



**Moya Johnson**

# Liberal's Johnson faces an 'uphill battle' for Wellington-Halton Hills

From September 7 to October 6, Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson will wear two political hats – she will not resign or take a leave from Halton Hills Town Council while campaigning for the Liberal Party in the provincial election.

Johnson was to be named as the Liberal Party candidate for Wellington-Halton Hills at a nomination meeting hosted by the Riding Association tonight (Thursday) at the Rockwood library. She said it took a while to decide if she would run after being approached by Party officials, and in the end, it was health care issues that convinced her to "take the plunge."

"We've been trying to get our hospital funding for a long time, and we put money in from Council (for hospital upgrades) and we're waiting for the Minister (of Health) to come through as well, and I just realized without a seat at the table, we're not being heard," Johnson said on Monday.

Noting that although she is well-known and well-respected in Georgetown, and is seen as an Acton supporter, Johnson acknowledged the Wellington-Halton Hills riding is huge, and her campaign will have to cover a lot of new ground.

"I'll have help... the Riding Association has a lot of volunteers, and I'll be up there knocking on doors and going to events, just like I have to do here," Johnson said, adding it

will be an "uphill battle" as this riding has been Conservative for many years. "I always welcome a challenge when I feel there is something to do, I'll go for it."

Johnson, first elected to Halton Hills Council in 1994, said she will not accept any town pay during the official campaign and will pay for her own Town-supplied BlackBerry.

"Moya has a strong and proven record of community service and is a powerful advocate for Wellington-Halton Hills," said Murray Gold, President of the Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Liberal Association in a press release, adding, "We're very pleased to have such a strong candidate."

At Town Council, Johnson has served as budget committee chair, Fire Services and Emergency Planning Chair, and currently chairs Heritage Halton Hills. Her strong leadership and dedication

to issues like improving accessibility earned Johnson the prestigious Canadian Urban Institute's Local Hero Award.

Employed in the health care field for 30 years, Johnson also sat on the Halton District Health Council and Ministry of Health Advisory Committee.

MPP Ted Amott has held the Wellington-Halton Hills riding since it was first contested in 2007. In the last election, Amott garnered 49 per cent of the vote, trailed by Liberal candidate, Georgetown teacher Marg Bentley.

Dale Hamilton is the NDP candidate in the riding. The Eden Mills resident is an artist and theatre producer and a former reporter. She challenged Amott in 1990 for the provincial seat. The Liberals have not held the seat in 24 years – the last being Walt Elliot in 1987. In 1990, NDP candidate Noel Duignan was elected, and served a single term.

# Opposition to freeway plan supported by Tory Opposition Leader

Better late than never – that's how Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville reacted to a call from staff of Provincial Opposition Leader Tim Hudak, offering support for the Region's and Town's opposition to plans to build a super highway through southern Halton Hills.

Somerville waited approximately a month for a reply after appealing to Hudak for support. Hudak's staffer said the leader had been briefed on the issue by Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Amott, and he supports suspension of the GTA-West corridor study until after the October 6 provincial election.

"It's a good starting position during the election campaign – the leader is aware of our concerns and backs our opposition," Somerville said on Monday, adding Hudak's office said they will not support projects unless there is a budget in place to pay for it.

Somerville said now that the NDP has a candidate in Wellington-Halton Hills for the provincial election, he'll be waiting to see what their position on the so-called highway option 4-3 is.

Somerville said public opposition against option 4-3 continues to spread with people sending protest postcards to Queen's Park and putting up protest signs on their lawns.

The Regional Municipality of Halton

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Contract Number: R-2528A-11  
 Scheduled Start Date: August 8, 2011  
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 Project Manager: Cengiz Cakmak ext. 7698

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