



Sept 2010



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whitby-oshawa greens

september newsletter

Rebecca to speak at Take Back The Night

Rebecca will be speaking at this year's Take Back The Night event in Oshawa. She will be giving this year's survivor speech. This is not a partisan event, but we ask that you come out and raise awareness about violence against women in our community. Both men and women are welcome.

The 18th annual event takes to the streets of downtown Oshawa on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Organized by the DRCC (Durham Rape Crisis Centre) with support from YWCA Durham, it aims to raise awareness of violence against women and empower people to take action.

In Canada it is estimated that two out of three women have experienced sexual violence of some sort, including 54 per cent of girls under age 16.

Take Back the Night gets underway at 6 p.m. at the YWCA Early Years Centre, 1 McGrigor St. in Oshawa. There will be food, community displays, guest speakers and entertainment on offer before the walk begins.

Participants are encouraged to take a flashlight or buy a glow ball for \$4. For more information, call 905-444-9672.

Come out and support this worthwhile cause!

Why Take Back the Night?

A woman walks alone down a dark, deserted street. With every shadow she sees, and every sound she hears, her pounding heart flutters and skips a beat. She hurries her pace as she sees her destination become closer. She is almost there. She reaches the front door, goes inside, collects herself, and moves on forgetting, at least for tonight, the gripping fear that momentarily enveloped her life. This scene could have occurred anywhere last night, last year, or

mentation took place in Philadelphia in October of 1975. Citizens of Philadelphia rallied together after the murder of young microbiologist, Susan Alexander Speeth, who was stabbed by a stranger a block from her home while walking alone. The first Take Back the Night abroad for which we have received documentation occurred at The International Tribunal on Crimes against Women. The Tribunal took place March 4 through 8, 1976 in Brussels, Belgium. Two thousand women representing 40 countries attended the event. These were the first documented Take Back the Night marches, which occurred as a candlelight procession through the streets of Philadelphia in 1975 and Brussels in 1976.

In other parts of Europe, Take Back the Night began under a different name. After the Tribunal, Reclaim the Night arose in Rome in 1976. That year in Rome, there were a reported 16,000 rapes, and this fueled Reclaim the Night. The movement leapt from Rome to West Germany where women were harassed and assaulted both

day and night; they held their first Reclaim the Night on April 30, 1977. International interest in the movement began to grow. The next city to hold a Reclaim the Night event was Leeds, England in November 1977.

Read more at:

<http://www.takebackthenight.org/hi>



even 100 years ago. Historically, women faced the anxiety of walking alone at night and that is why Take Back the Night began.

Over 30 Years of Progress

The first Take Back the Night event in the United States for which we have received docu-

Australian election: Greens key to success of new government

Julia Gillard won the support of the Australian Greens to form a minority government but must deliver on climate reform and carbon pricing

[Julia Gillard's new minority government](#) in [Australia](#) means that the country's green party will take a [pivotal position in the nation's politics for the first time](#).

Like [the UK](#) and Germany, a surge in popularity has given the environmental movement an unprecedented parliamentary presence in Australia this year, prompting suggestions that electorates are punishing mainstream parties for failing to act decisively on [climate change](#).

In last month's poll, the [Australian Greens](#) benefited from a bigger swing than any other party, picking up 11.7% of the vote and the first lower house seat they have ever won at a general election. In the upper house, the Senate, they will soon be in an even stronger position, controlling the balance of power with nine of the 76 seats.

Adam Bandt, the victorious Greens MP, believes there are wider global trends behind his party's success. "I think climate was the key issue," he said in an interview with the Guardian. "It is very significant that a couple of unions swung behind me and against Labor."

The change is enormous since the last poll in 2007, when Labor's

Kevin Rudd won on the back of a campaign to slash emissions. But neither he nor his successor [Julia Gillard](#) made legislative progress on the issue.

Using their new leverage in a hung parliament, the Greens – now the undisputed third party – promised to support Labor in return for a new initiative on climate change. Gillard agreed that if she were to return as prime minister, she would establish a high-level committee – including representatives from the Greens and the science community – to consider ways to put a price on carbon.

"The last Labor government treated climate change like a political football," said Bandt. "When their legislation fell in a heap, Labor said they would not return to the issue until 2013. We hope we have pressed the reset button on that."

A large gap remains between the two parties on emissions targets. The last Labor government aimed for a 5-15% reduction in emissions on 2000 levels by 2020, mainly through a carbon-trading scheme. The Greens want a 40% cut, initially through a carbon tax.

"There is going to be a hard discussion," said Bandt. "If the process

breaks down we reserve the right to introduce our own legislation."

There are strong parallels between Bandt's victory in Melbourne and that of Caroline Lucas in Brighton during the UK election earlier this year. Both were breakthroughs for green candidates in progressive, urban constituencies in nations where the two major parties were unable to convince voters they were worthy of majority government.

Lucas telephoned the Australian Greens to congratulate them on election night. "We put it [Lucas' call] on Skype and then broadcast it on a projector. The response was fantastic. The room went off," Bandt said.

He sees an international dimension to advance of green parties. "There are growing numbers of young people reading and accepting the science of climate change. There is a large constituency that feels betrayed by the rightward move of social democratic parties over the past 30 years and there is a large group of professionals who see that the old parties are not taking rational actions because they are tied to the interests of the 20th-century economy."

Leader of the Australian Greens, Bob Brown, has likened his party's situation to that of Labor at the start of the 20th century – they had yet to win seats or fully organise workers but later went on to govern the nation.

Bandt concurs. "I don't have delusions of grandeur, but there are similarities," he says. "We are doing what needs to be done at this particular point in history. We are driven by a world view, which you cannot say about the other parties."

Although part of the Greens' recent success must be put down to a protest vote, the party has seen a steady rise in the polls over the past 10 years as it has established distinctive policies on immigration, same-sex marriage and healthcare reform.

But if they want to appeal beyond inner-city, university areas, members realise they will have to go further to prove they are more than a single-issue movement. "We have to use the power responsibly because we have never had it before. We have to show people we can be trusted," said Richard Di Natale, a newly elected Greens senator.

Source:

Guardian.co.uk

Visit Rebecca Harrison's new Campaign Website

The Rebecca Harrison campaign is proud to announce that we have gone live on our new website.

www.rebeccaharrison.ca/

This new website features information about Rebecca, links to

news articles and videos where Rebecca has been quoted or interviewed, as well as photos.

We will be updating the website frequently so please be sure to check back often.

The web site also includes links to

Rebecca's Facebook page and Twitter page.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/rhwgreen

Twitter: [RHWGreen](https://twitter.com/RHWGreen)

Your feedback is always appreci-

ated so we welcome any suggestions on how to make this site better.

Please be sure to pass on the address to any of your friends or family looking to become involved with Rebecca's campaign.

Elizabeth May fundraiser in July a Big Success!

Elizabeth May paid a visit to the riding of Whitby-Oshawa in July, and she had a great time meeting engaged Green Party members and people from the community, especially engaging in lively conversation discussing Green issues!

The event took place at the Whitby Curling Club on July 6th. It featured a Meet & Greet with Rebecca Harrison, as well as displays from local businesses Simple is Beautiful, Enviro-sponsible, and Angie C. Daley Original Artwork.

Rebecca was introduced by her father Mark Harri-

son, who was a successful municipal politician in Oxford County and Norwich Township. He touched on her daughter's experience with politics helping out with his successful campaigns, at a very young age.

His moving introduction

was followed by a speech from Rebecca where she discussed the recent events at the Toronto G20, and introduced a Whitby resident who was detained for simply riding the GO train prior to the demonstrations.

Eighteen year old Nata-

sha Borris spoke about her experience in the Eastern Avenue Detention Centre during the G20 weekend 1 week previous.

The audience was moved to tears by her speech, and she received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Elizabeth May spoke after, and touched on the civil rights abuses and the need for a full public inquiry into the events at the G20.

This was followed by a Dutch Auction and we managed to raise a significant amount of money for the campaigns to elect Elizabeth May in Saanich Gulf Islands and your candidate Rebecca Harrison in Whitby-Oshawa.

Thanks so much to all that came, and to all those who volunteered for the event!



Looking for Passionate Volunteers for Rebecca's Campaign

Do you believe change is possible in Whitby-Oshawa?

Do you believe that people are catching on to the Green message, and want to help us take the campaign to the next level?

Do you believe our nominated candidate Rebecca Harrison has what it takes to make

a difference?

Rebecca has made the commitment to represent the Green values in Whitby-Oshawa in the next federal election. Now we need to stand behind her and give her a chance to show the voters that she is the best choice.

We need passionate people who are willing

to contribute some time, effort, and creativity.

If you are willing to lend your specific skills, even for a small amount of time, it would greatly help Rebecca's campaign.

We are looking for people to help:

- Write press releases

- Set up public appearances
- Organize events
- Phone potential voters
- Canvass with Rebecca

Contact Rebecca now to volunteer. Call 905-999-5479 or send her an [email](#).

GPC BGM 2010 Highlights: A Party With Vision

We are the top of the class. Don Drummond (former chief economist for TD bank and former deputy minister of finance) gave Vision Green a solid B+. We're not on his honor role yet however he gave the other parties an F for lacking the courage to lay out their plan for Canada, to Canadians, in such detail.

He pointed out where we have done well and more importantly where we could tighten up our policies and improve. In true Green spirit we ate it up. Elizabeth May joked (kidding on the square) the next day that the cabinet was already working on getting an A.

There were many great policy discussions, unfortunately I wasn't able to make it to the policy workshops due to other events at the same times but I heard from

many who attended that they were lively but respectful and that even the policies that did not pass were given some nice debate.

On the constitutional side I think we took a few strides forward. I'll



set leadership stuff aside for now and focus on organizing and governance. The EDA accountability motions will result in stronger EDAs because the rights of the members and the responsibilities of the executives have been put to paper. In terms

of governance I think the big news is the replacement of our councillors at large with an executive council. This shrinks the size of the council somewhat but will help us be more responsive and agile moving forward. Also a party president (given a strong mandate from the members) will hopefully bring an end to the roadblocks and division on council while providing consistent direction.

GPC BGM 2010 Highlights: Strong Women Leaders

A theme throughout the weekend was the strong female leadership in the Green Party of Canada. From Elizabeth and Adriane to the dozens of women who got up to the mic in the plenary female leadership was constantly on display. I'm sure Nyssa McLeod, Julie Nolan and Elizabeth Berman had better things to do than work all weekend but helped ensure the BGM went off without a hitch.

Camille Labchuk stepped up and handled the media this weekend allowing Debra Eindiguer to stay with father.

Female leadership was present in the workshops, the training sessions, the CEO Summit and the Young Greens gathering.

This of course brings us to Strong Communities built by Strong Women an event on Sunday afternoon. Our extremely dedicated and capable Ontario organizer, Rebecca Harrison-White delivered an incredibly moving speech about the dangers and reality of domestic abuse in Canada. Drawing from her own story Rebecca moved many in the room to tears. While Rebecca's story ended on a happy and hopeful note, she did outline the size of the problem we are facing and encouraged us all to get involved.

It's too bad that due to scheduling conflicts many people were not able to hear her speak as it is perhaps the most lasting memory I will have from this BGM.



All pictures were taken by:
Camille Labchuk, Nyssa McLeod or Michael Paskewitz

GPC BGM 2010 Highlights: Laraque & Carr

Our deputy leaders did a great job bringing us through the Pledge for the Planet webathon.

Adriane's political experience and fundraising expertise make her a huge asset to the party.

Georges was right when he said he speaks a differently than most political people and politicians. His abil-

ity to genuinely connect with Canadians will be a big boost in the next election.

With these two great deputy leaders we should be more comfortable keeping Elizabeth in SGI where she can work to becoming Canada's first Green MP.



GPC BGM 2010 Highlights: E May! E May!

The Green Party of Canada is energized and united behind our leader Elizabeth May. She received an unheard of level of approval from Green Party members who endorsed her leadership to the tune of 85%.

The peak of the convention for me was Elizabeth's speech Saturday morning. When she finished, had someone handed me a clipboard and a voter list I would still be out canvassing. It seemed as if every few sentences the crowd erupted in

a applause and often standing ovations.

If there is indeed a fall election then that was exactly the type of speech Greens needed to hear. It certainly got everyone at my table fired up!

Elizabeth is one our party's top assets and as members we need to ask ourselves what we can do to ensure that after the next election she is sitting in the House of Commons.



About the Blogger: Dave Bagler In His Own Words

In late 2005 I joined the Green Party. I had always been interested in politics but hadn't found a party I could believe in until I read the Green Party of Canada's 2004 election platform.

Even after I joined the party I was not a terribly active member, that is until the 2006 by-election in London North Centre. There was a van travelling from Ottawa to London for the last weekend before voting day. On a whim my girlfriend Katie and I decided to go.

We had planned to help that weekend and head back for

school but we were having so much fun that we decided to stick around for the election day to help get out the vote. We canvassed all day and put out signs all night. After that weekend I was hooked! Shortly after that I became involved with the Young Greens Council, first developing their website in 2007, and then as their elected internal communications chair in 2008. During this time I was able to take a leadership role in organizing the Young Greens effort during the Guelph by-election and developing the youth strategy for the 2008 election.

Locally I have been involved in various campaigns since 2006. I served as the co-youth chair for the provincial campaign in Kingston during the 2007 election and have worked in various roles for multiple by-elections. I have also worked in the Green Party of Canada's national office as part of the technical team and in early 2009, I became the president of the Ottawa-Vanier Constituency Association. In addition to volunteering for the Green Party, I have started a local door-to-door food drive in my neighbourhood, the Sandy Hill

Holiday Food Drive. Entering its third year, the food drive has become a tremendous success not only in terms of collecting donations for those in need but also by fostering a sense of community and empowering those involved with the knowledge that they can make a real difference. For my work on the food drive, this past spring I was honored to be named a Sandy Hill Volunteer of the Year.

Visit Dave Bagler's Blog at

www.DaveBagler.com

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labour Day	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Take Back	17	18 Stand Up
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 AIDS Walk
26	27	28	29	30		

Thurs Sept 16th 6pm
Take Back The Night
YWCA in Oshawa
 Everyone welcome!

Sat Sept 18th 9:00-4:00pm
Stand Up Against Poverty
booth at Heritage Day
 Downtown Whitby

Wed. Apr. 14th 6-8pm
Durham Green Drinks
 On The Rocks
 227 Brock St. S., Whitby

Be a part of the Green Party Team at this year's AIDS WALK for LIFE in DURHAM REGION! This year we will be joined by GPO Leader Mike Schreiner!

There will be prizes and incentives for the team who raise the most! Team Green we can do it!

FOR REGISTRATIONS GO TO <http://www.aidswalkforlife.ca/Oshawa.htm>

Click the link under ONLINE FUNDRAISING to Register with our team!

On the next page click SIGN UP TO WALK
 Use: TEAM GREEN

MORE INFORMATION:
 Contact Rebecca Harrison
rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca
 905-999-5479

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT
rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca

The Gun Registry: Too Important to be Used as a Wedge



Rebecca Harrison, our Federal candidate for Whitby-Oshawa

As our community prepares to take to the streets for The Annual Take Back the Night March September 16th in Oshawa I would like everyone to remember that the controversial Long Gun Registry was brought forward, in part, as a response to the Montreal Massacre. On that tragic day in 1989 at Montreal's L'Ecole

Polytechnique, 14 women lost their lives at the hands of a man brandishing a Ruger Mini 14 Rifle.

A study taken prior to and shortly after the Registry's implementation, showed that, for those years, 71% of spousal homicides involving firearms, were committed with a Long Gun. Since then, femicides by long guns have been reduced radically, while millions of weapons have been registered.

We should not allow the discussion on this issue to be reduced to some type of rural vs urban rivalry. Some politicians have attempted to use this as a wedge issue for that exact reason. The real issue should concern partner homicides and other firearm related crime in our communities across the country.

The sad fact is, even today, women are 9 times more likely to be killed by their partner than a stranger. Domestic violence may happen behind closed doors but it affects our whole community. Everyday there are women who live in fear, suffering at the hands of someone that is supposed to love them. For many victims of domestic violence it is not a choice to stay or go, but a choice to live or die. For those women who are able to leave, The Long Gun Registry is a vital tool in their protection. Using the Registry, police are able to seize the weapons in the home, greatly reducing the chance that the victim will be killed by their partner.

My community, Durham Region, has not been spared from domestic homicide. The Denise House in

Oshawa, an amazing organization providing shelter and support for abused women and their families, is named in honour of one such woman, who died at the hands of her partner while trying to courageously rebuild her life.

In conclusion, I would ask you to remember that, in Canada, we have been registering guns and owners, one way or another, since 1892 and the first 'carrying permits'. It is not new, it is not oppressive but it has proved useful. I will admit The Long Gun Registry and the over bureaucratic nature of it, may not be perfect, but, as a survivor of domestic violence, I feel it is far too important to the safety of our communities to scrap outright.

Rebecca Harrison