

*Queens continued from page 7*

103 recommendations contained in the health transformation report will help make the health-care system more effective, efficient and sustainable for all Nova Scotians.

That said, the underlying philosophy of the PC party will continue to be to maintain our universal, publicly funded health-care system and we are committed to protecting that system.



**Kerry Morash**  
*Progressive Conservative*

**Mr. Simpson:** No. What sets apart Canada from many countries in the world, including the United States, is our unwavering commitment to public health. Free, public health care is the right of every Canadian, and there is no place in our system for any form of privatization, as it could easily be the slight breeze that brings the entire house of cards crashing down, leaving everyone with a headache, and an extremely expensive hospital bill — no matter how quickly they can cure you and bill you for it.

**Q: Presuming you are elected, what advice would you give to your party leader as to how to handle school closure-related issues?**

**Ms Conrad:** We respect the mandates given to our elected school board officials, and they have many challenging decisions to make. With some of our small rural schools facing the possibility of closure, communities and school boards need to be given the tools to look at using these facilities to capacity. I have

## QUEENS

heard some communities discuss possible initiatives that would see schools used to provide child-care services or classes for seniors and using schools as community resource centres. We can point to at least one successful initiative for small schools when we look to the Greenfield Elementary, which is a unique partnership between the Education Department, community and school board. We also need to respect the decisions and priorities of the school boards. There needs to be targeted support to keep schools open and address staffing shortages. One example is building a free-standing middle school replacing the aged and deteriorating SQJHS in Liverpool. This is a priority for our communities and the Rodney MacDonald government chose to ignore it. The NDP will work with the school board and the communities to ensure that this community-requested middle school becomes a reality.

**Mr. Henley:** I would advise my party leader to work with the school boards to handle closure-related issues. The school board is an elected body whom are responsible for running the school system. The school board with input from its school advisory councils (SAC) — which includes parents, teachers and administrators — submit a priority list of projects for new school construction, renovation, etc., to the government. The school board's priority must be respected and the board must be empowered to make those tough decisions. The school board with input from the SACs are best qualified to make those decisions that affect our children's education, not politicians. New schools should be built or renovated as to the priority list of the school board, and not as to the party riding that the school may be located in. Projects that are prioritized as first should be approved first, and then they would move down the list as there is funding within the budget.

**Mr. Morash:** School closures are always an issue that raises concern. Our schools are the centre of our communities and any closure hurts. As a parent I know how attached we become to our school communities — the staff, students and parents. Our party made changes to legislation so the school review process became fair and gives time for input and thought regarding how changes will affect the community before decisions are made.

As an MLA I will advocate for maintaining our schools and replacing any

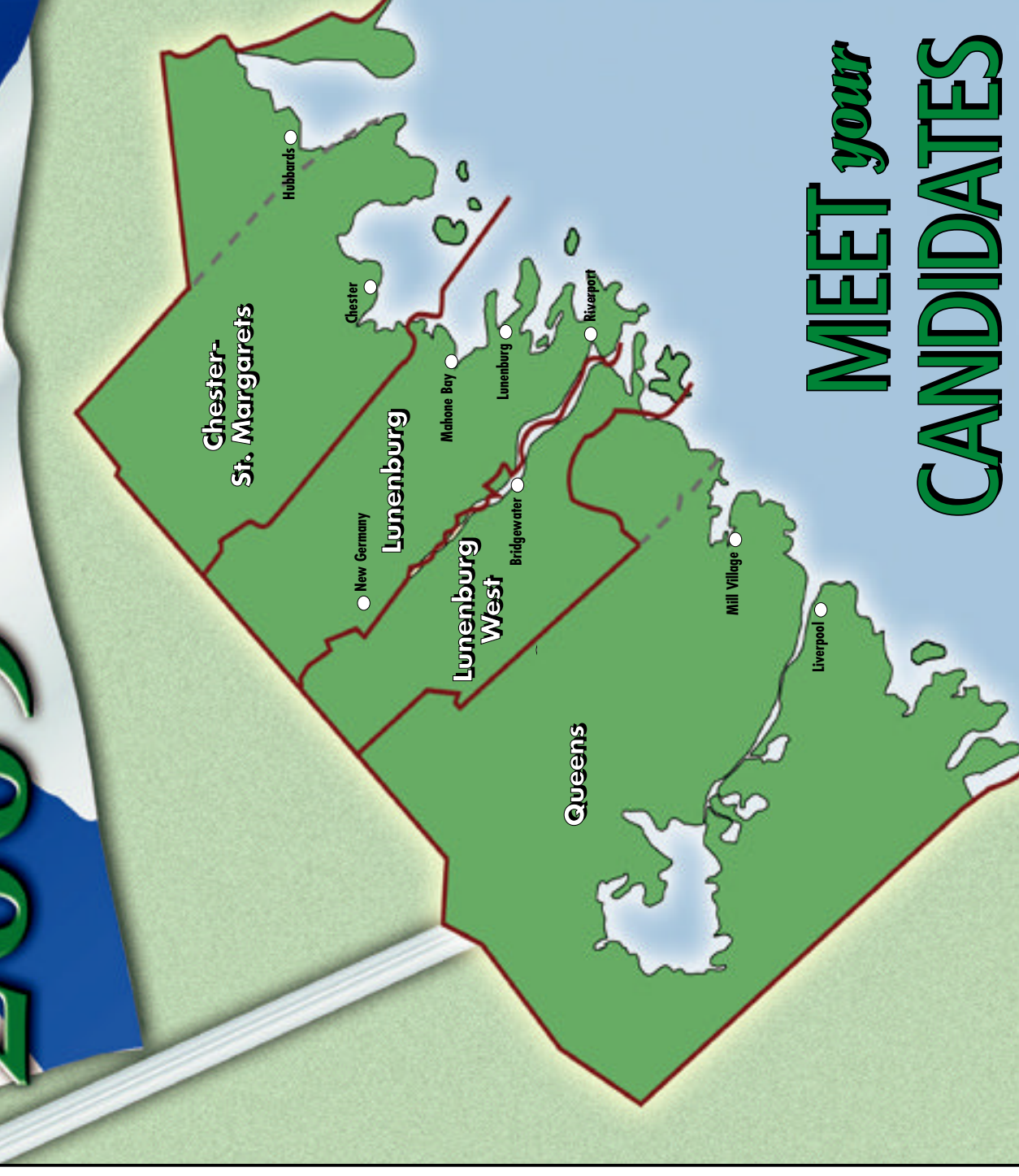


**Wayne Henley**  
*Liberal*

that need provincial investment. I was proud to work with community members in Greenfield as they presented government with an innovative plan to build their own school. This was a joint effort by the community along with the Department of Education. As the minister said at the opening, this was a creative idea which people in our community fostered from a unique concept to a new school. This shows that we can find new ways to bring resources to our area. However, our work is not yet done. I will work to ensure the voice of members of our collective school advisory committees in South Queens are heard regarding a new middle school for South Queens.

**Mr. Simpson:** Schools are the lifeblood of a community. In Nova Scotia, they provide a world-class education and employ some of the very best teachers in the county. Teachers have one of the hardest jobs on the planet, and the last thing I would want my child's teacher to worry about is job security. We should all be eternally grateful to our own teachers, and protect those who are the educators of the future of this province. As schools close, families move away, which will not be replaced. This threatens all of Nova Scotia's rural communities, as the government attempts to funnel every student into larger and larger megaschools in centralized locations, all the while abandoning every child's right to be educated in their hometown. David Peterson, the chancellor of the University of Toronto, once told me, "If a government doesn't get education right, they don't get anything else right, either." I couldn't agree more.

# Provincial Election 2009



## MEET your CANDIDATES

# CHESTER-ST. MARGARETS

**Question: What is the most important issue facing your riding?**

**Ryan Cameron (Green):** In terms of the election I think the most important issue is true representation for all constituents.

I think having the first-past-the-post system does not reflect the views of all the constituents in ongoing government, and the electoral system needs to evolve, possibly with the help of technology, to ensure all constituents have a say in their own local and federal governments.

Those with the privilege of public trust need to listen, and need to be more accountable to their constituents on an ongoing basis, not just at election time.



**Jo-Ann Grant**  
Liberal

**Jo-Ann Grant (Liberal):** No question. The economy is the most important issue affecting Chester-St. Margarets. The announcement two weeks ago by LP Canexel of 66 more jobs about to be cut and four management jobs raises the tally of lost jobs to 182 between the area's two largest manufacturing plants since last fall.

Tory MLA Judy Streach responded by saying "nobody ever likes to hear that restructuring is occurring because it always leaves people in a little bit of a predicament."

Job loss is a serious issue as it affects not only the local economy, but the economy of all of Nova Scotia. Job loss is life-altering for each individual and their families. Liberal leader Stephen McNeil has a real plan to stimulate the economy and create new jobs.

Small businesses are the foundation of our economy, employing 50 per cent of all Nova Scotians, and closer to 80 per cent in our rural areas. A Liberal government will provide real help to small businesses by reducing the small business tax from five per cent to one per cent and implementing a microcredit lending program of up to \$25,000. These measures will allow small businesses to expand and create new jobs.

**Denise Peterson-Rafuse (NDP):** The most important issue in this election is leadership. Rodney MacDonald had his chance and he let Nova Scotians down. It's time for a change. It's time for Darrell Dexter's genuine leadership. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will create secure jobs, keep emergency rooms open and reduce wait times, ensure more young people stay and build a life in Nova Scotia, take the HST off home electricity, fix more rural roads and keep communities strong, give seniors more options to stay in their homes longer and live within our means.

Darrell Dexter is an experienced and trusted leader who has been standing up for Nova Scotia families since he was elected to Province House 11 years ago. Under Darrell Dexter's genuine leadership, the NDP forced the Conservative government to eliminate the unfair treatment of seniors, who were being charged for their medical care in nursing homes.

Darrell Dexter and the NDP have been successful in their fight to reduce tuition costs for students.

The NDP has opposed uranium mining in Chester-St. Margarets and promoted the need for improvements to the 103, the most dangerous highway in the province.

**Judy Streach (PC):** I believe the economy is the most important issue facing Chester-St. Margarets today. A strong economy is vital to ensuring the survival of the communities we call home.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we need to ensure that we are supporting our local economy. Simply put, making sure the men and women of our communities are working is key to keeping our communities alive and well.

We must find ways to work with our existing labour force to ensure that they can continue to provide for their families and contribute to their communities.

We must also educate our youth for good jobs right here in Nova Scotia. Investing in our economy and in the men and women who live here is the right thing to do.

**Q: What steps would you take as MLA to ensure your party, presuming it assumes power, doesn't spend Nova Scotia into the red?**

**Mr. Cameron:** I would recommend a conservationist approach, spend money on an "ounce of prevention" instead of a "pound of cure" and take more advantage of rapidly evolving free technology services such as Google applications, Facebook, open source software, etc., to enhance or replace outdated and inefficient modes of communication.

I would then increase spending on programs that have a guaranteed ROI such as investing in the education for our local workforces, enhancing tax incentives for local businesses, as well as significant incentives for home-based business and technical infrastructure to help businesses and individuals build their own brands and networks on-line.

**Ms Grant:** The following statement comes directly from the Nova Scotia Liberal Party platform: "Under a Liberal government, program spending will not increase at a rate greater than the province's economic growth."

This is the solid commitment we make to Nova Scotians. Our province's debt is now over \$12 billion. Nova Scotia has the highest per capita debt of any province in Canada. The debt has grown by over \$3 billion in the last three years, and over \$1 billion of that was not in any budget.

A Liberal government will put an end to the freewheeling spending. It's time for a government that knows how to live within its means.

I am a Liberal candidate because the fundamental values of the Liberal party and leader Stephen McNeil reflect my values. These are the same values that I taught my five children — trust and honesty, inclusion, fairness and caring.

Stephen McNeil, as premier of a Liberal government, will hold true to the Liberal commitment to not put us deeper in debt. As your MLA, I will be part of the team upholding these values and our commitment to you.

**Ms Peterson-Rafuse:** Darrell Dexter and NDP understand that the \$12 billion debt of our province is a legacy that our children and grandchildren cannot afford. The NDP is committed to immediately setting up an independent audit of the province's finances. It is only then that we will have a clear picture as to the true state of our finances. Under the genuine leadership of Darrell Dexter, the NDP is committed to balancing the budget within our first full year, and living within our means. At \$80 million, our platform is the most modest of the three parties'. All new spending will be offset by a one per cent savings from a review of non-essential government spending, so the NDP platform will not add any new costs. One of the first steps the NDP will take to cut spending will be to reduce the

## The candidates ...

### Riding profile

Previous elections:  
2003 - PC  
2006 - PC

2006 Election (\*incumbent)  
\*Judy Streach (PC) 3,950  
Jane Matheson (NDP) 2,833  
Rick Fraughton (Liberal) 2,192  
Joanne MacKinnon (Green) 282  
2006 voter turnout: 62.5 per cent

### JUDY STREATCH

PARTY: Progressive Conservative

AGE: 42

OCCUPATION: Prior to being elected, she was a schoolteacher at Forest Heights Community School

FAMILY: She has four children and lives with her husband, South Shore-St. Margarets MP Gerald Keddy, and his two sons in New Ross

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Has served as minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage; minister of Community Services;

minister of Education; and minister of Communications Nova Scotia

### DENISE PETERSON-RAFUSE

PARTY: NDP

AGE: 48

OCCUPATION: Regional co-ordinator for the Heart and Stroke Foundation

FAMILY: Married to Wayne and they have a son

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Worked for the Halifax Regional Municipality for 10 years. Ran for a seat on Chester Municipal Council in 2004. Served eight years on the Chester municipal recreation commission and sat on the strategic planning committee

### JO-ANN GRANT

PARTY: Liberal

AGE: N/A

OCCUPATION: Worked as the customer service and interior products manager for LP Canexel in East River. Owns and operates a small business

FAMILY: Single mother of five

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Chairs a municipal steering committee leading community development planning. Once ran for municipal office in Queens County

### RYAN CAMERON

PARTY: Green

AGE: 36

OCCUPATION: Employed by sales consultant and author Jeffrey Gitomer. Has been an ActionScript programmer for 12 years and in the computer/tech business for over 20

size of cabinet, something I would support as an MLA.

**Ms Streach:** The Progressive Conservative government has a proven record of fiscal responsibility. Our government has delivered eight consecutive balanced budgets.

That record shows our commitment to balancing the books of this province. I believe taxpayers expect their tax dollars to be managed with the same care and consideration as they do with their household budgets.

I know that in these challenging times, the hard-working men and women of Chester-St. Margarets are doing the best they can to provide for their families. In turn, government must also do its best to provide for the people of this province.

In the current global economic climate it is important to live within our means, but it is equally important to provide the services and resources that the people of our province have come to rely on.

Balancing the books of the province is fundamental to a PC government. Now is not the time to spend without thought or reason. We must take responsibility for our expenditures and find the best way to spend the dollars that we have.

As your MLA I would continue to ensure that our government works for you.

**Q: Please start your answer with yes or no. Do you support any element of privatized health care?**

**Mr. Cameron:** Yes, because I include preventative measures as health care. Private local sports teams, privately run yoga and fitness studios, healthy eating and living retailers, safety education and equipment providers are all part of our health-care system and need to be acknowledged as such and should be eligible for tax incentives with respect to providing for the public good and helping people stay out of hospitals in the first place.

Outside of preventative measures, then no, I believe hospital and emergency medical care should be publicly funded and equally accessible to all Nova Scotians as it is now.

**Ms Grant:** Yes, because private health care exists now. For example, most family doctors are private business owners and most pharmacists are in the private sector. They provide publicly funded services but do so in a private business setting. The real issue for Nova Scotians is access to health care when they need it.

Nova Scotians do not want to pay out of pocket for health care for costs, and they will not under a Liberal government.



**Denise Peterson-Rafuse**  
NDP

**Ms Peterson-Rafuse:** A publicly funded and publicly administered system, as guaranteed by the Canada Health Act, is fundamental. Our health-care system has always had both public and private elements. The issue for your family is after a decade of Conservative neglect, Nova Scotia's health-care system has unacceptably long wait times and too-frequent emergency room closures. The NDP has a practical plan to keep ERs open, hire more nurse practitioners, open new hospital beds and establish targets for acute and chronic disease reduction, and improve care options for seniors. The crisis

in health care doesn't require billions of dollars. It takes genuine leadership, some good common sense and a focus on solving the problems that are a major concern for Nova Scotia families.



**Judy Streach**  
Progressive Conservative

**Ms Streach:** Yes, I support initiatives that help to support and better our health-care system — for example, the success of the partnership between Capital Health and Scotia Surgery Inc. This partnership made it possible for Capital Health surgeons to perform publicly insured, minor day surgeries on patients waiting for orthopedic surgeries.

Over 500 surgeries will be performed under this partnership. That's 500 people whose lives will be drastically changed and improved. I can't speak for these men and women, but 500 people moved off a waiting list is proof positive that health partnerships can and will benefit Nova Scotians.

I am proud of the leadership role our government has taken to reduce wait times and get these folks the surgeries they need to improve the quality of their lives.

The key to these partnerships is making sure that no one jumps the queue. That's an absolute for me. We must ensure that we have the safeguards in place so all Nova Scotians can benefit from such partnerships.

**Q: Presuming you are elected, what advice would you give to your party leader as to how to handle school closure-related issues?**

**Mr. Cameron:** I would beseech our party leader to ensure education is accessible to all. Further, I personally support free post-secondary education and would lobby to fund all tuition fees for residents of my riding and the province of Nova Scotia.

Education is an investment in our own most valuable resource, our people, and should be free to all wishing to enhance their skills at any age. Education also needs to be rethought to be in step with the modern demands of the workforce.

Skills like troubleshooting, critical thinking, creative problem solving, pattern recognition and adaptability need to take precedence over somewhat outdated skills such as arithmetic or grammar. We have spell-check and on-line calculators and we don't teach basket weaving anymore.

**Ms Grant:** Schools are the heart of many communities and we must do everything we can to ensure they remain viable and provide the best learning environment for our students. As the mother of five, I understand the issues with respect to school closures; they lead to longer commute times for our students and they take away a gathering place for the local community.

Liberal leader Stephen McNeil understands these issues as well and has had to address them in his own riding. He has talked to me about his belief in better integrating schools with their communities by housing a community library, for example.

A school that has followed this model is Chedabucto Place in Guysborough County which houses a community fitness centre, youth health centre and state-of-the-art theatre.

Greenfield Elementary in Queens County is a model of community involvement in building the new school which also houses a library, community meeting space and computer facilities. These models make schools more viable in the long term and provide additional benefits for the community.

I would ask my leader to continue with his line of thinking on the benefits of local schools and to bring his beliefs into action.

**Ms Peterson-Rafuse:** Schools are the heart of communities. The NDP is committed to keeping schools open whenever possible. In communities where the population is declining, schools can become valuable multi-purpose centres, to be used for children's or seniors' services as well as regular schools. Some schools could also be made available for community recreational use, where suitable. Along with Darrell Dexter, I view schools as an important part of our economic infrastructure because people won't stay in an area, or move to an area, that doesn't have a suitable school system. Our plan includes targeted support for community schools, energy retrofits for school buildings, a new after-school Lighthouse program for kids at risk, more child-care spaces, and other practical suggestions for keeping our schools and communities strong. Helping young families build a life here is vital to Nova Scotia's future and one of the NDP's seven key commitments in this election. On June 9, vote for Darrell Dexter and a better deal for today's families.

**Ms Streach:** The education our children receive and the schools in which they receive it are emotionally charged topics. Our government recognizes that and will continue to welcome input from the community when it comes to school-related issues.

As the current minister of Education I recognized that the community deserves an opportunity to have their say. That's why this government increased the time that school boards have to close schools, once they decide to close a specific school, from two years to five years.

This government is committed to education and recently invested \$307 million in building new and renovating existing schools around the province.

There are challenges, such as a system-wide decline in enrolment, but, at the end of the day, I believe we must work with the community and do our best to work together and provide our youth with the best education we can.

# LUNENBURG

## The candidates ...

### Riding profile

Previous elections:  
2003 - PC  
2006 - PC

2006 Election (\*incumbent)  
\*Michael Baker (PC) 3,969  
Chris Heide (NDP) 2,669  
Rick Welsford (Liberal) 1,200  
Stuart Simpson (Green) 196

2006 voter turnout: 61.3 per cent

**PETER ZWICKER**  
PARTY: Progressive Conservative



AGE: 51  
FAMILY: Married father of one  
OCCUPATION: Provincial government employee  
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Ran successfully for town council in Lunenburg in 2004. Re-elected in 2008 and appointed deputy mayor

**PAM BIRDSALL**  
PARTY: NDP



AGE: 58  
FAMILY: Married mother of two grown children  
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: No previous political experience. Twenty-year NDP supporter and activist

**JASON REMAI**  
PARTY: Green

Mr. Remai declined an interview



**RICK WELSFORD**  
PARTY: Liberal

AGE: 54  
FAMILY: Married father of two  
OCCUPATION: Marine consultant  
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Ran for the Liberal party in Lunenburg in 2006 provincial election finishing third



**MILTON COUNTWAY**

PARTY: Independent  
AGE: 52  
OCCUPATION: Service adviser, Mahone Auto Service, Blockhouse.  
FAMILY: Married father of one  
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Elected municipal councillor for District 5, October 2004. Re-elected as District 4 councillor following boundary realignments in October 2008

**Question: What is the most important issue facing your riding?**

**Pam Birdsall (NDP):** I am hearing on the doorstep that people have lost confidence in the MacDonald government. People are saying that this government has let them down and it is time for a change.

I have heard their concerns about the closure of the ER at Fishermen's Memorial and the lack of access to primary health services. I hear about school closures and in the case of New Germany the backtracking on much-needed renovations. The roads in Lunenburg County are badly in need of repair.

Finally, people in Lunenburg are worried about the economy and survival of rural communities. Working families are feeling the pinch and they are concerned about the Rodney MacDonald government's handling of the province's finances. They wonder where the money is going as the debt grows. They worry that their children will not be able to get the opportunities they need so they can stay, work and raise a family. I raised my family in this area and what I wanted for

my family I want for all families, which is to make the necessities of life more accessible and affordable.

**Milton Countway (Independent):** By attending the meetings "Your Government Your Ideas" throughout the municipality I heard a lot of concerns from the residents in the area. The most common issue heard at the meetings were the road conditions. Not only paved roads but also the secondary roads. This I would say is the most important issue to the residents but there are other issues that must be looked into such as health care, education, fire service and jobs for our youth, just to name a few. The road issue must be looked at very seriously, as I travelled roads where emergency vehicles would have great difficulty responding over and there are roads listed as accessible but you cannot travel through. A restructuring program of roads needs to be brought forward, not just Band-Aid fixes.

**Rick Welsford (Liberal):** I know that neglected road maintenance has caused unsafe conditions for users and expensive

*Lunenburg continued on page 4*

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**Judy Streach**


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**or 902-644-5104**

AUTHORIZED BY OFFICIAL AGENT FOR PETER ZWICKER

## LUNENBURG



**Peter Zwicker**  
Progressive Conservative

*Lunenburg continued from page 3*

damage to their automobiles. I believe that longer-lasting repairs are needed. This is putting public safety first and saves you and I on automobile costs.

There is public recognition that fixing all roads after so much neglect may be beyond the pocketbooks of Nova Scotians these days. I emphasize that we cannot raise taxes as the NDP will, or increase user fees as the Conservatives have done. There has to be better efforts made to repair the current damage properly and permanently.

There also has to be effort made to encourage alternative transportation methods and support those groups who are working to implement them. It makes economic and environmental sense. We need leadership that is looking ahead to find future alternatives to this perennial road problem and additional resources to pay for it.

We need more meaningful employment opportunities. I support the Liberal leader when he says we are committed to bringing about positive change for all Nova Scotians by strengthening our economy, so we can improve the programs and services we value.

**Peter Zwicker (PC):** As I have been going door to door in the riding, I'm finding that many voters share my concerns. They understand that the economy affects every other issue. They know that "Economy First" is not just a slogan; it is the priority of my party.

We have an opportunity to bring in a balanced budget that is good for Nova Scotians, but the opposition prefers to have an election. Using some of our offshore offset revenue to balance our budget in tough economic times makes sense. The opposition rejected that idea. They would prefer a deficit budget.

The bottom line is that a PC government will not run a deficit. Deficit financing will simply add to our challenges. We have recognized that an economic stimulus plan is vital to seeing our economy grow. That plan — the \$1.9 billion Building for Growth — will create and maintain 20,000 jobs. This will help Nova Scotians find the job stability they need to take care of their families.

**Q: What steps would you take as MLA to ensure your party, presuming it assumes power, doesn't spend Nova Scotia into the red?**

**Ms Birdsall:** An NDP government will be open and transparent and the legislative assembly will meet on a regular basis so your elected representatives will have a say in how the province is governed. Under Rodney MacDonald the legislature was in session 88 days in the last year.

Our plan is fully costed. The NDP will conduct a full audit beginning as soon as we are elected so we will know exactly what the state of the province's finances is.

As the owner and operator of a small business for over 30 years, I bring to the table an understanding of what it takes to keep the books balanced and to ensure that small businesses, the backbone of our province, not only survive, but



**Pam Birdsall**  
NDP

thrive.

Darrell Dexter has made a commitment to Nova Scotians that he will lead a government that lives within its means. In spite of legislation that John Hamm's government passed, Rodney MacDonald has managed to run a deficit. Recently, he was forced to admit that money designated by law to pay down the debt was spent elsewhere. He is risking our children's future and the prosperity of this province.

**Mr. Countway:** As an independent I would voice my concerns of the communities and work with the party in power to look very seriously at spending in these tough economic times. All elected officials must work together as a team for the betterment of our province. Financially the residents and businesses in the area cannot afford higher taxes or user fees. Meetings must be held with all levels of government, businesses and residents to build a plan to bring Nova Scotia as a province on track to work through these times.

**Mr. Welsford:** Our starting point is that Nova Scotia is in the red despite Premier MacDonald's misinformation. I have chosen a political party who, federally and provincially, have economically cleaned house after Conservative governments before. I believe the Liberals will avoid spending Nova Scotia into the red.

My party's commitment is to make strategic investments in infrastructure so we can participate in, and benefit from, the region's renewable energy opportunities. My party's commitment is to focus on a renewable energy industry to generate jobs, guarantee economic growth and provide energy security. I believe that my choice to support a party promising to form a government that is fair, accountable and action-orientated is a demonstration of my own commitment.

I recognize that we need to support the men and women who have helped build Nova Scotia and who wish to continue investing here, at home. Entrepreneurial spirit is the backbone of the Lunenburg constituency. That is where I want to focus my efforts, creating new wealth and jobs for our sons and daughters instead of new debt.

I am comfortable with Stephen McNeil's philosophy to make the hard decisions today, not leave them for our children.

**Mr. Zwicker:** Our goal is to form a fiscally responsible, socially progressive government that promotes individual achievement and personal responsibility, is accountable to its citizens, listens to its people, embraces innovation, and preserves the best of our unique heritage and diverse cultures.

We need to ensure that we leave our children and grandchildren a legacy of growth. Being fiscally responsible is key to having the means to support priorities such as schools, roads, hospitals.

Our PC government has presented eight consecutive balanced budgets, started paying down the debt and realized improved ratings from major bonding agencies. Contrary to what the opposition would have you believe, this has helped our economy and supported



**Rick Welsford**  
Liberal

the growth of jobs, programs and services. I know it is a challenge to continue this economic record in tough economic times, but I am confident that our good economic stewardship will bring the desired results.

If the people of our constituency give me the honour of representing them after the next election, I will be a strong, experienced, committed voice in Halifax. I will serve sincerely, honestly and proudly. I will work co-operatively and collaboratively in the best interests of the Lunenburg constituency.

**Q: Please start your answer with yes or no. Do you support any element of privatized health care?**

**Ms Birdsall:** No. Studies, commissions and all form of enquiry have proven time and time again that the most efficient and effective services are offered through the publicly funded system. Canada has a system that is the envy of many countries in the world and we need to improve it, not move to a for-profit system that will see our tax dollars go to private investors instead of quality health-care services. Yes, there are improvements needed in the system but the solution is not to privatize. The solution is to develop public policy and ensure that the administrative structure delivers the health services that people need when they need them.

What health care in Nova Scotia needs is for our ERs to remain open when people need them and for health-care wait times to be reduced. If anything, under Rodney MacDonald, things have gotten worse. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will open the hospital beds needed to ease ER crowding and we'll recruit doctors to cover hard-fill shifts so emergency rooms can remain open.

**Mr. Countway:** No, I do not support any element of privatized health care. Any level of private health care takes much-needed health-care workers out of the public system. There needs to be a plan in place to attract workers to health care, extend surgery hours, open hospital beds and bring doctors to our area. Anything less than this should be not acceptable to the residents in our province, especially rural Nova Scotia.

**Mr. Welsford:** Yes, we already are doing so. My priority is to have the best health-care system available in the world, accessible equally to all Nova Scotians. This is a pillar of the Canadian federation. Most importantly, we need access to doctors in our rural communities; we need a doctor for every family. Our party is committed to funding the education of 100 new medical students who pledge to remain in Nova Scotia as doctors upon graduation.

Our party is also committed to the continued reduction of wait times for those in need of care. The Welsford family is very familiar with the Nova Scotia health-care system. We are grateful to those who have cared for us. I hope I am given the opportunity to give something back to our health-care system when I become your MLA.

**Mr. Zwicker:** No. I believe in honour-



**Milton Countway**  
Independent

ing the Canada Health Act and in a universal, publicly funded health-care system. However, exploring publicly funded private health-care delivery of specified services will help to shorten wait times.

The Scotia Surgery demonstration project illustrates how this can work. Due to the hip and knee replacement surgeries at this facility, wait times have dropped by two months. It also frees space in hospitals for more complex surgeries.

The increasing demand for health services, and a need for increasing support of health professionals, contributes to the need for changes to the health-care system. This is one option and helps to improve access, reduce wait times and move to a patient-centered health system that supports the well-being of Nova Scotians. New technology and recruiting and retaining more health-care providers are important parts of moving toward that goal.

Allowing some health-care services to be performed in a community setting has been supported by Doctors Nova Scotia, who said, "Moving some services closer to patients may free up operating rooms, specialized equipment and health-care providers' time in the hospital to care for more critically ill patients."

**Q: Presuming you are elected, what advice would you give to your party leader as to how to handle school closure-related issues?**

**Ms Birdsall:** The NDP has made a commitment to provide stability for community schools and to do whatever we can to prevent school closures. We will honour any hard commitments that the previous government has made.

I will listen to rural and small-town concerns, communicate and advocate for those concerns to be addressed by the party. I would encourage people to work together to arrive at a solution that will benefit everyone. I am convinced that small schools and small classes provide better learning environments for elementary school children. I am also concerned that school boundary requirements increase bus times for young children. The school board and the province must work together to keep busing distances and times as short as possible.

The Nova Scotia NDP is committed to making life better for today's families. Education is one of our principal concerns; our platform includes targeted support for community schools, energy retrofits for school buildings, a new after-school Lighthouse program for kids at risk, and other practical, sensible suggestions. Keeping our communities strong and helping more young families stay and build a life here are critical to Nova Scotia's future.

**Mr. Countway:** While I'm not in any party there needs to be discussions take place when it comes to school closures. One must keep in mind the length of time younger children are on buses travelling to and from school. If the children live too far away there could be a problem travelling to before- and after-school activities. Large schools can be very intimidating

*Lunenburg continued on page 5*

Lunenburg continued from page 4

to children going to school the first few years. Leaving the security of your home can be very scary to young children. Schools were always a part of the community and should remain that way.

**Mr. Welsford:** A new school in any community should be a celebration. The new P-9 school, when finally opened in the Town of Lunenburg, will provide a state-of-the-art facility and academic programming, preparing students to contribute to Nova Scotia's future and robust economy.

The Academy, always in the hearts of former students and central to the

heritage fabric of the town, will find new supporters. Hopefully, this will be along the lines of a continued academic use without diluting the region's general public school funding resources. I know the community and the Town of Lunenburg, together, will work toward a good outcome for the building.

Sadly, the Town of Lunenburg is losing its high school, a consequence of the economic challenges we are facing today. We need additional, meaningful employment for families who wish to live in our region.

My advice to our party leader and to everyone is that limited employment is holding us back. We need to provide support for our businesses to grow, thus

creating further employment.

My Liberal government should be an enabler; then I will be proud to lead a discussion of more school construction and further improvements.

**Mr. Zwicker:** Schools are so important to our communities. Closure at any time is a difficult process for those who have worked in or been supported by that school. However, sometimes there is no other choice for the board. That is why I am supportive of the public consultation that the PC government put in place to deal with the emotional issue of a school being reviewed for closure.

The PC government legislated a comprehensive school review process that

is consistent across the province and involves public input, so that all voices are heard. The government just recently added to the flexibility. They extended to three years the time for a closure of a school if, for example, it takes three years to build the replacement school. Since 1999, the PC government has built 28 new schools and renovated 83 to give our kids a safe and healthy learning environment.

I realize that school boards are made up of community members elected by the people they serve. They are stakeholders in the community, and are very serious about providing the best educational opportunities they can. I support our local school boards and trust them to make informed and considered decisions.

## LUNENBURG WEST

**Q: What is the most important issue facing your riding?**

**Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (PC):** The economy. Our budget addressed the economy directly by supporting an economic stimulus plan and balancing the books of the province. As our Finance minister said in the May 4 budget address, "Our budget is about leadership. It's about good government. It's about resilience. It's about recovery. It's about growth. It's about making the choices to best meet the challenges presented by these uncertain economic times. Faced with a global economic crisis, it becomes all too clear that when the economy falters, so too does our ability to provide the level of service and programs that Nova Scotians expect and deserve."

That's why my government responded months ago to the global economic downturn by announcing the Building for Growth economic stimulus plan to rev up the economy. It will create or maintain up to 20,000 jobs over the next three years through one of the largest infrastructure programs in Nova Scotia's history. By investing an additional \$800 million over three years, along with the \$1.1 billion we normally spend on capital projects, we will keep the economy moving.

Our party is the only one to balance the budget and put forward an economic stimulus plan."

**Mark Furey (Liberal):** The greatest issue facing our riding is the strength of our economy. Under the Conservative government, Nova Scotia has the worst performing economy in Canada. Many of our local communities are losing businesses, residents and schools. A Liberal government will lower the small business tax from five per cent to one per cent, which will save money and allow businesses to grow. This will provide more jobs for Nova Scotians and allow them to stay here in Lunenburg West. Our gas taxes are the second highest in Canada. We are going to scrap expensive gas regulation which is only costing us money. Instead, we are going to cut the motive fuel tax. This will help lower shipping costs and help lower the costs for many items shipped into our riding. I commit to making sure our entire riding has high-speed internet. Businesses need high-speed internet to remain competitive in our global economy. We need to invest in our infrastructure — our roads are deplorable. We need fair maintenance of roads to encourage people to live in various parts of our district. This needs to be our priority; as your MLA I will fight for funding for the 103 and other roads in our riding.

**Gary Ramey (NDP):** The most important issue facing the riding of Lunenburg West is health care. It is not surprising that this is the case since successive governments have ignored the growing problems within the health-care system, such as wait times. The Liberals removed \$180 million from health care in three years. They cut 1,600 hospital beds, let nurses go at a cost of about \$20 million, and began the process of closing rural hospitals. In addition, they cut seats to educate health professionals like doctors, nurses and technologists, creating the staffing shortages we have today. For their part, the

Conservatives cut services at rural hospitals, closing nearly 350 beds. They under-spent the home-care budget by millions while seniors and people with disabilities "made do" with inadequate services. The Rodney MacDonald Conservatives cut nursing-home beds even though this worsened the bottleneck in the health-care system and allowed emergency room closures to grow dramatically in hospitals across Nova Scotia.

The crisis in health care doesn't require billions of dollars. It takes genuine leadership, some good common sense, and a focus on solving the problems that are a major concern for Nova Scotia families.

**Emily Richardson (Green):** School closures in rural communities are plaguing this, and other ridings. The current government has given up on our vibrant small communities in favour of centralization. A school is one of the most important features of any community that hopes to attract new families, and retain its existing ones. By closing schools and abandoning our children to be bused off to large centres, we are sending a message that they are not welcome in our communities. I, for one, will not stand for this, and hope to reinvigorate our rural high schools by offering specialized programs, such as the International Baccalaureate program, as well as create and maintain new extracurricular activities at all rural schools, to encourage families to stay or move to the area, as well as provide a world-class education for students who don't necessarily live in the large centralized areas. Unlike the current government, I will not give up on our children.

**Q: What steps would you take as MLA to ensure your party, presuming it assumes power, doesn't spend Nova Scotia into the red?**

**Ms Bolivar-Getson:** Since 1999, we have focused on managing the finances of the province wisely. In Budget 2009-10, we committed to "... keeping our operating costs in line ... keeping our debt affordable. We are not laying off public servants. And, we are leading by example. Government will be asking all MLAs to agree to a wage freeze. We will also immediately freeze the wages of deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers — and as well those of all political staff. We know other Nova Scotians are tightening their belts and making sacrifices during these challenging times. It is only right that we do the same. ... In these challenging times, there are those who urged us to run a deficit. We will not. Deficit financing will simply add to our challenges. As history has taught us, it's far too easy to spend today ... without thinking of the costs we will bear tomorrow. We must proceed with caution. And we will."

My government has steadily monitored spending and lived within its means by balancing the last seven budgets and introducing our eighth balanced budget. We reduced the debt (debt to GDP ratio declined from 47 per cent in 1999 to 36 per cent in 2008) and received improved bond ratings.

**Mr. Furey:** Liberals are opposed to running deficits, even in the short term to face an economic crisis. Unfortunately,

## The candidates ...

### Riding profile

Previous elections:  
2003 - PC  
2006 - PC

2006 Election (\*incumbent)  
\*Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (PC) 3,637  
Bill Smith (NDP) 3,299  
Martin Bell (Liberal) 1,324  
Brendan MacNeil (Green) 157  
2006 voter turnout: 63 per cent

### CAROLYN BOLIVAR-GETSON

PARTY: Progressive Conservative

AGE: 45

OCCUPATION: Owned/operated Newcombville-area service station and convenience store

FAMILY: Married mother of three  
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Elected to legislature in 2003, 2006. Served as municipal councillor in Municipality of Lunenburg prior to provincial politics



### GARY RAMEY

PARTY: NDP  
AGE: 61

OCCUPATION: Retired educator; vice-president and co-founder of educational software company

FAMILY: Married father of two

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: This is his first run for public office



### MARK FUREY

PARTY: Liberal  
AGE: 47

OCCUPATION: RCMP officer for 29 years. Last post as staff sergeant for Lunenburg County RCMP

FAMILY: Married father of two

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: This is his first run for public office



### EMILY RICHARDSON

PARTY: Green  
AGE: 24

OCCUPATION: Studying at university to become a teacher

FAMILY: In a relationship with Stuart Simpson, who's running in Queens

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: This is her first run for public office



the current MacDonald government's mismanagement has already put us into a deficit. I see the provincial budget similar to a family budget (just with more 0s); we must be wise in how we spend money. We all must borrow money at some point; however, we must be able to pay the money back over a short period of time. The Liberal policy calls for fixed election dates, fixed start dates for both the spring and fall sessions of legislature, as well as a fixed budget date each year to prevent future governments from delaying budgets for political purposes. Our government must be accountable for its actions. We will remove the politics from the decision-making process when lending financial assistance to companies and organizations within Nova Scotia. We will require the auditor general to audit the provincial finances prior to an election to ensure Nova Scotians receive an accurate and transparent view of the province's finances. We will be fiscally responsible, and we will clean up the that Rodney MacDonald's Conservative government has left us.

**Mr. Ramey:** Rodney MacDonald has failed when it comes to the province's finances. That's why we have more than a \$12 billion debt, which almost skyrocketed to \$13.5 billion, had the current legislation attached to the Conservative budget passed.

What is required immediately has been suggested by Darrell Dexter. We need a complete audit of the province's finances and a complete audit of all departmental projects so we know the state

of the finances and the status of the commitments that have been made to communities. Following this detailed audit a cautious approach to spending must be initiated. NDP leader Darrell Dexter outlined seven key commitments that have been fully costed and are achievable. It is a practical and balanced approach.

Born into hard-working, rural Nova Scotian families, both Darrell Dexter and I have learned the value of living within our means. Nova Scotia needs Darrell Dexter's genuine leadership to create new, secure jobs and strengthen our economy.

**Ms Richardson:** The Green Party of Nova Scotia offers a more sustainable and realistic budget than any of the other parties. It would be easy to give you the clichéd answer about lowering taxes while providing more services, which is clearly not realistic. I would press for increased accountability from large corporations, in the form of a "green tax" which would not only provide more public funds for this riding, but would also improve the quality of the environment, which you cannot put a price on. All of this while keeping residential and income taxes at the current rate.

**Q: Please start your answer with yes or no. Do you support any element of privatized health care?**

**Ms Bolivar-Getson:** No. Our government will continue to adhere to the principles of the Canada Health Act and a

Lunenburg West continued on page 6

## LUNENBURG WEST



**Carolyn Bolivar-Getson**  
Progressive Conservative



**Mark Furey**  
Liberal



**Gary Ramey**  
NDP



**Emily Richardson**  
Green

*Lunenburg West continued from page 5*

universal, publicly funded health-care system.

Our 2007 throne speech stated, "Consistent with the Canada Health Act, our government will establish protection, standards and control that will allow publicly funded, private facilities to play a clearly defined role in providing access to certain and prescribed health services. We are looking at new ways to reduce wait times in partnership with the community." For example, we created a demonstration project between Capital Health and Dartmouth's Scotia Surgery Inc. to allow more orthopedic patients to be treated. We have committed to continue that partnership with Scotia Surgery to help serve more Nova Scotians, shorten wait times, while adhering to our firm pledge to honour the Canada Health Act.

**Mr. Furey:** Yes, but only in temporary, extreme circumstances. Although we have numerous problems with our present health system, I do not know of a privatized health system that functions as fairly as our public health care. Everyone, regardless of their demographic, should have the same access to health care. Currently, our government is using private health care to make up for the lack of services our current system provides. We have underfunded and overburdened our

health-care system. Until it is repaired, we must continue to use privatized health care to "fill in the cracks." However, a Liberal government will fund the tuition for 100 medical students, ensuring that there is a doctor for every family. And in the short term we will recruit more doctors from other countries to work in rural Nova Scotia. We must move toward health prevention, with programs such as nutrition education and compulsory school phys-ed. If we allow nurse practitioners to provide some of the medical services for which they are trained, we could help overburdened doctors. We must develop a better system for handling the elderly in our district with less waiting time in hospitals and a quicker transition to local seniors' facilities.

**Mr. Ramey:** No. The system put into place as a result of the efforts of Tommy Douglas years ago works — it requires genuine leadership and good management. In my answer to question 1 in this series of four, I explained how successive Liberal and PC provincial governments had gutted the system. The federal Liberal and PC parties are equally culpable in this regard, holding back millions of dollars that should have flowed through to the provinces to support our health-care system.

Privatizing health care, or parts of it, simply creates a two-tiered system which

benefits those who can afford to pay for treatment. Addressing the problems plaguing the health-care system today will benefit all Nova Scotia families.

**Ms Richardson:** No. It would prevent low-income people from getting the medical attention they deserve. Having twin public and private health-care systems would siphon the best doctors away from the public system and make them only accessible to the rich. Canada has one of the best health-care systems in the world, and it is offered free of charge to all Canadian residents. If we allow private health-care clinics to open, albeit reducing wait times for those with a great deal of disposable income, we would not be serving all of our citizens to the best of our ability, which is what being Canadian is all about.

**Q: Presuming you are elected, what advice would you give to your party leader as to how to handle school closure-related issues?**

**Ms Bolivar-Getson:** As part of cabinet, I was pleased when we introduced new school review legislation.

We listened to many comments from Nova Scotians and made changes that gave more time for a review process and any talk of closures. The new process ensures that all voices are heard

about a school's future and establishes a public and thorough process that our boards must follow.

For example, a board must prepare a comprehensive impact assessment report that explains why a school should be under review. The report must look at factors like historical and projected enrolment data, population trends for the school area and an assessment of the school's physical condition. The new process also requires public and school staff participation and sets out a mandatory timetable.

A school review will begin no later than April 1 and a decision must be made by March 31 of the following year. We also recently made another change — lengthening to three years the time for a closure of a school — to give additional time for a replace-

ment to be built.

**Mr. Furey:** Schools are vitally important to our community, so the closure of a school should be the last option used. The present Conservative government has been too quick to close schools. We must prioritize them and be responsible to our communities and constituents. Although we occasionally must close schools as population levels decrease, we must do everything we can to keep them open. We must also take better care of the schools we have. We will make sure every school has access to high-speed internet in Nova Scotia so that they can access the wealth of knowledge that the internet provides. They should have the same advantages that urban school systems have.

A Liberal government will provide extra funding for schools targeting three areas — classroom educational assistants, after-school reading, writing and math support as well as social supports. Maintaining quality community schools is a part of the framework that makes up our community.

Our children are the future; we must continue to provide the very best for them. As your MLA I will fight for funding and make sure that our schools are properly maintained.

**Mr. Ramey:** Schools are focal points of communities and when they are removed from those communities through closures everyone loses. If you want thriving rural communities, and you want to promote rural economic development, then schools need to be vibrant in our communities. Under the Conservative formula, funding varies from school board to school board, causing some boards to wonder if services are being delivered fairly across the province.

I believe that students shouldn't be on buses hours per day, for environmental as well as safety and health reasons, and that the community in general benefits in a myriad of ways by having the school in the community, such as often being used by community groups and organizations for meetings and other recreational and leisure activities.

If elected under Darrell Dexter's genuine leadership, school board budgets would be approved in a timely fashion so that board decisions can be made wisely and that no unnecessary layoffs occur. Keeping schools in rural areas is a top priority for the NDP. It requires vision, planning and Darrell Dexter's genuine leadership.

**Ms Richardson:** If elected, I would not have to give any advice to Ryan Watson, the leader of our party, because he is a young, knowledgeable individual who understands the importance of rural schools, not just to the communities that they service, but also to each riding, and the province as a whole.

Ryan would do everything in his power to make sure that great public schools are available in many areas of the province, and not just the large population centres. The Green Party of Nova Scotia is fully in tune with the needs of Nova Scotia families, and is working hard to protect them.

## Carolyn Bolivar-Getson



- Carolyn is a lifelong resident of Lunenburg West and has been a hardworking, dedicated MLA.
- She continues to play an active role in volunteer organizations in the community.
- Carolyn's efforts have made a difference in Lunenburg West for youth groups, fire departments, our veterans, community halls, schools and South Shore Regional Hospital.

**On June 9th, Vote for Carolyn Bolivar-Getson,  
The Right Choice for Lunenburg West**

Campaign Office: 7 Dufferin Street, Bridgewater  
ph: 530-3600 fax: 530-3677  
votebolivargetson@eastlink.ca  
www.pcparty.ns.ca

Authorized by Jeff Sabeau official agent.



# QUEENS

## Question: What is the most important issue facing your riding?

**Vicki Conrad (NDP):** There are many important issues facing Queens, such as job security, health care, education, seniors, affordable housing, and of course, rural roads and infrastructure.

With Bowater employees facing their third five-week shutdown in as little as six months, people are nervous about the impact on the local economy. Small businesses continue to face many challenges, our hospitals such as Queens General, are waiting to move forward with a much-needed expansion that will allow for better delivery of primary health care. Seniors are facing enormous pressures such as drug costs, affordable housing, services to allow them to stay in their own homes and transportation.

Our small schools, school boards and communities are facing difficult challenges and need to make tough decisions about possible closures. At the same time, resources in classrooms are becoming harder to maintain.

Our secondary roads and major highways are a concern, both from a safety and economic aspect. Some of our communities are small, economic hubs and our secondary roads are crucial to the growth and well-being of these communities. Maintaining infrastructure is crucial for residents travelling to and from work, for school buses, emergency vehicles, the transportation of goods and for tourists.

**Wayne Henley (Liberal):** The most important issue facing the Queens riding is the condition of the roads. The road conditions across the ridings are in need of major repair. From the Italy Cross Road, the Llewellyn Road in Lunenburg County, to the West Caledonia and Westfield road and Highway 8 in Queens, for a few examples, are in need of paving. We have Kedge Park and Rissers Beach and a destination point for visitors to come, but the roads are too deteriorated that the travellers wouldn't put their expensive vehicles over these roads (and I can't blame them!). There are gravel roads, such as Harmony Road in North Queens, that the road surface is graded off, and the ditches are higher than the road surface. The Highway 103 between Sable River, Shelburne County, and Broad River, in Port Mouton, Queens County, needs to be bypassed. The announcement of the Port Mouton bypass is welcomed, but it doesn't address the safety problem of Granite Village at the county line in Shelburne (the dangerous section). The list of roads can go on and on, but most of the paved roads have not been repaved in 30 to 40 years. This is unacceptable.

**Kerry Morash (PC):** As our campaign slogan notes, "Economy First" and hand in hand with the economy is jobs. The economy has been and will continue to be my priority and the priority of the Progressive Conservative party. As a former Economic Development minister, I understand the importance this issue has on all areas of a provincial budget. As we grow revenues, we increase the tax base from which we can support our programs and services. As we grow jobs, we grow our community and our citizens can support their families. With an employer as important as Bowater, we have seen what an economic downturn can do to the lives of those relying on this large employer. I will do everything in my power as your representative, if elected again, to continue to keep this employer here, in Queens, and continue to look for additional opportunities to grow our job numbers.

**Stuart Simpson (Green):** The most important issue in Queens County today, and in all of Nova Scotia, for that matter, is the lack of sustaining existing and creating new jobs for our residents. Being a younger person, if you want to call 28 young, I have seen countless friends uproot their lives and ship off to "greener pastures" in the west, because of the lack of career employment opportunities here in Nova Scotia. I propose to funnel a great deal more money into the research and development of renewable energy, which

will in turn create tens of thousands of jobs for residents of all ages, and provide them with long-term employment, in research, construction, maintenance and operation of wind farms, solar fields and tidal energy applications. Did you know that a sea-based wind farm would be invisible from shore at a distance of just 10 km? These wind farms could create enough energy to power most of our energy needs, with no emissions and no impact on marine life. It's time we start looking to new forms of energy and become a worldwide leader in renewable resource technology, all the while creating thousands of jobs for Nova Scotians.



Vicki Conrad  
NDP

**Q: What steps would you take as MLA to ensure your party, presuming it assumes power, doesn't spend Nova Scotia into the red?**

**Ms Conrad:** Darrell Dexter and the NDP understand that the \$12 billion debt of our province is a legacy that our children and grandchildren cannot afford. The NDP is committed to immediately setting up an independent review of the province's finances. It is only then that we will have a clear picture as to the true state of our finances. Under the genuine leadership of Darrell Dexter, the NDP is committed to balancing the budget within our first full year, and living within our means.

The common-sense approach of Darrell Dexter's genuine leadership is to invest in our youth and their education, providing them with incentives to educate and stay here in the province after finishing their education. Currently, Nova Scotia has a shortage of skilled tradespeople. Opening 250 more community college seats would help many young people develop the skills they need to fill the many trade positions across the province. Offering university and college students financial rebates to remain here to work is a smart return on investment.

Another smart investment is to provide manufacturers and processors a 10 per cent investment tax credit. This investment would allow companies to be more competitive and create more than 2,000 jobs.

**Mr. Henley:** As the MLA of the Queens riding, I oppose running a deficit even in the short term. I will not see us repeat the mistakes of the past, such as the deficit spending of the 1980s, which has hobbled the Province of Nova Scotia in its ability to deliver programs and services. I will make the tough decisions now and not leave them for children. We need to make sure that the next generation has more choices and not less.

**Mr. Morash:** Over the past 10 years we were able to turn a huge deficit into eight straight balanced budgets. We have paid down the debt and realized improved ratings from major bond-rating agencies. Even in a global economic recession, we did not go into the red, despite tough economic times.

Our net direct debt — as a percentage of our gross domestic product — has de-

## The candidates ...

### Riding profile

Previous elections:  
2003 - PC  
2006 - NDP

2006 Election (\*incumbent)  
Vicki Conrad (NDP) 3,054  
\*Kerry Morash (PC) 2,998  
Margaret Witney (Green) 119  
NOTE - Liberals did not run a candidate

2006 voter turnout: 63 per cent

### VICKI CONRAD

PARTY: NDP

AGE: 49

OCCUPATION: Residential councillor and home support worker. Was rural outreach assistant for NDP caucus

FAMILY: Married mother of three

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Won 2006 election and served as party's Transportation critic. Ran and lost in 2003. Sought municipal council seat in Region of Queens prior to that



### KERRY MORASH

PARTY: Progressive Conservative

AGE: 50

OCCUPATION: Served in Premier's Office as rural outreach co-ordinator, former safety co-ordinator for a sawmill

FAMILY: Married father of two

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Elected to legislature in 1999 and 2003 and served in cabinet. Defeated in 2006



### STUART SIMPSON

PARTY: Green

AGE: 28

OCCUPATION: Lunenburg art gallery owner

FAMILY: In a long-term relationship with Emily Richardson, who's running in Lunenburg West

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Ran under Green banner in Lunenburg riding in 2006



### WAYNE HENLEY

PARTY: Liberal

AGE: 61

OCCUPATION: Retired hospital laboratory manager; currently owns a blood collection service

FAMILY: Married father of three

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Former Queens district school board member and Region of Queens councillor



clined from 46.8 per cent to 36.7. This is indeed an impressive drop, and has been noted by the bond-rating agencies.

As your representative, I would continue to fight for fiscal responsibility.



Stuart Simpson  
Green

**Mr. Simpson:** This answer to this issue as a whole would take more space than I have been allotted in this forum, so to answer it on a regional basis, being that of what would I personally do to make sure that Queens County is a fiscally responsible region, which delivers a balanced budget each and every year, would be to completely revamp the way that municipal governments spend the money that they already have. The first step would be to eliminate the repeated use of professional consultants for issues that have either been studied very well in the past, or for common-sense issues that do not require a \$100,000-plus output for some private consulting company to tell us what the layperson on the street can see. We would become independently wealthy by streamlining the approval process for improvement proposals and eliminating extraneous expenses from public employees' expense accounts. These are tough times, and as your representative, the municipal bank accounts will be treated as what they truly are — your hard-earned money, which will

not be wasted by government, just as you would not waste it yourself.

**Q: Please start your answer with yes or no. Do you support any element of privatized health care?**

**Ms Conrad:** No. Canada was built on the foundation and principle that regardless of social or economic status, Canadians deserve equal access to health care when they need it. We have a system that has been the envy of other countries. Unfortunately, our system has also been under the strain of unacceptable wait times, surgery cancellations, emergency room closures and the tremendous burden of declining front-line doctors, nurses and other health-care professionals. Streamlining the paperwork burden for doctors, hiring more nurse practitioners, opening new hospital beds and establishing targets for acute and chronic disease reduction are just a few ways to address the pressures in our health-care system.

The crisis in health care doesn't require billions of dollars. It takes genuine leadership, some good common sense and a focus on solving the problems that are a major concern for Nova Scotia families.

**Mr. Henley:** Yes, I do support privatized health care, but only when the service is not available in Nova Scotia, or to reduce the waiting time of specialized procedures (e.g., hip replacement procedures).

**Mr. Morash:** No. Our government has always and will continue to adhere to the principles of the Canada Health Act. To help reduce wait times, we have found new ways to work in community settings. For example, the PC government created a demonstration project between Capital Health and Dartmouth's Scotia Surgery Inc. to allow publicly insured, minor orthopedic surgical procedures — freeing space at the VG and Dartmouth General Hospital sites for surgeons to tackle more complex orthopedic cases.

To be able to support and invest in our local facilities including Queens General Hospital and South Shore Regional, we need to make our health system sustainable. Our party's recent action on all

# It's time for **Genuine Leadership** for today's families on the South Shore

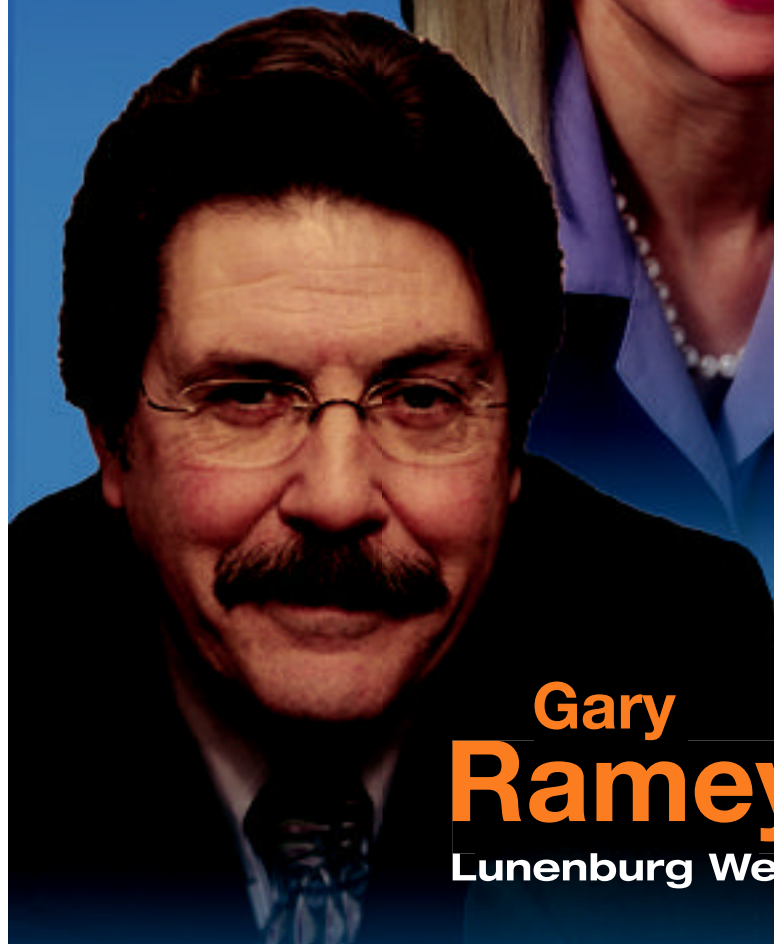
**Pam  
Birdsall**  
Lunenburg



**Vicki  
Conrad**  
Queens



**Denise  
Peterson-  
Rafuse**  
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for today's families**

