

Newly-elected MP named natural resources minister

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

While she's only been in office for a little over two weeks, rookie Halton MP Lisa Raitt has already been appointed to a major post in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Cabinet.

The Conservative politician, who ousted Liberal MP Garth Turner in the federal election earlier this month, was chosen as the minister of natural resources in yesterday's Cabinet shuffle.

Raitt is one of several women Harper appointed to key roles, marking a move away from the previously male-dominated Cabinet.

Following yesterday's swearing in ceremony, the Nova Scotia native told reporters at Rideau Hall that she's "really excited to serve Canadians in the province where I'm from."

At press time, she was tied up in a Cabinet meeting and wasn't available for further comment.

In an interview last week with the *Champion*, Raitt said she's been busy meeting with and getting to know fellow Conservative MPs in the area, doing paperwork in Ottawa, attending local events and hunting for a constituency office location in Milton.

The Oakville resident said it's also been a priority for her to thank all of the volunteers who helped make her campaign successful.

She said she's looking forward to



Lisa Raitt

her first day in the House of Commons next month and vowed to work hard on behalf of her constituents.

"The people of Halton have given me a job to do and I take it very seriously," she said.

Raitt fought what was sometimes a bitter battle with Turner and emerged victorious on October 14, garnering 32,916 votes.

The married mother of two is the former president and CEO of the Toronto Port Authority.

Residents looking to contact Raitt can do so at info@lisaraitt.ca. A phone number will be available once her constituency office is established.

- with files from Torstar News Service

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Councillor questions if EA will stand the test of time

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While the Province did approve an environmental assessment (EA) Pristine prepared for its proposal, Mann said the Town has concerns from an air quality and environmental perspective, among other things.

Penman said he thinks the EA will have to be revisited, since its results could be altered due to the increasing volumes of traffic on nearby Hwy. 401 and the fact a power plant is now being built just over the Milton border in Halton Hills.

The councillor asked Windrem if he thinks the EA results would stand the test of time, particularly in light of the new Halton Hills power plant, and Windrem said yes.

During Monday's meeting, council endorsed preparing the Derry Green secondary plan on the basis of 'option 1A,' which includes fewer roads than option 1 and a mix of business park, prestige office and industrial uses. A community park is also proposed.

The purpose of the secondary plan is to provide greater detail on

things like the preferred range of employment uses, urban design, transportation and parks and open space systems.

Industrial-commercial-institutional (ICI) development is taking place in Milton at a rapid rate, with 1.96 million square feet of ICI growth last year — a number that surpasses the previous record of 1.86 million square feet set in 2006.

Town council learned last year that if serviced employment land continues to be used up at the current speedy rate, it will be built out in five to six years, making the new business park all the more urgent.

In addition to preparing the secondary plan, staff will also be meeting with business park landowners to discuss whether they'll form a partnership to share the costs for things like collector roads and stormwater management works.

Staff hopes to bring a draft of the secondary plan to council early next year.

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