

# Race is on in Wellington - Halton Hills

A standing-room only crowd of red-wearing Liberals named Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson as their candidate, and launched a campaign to try to wrest the Wellington-Halton Hills riding from incumbent Conservative Ted Arnott at the Rockwood Library last Thursday night.

Johnson's nominator, Regional/Town Councillor Jane Fogal acknowledged the surprise to some Party members at her nomination of Johnson, as her McNally family are known Conservatives. Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Acton Councillor Jon Hurst and Georgetown Councillor Ann Lawlor were on hand to support Johnson, a Town councillor for 17 years.

Fogal said Johnson has all of the necessary attributes, including a long political history, respect of her colleagues and experience, having chaired the budget committee, and been instrumental in the Town's accessibility measures and fire department development. She cur-

rently chairs the Heritage committee.

"She's got an inquiring mind and asks lots of questions before she makes a decision," Fogal said, adding Johnson is "fearless" in presenting her point of view, even when it's quite different from the majority on Council. "Moya is up to the challenge - she's energetic, enthusiastic and is going to make a fabulous MPP," Fogal said.

In a polished acceptance speech, Johnson, a nursing educator in Toronto, described herself as the child of an immigrant father who grew up in a Liberal home. "I'm running because I care about health care...I worked in hospitals during the Harris government years and saw the cutbacks and loss of nurses and doctors," Johnson said, noting that since the Liberal Party has been in office, operation waiting times have decreased. A grandmother of four, Johnson said education is also a huge issue, pointing out that not a single day has been lost to strikes or walkouts since the Liberals took office.

"...I will stand up for what I believe in and for what I think is right for my community, and so we need this seat to be a Liberal seat at Queen's Park. We need a voice at the table to make the necessary changes that we need in this riding," Johnson said, acknowledging that it will be a "battle."

Vaughn MPP Greg Sorbara, chair of the Provincial Liberal Party campaign, revved up the partisan crowd, exclaiming, and "We will win" numerous times as he recalled how he wooed Johnson.

"As Liberals, one of the things that set us apart is our care and concern for those who are most vulnerable among us," Sorbara said, adding Johnson and the Liberal Party will deal with the fallout from the Harris government cuts. He said the October 6 election is important, not just for advances the Liberals have made during the past eight years, but for what work still must be done.

Sorbara said the campaign has nothing to do with incumbent Conserva-

tive MPP Ted Arnott, who he described as a "nice, soft-spoken man." He said the election won't be easy, but they will win the riding.

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The National Post described Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott as "...one of the most decent politicians at Queen's Park," a politician who is respected by his caucus and opposition colleagues. In a campaign press release Arnott said he never gives up, and is trusted, experienced, persistent and effective as an advocate.

"[Arnott] strongly supports our local health care services and schools. He pushed for the infrastructure projects we need," the release noted, adding Arnott looks out for farm families, and supports small business and job creation.

Born in Arthur, Arnott was a local hero after rescuing a drowning man. He earned a BA at the University of Waterloo - where he was named "graduate making a difference around the world." He also has a Diploma in Business Administration. First elected in 1990, he was re-elected in 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007.

Arnott said voters should ask themselves three questions including who they want to represent them, does Premier Dalton McGuinty deserve another term? and can the PCs do a better job?

Though handily re-elected in the last election, Arnott said he takes nothing for granted, and feels his "greatest contribution

is yet to come."

Arnott is the Official Opposition's Deputy House Leader and is the critic to the Minister of Tourism and Culture, and the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. A champion of volunteer firefighters who made him an honorary member of the Ontario Firefighters' Association. He received Honourary membership in the Ontario Association of Road Supervisors for his significant contribution to a public works professional accreditation program. Arnott lives in Fergus with his wife and three sons.

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Eden Mills resident Dale Hamilton is the NDP standard-bearer in Wellington-Halton Hills. In a press release, Hamilton said its time to approach politics differently. "Politics should be about you. I want to engage all voters, especially the disillusioned and the undecided, in meaningful conversations," Hamilton said, adding she would expand support for energy efficiency homes upgrades, remove the HST from essential services, tackle gas price gouging, cap public CEO's pay, and reduce small business taxes.

Hamilton is a community development co-ordinator in a Toronto housing neighbourhood. After an unsuccessful run for the NDP in 1990 for the Wellington seat, Hamilton was elected to the pre-amalgamation Eramosa Township Council, and served from 1990 to 1993.

She has also served with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, the



Arnott



Hamilton



Johnson

Farm Products Appeal Tribunal, the board at Groves Memorial Hospital and on Ontario Arts Council juries. An accomplished writer of 14 plays, Hamilton is working on her first novel.

She decided to run because her children are growing up and becoming more independent, and with the growing support of the NDP federally, it "seemed like a good time to throw my hat into the ring," Hamilton said on Monday. "I continue to feel strongly about the importance of local issues and bringing them to a higher level."

Hamilton said her campaign so far includes appearances at local Farmers' Markets, door-knocking in Acton and Georgetown, where voters wanted to talk about health care and education. "A lot of people are telling me that it is time for a change, and I'm determined to do politics differently, and if I was elected, I'd try to be more responsive to people," Hamilton said, adding she respects MPP Ted Arnott, and intends to run a clean campaign with no mud-slinging.

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