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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

A jubilant Lisa Raitt gets a big victory kiss from sons John Colin (left), 9, and Billy, 6, at she arrives at her victory party last night.

Halton Riding voters re-elect Raitt

By Christina Comisso
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Dubbed 'Landslide Lisa' by her supporters, Lisa Raitt steamrolled her way to victory once again.

"Clearly the people of Ontario wanted what we were talking about," said Raitt from her campaign party at Milton's Ned Devine's,

where about 100 supporters, cheered, chanted and hugged the night away.

Sweeping all the early polls and riding that lead to the decisive win, Raitt secured about 55 per cent of Halton's votes, as of midnight, up eight per cent from the 2008 election.

Despite the Conservative's dominance in the province, Raitt said the night was nerve-racking.

"My numbers didn't come in until the

very end, and I was surprised to see how well we did in Ontario."

First on Raitt's agenda will be addressing her core campaign issue — jobs.

"The number one thing I'm going to do here is get myself engaged in the Halton 10 year economic development project in a serious manner and make sure I understand exactly what's going on," said Raitt of the

• see VOTERS on page A3

Local Liberals edge NDP

By Steve LeBlanc
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Disappointed, but not deterred.

Amidst a somber tone late last night at Shoeless Joe's — with a decisive defeat to Tory incumbent Lisa Raitt rapidly taking shape — Connie Laurin-Bowie took solace in what she viewed as an overall positive campaign.

The campaign was her first, but perhaps not her last.

"I'm in this for the long haul," said Halton's Liberal flagbearer, speaking to the possibility of running again.

"It's (campaign) been a great experience. At first a lot of people were saying that we didn't need this election and that people didn't care, but that's not what I heard at the door at all. People were engaged."

Despite looking back on the past six weeks in a positive light, Laurin-Bowie couldn't mask her discouragement — and surprise — at the outcome.

Greeted with a warm but subdued
 • see EARLY on page A3

HALTON RIDING

	# votes (295 of 329 polls)
Lisa Raitt	37,440
Connie Laurin-Bowie	17,237
Pat Heroux	11,386
Judi Remigio	2,430
Tony Rodrigues	206

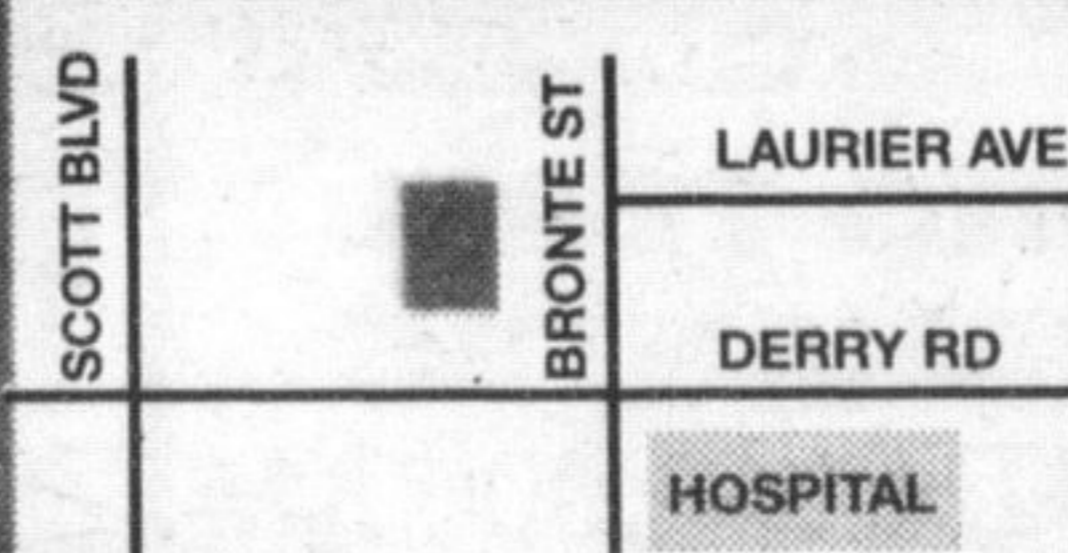
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