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CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: THURSDAY 4 P.M.

Mixed reaction for MMP at all-candidates debate

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He maintained that a more fair presentation of the referendum question should have included someone against MMP; which is the committee's recommendation.

Aberdeen Road resident and spokesperson for the local landowners' association Doug Tisdale took the audience microphone to pass on former MP Sheila Copps' opinions about MMP which Tysdale quotes as "a crazy proposal to redraw the province's electoral map."

Reading from a letter attributed to Copps', Tysdale said that if Ontario's electoral system is changed (to MMP), "We may find ourselves joining vocal organized minority (groups) which dictate for the majority. The new system would mean that all parties with more than three percent of the vote in a general election would choose more than one third of the members in the legislature."

Still reading from Copps' document, Tysdale talked about the

electoral system currently in use in Israel. "In theory the system was established to give voice to every citizen - the same rationale as in Ontario - but in practice it has led to fractious political coalition, where extreme religious-based parties often hold the balance of power."

Tisdale finished by reading Copps' conclusion - "A political model based on empowering extremes would send shockwaves across the country. Come October 10th, Canadians could

be witnessing a political tsunami in the making. Anyone who thinks this is good for democracy is either naive or nuts."

According to Ontario's Electoral System Referendum Act, 2007 the result of the referendum will be binding "if the recommended electoral system is selected in, a) at least 60 per cent of all the valid referendum ballots cast; and b) more than 50 per cent of the valid referendum ballots cast in each of at least 64 electoral districts."

If the result of the referendum is binding, the government that is formed as a result of the October 10 election will have to introduce legislation to adopt the recommended electoral system on or before December 31, 2008.

The act also says that the same ballot box will be used for both referendum ballots and election ballots.

Quebec patients fill up border doctors' appointment books

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However, 20 percent of those would have been salaried employees at CLSCs and hospitals paid for a 35-hour work week and would therefore be capping their hours.

Glengarry Prescott-Russell MPP Jean-Marc Lalonde confirms one third of doctor clientele in Hawkesbury comes from over the border. The percentages per area doctor vary from 20 to 50 percent in some cases. Dr. Anne Baggeley, who just arrived in Hawkesbury and is the only doctor taking new patients there now, estimates the proportion of Québec patients she sees is 40% of her total.

How do area politicians feel about this? Hawkesbury mayor Jeanne Charlebois does not wish to see any changes: "You can't draw a line when it comes to health. I wouldn't want to stop Québec residents from coming here. Many Québécois support our hospital with donations.

Also, we refer several patients to Montreal specialists." However, according to Claire Diamond, Public Relations Office Coordinator for the Hawkesbury & District General Hospital, in an email sent to The Review, "We do not keep stats on this as it is minimal." Total donations by Québec residents are 20 percent. As for Québec patients going through Hawkesbury General, "It varies depending on the services. We estimate between 15 percent for some services and 25 percent for others and this has been a constant trend for many years."

André Landriault, municipal councillor in Champlain, also hesitates to oppose the Québec influx. "It happens everywhere. At Montfort Hospital, I think their clientele is 60 percent from Québec. People from our region go to Québec themselves. I got a scan in Montreal."

Lalonde says he was only made aware of the doctor shortage around ei-

ght months ago. He adds it's up to the municipality to pass a resolution stating there is a shortage before any action is taken at the provincial level. Given Canada-Ontario health agreements, limiting access of Québec patients is not an option: "We must work together." He observes that Québec members of parliament tried to repatriate clients back to Québec, but "It didn't work." According to him, the solution lies in something called Family Health Teams. The Ontario Ministry of Health website explains them like this: "Designed to give doctors support from other complementary professionals, most Family Health Teams will consist of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and other health care professionals who work collaboratively, each utilizing their experience and skills so that you receive the very best care, when you need it, as close to home as possible." The key, says Lalonde, is for Ontario doctors to work together.

Finance Minister Greg Sorbara was in Hawkesbury on September 29. "We are working diligently to increase the number of doctors," he asserts. In areas like Eastern Ontario, he insists, "we are particularly concerned" about getting good medical care for people. To him, the key is local health integration networks (LHINs), an year-old initiative from the province. LHINs are not-for-profit corporations that work with local health providers and community members to determine the health service priorities of their regions. They were created in April 2006, and took on their full role of planning and funding health services April 1, 2007. LHINs do not provide services directly, but instead, are responsible for integrating services in each of their specific geographic areas.

While these start to create results, patients everywhere in the K postal code area will just have to keep waiting those four to six weeks.



Noel Levac from Hawkesbury was the winner of a \$599 barbecue through a draw at the Laurin Independent Grocer that was to raise money for the President's Choice Children's Charity. Locally, the charity has raised \$5,500 and, since 1989, the charity has given out about \$21 million to more than 4,200 families with children who are physically or developmentally challenged. (submitted photo)

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<< 10.

Jean-Marc Lalonde replied that he was fully aware and understood the concerns about garbage. "We gave Casselman \$400,000 to clean up their garbage site. Lafèche is accepting garbage from Toronto. They have everything in place to protect the aquifer. Incinerators have been turned down by all the provinces because no one has found a solution to carbon dioxide," Lalonde said.

Karolyne Pickett said that the Green Party had a comprehensive policy on the environment and that the number one way to avoid sending garbage to landfills was to reduce the waste we produce.

"This idea that municipalities have to apply for grants to do this type of work is a piecemeal approach. The Green Party would restore 50 per cent funding for backyard composters. Almost all our garbage is recyclable or compostable," Pickett said. "The Green Party is for redirecting research funds to waste, instead of funding research on GMOs (genetically modified organisms). We want to divert funding to things that people are comfortable with, not to things that people are uncomfortable with," Pickett said. "We can deal with waste in ways that do not pollute the air," Pickett added.

Denis Pommerville said that on a trip to Europe last summer, he had seen an incinerator in a city of 1.6 million people. "It burns garbage and it generates electricity. Eighty-five per cent of their garbage is incinerated. We need a vision. I look at Toronto and it has no plan and no vision. It does not make sense," Pommerville said.

Josée Blanchette said that the NDP party believes in reducing and reusing. "We've got to increase the responsibility of business for sure. We need more information about how we can save and what we can do with waste products," Blanchette commented. Bill Gilsdorf asked candidates to comment on faith-based education.

Jean-Marc Lalonde was adamant that the Liberals did not intend to change the current system at all. Referring to PC leader John Tory's announcement that members could vote freely about faith-based education, Lalonde said a fear was that funding for Catholic education might be reduced by the Tory government if it was included as one of several faiths, instead of being part of the one single, public Catholic education system. "That's what I was afraid of," Lalonde said.

Karolyne Pickett said that while Frank de Jong the leader of the Green Party, was in favour of a single public school system, she said, "That said, I do not like taking away something that people have fought hard for. It's very important to take this issue out of partisan politics. We are calling for a Citizens Assembly. We need to study what has been done in other countries and provinces. This is a fundamental problem. People are not happy with the education system and with the lack of local input," Pickett said.

Denis Pommerville agreed that, "This is a tough one. We must not hide our heads in the sand. John Tory understands our concerns. We should have a free vote. We could decide locally to dodge it, but a free vote is the right thing to do."

Josée Blanchette said

that the NDP said that parents were more concerned about the funding and that issue should be resolved first. "We ask kids to sell chocolates because we need the money. Parents want to fix the funding (problems) in schools first," Blanchette said. Doug Tisdall of Vankleek Hill asked candidates if they would act on and support property rights legislation and full, fair and timely compensation for interference with land use. Tisdall asked candidates for a yes or no answer.

Josée Blanchette and Denis Pommerville answered yes.

Karolyne Pickett answered that the Green Party had a concrete platform on how to compensate landowners for any loss that may result from these pieces of legislation. "I have worked on that file for federal legislation for five years... if you have a species at risk on your land it's probably because you're doing something right and you shouldn't be penalized for that," Pickett said. "We recognize the ecological goods and services that landowners provide," Pickett said.

Jean-Marc Lalonde said that there had to be fair compensation but that the regulations had not yet been developed. "It's not clear in the bill. There will be public consultations all over Ontario. And I want to make something clear. It is false that you need a meter for a private well. A farmer could use 200,000 litres a day if it is for his own purposes, but if you sell more than 50(000) litres..."

Richard Kerr of Dalkeith asked candidates for their vision of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell 20 years from now.

Jean-Marc Lalonde said that he has taken care of this area since he was ec-

ated in 1998 to represent this area. "You've got to have infrastructure. And we have sat down with the mayor to look at water distribution and you've got to have high-speed internet," Lalonde said. If you've got the infrastructure in place, you'll attract industry, Lalonde says. Distance education will mean that the good people that are finishing university will be able to work here with industry, Lalonde said. With distance education, people can take courses right in their own community.

Karolyne Pickett said that the Green Party was the only party with the long-term vision. "Our platform is geared to gradual, beneficial change," Pickett said. "We clearly cannot keep pouring money in... we cannot keep pouring money into the health care system... what's the use if there are carcinogens in our environment. We cannot keep pouring money into our roads if our roads are always in disrepair. We need public transit. We need to find ways to retrofit houses," Pickett said.

Denis Pommerville said that, "We need to sit down and decide how we're going to expand our cities. You should see the cars that are going into Cornwall and to Ottawa. Where I live now is like a suburb, but like I said before, when I was in Europe I saw streetcars and subways and it works... there is no traffic jam. Other people in the world have been through our problems. Why don't we go to them?" Pommerville asked.

Josée Blanchette said the NDP vision is to become more self-sufficient with food and more conscientious about production here. "We need a vision for 500 years," Blanchette said.

Questions and answers at the all-candidates meeting

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Miscellaneous: Card table; electrical lamp; garden tools; aluminium extension ladder; garden furniture; assorted linens; kitchenware; many items too numerous to list.

Auctioneer's note: Plan to attend this interesting sale. Most items have a provenance available from auctioneer. The Wales family is connected with the Treadwell and other prominent local families.

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