

Local boy lands Green party membership - at 10 years old

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At just eight years old, local resident Spencer Lipa knew he wanted to support the Green Party of Canada.

In the federal election campaign of 2015, Lipa researched four political parties - NDP, Liberal, Conservative and Green - and created a booklet. After the project, he decided he liked the Green party the most. Then he asked to become a member.

"It was very much like, 'Oh, that's very sweet, Spencer.' But, he persisted and persisted, and finally, he said, 'I'm serious. Can we please make me a member of the Green party?'" said Lipa's mother, Janel Bascom. "So, we did."

While doing the re-

search, Lipa was inspired by the party's stance on environmental issues.

"I care for the environment a lot," he said. "It's really hard for one person to make a huge difference; but, if the government is involved, that's really big people, and I believe those people can make a change."

"I feel that we need to keep this world healthy, or this world won't work out," he said. "I think that if the Green party is going to help the environment, the environment is really the only thing that we have."

Now 10, Lipa is the youngest honorary Green party member. He attended the party's annual general meeting in May at a potato farm in Puslinch.

At the meeting, Lipa was nominated as director at large, and although he

hasn't acted on any of his duties yet, he is on the board of directors.

At the meeting, Lipa and Bascom discussed what a motion was, as well as the difference between seconding a motion and voting in favour of one. He then became actively involved in the meeting.

"I didn't make any motions, though," he laughed.

By becoming a member of the Green party, Lipa believes he can truly make a difference with the help of government leaders.

"The leaders can make a difference. It could be a bad one or a good one, but they have the ability to make those differences," he said. "If they care for the environment and they're able to make differences to help the environment, I say let's go."



Janel Bascom/submitted

This past May at the Green Party's annual general meeting, 10-year-old Spencer Lipa received a certificate recognizing him for being the youngest Green Party member in the history of the party.

Lipa has always loved the environment, and that passion sparked at a very young age.

"Since I was a baby, I

was always playing in the grass; rolling around in it," he laughed. "I am a winter baby, so the first time I saw grass was quite interest-

ing." For Lent this year, Lipa gave up unnecessary driv-

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