

Maskell and deBoer face each other at Chamber's all-candidates' meeting

By Bill Rea

Two of the three candidates seeking the area council seat for Wards 3 and 4 on Caledon council got the chance to put their positions and platforms before the public recently.

Incumbent Nick deBoer and challenger Doug Maskell were taking part in a meeting hosted by the Caledon Chamber of Commerce. Candidate Romeo Jack Barbosa was not at the meeting.

DeBoer called for an increase in economic development activity to promote small business.

He also suggested expanding the Bolton Business Improvement Area (BIA) to take in the Highway 50 corridor, and said businesses have to show appreciation for the customers that patronize them.

Maskell pointed out Bolton is the economic and industrial heart of the town, but pointed to the need to also support business in Caledon East and Palgrave. He also observed that the Chamber has a policy advisory committee and stressed the need to make sure it operates in support of business all over Caledon.

Although the position of area councillor is considered a part-time job, deBoer said he focuses his attention on Caledon, where his interests are. He added Regional councillors can't do it to that extent because they have other things to do.

Maskell commented that the further government gets from the people, the less respect people have for it. He agreed that area councillors are close to the people, and that's the person they often turn to.

Maskell also pointed out the Town is at a crossroads.

'This is one of the best communities to work in and raise a family,' he remarked, adding the job of council is to negotiate the future and plan for it. He said there's a lot of promise in the Town and he wants to guide the community through it.

DeBoer closed his remarks by focussing on recreation, industry and taxation, stating he wants to make additions to Caledon Community Complex in Caledon East, as well as looking into recreational opportunities in Mayfield West and the Johnston Sports Fields.