

Local Grits upbeat after annual meeting

By DAN PELTON
Staff Reporter

With an influx of new members and a new leader in Ottawa, the federal Dufferin-Caledon Liberal riding association emerged from its annual meeting last week in an optimistic mood.

Jones calls for end to York U. strike

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones has called on Premier Dalton McGuinty to order an immediate end to the strike that has left York University students without classes since early November.

"It has been almost three months since CUPE 3903, which represents York University employees, has gone on strike.

Fraudulent ski lift passes said used

Two Orangeville men have been accused of using fraudulent lift passes at the Hockley Valley Resort ski lift.

Tyler Dynes and Thomas Condon, both 20, were charged after Dufferin OPP officers were called to the scene Saturday night. The two had been apprehended by security officers.

The two men face charges of engaging in a prohibited activity, laid under the Trespass to Property Act.

"Everyone seems to be in high spirits," said Rebecca Finch, the Liberal candidate in the October election. "With the new members, it looks like people are feeling a need to get involved. I also think (Liberal leader) Michael Ignatieff is making a positive impact."

The meeting, held last Thursday in Mono Mills, saw the selection of a new executive that includes new riding president Jeff May.

"One of our first priorities is to prepare for the next election," says Mr. May. "We will be looking at broadening our membership base. We will also be

reaching out to make connections with the various municipal councils in the riding."

With the governing Conservatives set to present a budget on Tuesday, Mr. Ignatieff has said he may oppose Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plans for income tax cuts, stating they are not conducive to dealing with the current recession and its projected massive deficits.

Mr. May says the Liberals are not against tax cuts but now is not the time to be enacting them. Mr. Ignatieff's statement "is a caution that, during a recession, it is not a good time to be focusing on tax-cut measures. We need to be able to avoid a long-term structural deficit."

The local Liberal association also came away from the meeting with a renewed confidence that the

Conservative stranglehold on Dufferin-Caledon can be broken, noting that one of the new members is a former Conservative.

"We've been hearing more complaints about the Tories at the national level," Ms. Finch said. "We've also been hearing that (incumbent Tory MP) David Tilson doesn't interact with the people. His attitude is turning people off."

Jason Gracey, the riding association's new policy chair, feels the Conservatives "have a weak bench. They are not negotiating a lot of their own policy. They mocked [Stéphane] Dion when he came up with his plan and, two months later, they are doing the same thing," such as producing economic stimulus packages.

"Their ideology is to do as little as possible."



ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of the annual Mono Winterfest is the tree chipping event. Volunteers Harvey Cook (wearing sunglasses) and Bob Shirley busied themselves at the festival on Sunday by turning used Christmas trees into useful mulch. Below, Brian Cooke was one of a throng who showed up to participate in the event. Among his duties was to securely tie the skate laces of his son Brice.

Photos/DAN PELTON

now."

"It's obvious that Dalton McGuinty and his government don't appreciate the impact and severe consequences their inaction is having on students," PC Leader John Tory said in a press release. "Ontario's so-called 'Education Premier' must finally do the right thing and recall the Legislature immediately. York students deserve nothing less."

Archaeologist keynote speaker at fundraiser

Arctic archaeologist Dr. Robert McGhee will be the keynote speaker at a fundraiser on Friday, February 6 at the Orangeville Senior's Centre at 26 Bythia Street in Orangeville after making two presentations at area high schools earlier on the day.

Mr. McGhee's research has focused on the history of Arctic North America. He has undertaken field work across northern Canada, from Labrador to the Mackenzie Delta and northward to the High Arctic islands, as well as in Svalbard and Siberia. His work has addressed the origins and development of Inuit culture, reactions of prehistoric populations to episodes of climatic change and relations between aboriginal peoples and Europeans in Arctic Canada.

This research has been reported in over 100 books and articles, including both academic publications and those designed for a general audience. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, has been awarded the Massey Medal by the Royal

Canadian Geographical Society, and is presently curator emeritus at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. His most recent books are *The Last Imaginary Place: A History of the Arctic Regions*, and a sketch of Canadian history titled *The Thousand Year Path*.

Among Dr. McGhee's early memories are helping during the threshing at his grandfather's farm east of Shelburne, which was the activity of "picking stones" left by the glaciers and loading them onto the horse-drawn stoneboat that was an important implement at all farms in the area at the time.

"I was thrilled when Dr. McGhee agreed to participate in this event," said Rebecca Finch, former federal Liberal Candidate for Dufferin-Caledon. "His books are mesmerizing, and the subject matter is perfect for a winter event in a riding where so many people are engaged in environmental projects. "I was particularly pleased at the enthusiasm displayed by Westside Secondary in Orangeville and Centre Dufferin in

Shelburne when I approached them about having Dr. McGhee do an extra presentation for the students. Arctic archaeology is such an important and fascinating field of study, and yet so few students know much if anything about it."

Members of the public are welcome to attend the presentations at the high schools, as well as have an opportunity to meet with Dr. McGhee in person and hear his second presentation at the fundraising event that evening.

More details can be found out about this event on www.dcliberals.ca, on Ms. Finch's website at www.rebeccafinch.ca or by contacting her at 519-216-5722.



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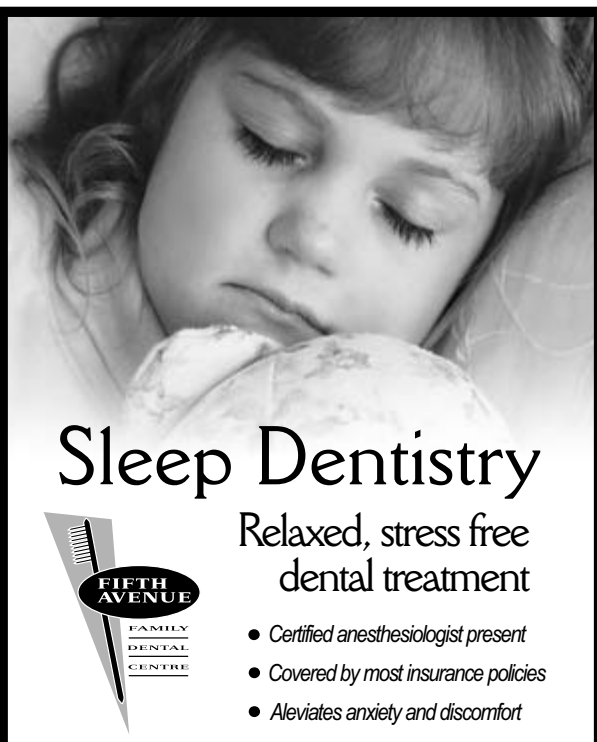
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