

Mixed views among candidates on who won leaders' debate

By Bill Rea
Candidates in Dufferin-Caledon were contacted again last week for their spontaneous responses to some more predetermined questions.

Their answers are presented here alphabetical order.

How safe is Ontario's drinking water?

"Right now, I

would say Ontario's drinking water is pretty safe," replied New Democrat Karen Gventer.

She also charged that Premier Dalton McGuinty and Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak have proposed cuts to the public service, while the Green party has not committed itself

to public service. That needs to be a priority, she maintained.

"It's very safe," declared Liberal candidate Lori Holloway, who pointed out that in the aftermath of the Walkerton tragedy, the Liberals have taken water safety and water protection very seriously.

She added that probably some of the best water safety experts in North America are working here.

"Very safe," replied Progressive Conservative incumbent Sylvia Jones. "There should never be people concerned that their municipal drinking water is at risk."

"I think it's probably pretty safe,"

replied Green Party candidate Rob Strange.

He said the measures imposed after Walkerton have been effective, although he said there might be issues in Aboriginal areas. That would be a federal matter, he said.

Who won the leaders' debate?

"Well Andrea (Horwath), of course," Gventer replied.

She added in terms of poise and eloquence, all three leaders did well.

"It was an interesting debate," Holloway commented. "Overall, Mr. McGuinty demonstrated he's the one with the track record."

She also pointed out he's the one she would want at the table when Ontario is negotiating the next health accord.

"I think that Tim did a really good job," Jones said, adding she was surprised that McGuinty wasn't

stronger. "I thought Andrea and Tim exceeded expectations."

Strang said he didn't see the debate, as he was filling in for Party Leader Mike Schreiner at an all-candidates' meeting. But he said he read the reviews. "They seemed pretty mixed," he said.

Strang said it was unfortunate that some issues didn't come up, such as balancing the budget or the massive quarry planned for Melancthon Township, adding they would have been raised had Schreiner been allowed to take part. "I think that's one reason why he wasn't there," Strang said, adding the others feared Schreiner's honesty.

Are MPPs appropriately paid?

"Yes," Gventer said, adding the pay is consistent with comparable jobs.

She also pointed out the job of MPP is 24-7, involving a lot of weekend work.

"It's not really out of line," she said.

"I think so," Holloway said. "I haven't been one, so I can't tell you exactly, but by the sounds of it, I think so."

"Yes," Jones said. "You cannot say, going into this role that you don't know what the compensation is."

She added the economy is in "dire" circumstances, so this is not the time to start paying politicians more.

"To be honest, I don't know what they're paid," Strang said.

He added these are austere times. "I don't think they need any more," he remarked.

Are post-secondary tuition fees too high?

"Definitely," Gventer said.

She added the NDP are calling for a freeze, with the possibility of seeing the rates lowered. She recalled tuitions doubled in the period she was in post-secondary school.

"It's crazy," she declared. "That's our future."

She also pointed to the need to make the colleges and universities accessible and affordable, in order to get young minds contributing to society.

"It's a challenge for students to juggle work and life," Holloway said, adding students need more supports.

She stressed the need to have the best educated workforce possible.

"They are challenging," Jones said, but added post-secondary adds to one's job prospects and long-term employment prospects, and an argument could be made that the investment justifies that.

"Yes," Strang said, pointing out they have been rising faster than the inflation rate over the last decade.

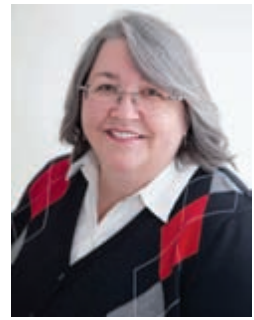
He said the Greens plan to freeze tuitions until 2013, then keep them at the inflation rate, arguing students need something that's predictable.

A Healthy, Engaged Compassionate Community for All

Employment · Business Services · Transportation
Seniors Supportive Housing · Transitional Care · Respite Care · Eco-Stores
Crisis and Counselling · Language Instruction · Volunteering
Youth Services · Food Bank · Santa Fund · Children's Bursaries

www.ccs4u.org 905.584.2300

"They are our Future" By Anne McQuarrie



The past few weeks have been a hectic scramble for most parents, organizing and preparing their children for another year of school.

Whether your youngsters are experiencing their first foray into academia or they've just been delivered to their final year of university, no doubt you have invested an immeasurable deal of guidance, time and finances into their future. Why wouldn't you? After all, "they are our future".

The statement is a bit deceptive, no? "They are our future" seems to exclusively refer to the young. But have you ever considered that it also pertains to the elderly?

The decisions we make today regarding the care and services for those in their senior years will one day surely effect how we are taken care of. When you can no longer drive a car to grocery shop, cook your own dinners or even call for help when you are most in need, be assured that today's decisions regarding our health and care services for seniors will come back to you in myriad ways.

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is an organization that has been addressing these issues and making it possible for seniors to age with dignity in the Caledon community.

Every day our Supportive Housing Program contributes to the care of approximately 180 seniors living in six Peel Living

apartment buildings. Our clients receive help with activities of daily living such as meal preparation, medication reminders, laundry, personal care and emergency responses as required. Some of these tasks seem so simple; it's hard to imagine not being able to do them for yourself. But for those we serve, these seemingly trivial chores are everyday challenges that can result in hospitalization or a premature long-term care placement if not for the intervention of our team of Personal Support Workers.

Occasionally, seniors may need to recuperate after a hospital stay, but are unable to take care of themselves for a few weeks. Once again, CCS addresses this need with our Transitional Care Centre where our staff works collaboratively with many allied health service providers to facilitate our clients' return to their homes and to active and independent lives.

Each year, CCS's Transportation Program works to provide more than 31,000 rides to seniors and people with disabilities for medical appointments, shopping, etc.

Each and every one of my work days is a privilege to witness the compassion and skills that my colleagues exhibit in providing services that meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in Caledon. CCS stands tall alongside its values; we are a responsive organization that anticipates and acts on emerging community needs. We welcome untried ideas and methods to address complex community needs when it comes to services for seniors in Caledon. We do this because we care. And we do this because they are our future.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
You can reach Anne McQuarrie, Manager, Supportive Housing at 905.584.2300 ext 265 or amcquarrie@ccs4u.org
This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

ELECT

Lori HOLLOWAY

"It's time Dufferin-Caledon had a new kind of representative, someone who takes a stand and gets things done."

Lori Holloway is an experienced, energetic leader, who has worked with all levels of government as the Chief Operating Officer of the Ontario Community Support Association—the champion for frontline healthcare organizations including the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Meals on Wheels and the Victorian Order of Nurses.

In Dufferin-Caledon, Lori Holloway is:

FOR

- improved transit and economic development.
- greater attention to community-based healthcare.
- protecting our agricultural advantage.

AGAINST

- the mega-quarry.
- downloading of social programs onto municipalities.
- cuts to healthcare and education.

www.voteholloway.ca
905-533-8683
lori@voteholloway.ca
@lori_holloway
www.facebook.com/voteholloway

Car stolen from driveway

A resident on Trailview Lane in Bolton discovered last Thursday (Sept. 29) morning that his car had been stolen from the driveway.

Caledon OPP reports they were called at about 9:20 a.m., after the owner reported the theft.

The missing vehicle is a black 2005 two-door Mini Cooper with a white roof. It's believed to have been stolen sometime between 5 and 6:30 a.m. that morning.

Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact them at (905) 584-2241 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Fall 2011 Photography Workshops

Introduction to Photoshop

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Orangeville Public Library

\$110 + HST

Contact: Silver Creek Photography to register
519-787-7040 www.silvercreekphoto.ca

Your Bottled Water and Treatment Specialists

OCTOBER'S DRAW IS A FREE WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM

(EPS 1000)

Congratulations to September's monthly winner Lynda Pelletier, of Orangeville, who won a FREE year's supply of salt!

Subscribe Online at...

www.watermaker.ca

All prizes must be claimed within 30 days of the draw, which takes place on the first day of each month.