

- Larry O'Connor -

Larry O'Connor started out 1995 as a respected MPP and a proven advocate for his Durham-York riding. Despite the mood of restraint that had taken over the province's NDP government, O'Connor seemed to be able to deliver the goods in the form of generous provincial grants to the York-Durham Heritage Railway and other local projects.

But by year's end, as a result of the PC sweep in the June 8 provincial election, he had been relegated to the same anonymity he knew before his surprise victory in the 1990 provincial election.

The former General Motors assembly line worker was lauded by NDP Premier Bob Rae, Economic and Trade Minister Frances Lankin, and the local New Democrats at his March nomination meeting. He went into the spring election campaign banking on his record over his five years in office to send him back to Queen's Park for a second term. O'Connor staunchly defended his record, and that of the NDP government during all candidates meetings around the riding while facing a barrage of criticism aimed at the government.

But when voting day came, O'Connor admitted he was taken aback by the size of the majority won by PC candidate Julia Munro in Durham-York. O'Connor's 7,965 votes left him marginally ahead of Liberal David Marquis, but Munro took 60% of the vote with 25,018 votes.



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