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David Bazar's all-candidates meeting for Liberals is a flop

By SAL BOMMARITO
 Special to The Champion

An all-candidates meeting organized by one of four people running for the Oakville-Milton Liberal Riding Association nomination never materialized last Wednesday night when two of the candidates refused to attend.



David Bazar

Candidates Bonnie Brown and Bruce Hood did not attend the scheduled meeting at the Oakville Library organized by opponent David Bazar. A fourth candidate, Mohan Anand wanted to attend, but was told not to show up.

Instead, Mr. Bazar, who had previously expressed frustration over the lack of an all-candidate's debate for the riding nomination, hosted the meeting alone and met with a few supporters and interested party members.

Mr. Bazar said the event would have been better attended if the other two candidates had agreed to debate.

"There was nowhere near the number of people that would have turned up if the other candidates had shown up," he said. He said it was a coincidence that the date chosen for the meeting coincided with that of the association's monthly meeting.

Mr. Bazar had intended the event, which was not sanctioned by the association, to be a debate between himself and the association's three other nomination candidates.

But those plans fell through when Ms Brown and Mr. Hood, for their own reasons, did not attend the event.

Mr. Anand had told Mr. Bazar he would attend the

event, but was later told not to show up because it had been cancelled.

Mr. Anand said he called Mr. Bazar's office on December 15 to confirm his attendance but was told not to bother showing up.

"I was told there was not much of a meeting," said Mr. Anand.

He said he believes Mr. Bazar should be commended for his attempt to organize the event. But Mr. Anand questioned Mr. Bazar's reasoning for organizing the event as a "debate."

"The term debate has negative connotations, as if trying to put people down. If it's between political parties, fine.

"But how can you debate on policies and issues that are based on the view of the Ontario Liberal Party?" he said.

Mr. Hood repeated his earlier comments that he was unable to attend the meeting because of previous commitments, including a meeting of the Milton District Hospital Board of Directors, of which he is a member. He said the Board meets on the third Wednesday of every month.

"That's a pretty big responsibility, and I maintain it," he said.

He said he also had anticipated attending the association's monthly meeting, scheduled for that evening.

Ms Brown shrugged off her absence at the meeting, which she said was part of Mr. Bazar's bid to get elected.

"My position is not to comment on someone else's campaign.

"That meeting was his campaign," she said.



Bonnie Brown



Mohan Anand

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