

# Election Ontario

## Jackson finishes distant third

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Special to The Champion

Despite the fact the NDP failed to win party status last night, Halton NDP candidate Jay Jackson is pleased with the local results, which saw him pick up substantially more votes in Halton than he did in 1999.

Mr. Jackson garnered 5,588 votes, or 8 per cent of the vote in Halton compared to 2,833, or 5.1 per cent in the last provincial election.

"We had a wonderfully enthusiastic campaign here in Halton — excellent workers," said Mr. Jackson from his Milton campaign office, where several NDP supporters gathered to watch the election results come in.

"We're excited. We had a fantastic response at the doorstep. People wanted to see change."

He said key issues were public services, and stressed that people he spoke with don't agree with privatization of hydro and hospitals.

Throughout the campaign he said it was clear people were unhappy with the Tories, adding



**Jay Jackson congratulates Liberal Barbara Sullivan on a strong showing last night.**

"so we knew there was an opportunity to bring people on board."

Mr. Jackson, a Halton Hills resident who was the NDP flagbearer in Halton during the 1999 provincial and 1996 federal election, said he wasn't surprised by Ted Chudleigh's win.

"I know that Ted had the second largest plurality in the province (in 1999)."

Given the choice between the Liberals and Conservatives, Mr. Jackson said he's happier to see the Liberals in power.

He said the Liberals and NDP had similar platforms, but the NDP's "tended to be a little more aggressive."

A Liberal government means policies are going to change, he said. "It will mean better health care, better education."

He added he believes the NDP will work with the Liberals.

Mr. Jackson was disappointed by the drop in the number of seats the party earned across the province, and the fact it lost its party status, but he said he believes it was because voters wanted to be clear "to oust the Tories."

"Clearly people were so focused on changing the Tories that people were wanting to be very definitive about their choices," he said.

He doesn't believe the final tally reflects on NDP leader Howard Hampton's abilities.

Mr. Jackson said he'll consider running again for the NDP in the federal election.

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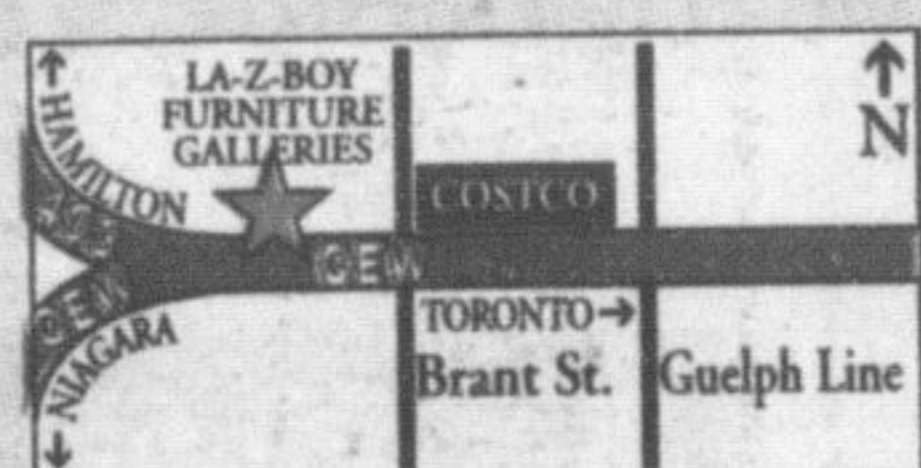
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