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november newsletter

Rebecca invited to panel discussion on Affordable Housing in Toronto Nov. 6

Rebecca Harrison has been invited to speak at this event as the Poverty Elimination Critic for the Green Party of Canada.

The Alliance for Affordable Co-operative Housing, Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto and Social Planning Toronto invite you to take part in this special event dedicated to putting housing back on the national agenda. Bring your questions and ideas!

Saturday, November 6
Doors open 12:30 p.m., town hall 1-3 p.m.
Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Room 308/309, Toronto

Light refreshments provided.

Moderator:

- **Jacquie Maund**, Family Service Toronto and Campaign 2000



Speakers:

- **Olivia Chow**, New Democratic Party of Canada
- **Rebecca Harrison**, Green Party of Canada
- **Bob Rae**, Liberal Party of Canada

- Conservative Party of Canada (invited)
- **Tom Clement**, Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto
- **Winnie Ng**, Good Jobs for All Coalition
- **Michael Shapcott**, Wellesley Institute
- Tenant Representative from Toronto ACORN

Co-sponsors:

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, Campaign 2000, COSTI, Family Service Toronto, Housing Action Now, Housing Help Association of Ontario, University of Toronto's Community Development Program

All are welcome. As space is limited, please register [here](#) or call (416) 351-0095 x251.

Action Needed on Housing Strategy

22 October 2010 - 2:15pm

OTTAWA -- The Green Party of Canada is calling on all MPs to vote for Bill C-304, particularly the Conservatives and Bloc who have not yet supported this Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians.

"MPs need to drop their partisan games and all vote in favour of Bill C-304," said Deputy Green Leader Adriane Carr. "The housing crisis began when the federal government pulled out of social housing, transferring administration of social-housing programs to provinces and territories. We

now know that this was a big mistake. We need a National Housing Strategy and direct federal government involvement to ensure Canadians can meet the basic need of decent shelter."

Canada is the only G8 nation without a federal housing strat-

(Continued on page 3)



Rebecca participating in Durham's Do The Math challenge

25. October 2010 23:58

The 'Do the Math' Challenge in Durham Region brings attention to the realities of local residents who live on limited incomes and social assistance.

The math just doesn't add up, and it's time to do something about it!!!

Close to 20 of Durham's influential leaders have accepted the Challenge from November 1st to November 5th 2010!

For five days local leaders of the Durham community will eat solely from what is provided in a typical food bank hamper.

Town Hall Meeting Nov. 5 - 7:00 pm

Rebecca will be a panellist at a town hall meeting on Friday Nov. 5 in Oshawa.

The CDCD, Durham Region's 'Do the Math' Challenge organizers, and the Durham Food Policy Council would like to encourage you to attend a TOWN HALL MEETING!

The Town Hall Meeting will provide an opportunity for Challengers to share their experiences, and for the community to discuss what needs to be done to increase food security and income security in Durham Region...and across Ontario.



Follow the Challenger's blog feeds at www.putfoodinthebudget.ca.

The Do the Math Challenge asks participants to rely on a diet that a person on social assistance might receive from a food bank for three days to a week.

It is the latest stage in the Put Food in the Budget campaign for an immediate increase of \$100 a month for every adult in Ontario receiving social assistance so that they can afford more healthy food.

The objectives of the Do the Math Challenge are:

- Increase empathy with experience of people who rely on social assistance.
- Raise awareness that charity is not enough – that the experience of people on social assis-

tance is systemic not individual – and that policy change and social investments are required of the Ontario government

- Translate public empathy into public action – for people to talk to their MPP's about supporting an immediate increase in social assistance of \$100 per month for every adult in Ontario on social assistance

If you accept this challenge you will be taking part in a public act of solidarity with people on social assistance. Your participation in this campaign can help raise awareness about this issue in your community and will also help us send a message to Premier McGuinty and his government to raise social assistance rates and to Put Food in the Budget.

The Do the Math Challenge
..... in Durham Region

[TOWN HALL MEETING]

The "Do the Math" Challenge in Durham Region brings attention to the realities of local residents who live on limited incomes and social assistance. The math just doesn't add up, and it's time to do something about it!

Date: Friday, November 5th 2010
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Location: Oshawa Community Health Centre
 (115 Grassmere Ave, Oshawa ~ Durham Region Transit – Bus # 401 Simcoe South)

Close to 30 of Durham's influential leaders have accepted the Do the Math Challenge from November 1st to November 5th 2010!

For five days, local leaders of the Durham community will eat solely from what is provided in a typical food bank hamper.

The Town Hall Meeting will provide the opportunity for Challengers to share their experiences, and for all of us to discuss what needs to be done to increase **food security** and **income security** in Durham Region ...and throughout Ontario.

Follow the Challenger's blog feeds:
www.ftndurham.ca

Please RSVP to Meg Cramer (for estimate of numbers)
 Tel: 905-686-2661 ext 132
 E: mcramer@cdcd.org

and hosted by:
 CDCD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL DURHAM
 Durham Food Policy Council
 FEED THE COMMUNITY DURHAM
 Oshawa Community Health Centre

Rebecca's blog: Day 1 of Do The Math challenge

For lunch I had my can of Chef Boyardee. I somehow remember it being more satisfying as a child. About half way through the bowl I was full but in no way felt energized from the meal. In fact I felt down right tired. I found it hard to focus

on my work and studying the rest of the day. I tried to pep myself up with a few crackers and an apple from the hamper and felt much better once I tasted the fresh juicy apple. I reminded myself that this was a rare luxury in a typical food

hamper. Had this been december I doubt we would have that luxury. By dinner time I wasn't feeling like eating much since I was pretty sure the Chef Boyardee was still sitting heavy in my stomach so I opted for a micro-waved potato and some green

beans. The canned veggies were very salty but the potatoe was flavourful. Again the meal left me ready for bed. I usually work late into the night but with the fatigue setting in I found it hard to concentrate.

[Read more here](#)

Durham leaders try eating food bank diet for a week

Oct 28, 2010 - 03:01 PM

[Jillian Follert](#)

DURHAM -- For the next week, community leaders in Durham Region will get a small taste of what life is like for thousands of local people who don't have enough food to eat, or struggle to survive on what they receive from a food bank.

The 'Do the Math' challenge kicks off Monday, Nov. 1 when participants -- ranging from faith leaders and municipal councillors to staff from local social service agencies -- will pick up a typical food bank hamper from Feed the Need in Durham.

And that's the only food they will have available for the next five days.

"We have so much choice and we take that for granted," said participant Tito-Dante Marimpietri, who was recently re-elected to Oshawa council. "You just go about your day, you're so busy and consumed with your life that you may not think about those who don't

have as much. I'm curious to see how I do."

The participants will blog about their progress during the week, then wrap up by sharing their experiences at a town hall meeting on Friday, Nov. 5.

Tracey Vaughan-Barrett expects to be eating a lot of canned food, pasta and rice.

The executive director of Community Development Council Durham said food bank offerings vary from week to week, but that milk, meat and fresh produce are usually in short supply.

Those are the exact types of food that low-income people need the most she says, stressing that those who survive on a limited income often have more health problems than their wealthier counterparts.

"It's low income, not lifestyle choices that is the true leading cause of bad health," Ms. Vaughan-Barrett said. "When we compare the poorest Canadians to those with a higher income they have a 100 per

cent higher rate of diabetes and heart disease." She says food banks are not the problem, underscoring what an important community resource they are. But, they're not a sustainable answer to the problem of food insecurity, she says.

"There has been a push across Ontario for a \$100 a month increase for any adult receiving social assistance, so they can afford to buy healthy food," Ms. Vaughan-Barrett explains. "That's something that would really help."

Durham isn't the first community to raise awareness through a 'Do the Math' challenge. Last

spring the Stop Community Food Centre in Toronto invited prominent leaders in that city to subsist on a food bank hamper for one week and challenged visitors to its website to add up their own monthly living costs to determine whether they could eat well on a social assistance income.

The town hall meeting runs from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5 at the Oshawa Community Health Centre, 115 Grassmere Ave.

To follow the participant's blogs visit www.ftndurham.ca.

Source:

www.newsdurhamregion.com

How much does it cost to eat healthfully?

Every year the Durham Region Health Department calculates the cost of a "Nutritious Food Basket" in Durham using a protocol created by Ontario Public Health Standards. Six local grocery stores are surveyed to find the lowest cost of 66 basic food items to determine the average cost of a healthy diet.

The 2010 survey revealed that the cost of groceries for a nutritionally adequate diet for a family of four -- a man and woman, a teen-aged boy and a younger girl -- is \$162.07 per week.

Green Party of Canada calls for action on affordable housing

(Continued from page 1)

egy. There are now 250,000 homeless in Canada. "We are spending billions of dollars on international meetings, jails and fighter planes while Canadians are still having to worry about where they will sleep at night. Somehow, our priorities have gone askew," said Green Leader Elizabeth May.

"It is now well-documented that Canada has a housing crisis," said Rebecca Harrison,

Green Party Critic on Poverty Elimination. "The Senate report In From the Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness sets out a path of action that all levels of government should be initiating immediately. The authors of this report also realize that investing in individual Canadians will bring great economic benefits to our country. We know what we should be doing. Voting for Bill C-304 will move us into action."

The Green Party would work to ensure cooperation at all levels of government for secure, adequate, accessible, and affordable housing for all Canadians.

Green Party MPs would also:

- Remove taxes from the lowest income categories so that no taxes are paid by those below the poverty line (Canada's Low Income Cut-off measure).

- Allow income assistance recipients to keep 100% of the wages they earn up to the Low Income Cut-off level to encourage people to get back into the job market.

- Offer people the mobility they need to find work, shelter and other necessities through free transit passes for those on income assistance.

Source:

www.greenparty.ca

By-elections called in 3 ridings for Nov. 29

Three federal by-elections have been called for November 29th. These races will be closely watched by the national media as the old-line parties sling mud at one another in advance of a general election.

Please support our candidates by volunteering one or two evenings of your time. You can help them identify green voters by telephone--it's easy and can be done from the comfort of your home. Email by-elections@greenparty.ca to get started.

Spotlight: Vaughan

Claudia Rodriguez-Larrain is an environmentalist, activist, & legal advocate.

As an environmental activist, she is co-founder of two environmental not-for-profits, The Regensis Project and Regensis International, where she currently holds the title of President and CEO. She is also committed to empowering tomorrow's future with leadership. In contribution to this, she founded The Oratory club of York, a student-run organization that assists university and community members in

developing their public speaking skills, with special programming in the summer for at-risk-youth in partnership with community work programs such as COSTT's Youth Employment Summer Program.

Over the past 6 years, Claudia has worked with various community organizations and legal clinics as a poverty law advocate, assisting people with disabilities and limited resources in attaining legal representation for housing and disability claims. As the current CEO for the Green Party of Vaughan, she is committed to "greening" and empowering Vaughan with the first women's club as mandated in the Green Party of Canada's constitution for empowering women to enter politics with their unique and powerful leadership contribution.

Claudia Rodriguez has also written, directed and produced a documentary film titled, "Are we too stupid to save ourselves?" The film documents the political and social illiteracy of our peers. It will be entered into the HOTDOCS 2011 film festival. As a off-shoot, Claudia has tried her hand at art and will have a special installation as part of

the Nuit Blanche Guerrilla installation for 2010, titled "The Earth is anxious", with mixed media components.

The leadership skills of Claudia Rodriguez are as diverse as her learned career. She holds a BA Psychology and College diplomas in Immigration law, Mediation and Arbitration, and Provincial Offences. To facilitate her diverse interests, Claudia studied and received a Cosmetology license in addition to a diploma in Film and Videography production.



*Claudia Rodriguez-Larrain,
Federal candidate for Vaughan*

Manitoba By-elections

In Manitoba we currently have two by-elections.

Dauphin Swan River—Marquette

Candidate:

Kate Storey

Kate Storey is an innovative organic farmer, a successful business manager, a committed Green, and a community leader with a solid track record of getting things done. Kate's current projects include developing a sustainable farm management business plan, serving on the Manitoba Organic Alliance board of directors and spearheading the national Food Policy project for the Green Party of Canada.

Winnipeg North

Candidate:

John Harvie

John Harvie has lived in the Winnipeg North riding since 1988 when he and his family were posted here from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. John served Canada in the Air Force as an Air Frame Technician and is currently attending the University of Winnipeg.

Campaign Fundraiser in Vaughan on Nov. 15

Come out and support Green Party candidate Claudia Rodriguez-Larrain, and meet Elizabeth May (Green Party Leader), Georges Laraques (former NHL player and Deputy Green Party Leader), Adriane Carr (Deputy Green Party

Leader), Deb Schulte (York Regional Councillor-elect for Vaughan), and Jane Pitfield (former Toronto City Councillor).

Tickets are FREE of charge but only a limited number of tickets are available. All you

need to do is reserve the number of tickets you require with us.

Food and beverages will be available at the Sports Village Restaurant.

We will be collecting donations

at this event for the Campaign with 100% of the net proceeds staying right here in Vaughan! As always you will receive a 75% tax credit for all donations up to \$400 on your 2010 income taxes.

[Read more here](#)

Vaughan by-election: Claudia's Blog

2 September 2010 - 9:16pm

My beautiful city and home of Vaughan, Ontario will have a by-election, following the resignation of Maurizio Bevilacqua, former liberal incumbent. Living in Vaughan for almost a decade, I could never reconcile why this riding is such a liberal stronghold, and why our green constituency is so small. Vaughan is a beautiful city with a rich history and heritage. It is home to one of my favourite art galleries in Canada, the McMichael art collection in Kleinburg, featuring the famous works of the group of seven. In true Canadian spirit, the collection and special exhibition is the only major Ontario

gallery to be 100% Canadian. I have had the pleasure of being a member and helping support the gallery since 2008, while being invited to witness the inspirational works of Robert Bateman, James Reaney, and Yousef Karsh, to name a few. The gallery is settled in the picturesque village of Kleinburg, also home to Ontario's premier center for environmental and renewable energy education.

Vaughan is also the first municipality in Ontario to have a Youth City Councillor to represent the growing youth population. With one of the lowest aging populations, where those over 65 only represent 8.15% of the population, Vaughan's aver-

age age is 31.

Most of the white belt land that belonged predominantly to the farm community has been sold to developers. What is left is protected by a moratorium on development. Citizens do not want any more sprawl, and they don't want their taxes going to fund speculative development infrastructure.

Vaughan takes pride in the heritage it has retained, restored and rebuilt. The percent that voted liberal in the last federal election is not representative of Vaughan's hopes and dreams for a community that has faced the challenges of urban sprawl and looks towards a future of political leadership

and citizen empowerment. Vaughan is a young, vibrant community ready for the liberal leaf to turn green and ripe for a new kind of leadership. A leadership where they are heard, involved, and empowered.

The future in Vaughan is green. I am asking you, fellow and future green, to join me in the victory that Vaughan deserves and asks for. Join me in turning the leaf.

To join the campaign, e-mail vaughangreens@gmail.com

Claudia Rodriguez-Larrain, Federal candidate for Vaughan, and CEO of Vaughan EDA.

Celebrating Mike Schreiner's first year as GPO Leader

an evening with **MIKE & FRIENDS** celebrating community

Please join me at a [special celebration of community](#) as we congratulate Mike Schreiner on his first year as Leader of the GPO.

What a year it has been! Mike's travels have brought him to towns, hamlets and cities across the province, visiting and talking with people in communities like yours.

Whether it's advocating for local decision making, growing the green economy or promoting the health and well-being of our neighbours by focusing on sustainability, your efforts as entrepreneurs, community members and social innovators continue to make Ontario a better place.

It's been incredibly exciting to be a

part of this dynamic organization, and I invite you to join our growing team in celebrating the past year and kicking off the election year to come.

Our evening celebration features co-founder and Executive Director of Evergreen Brick Works, **Geoffrey Cape**. **Tonya Surman**, co-founder and Executive Director of Centre for Social Innovation will host the evening.



Enjoy local hors d'oeuvres from Magic Oven with food provided by 100km Foods. Sample select local wine, beer, and cider.

Date: Wednesday, November 17th, 2010
Time: 7:00pm-10:00pm
Location: St. Lawrence Hall 155 King Street East, Toronto

The night will be full of great music, compelling speakers, and inspir-

ing people from across Ontario!

Buy your ticket today for \$100 (you'll receive a tax credit for a part of your donation). Don't miss out on this opportunity, availability is limited!

Please reserve your tickets **online here**, or by calling 416-977-7476.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Jaymini Bhikha
Director of the Leader's Office

November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Do The Math	Housing
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Drinks			Fair Vote
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Vaughan		GPO			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Friday Nov 5th 7:00pm
Do The Math Town Hall
 Oshawa Community Health Centre
 115 Grassmere Ave.

Sat Nov 6th 1:00-3:00pm
The Other Home Show
Affordable Housing Town Hall
 Metro Hall, 55 John Street
 Room 308/309, Toronto

Wed Nov 17th 7-10pm
Mike Schreiner 1-year
Celebration Party
 St. Lawrence Hall
 155 King St. E, Toronto

Wed. Oct 13th 6-8pm
Durham Green Drinks
 On The Rocks
 227 Brock St. S., Whitby
 Do you want to meet a lively group of people interested in environmental issues from academia, business, government & NGOs for good conversation? If so, join us for drinks!

Sat. Nov 13th 1-3pm
Fair Vote Durham
 Sports Café
 Iroquois Sportsplex
 500 Victoria St. W. Whitby
 Come out and get involved in promoting a fair voting system in Canada

Mon. Nov 15th 7-9pm
Vaughan Fundraiser
 Vaughan Sports Village
 2600 Rutherford Road
 Come support candidate Claudia Rodriguez-Larrain. Meet Elizabeth May, Adriane Carr, and Georges Laraque.

A Remembrance Day Message From Your Candidate

As we prepare to observe Remembrance Day the Conservative Government would rather we not remember the current travesty that is our system of veteran care in Canada. As of 2006 the Conservatives changed the veteran pensions from a continuous payment system to one lump sum. Also the care for injuries and post-combat rehabilitation to help men and women heal from the emotional ravages of war was scaled back. Even though the changes happened over 4 years ago it has unfortunately taken this long for the media and Cana-

dian public at large to take notice. The reality is that with the perpetual nature of Canada's role in Afghanistan, Canadian soldiers and their families are being affected more each day. It is true that the Green Party of Canada in our core values observes non-violent principles. This in no way means that we do not fully support the care and rehabilitation of those who serve abroad in international conflicts. Romeo Dallaire never fired a weapon during his time in Rwanda yet the violence he witnessed lead him to almost end his own life. Even if we did not engage in violence our peace keeping troops would need care and rehabilitation to heal

from the ravages of war. In my time volunteering with distress centres I learned one important thing about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and that is that it should not be referred to as a disorder but rather a normal response to very abnormal circumstances. My Great-Uncle Bill Lee fought throughout Europe during World War II. As a child I grew up listening to his stories of war. He witnessed the death of many of the men in his battalion. He dealt with the death of his closest friends by covering their bodies with his blanket before moving on. When he did this the Canadian Army would charge him \$1 for his blan-

ket roll. He used to say "Didn't I deserve to use that blanket as I saw fit for fighting for Canada and our allies, didn't they deserve a respect for giving their life?" We have a responsibility to our soldiers and their families to offer them the best of care for their selfless service abroad. I had thought that our policy had come a long way since the Great Wars. As veterans from our previous conflicts who are unaffected by this change band together to help current and future veterans, I think it has become abundantly clear that we have taken a step backward.

