

The candidates vote: here are the most

The provincial election is only a week away, and four parties are seeking to represent Northumberland Riding at Queen's Park. The Independent asked the candidates to discuss what they see as the key issues.

Doug Galt, *INDEPENDENT*
Progressive Conservative Party *SEPT 24/03*

What is your campaign slogan?

Our campaign slogan is "Doug Galt ... Join me in exploring the possibilities." The slogan refers to my Vision 2003-2008, An Action Plan for a Stronger Northumberland and Quinte West. This action plan outlines a series of goals I am committed to achieving for the Quinte West and Northumberland communities that range from securing funding to operate an MRI machine to serve area residents, to economic development initiatives designed to attract new jobs and investments to the region.

What kind of experience do you bring to the job?

As Northumberland's representative at Queen's Park for the last two terms, I have built tremendous experience in provincial politics. During those two terms, I served as a cabinet minister (my present post) as well as a parliamentary assistant at several ministries such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity, and Innovation. Prior to being elected to the Legislature, my career centered around being a veterinarian and veterinary pathologist, community service through Lions International, and local politics.



Doug Galt

struction of two new hospitals, waterfront redevelopments, funding for the RCAF museum, and a wide range of economic development initiatives such as an \$8.5 million training and equipment investment in General Mills in Quinte West to create 250 new jobs. I have taken a leadership role in making sure these projects move ahead.

What is the most important economic issue facing Northumberland Riding, and how would your government resolve it?

establish a county-wide economic development office, (and) an Eves government will undoubtedly support that initiative. Jobs are important to everyone and we have a lot of work to do so that local people remain employed and job opportunities are available for our young people.

What is the most important environmental issue facing Northumberland Riding, and how would your government address it?

tant source of ground water in the riding. In addition, new legislation on nutrient management will ensure that all fertilization materials applied to farmland are managed so that there is no negative impact on the environment.

What is the single most important issue facing the people of Northumberland Riding, and how would your government tackle it?

Enhancing our local economy is key to the future success of the people of this riding. Lack of action at the county level has meant we have fallen behind, with a significant drop in commercial and industrial assessment to support local government services. Not only does that translate into fewer job opportunities, it means a greater tax burden shifts to the residential taxpayer, many of whom are seniors on a fixed income. If elected, I will work with area chambers of commerce to spearhead the creation of an Eastern Ontario Board of Trade to attract and retain jobs and industry in the area as well as promote the establishment of a Venture Capital Investment Fund to help new businesses get started in the riding.

Trent University in 1988 with a degree in Administrative and Policy Studies.

For the past couple of years, I've been co-owner and operator of a business that sells and installs structural insulated panels, an energy efficient alternative to stick-frame construction. Prior to that, I was employed in industry as an industrial engineer and production supervisor.

Why should Northumberland Riding residents vote for you?

By voting for the GPO you are saying that you want a government that makes decisions with not only you in mind, but with your children and grandchildren in mind as well. You are saying that you want changes made to keep the planet healthy, which in turn will create healthy economies and communities. By voting Green you will help ensure jobs, health care and education while preserving the natural environment for future generations.

What is the most important economic issue facing Northumberland Riding, and how would your government resolve it?

Job creation is vital to the economic well being of this

county. Over the last decade a number of large companies have moved out of Northumberland resulting in the loss of many good paying, full-time jobs. Meanwhile, many of the jobs coming into the area are low paying, part-time jobs. The fix to the problem isn't easy, but it has to start with revitalizing our local economies. The GPO would do this by shifting taxes off of labour, incomes and profits and onto resource and material use, waste and pollution.

What is the most important environmental issue facing Northumberland Riding, and how would your government address it?

While there are many important local environmental issues (ranging from the depletion of aquifers, removal of non-renewable resource from the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the storage of low level radioactive waste), I feel the most important issue facing Northumberland is the quality of our natural environment. The GPO knows that good environmental policy is also good economic and social policy.

What is the single most important issue facing the