

**PC candidates:**

# We'll get it right next time

By **BRAD REAUME**  
*The Champion*

Only about 25 people straggled into the first of five open house meetings to be held by the Progressive Conservatives on the way to nominating a candidate in the next federal election.

The number of people at the Tuesday night meeting under 40 years of age doubled when a young man entered, much later than the 7 p.m. starting time, sporting overalls emblazoned with the slogan 'Fed Up With Government B.S.'

Candidates John Challinor of Milton and Ralph Scholtens of Burlington were allowed 15 minutes each to speak and then fielded questions.

"I've been to meetings with fewer people," said Mr. Scholtens afterwards. "This is typical. It's unfortunate that more people don't come out, but don't forget there are five meetings."

Mr. Challinor attributed the small turnout to the fact that meeting organizers were unable to provide more notice and he predicted better showings ahead. For the actual nomination meeting (Tuesday, Feb. 11) at E.C. Drury High School, Mr. Challinor said he expects in excess of 500 people.

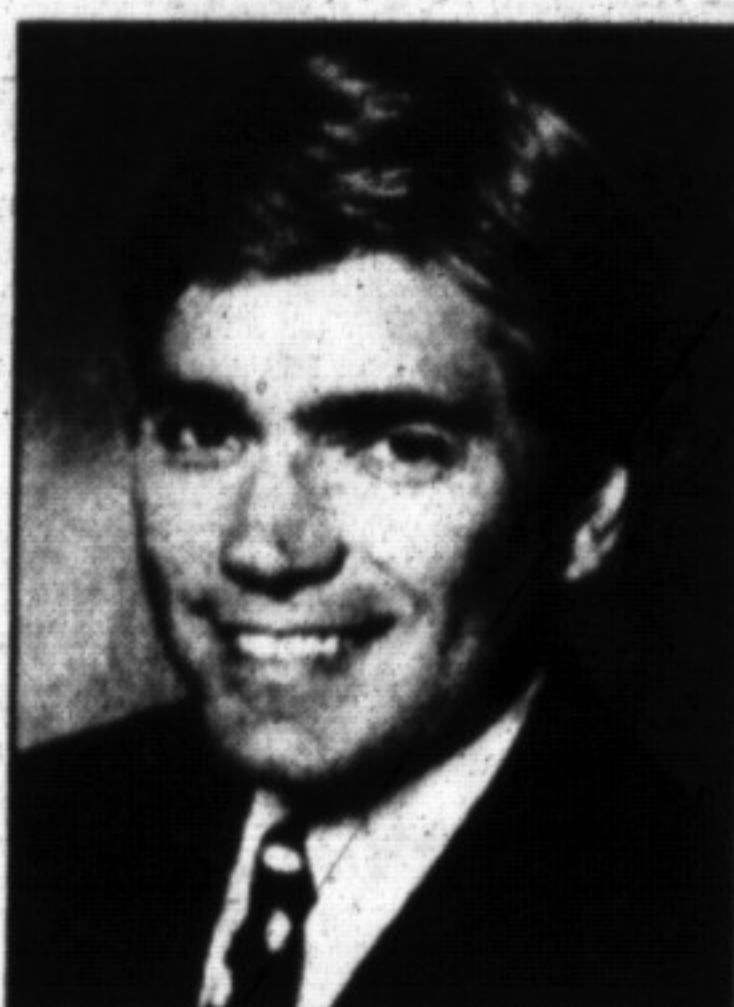
Mr. Scholtens readily admits the PC's did not stick to their platform during the later years of the Mulroney government. He said the party is under "new management" and for Canadians disenfranchised by regional parties, the new Conservatives are the only national alternative.

"The age of people you see tonight is not reflective of the party membership," said Mr. Challinor. "People joining the party reflect the demographics of Canada, of which a solid percentage are over 40. It's just that most people over say, 45, understand the importance of democracy, the political process, and volunteerism."

Regarding a balanced budget and the Reform Party charge that the Progressive Conservatives had the chance to do the necessary work when they were in



Ralph Scholtens



John Challinor

government, Mr. Challinor said he was disappointed the Mulroney government failed to do the job and said he would support balanced budget legislation. He defended the Mulroney government for balancing Canada's operating budget, but said they did not go far enough and failed to rein in the spiraling debt.

"We will do it," said Mr. Challinor. "We have a plan. Reform just has platitudes."

Mr. Challinor was asked during the meeting what distinguishes the Progressive Conservatives from Reform. He referred to events at last week's Reform Party open house, in which one would-be candidate said another was so poorly educated he couldn't spell correctly during a Scrabble game the two played.

"What distinguishes us from Reform is that Ralph and I have never played Scrabble together, and with names like Scholtens and Challinor, we both know how to spell," he said to general laughter.

Mr. Scholtens, battling the flu, and backed with a very professional looking 10 foot long campaign banner, said with two conservative parties contesting the election, the difference can boil down to the individual candidates.

Outlining his position, Mr. Scholtens said The Reform Party "stole the agenda that belonged to the

• THEIR RIGHT on page 18 •



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My crystal ball has the following predictions for 1997:

- \* The Canadian Stock Market will outperform bonds and GICs.
- \* The long depressed Emerging Markets and Pacific region should provide double digit returns.
- \* Gold may make a comeback, but hold it as portfolio insurance, not as speculation.
- \* Real Estate and Royalty Trusts will continue to provide respectable returns.
- \* The Canadian dollar could rise to near 80 cents U.S. by year end.

1997 will be a modest year in the end, with a lot more ups and downs than the last 2 years. As always, a good quality, diversified portfolio will make the volatility easier to handle and should allow for focusing on the long term rather than the daily blips.

By William Shutt, Branch Manager of THE Financial Planning Group  
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## CRAIG NEEDS YOUR HELP

The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada (NCJSOC) and the National Institute of Jamaican Canadians (NIJC), along with a group of concerned citizens are hosting a Pre-Valentine Luncheon at the Woodbine Racetrack, 555 Rexdale Blvd. (Hwys. 427 & 27), on February 9, 1997 at 12:00 noon, in the Post Parade Dining Room.

This event is to raise funds to save the life of Craig Redwood, a 21-year-old Jamaican resident who was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia. Although Craig is presently receiving some treatment at the University Hospital in Jamaica, the lifesaving bone marrow transplant which he needs cannot be done on the island.

The doctors have determined that Craig's mother Mrs. Patricia Redwood, a resident of Mississauga, is a suitable match for him. She was told that she could bring him to Toronto for the bone marrow transplant, but before he can be admitted into Canada, the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto requires a deposit of \$150,000 Canadian dollars. Already, some \$50,000 Canadian dollars has been collected in Jamaica.

Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Mrs. Margherita St. Juste, and Metro Chairman, Mr. Alan Tonks, have agreed to lend their names in support of this worthy cause. Tickets for this event are \$50.00 each and a tax receipt will be issued for \$25.00.

For tickets and more information contact the Jamaican Consulate at

(416) 598-3008, ext. 228.

Donations can also be made at any Scotiabank, Transit #206002, Account # 0395086, or send donation cheques payable to the NIJC/Craig Redwood Fund, to the Jamaican Consulate, 214 King Street West, suite 402, Toronto, M5H 3S6.

I hope we can all come together to help Craig as time is of the very essence now.

Yours sincerely, Barry Bonitto, President

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