

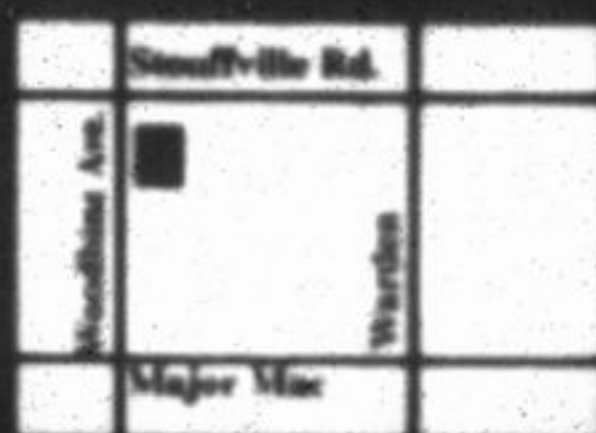
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Mom's mayoral run inspired MP

From page 1.

the campaign, Ms Freeman said the polls were showing her steadily gaining in popularity. They projected her to finish with a solid second-place showing.

"I was prepared to do my best. I definitely was not expecting this. It was quite a shock," she said.

But with just a couple of weeks left in the campaign, no money and no time to fundraise, Ms Freeman kept working towards getting Mr. Mulcair re-elected.

"It was not on our list of priorities," she said. Even on election night, instead of watching the numbers with her friends and family, Ms Freeman spent it helping out at a polling station in Mr. Mulcair's riding.

When she checked her cellphone at 1 a.m. she said she had 20 voicemails all with them saying "You're an MP!"

"I walked in a normal person and walked out an MP. A very strange thing," she said.

Ms Freeman took 44.2 per cent of the vote and beat Mr. Laframboise by 8,925 votes.

Ms Freeman was introduced to politics by her parents, Jeanne Major and Robert Freeman. Ms Major ran for mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville in 2000. She lost to Wayne Emmer-son. The couple still lives in Stouffville.

"She was my inspiration to get into it," said the fully bilingual graduate of Aurora's ESC Renaissance Catholic secondary school.

As a political theory student, Ms Freeman always knew she wanted to become a politician "but it is very strange for it to happen all at the same time" as graduating.

Along with telling her former future boss she quit — Ms Freeman has only been able to



MYLENE FREEMAN: Former Stouffville resident found out she was elected after receiving voicemails.

drop the company a quick e-mail so far — she plans on moving into her riding of Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel and learning what the political issues are.

She also plans on getting an apartment in Ottawa.

Ms Freeman is not the only former York Region resident to have been a part of the Orange Crush in Quebec this week.

Charmaine Borg, 20, also a McGill University student, was elected MP of Terrebonne-Blainville. She's originally from Keswick.

Ms Borg, Ms Freeman and three other McGill students were all elected Monday night as part of the NDP's ousting of the Bloc Quebecois.

"The people of Quebec want change," Ms Freeman said. "They don't have to constantly fight against the rest of Canada."



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