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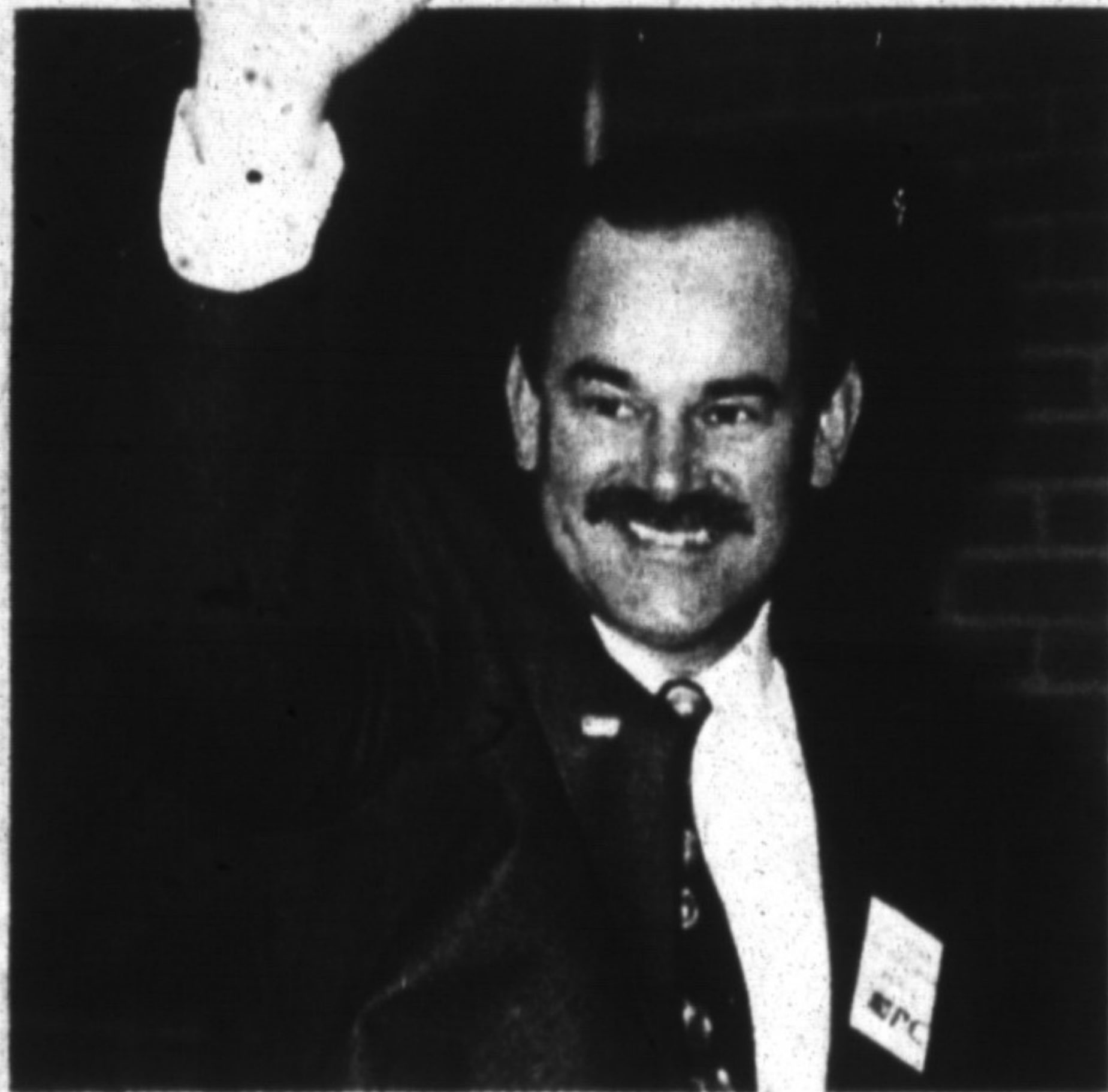


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Burlington regional Councillor Ralph Scholtens celebrates after beating John Challinor of Milton for the Tory nomination.

Scholtens wins by a landslide

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to *The Champion*

It took a half hour to tally the votes, but just a few seconds to predict a Ralph Scholtens landslide Tuesday evening at E.C. Drury High School.

The Burlington regional councillor rode a wave of support into the Progressive Conservatives' (PC) nomination meeting, and rode out of town as the party's candidate for the new federal riding of Halton.

His 354-197 victory came against Milton council's John Challinor. Results were announced at roughly 9:15 p.m., although signs, buttons and applause provided strong indications of the outcome before the first ballot was cast.

"A high school coach once told me that during great victories, the words just come by themselves. The words aren't coming to me though, I don't know what to say," said a jubilant, tear-stricken Mr. Scholtens, during his acceptance speech. "I have to thank

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

True Canadians

Five and six-year-old students of Safe and Sound Children's Centre on Pine Street proudly display the Canadian flags and hats they created as part of National Flag Day Saturday. From left are Matthew Hemsley, Rhys Law, Fiona Curley and Rosslyn Shultz. The special day celebrates the anniversary of the Canadian flag.

House fire ravages pet-loving family

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

A married couple who provide a sanctuary for stray animals is reaching out to the community after their world was torn apart by fire Tuesday.

The mid-morning blaze ripped through

Anita and Tony Welsh's secluded No. 25 Sideroad house, which was also home to their 32-year-old daughter, two grandchildren and six beloved cats.

A dog and a tame wolf also lived on their property, situated near Fourth Line.

No one was hurt in the blaze and all the animals were saved, however, the couple now has nowhere to keep them.

A sobbing Ms Welsh, 54, told *The Champion*, after spending the night in hospital due to smoke inhalation, that she doesn't know where she and her family are going to live and, in the meantime, she's desperate to find temporary homes for the cats.

And she's asking area residents for help until she and her husband can get back on their feet.

The cats are currently staying in an Acton kennel, but the Welshes, who are

both out of work, can't afford to keep paying the \$50 a day fee.

The couple, who emigrated from England 20 years ago, have no family in Canada and few friends, Ms Welsh said.

"We don't really have any friends," she said. "We always concentrated on the animals."

At one time, the couple had taken in more than 100 animals, she said.

Ms Welsh said she's looking for temporary havens for all six cats, but would ultimately like to find permanent homes for the youngest pair — two five-year-old females.

"They're all loving cats," she said. "They're clean, declawed and neutered or spayed."

Ms Welsh, whose birthday was Wednesday, said she was enjoying having

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Spring in their step

Looking for something to do over the March Break?

The Milton Springers Gymnastics Club invites boys and girls to "Spring Into Spring." The club will hold one, three and five-day gymnastics camps for girls aged 5 to 12 years.

Meanwhile boys and girls aged 3, 4 and 5 years can take part in an afternoon session March 12 or a morning camp March 14.

Registration for the camps will be held February 26 and March 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the club, 180 Nipissing Rd., unit 5. For more information, call 878-5030.



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