

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Make sure you vote

Two sitting politicians, one provincial, one municipal, a former municipal councillor, and an environmentally-conscious nurse – voters in Wellington-Halton Hills have well-qualified candidates to choose from when they cast their ballots in next Thursday's provincial election.

Incumbent Tory MPP Ted Arnott is seeking his seventh term in office. Liberal candidate Moya Johnson has been a Halton Hills councillor for 17 years. NDP hopeful Dale Hamilton, who trailed Arnott by just 1,300 votes when they squared off in 1990, sat on pre-amalgamation Eramosa Township Council. The Green Party candidate, Community Nurse Raymond Dartsch, of Eden Mills, is the only one who is not a current or former politician.

The 2007 provincial election set a record for the lowest voter turnout, with only 52.8 per cent of eligible voters casting their ballots. The previous record was 54.7 per cent in the 1923 election. In Wellington-Halton Hills, the turnout was almost 58 per cent, and incumbent Tory MPP Arnott took 49.2 per cent of the vote.

Joseph Kuglin, the Wellington-Halton Hills Returning Officer said turnout at the advance polls has been "rather slow at some," yet busy at others, including the advance poll at the Gellert Centre in Georgetown. The final advance polls are open tomorrow (Friday) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

As is often repeated at election time – if you don't vote, you forfeit your right to complain.

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

- No word if the Royal Café on Mill Street will re-open following a fire which started in a pot on the stove in an upstairs apartment that caused \$75,000 damage.
- IGA is deluged with more than 500 applications from people who want to work at the company's as-yet unopened new Acton East location.
- The horror of the recent World Trade tragedy made participants in the 21st Acton Terry Fox Run more somber, and possibly more generous. Approximately \$27,500 was raised.

Five Years Ago

- Purity Life is sold to natural foods snack maker SunOpta Inc., securing 155 jobs at the Acton facility. Owner Dave Chapman signed a five-year contract as president.
- New family physician, Dr. Dhanya Jayalath, began seeing new patients at the Acton Medical Centre, helping ease the strain of an under-serviced community.
- Acton's Grade six students with both the public and separate school boards tested below the provincial and board levels in recent mandatory testing of reading, writing and math skills.



WARM HEARTS AND HEADS: Thanks to the handiwork of a number of local knitters and crocheters, chemotherapy treatment patients will be warmer, wearing one of the 95 hats entered in the Acton Fall Fair Homecraft Directors' Community Challenge Special. They are being distributed by Canadian Cancer Society Acton Branch members, including Rena Arbic. – Frances Niblock photo

Voters urged to know candidates' positions on Halton issues

On behalf of voters in Halton Region, Regional Chair Gary Carr sent a series of questions to all candidates in the upcoming provincial election. Candidates were asked to comment on key issues such as how they would ensure that infrastructure programs are targeted to accommodate growth in Halton, how they would work with the Region to resolve Emergency Medical Services offload delays, and how they would help attract businesses and jobs to Halton. The responses from the candidates who replied to the questionnaire are available on Halton's website at www.halton.ca/ontarioelection2011.

"Halton needs long-term, sustainable funding from the Provincial government to ensure that we can continue to meet our municipal responsibilities and to ensure that Halton remains a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire," Chair Carr said. "Provincial policies affect every one of us so it is important for Halton voters to hear what the candidates have to say."

The Province requires Halton's population to double to 780,000

by 2031. This will result in the need for approximately \$8.6-billion for hospitals, child care, emergency services, roads and other infrastructure. Municipal infrastructure funding for Halton needs to be a priority with the Provincial government.

Chair Carr thanks provincial election candidates for providing their positions on a number of critical issues facing the Region. As of September 22, 11 candidates had responded to the questionnaire. Responses were received from Peggy Russel (NDP, Burlington), Karmel Sakran (Liberal, Burlington), Ted Chudleigh (Conservative, Halton), Indira Naidoo-Harris (Liberal, Halton), Nik Spohr (NDP, Halton), Gina van den Burg (Freedom Party, Halton), Kevin Flynn (Liberal, Oakville), Lesley Sprague (NDP, Oakville), Ted Arnott (Conservative, Wellington Halton Hills), Dale Hamilton (NDP, Wellington Halton Hills) and Moya Johnson (Liberal, Wellington Halton Hills).

Responses have not been received yet from Andrew Brannan (Freedom Party, Bur-

lington), Alex Brown (Green Party, Burlington), Anthony Giles (Libertarian Party, Burlington), Jane McKenna (Conservative, Burlington), Tim O'Brien (Family Coalition Party, Burlington), Karen Fraser (Green Party, Halton), Anthony Rodrigues (Family Coalition Party, Halton), Jonathan Banzuela (Family Coalition Party, Oakville), Andrew Chlobowski (Green Party, Oakville), Larry Scott (Conservative, Oakville) and Raymond Dartsch (Green Party, Wellington Halton Hills).

As of September 21, contact information was not available for Phil Buck (Independent, Halton), Mike Harris (Independent, Oakville) or Steve Hunter (Freedom Party, Oakville).

Visit www.halton.ca/ontarioelection2011 to find out more about issues facing Halton and to read the responses provided by the candidates. For more information about the October 6 election, visit www.elections.on.ca.

Please remember to vote – your vote helps shape Halton's future.



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