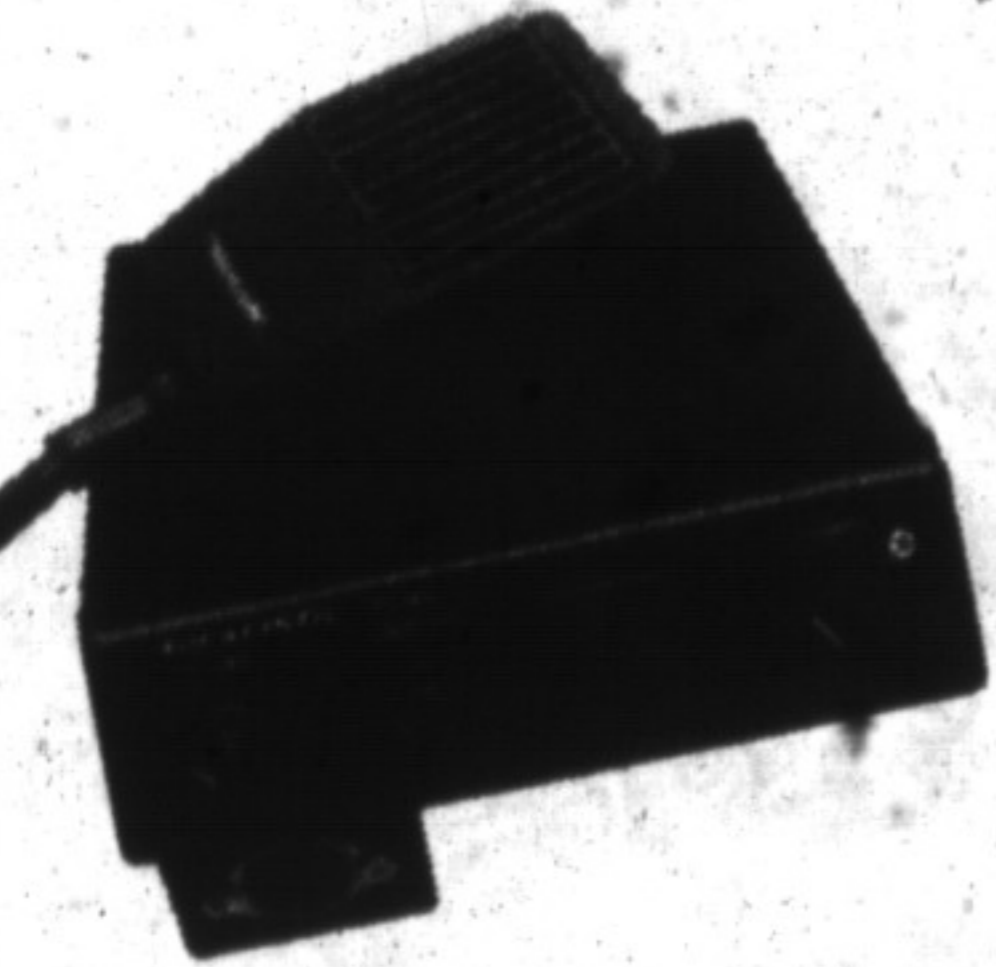
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