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Rebecca Harrison acclaimed as our Federal candidate for Whitby-Oshawa !

Aug. 15, 2009
**REBECCA ACCLAIMED
IN UNANIMOUS VOTE
OF EDA EXECUTIVE**

Amid unmistakable signs of an impending Fall election, the EDA executive scheduled a nomination meeting for Monday, August 17. Rebecca Harri-



Rebecca Harrison, our Federal candidate for Whitby-Oshawa

son, our CEO, was the only person to put her name forward, so a nomination meeting was no longer necessary and the executive has unanimously acclaimed her as her candidate. A kick-off meeting will be held in September.

"Rebecca will be a great candidate!" said Doug Anderson, candidate in the previous two elections.

REBECCA'S BIO

Rebecca Harrison is dedicated to positive change for a better tomorrow in her home of Whitby-Oshawa. From social justice to environmental and fiscal responsibility, she feels that the Green Party of Canada

will lead this country towards a brighter future. She's proud to be running as the Green candidate for Parliament in Whitby-Oshawa.

Rebecca's interest in politics started at a very young age. She was born and raised in the rural municipality of the Township of Norwich in South-Western Ontario just east of London. Her father was a successful municipal politician for the better part of 20 years, all the while holding down a full time job as an auto mechanic. Her mother was a dedicated public servant who devoted her free time to supporting environmental and animal welfare non-governmental

(Continued on page 3)

Elizabeth May responds to the US Health Care Debate

Published: Wednesday, August 5, 2009
Sarasota Herald-Tribune
Letters to the Editor

I am writing to share with U.S. citizens the benefits of the Canadian single-payer universal health care system. Canada's cost for care is far less per capita than in the U.S. private system, but our health outcomes are better. We live longer on average and infant mortality is lower. No one goes without care. I grew up in the U.S., so I have lived with both systems. I had my daughter (now 18) in a birthing center in an Ottawa hospital. There was a midwife, as well as a doctor,

available and a private room. When I was wheeled out, glowing with babe in arms, there was no bill to pay. Zero. And the public health nurse dropped by a few times to make sure the baby was thriving. Two years ago, I had a full hip replacement. I had been in constant pain from osteoarthritis. It is true that I had to wait, but our system takes all those who need the surgery, not just those whose health insurers agree to pay. The surgery was brilliant, and my hospital stay and post-operative physiotherapy were all part of the

system. I left the hospital with no bill to pay. Ask for the facts about the Canadian system. Do not believe the propaganda. The fact is that the U.S. is the only modern nation whose citizens are denied universal health care. Good luck to all in the U.S. who want to ensure that patient needs come before profit.

Elizabeth May

The author is an Officer of the Order of Canada and serves as leader of the Green Party of Canada.





Elizabeth May's blog: Fall Election?

To get a handle on that question, we need to examine the lay of the land with some longer term perspective.

We could take the relatively brief historical window of politics in Canada since the creation of the Bloc Quebecois, the rise of Reform, then Alliance, and then the Alliance cannibalization of the Progressive Conservative Party. From that we could agree that Canadian politics is in a state of disequilibrium. Things are out of whack. The neo-con agenda of the Harperites is a far cry from the old PC party. The progressive element of Red Tories is somewhere in hiding.

It is this disequilibrium that has created the space in which the Greens are rising. (That and the NDP decision to move from conscience of the country to government – or Official Opposition – in waiting. When the self-appointed conscience of the nation decides to compromise in the interest of greater power, a niche opens for a party willing to be a conscience.) Enter the Greens.

Future historians may well focus on the more immediate past. This

country has simply not come out the other side of the self-inflicted threat to Harper's government of his November 08 economic statement.

After the October 14, 2008 vote, the common wisdom was that the Harper minority mandate was good for about two years. The fact that the government nearly fell within weeks was entirely due to the Prime Minister's extraordinary miscalculation in the November economic update. In a hang-over to his famous "If we were going to be in a recession, we would be in a recession already" approach to economic melt-down, he contradicted his commitments of only days before at the APEC summit, and decided to pretend Canada's books could remain in surplus for the next five years. No stimulus package. Zero reaction to the crisis. Larded on that miscalculation was the attempt to remove women's pay equity to the civil service and to remove the campaign financing reforms of the Chretien years.

Hey presto! The Prime Minister converted a two year mandate into a seat of the pants effort to cling to power. To do so he only had to fan

the flames of regionalism, attempt to turn the rest of Canada against voters in Quebec, and for the first time in the history of any nation in the Commonwealth, succeed in shutting down the House of Commons to avoid a confidence vote. Harper survived by the skin of his teeth, but he has not since enjoyed anything that could be called the "confidence of the House."

Ignatieff broke faith with his promise to the Liberal caucus (all MPs had signed a pledge to support the coalition, although Ignatieff's name appears last) and the other opposition parties when he, as newly minted and anointed Liberal leader, decided to support the 2009 budget.

Read more at
www.greenparty.ca

If an election is called, we will be in need of volunteers for Rebecca's election campaign. Contact us to find out how you can help!

Posted By Elizabeth May
Aug 30, 2009—4:28pm

The media speculation about a possible election is moving to warp speed. Personally, I think all indicators point to a fall election. I think most commentators, basing speculations on the moment to moment variations in polls and the "what happened ten minutes ago?" punditry are rather missing the point.

The question is not "do Canadians want an election?" (although those considerations are clearly relevant), the question is "does the government enjoy the confidence of the House?"

That may sound like a question out of PoliSci 101 instead of the usual approach of politics as sporting event, but it is the central question.

GPO Leadership Contest and Annual Policy Conference 2009

Frank de Jong, Veteran Leader of the Green Party of Ontario (GPO) since 1993 recently announced that he will be stepping down, making the way for the first Leadership Contest in 16 years that de Jong will not be the leading candidate.

The nomination period is closing on Sept. 1, and we look forward to learning who has stepped up to replace Frank.

A leadership race is an exciting time for a political party. Policy will be debated! Ideas will come forward! Energy will be renewed into the grassroots! Memberships will be sold! The party will grow and become more relevant to all voters across Ontario. We will show the other political parties that we are the party that has the best ideas and will have the best Leader to govern the Province.

The Leadership Contest for 2009 will be held in London Ontario November 13 - 15.

Stay tuned for details in next month's newsletter.

Also please visit the Green Party of Ontario website at:

www.gpo.ca



Frank de Jong
Leader
Green Party of Ontario

Greens growing strong with May at the Helm

Posted August 26th, 2009

OTTAWA--August 26th marks a successful and flourishing three years for Elizabeth May's leadership of the Green Party of Canada. May's leadership has seen the Party's membership triple and the Greens' vote increase by 50% in Canada, resulting in almost a million votes in the last election, proving that the Greens are the up and coming party to watch.

May herself is extremely popular among Canadians, as evidenced by the huge outpouring of support for her participation in the Leader's debates during the last election. A recent national poll shows that over 40 per cent of Canadians would like to see the Green Party Leader win a seat in the House of

Commons, something that the Party is determined will happen. The first real breakthrough for Greens was the London North Center campaign where May hit 26%, coming ahead of both the Conservative and NDP candidates. In 2008, May's second place finish in Central Nova at 32% was a new high popular vote for any Green Party candidate in any first-past-the-post country.

"I am so pleased at how the Green Party is thriving," said May. "We have first rate candidates, excellent staff, and fantastic volunteers - all pulling together to realize the Green vision of a Canadian government that puts families and communities first, living within a sustainable economy and a healthy

environment."

A definite highlight of May's leadership was her inclusion in the federal leader debates, a first for the Green Party. Other highlights include her incredible whistle-stop tour across the country that saw crowds of supporters greeting the train at unlikely hours of the morning, media scrums after suffering through Question Period in her reserved seat up in the Diplomatic Gallery, working in a spirit of cooperation with other Greens in the party's remarkably democratic approach to policy development, and making both the worst and best dressed list at the Calgary Stampede.

"Most of all, what I've enjoyed is meeting Canadians



Elizabeth May is an environmentalist, writer, activist and lawyer. She was awarded the Order of Canada in 2005, and is leader of the Green Party of Canada.

from all walks of life, hearing what their issues are, helping where I can, and realizing how strong, resilient--and essentially green--our communities really are," said May.

Source: www.greenparty.ca

Rebecca welcomes challenge of an election campaign!

(Continued from page 1)

organizations. Rebecca credits her ambitious and humble approach to politics to their guidance early in her life.

Rebecca and her husband Chris purchased their home in north Whitby just over 2 years ago. Since then Rebecca has been able to incorporate the legacy of both her parents in her current pursuits. Outside of her work with the Green Party Rebecca is involved in a variety of volunteer positions with organizations in her community and across the world. She currently volunteers as a Rape Crisis Line Worker, delivers food for an

area food bank and works on international aid programs with a well respected Canadian non-governmental organization.

Due to her vast volunteer experience, Rebecca has a keen interest in the development of the Green Party's poverty elimination platform. Her experience in the volunteer sector has taught her that the greatest threat to the security of all nations is poverty. For that reason she is committed to finding a better way to live together within our country and our larger global village. She feels the Green Party's commitment to measuring not just the economic prosperity of

the country but the well-being of its citizens is a first step in the right direction.

Rebecca is also a vocal proponent of the Green Party's commitment to developing better public transportation across the country. As a long time sufferer of epilepsy, Rebecca has depended on public transit for most of her life. From her own personal experience she understands the vital link between mobility and a person's quality of life. The correlation between developing sustainable communities, environmental responsibility and economic prosperity has never been clearer. Rebecca is proud to

represent a party that is dedicated to increasing the well being of all citizens.

Rebecca is determined to bring the philosophy of municipal politics to the Federal level, increasing constituent input through a more participatory form of government and community development. She is dedicated to being an advocate for Whitby-Oshawa in Ottawa and looks forward to the challenge of the next campaign.

To volunteer or donate to the campaign, contact Rebecca at **905-999-5479** or

rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca

Power Shift recruiting Durham youth for trip to Ottawa in October

On October 23 -26, 2009, over 1000 young people from across the country will converge on Ottawa to take a message of bold, comprehensive and immediate federal climate action to Parliament Hill. Power Shift will be two days of training, strategy and action and one mass lobby day to hold our elected officials accountable for their part to solve the climate crisis, and to build a cohesive and effective youth climate movement. This will be the largest-ever gathering of its kind of young

people on the environment in the history of this country.

We have a Durham Team that is working hard to recruit young people from across Durham to have the amazing opportunity to participate in Power Shift Canada. Our goal is to raise the funds to allow more than 10 young people from Durham Region to attend.

To find out what you could do to help contact durhampowershift@gmail.com

Durham Power Shift is planning a Yard Sale on Saturday, September 26th. Proceeds will go towards sending youth to Parliament Hill to lobby against climate change.

We are seeking volunteers and donations of clothing, furniture or other items.



Where:

115 Albert Street,
Oshawa

When:

Sat. Sept. 26th
8:00am to 1:00pm



For more information about Chris Chopik, and updates on this byelection, visit <http://stpaulsgreens.ca>

Got a **GREEN TIP?**
Want to share with your fellow Greens a way to make a difference today?
Then send it to us!
Deadline for next issue
Sept. 25, 2009

Greens choose Chris Chopik as candidate in St. Paul's

TORONTO ON
August 12, 2009

Chris Chopik has been elected as the Green Party of Ontario candidate for the St. Paul's by-election expected to be called very shortly. Chopik was elected by Green Party members at their nomination meeting at a local restaurant in St. Paul's.

"The Green Party will be providing a vision to the voters of St. Paul's in this election. We'll be talking about a more affordable green energy future, a stronger green economy in Ontario, transit and more jobs in healthier, walkable neighbourhoods," said Chopik. Chris Chopik is a realtor and local expert in sustainable green buildings, an accomplished writer and public speaker, and sits on the boards of several community organizations.

"The Party is excited to present Chris as a strong, professional candidate with solid roots in this

community," said Frank de Jong, leader of the Green Party of Ontario.

Updates during the campaign will be posted at: www.stpaulsgreens.ca and on Facebook.

The Green Party of Ontario won 8% of the vote in the 2007 provincial election and is at 11% in the latest poll by Ipsos-Reid, one point behind the NDP.

The Green Party is committed to building a sustainable future that nourishes our families, communities and economy; visit www.gpo.ca.

Chris Chopik, the St. Paul's Green candidate, is out hitting the campaign trail and spreading the Green message.

The success of the campaign depends on building a team of volunteers!! How can you help?

Enjoy the last days of summer by helping Chris reach St. Paul's voters at the door! Email admin@gpo.ca to get involved.

Chris Chopik, the St. Paul's Green candidate, is out hitting the campaign trail and spreading the Green message.

The success of the campaign depends on building a team of volunteers!! Enjoy the last days of summer by helping Chris reach St. Paul's voters at the door! Email John Taranu at jtaranu@gpo.ca to help.





Adriane Carr, deputy leader of the Green Party of Canada with Whitby-Oshawa federal candidate Rebecca Harrison at the Zero Waste Corn Roast

Deputy Leader Adriane Carr pays visit to Durham

On Tuesday August 25, Green Party of Canada Deputy Leader Adriane Carr visited Durham Region as part of her cross-Canada training tour. The tour is intended to help Green Party of Canada candidates and campaign teams get ready for the next federal election.

The day started out with a press conference Durham College Whitby Campus, followed by a candidate and campaign manager training session. Also taking part in the press conference were

federal candidates from Durham ridings: Kevin Smith (Scarborough-East-Pickering), Rebecca-Harrison (Whitby-Oshawa), and Gail Bates (Oshawa).

In the afternoon, the team had a brief tour of Durham Sustainability in Brougham, followed by canvassing at the Pickering GO Station.

In the evening, Adriane and her husband Paul joined us for a Zero Waste Corn Roast at Heydenshore Park in Whitby. This event featured locally grown

corn in the beautiful evening atmosphere of the lakefront. Many members of the community joined us as Adriane addressed Green supporters and introduced the local Durham candidates.

We would like to convey our sincerest gratitude to Adriane and Paul for such an enjoyable visit.

Also, a big thank you to those who attended or volunteered. We may have started a yearly tradition with the Corn Roast!

Published: September 2, 2009
By Lindsey Cole
The Oshawa Express

Gail Bates is a registered nurse. She is a long-time resident of Oshawa and has raised a family here in the city. While she sounds like any other resident, she has a passion for the environment and the policies that coincide with the Green Party of Canada. Such is the reason why she has chosen to run as the Green Party candidate for Oshawa. She, along with Rebecca Harrison, the green candidate for Whitby and Kevin Smith of the Scarborough East Pickering riding, were at the Durham College Whitby campus to get some much-needed advice from Green Party of Canada Deputy Leader Adriane Carr. Should a fall federal election ensue, Carr, along with these candidates,



Press conference at Durham College in Whitby

Durham Green Team gets into gear

want to make sure the Green Party is adequately represented and their ideas for a stronger economy are heard. For Bates, some of the key issues in Oshawa pertain to sustainable jobs and the Oshawa harbour. "Just look at the mess we have in the Oshawa harbour. Nothing has been done," she says.

"I'd like to see it returned to the city. They can do a deep cleaning. Make it more friendly for the people that are down there." Along with her fellow candidates, Bates also says creating jobs that are not necessarily related to the auto sector are key for moving forward in Oshawa. "We can't depend on the auto industry," she says, adding retrofitting factories to become more environmentally friendly as well as creating products that are not auto related could benefit employment in the city. This echoed Carr's main economic stimulus plan, which she highlighted just a few hours before her training session with the candidates. "In the next election the issue no doubt will be the economy. How do we stimulate the economy?" Carr asks rhetorically. "People across Canada

are looking for a new economy."

She says developing green technologies as well as creating parts for vehicles that are a low carbon format will not only help the environment, but will create jobs. Solar panels, wind turbines and other alternative energy sources were also mentioned as areas where jobs could be created, as these items must be manufactured. "There is where the growth is going to take place," she explains. When it comes to the region she says the EFW facility [Incinerator] isn't the way to go in terms of growth, as it will cause more harm than good to the air quality and won't create that many jobs in the long run. She also mentioned the EFW facility isn't definite, as it does still have to be approved by the provincial government. The Regions of Durham and York submitted the Environmental Assessment to the Ministry of the Environment for approval on July 31. While job creation was a key issue for Carr, she also says more money from the federal economic stimulus plan needs to go towards green initiatives. The current con-

servative government, she says, has hit rock bottom with only eight per cent of the money going towards green infrastructure. "We're (the government) an embarrassment in terms of the direction we're moving in."

With more support, Carr says the Green Party may be able to make some positive changes to the country in the future. Currently the Green Party is polling at 11 per cent countrywide, and has remained at that number for some time. This is encouraging to Green Party members as it shows support. Visiting 90 electoral districts on her journey, Carr is wrapping up her tour with a few last stops. Oshawa is one of them.

With her advice and some feedback from candidates, Carr says she hopes more people will come aboard and realize the Green Party isn't solely about saving trees, they care about much more than that, including democracy. "It's really exciting to meet with greens at the grassroots level. But frankly we are not yet there as a green machine."

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5 Labour	
6 Labour	7 Labour	8	9 Green Drinks	10	11 Ribs	12 Ribs Walk Frank	
13 Ribs Run	14	15	16 Hospice	17	18	19 Nature Heritage Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Doors Open	
27 Heart Doors Open	28	29 Volunteer Expo	30				
Labour Day Weekend Family Bash KIDS FUN ZONE * CARNIVAL RIDES * BEER TENT * FOOD/VENDORS Lakeview Park—Oshawa		Sept 11-13 8th Annual Oshawa Rotary Ribfest Lakeview Park - Oshawa		Sept 12. Distress Centre Durham Walk for Suicide Awareness Heydenshore, Whitby		Sept. 13 Terry Fox Run Storie Park, Oshawa	Sept. 16 Durham Hospice Present: Dr Colin Skinner 209 Dundas, Whitby
Sept 19 Heritage Day Downtown Whitby	Sat. Sept. 19 - 10am Birds, Beavers and Butterflies Nature Festival Thickson Woods Nature Reserve - Whitby	Sept 26 Doors Open Oshawa Noon to 4:00 p.m. explore the local archite- cture and culture of Oshawa		Sept. 27 - noon 1st Annual Wyatt's Warriors Walkathon for Congenital Heart Defects Heydenshore - Whitby		Sept 29 - 2pm - 6pm Volunteer Expo: Matching Volunteers to Community Agencies Oshawa Library - McLaughlin Branch	

SAVE THE DATE:

**Wed. Sept. 9th 6pm
GREEN DRINKS**
Hosted by:
Durham Sustain Ability
Sports Garden Café
@ Iroquois Sports Park
Whitby

**Sat. Sept. 12th noon
Celebrating Frank de Jong
Longest serving Green
leader in the world!**
Hosted by Jim Harris
Location: Toronto
Contact us for details

**Sat. Sept. 26 8am
Powershift Yard Sale**
Oshawa, Ontario

**November 13-15, 2009
GPO Leadership Contest
& Annual Policy
Conference 2009**
London, Ontario

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT
rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca



Adriane Carr (2nd from left) with Durham federal candidates Kevin Smith (Scarborough-East Pickering), Gail Bates (Oshawa), and Rebecca Harrison (Whitby-Oshawa)

Democracy Alive and Well in Simcoe County

SIMCOE COUNTY—The world’s most pristine water, which lies in the Alliston Aquifer under part of Simcoe County, is safe from proposed Dump Site 41, for at least the next year. Simcoe County Councilors voted 22-10 in favour of a one year moratorium this week to have all development of the site stopped while the County rethinks their waste management strategy. The Green Party of Canada congratulates Simcoe’s community members, the people of Beausoleil Island First Nation, and all of the dedicated activists, from Midland to Toronto right

through to the United States, who have worked tirelessly fighting this dump site plan since its inception over twenty years ago. “With so much of Canada’s environment being destroyed it is so inspiring to have a victory like this,” said Elizabeth May, Leader of Canada’s Greens. “The Simcoe community has been camped out for months, protecting the water that provides life for an entire ecosystem—water that will sustain their grandchildren for years to come. This is no small triumph.” The Alliston Aquifer has what has

been tested to be some of the world’s cleanest water. The proposed dump site, which has recently seen initial phases of construction, would have inevitably been desecrated. Just this past week, tap water in neighbouring homes was beginning to run murky. “The moratorium is a step in the right direction and we thank the Councilors of Simcoe County for listening to the voices of our community and for rethinking what are really the problems of our generation,” said Valerie Powell, the Greens Candidate in Simcoe

North. “Now we have to come up with a sustainable solution to our Community’s waste problems, a solution that could also be inspiring.” A proposal has been put forward for a motion to the September meeting of county council to permanently close down Site 41.