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44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"

Carr out — Turner takes Halton



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Conservative Garth Turner — with his wife Dorothy — is jubilant after winning the Halton Riding last night.

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**

The Champion

Halton Conservative Garth Turner will take over the reins as the area's next MP after ousting Liberal Gary Carr last night in one of the closest local races in recent memory.

With only about 2,000 votes more than Mr. Carr, the former Halton-Peel MP narrowly cruised to victory, ending what was sometimes a nasty campaign between the pair.

"I'm honoured and privileged and humbled tonight to be the Member of Parliament for Halton," Mr. Turner told the cheering crowd of more than 100 party faithful who attended his 'Rock the Vote' celebration at the Ramada Inn.

"I'm honoured to be a foot soldier in Stephen Harper's army."

Mr. Turner was declared the winner at his event around 11 p.m. when he arrived amongst a flurry of camera flashes, hugs and handshakes.

"Tonight is sweet indeed," he said, noting Halton is returning to what he calls a small 'c' Conservative riding. "I think voters in Halton have a lot to be thankful for."

He said his victory means Halton families are going to have their issues addressed, such as tax relief, childcare, healthcare and mortgage rates.

"It means the people of Halton will, for the first time in 12 years, get their voice back," he noted.

Mr. Turner emphasized that he plans to represent local residents to Ottawa, instead of it being the other way around.

He told *The Champion* that he'll be placing an emphasis on communication with Halton residents. "I want to get back to Town Hall meetings," he said. "There's a lot of reaching out for me to do as the new Member of Parliament."

He pointed out that his 267-day campaign — long before the election was officially called — has involved knocking on 45,000 doors and holding five Town Hall meetings, all with the help of 300 volunteers.

"I think we touched every corner of this

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riding," he said, calling the campaign a "long and grueling" one.

As the polls started rolling in after 10 p.m., it became evident that Halton was headed for Conservative representation, with Mr. Turner leading by at least several hundred votes each time the results were updated.

Throughout the evening, the crowd erupted with applause as more Conservatives across the country took seats.

During his speech, Mr. Turner called the government's return to Conservative power "the Liberals' worst nightmare."

"Get used to it Paul (Martin), get used to it Gary (Carr) and all the rest of you guys," he said.

He noted he had particular satisfaction in winning just days after the prime minister "dissed" him and his campaign supporters when he stopped in Milton last week.

"Tonight, the people of Canada and the people of Halton have spoken," he said.

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