

Labour pays off with a Liberal red tide for Flynn

The party was on as Oakville's Kevin Flynn appeared poised to head back to Queen's Park in a red tide that washed over all of Halton last night.

Flynn, showing a lead of more than 4,000 votes by press deadline, appeared headed to an easy victory — well on his way to retaining his seat as Oakville's MPP and more than ready to take up his Minister of Labour post — a position which came his way in March of this year.

By 10:30 p.m., Flynn had captured more than 49 per cent of the vote in the Oakville riding.

"I can't tell you how it feels to walk into a room like this after results like the ones we got tonight," said Flynn after arriving, with his wife Janice, at his headquarters at the Operating Engineers Banquet Hall on Speers Road.

Proudly pointing out he was returning to office four times in a row, Flynn said the Oakville seat is staying in Liberal hands because of the policies of Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne.

"People of Ontario got what they wanted tonight," said Flynn, as the crowd cheered, "Four more years, four more years."

At Oakville PC candidate Larry Scott's headquarters in Bronte, supporters were on their feet and the edge of their seats watching televised coverage of the results.

Just after polls closed, Scott, a two-time challenger to Flynn, reflected on the past few weeks, saying it feels like he has been running a hundred miles an hour only to hit the brakes.

And then the brakes appeared to be applied to Scott's hopes.

The tide of red that swept through Oakville, was also felt in the Halton riding, which includes north Oakville, as well as neighbouring Burlington.



Liberal supporters, like Jack Burkholder, were celebrating at Kevin Flynn's headquarters at the Operating Engineers Banquet Hall as Flynn got off to an early lead, which kept growing as the night continued.

| photo by Riziero Vertolli – Oakville Beaver (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog or facebook.com/Halton-Photog)

In both ridings, long-time PC incumbents were well on the way to be unseated.

In a sea of blue signs and balloons, Scott emerged from a crowd at his campaign office in Bronte, defeated.

In his second match up with Flynn, Scott couldn't muster up enough votes to carry him to a victory in the Oakville riding.

At press time, the numbers tallied left had Scott trailing Flynn by about 5,000 votes. In 2011, he trailed by 4,580 votes.

Addressing about 50 of his supporters, Scott said the evening didn't turn out quite as his team had planned.

"This is a speech I hoped I didn't have to make, but I want to let everyone know I had

a heck of a good time," he said after he was welcomed by applause and people chanting his name.

"The thing that really made this work is we had fabulous volunteers who put their heart and soul into it all," he continued.

Scott said there isn't anything he would've done differently. He thanked his family, his campaign team and his supporters for their encouragement. He also took time to wish Flynn well on his return to Queen's Park.

"They (the Liberals) made democracy work and I think we should all thank for making it work," he said.

When Oakville New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate Che Marville was asked if she was surprised by last night's results, she said she believed a lot of people voted based on fear.

"I think that fear worked and I think that Kevin is well-loved in Oakville," she told the *Oakville Beaver* from her party headquarters at The King's Arms pub.

"No. 1, I would congratulate him (Flynn) on a well-run campaign, but I think from our point of view, we still started something here... We were able to inject a progressive voice into the campaign."

Andrew Chlobowski, Oakville's Green Party of Ontario candidate, said he too was not surprised by Flynn's re-election as the local MPP, and added he actually hopes "Kevin retains his position as minister of labour because he deserves that for sure."

Go to insidehalton.com for final results and find out what the Halton Riding candidates had to say.

— with files from David Lea, Julia Le and John Bkila

Naidoo-Harris topples veteran Chudleigh in Halton

Long-time Halton MP Ted Chudleigh got caught up in the red tide that swept Ontario tonight.

Halton Riding election results at press time showed an intense race between PC incumbent Ted Chudleigh and Liberal Indira Naidoo-Harris last (Thursday) night that appeared poised to offer a major upset.

At 10 p.m., with 101 of 398 polls reporting, Naidoo-Harris led with 6,545 votes compared to Chudleigh's 5,417 votes.

After the polls closed at 9 p.m., there was an air of optimism at the Live Bait Alehouse restaurant in Milton, where Naidoo-Harris' supporters watched the results.

"She fits in with the population — all segments. When people talk with her, they like her. Looking at her agenda, building hospitals and schools and supporting seniors, if she can do those things, she'll be in for life," said Evelyn Gillies of Milton.

Added campaign manager Mora Carruthers: "We're very optimistic. It's been a great campaign. I've known Indira for a little while now and seen how hard she's worked for residents of Halton.

"She'd be a great MPP at Queen's Park."

The atmosphere was tense at the Rad Brothers



Halton's Liberal candidate Indira Naidoo-Harris was taking the lead at the polls early on election night. Earlier in the day, she cast her own ballot.

| photo by Michael Gregory – Metroland West Media (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog or facebook.com/HaltonPhotog)

sports bar in Milton were Chudleigh supporters watched the results.

No one wished to comment with only about a third of the voting numbers available.

Other candidates in the Halton Riding included the NDP's Nik Spohr, the Green Party's Susan Farrant, the Family Coalition Party's Gerry Marsh, and Kal Ghory, who ran for the Libertarian Party.

Friends and family were happy to see Spohr arrive at the Ivy Arms in Milton where a party awaited him.

Wearing his signature orange tie, he greeted about 40 supporters enthusiastically just after 9 p.m. As results trickled in all eyes were on the big-screen television.

Spohr admitted it was an exhausting process since the election was called. He said regardless of outcome he feels the party as a whole had a better campaign all-round.

At press time, Spohr had 2,414 votes while Farrant had 622, Ghory had 221 and Marsh had 75.

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— with files from Metroland West Media Group reporters