

Smith steps up to take reins from Liberals

By Ashleigh Gehl

Four months ago Todd Smith never thought he'd be the candidate to dethrone the only cabinet minister to lose a seat, pushing Ontario into a Liberal minority.

Newly elected Progressive Conservative Todd Smith captured 18,735 votes (42.1 per cent) as Liberal incumbent Leona Dombrowsky trailed with 15,688 votes (35.2 per cent). NDP candidate Sherry Hayes received 7,400 votes, a three per cent increase from the 2007 election.

"This is a huge accomplishment," said Smith. "This is something that's never been done before in the Prince Edward-Hastings riding. An incumbent MPP, a cabinet minister going down to defeat is just unheard of. And I'm so proud of everybody on my team."

Dombrowsky dominated the Prince Edward-Hastings riding when she was first elected in 1999, holding the political reins for the last 12 years. In 2010, she was elected Ontario's minister of education.

"When this got started four and half months ago I don't think anyone thought we'd be here today," Smith said. "It was kind of a fractured group and we started behind the eight ball, and our backs were against the wall."

At the Belleville Club, a defeated Dombrowsky exchanged private words with Smith and parted with a smile before exited the building.

Smith said he thought Dombrowsky believed she was doing a good job representing the riding, but the election night results sent a different message.

"A lot of people are ready for change... I have to give super huge kudos to my team for getting out there and offering an alternative to what we've had over the last four years, and for what a lot of the riding has had over the last 12 years," said Smith.

Before stepping into politics, Smith was the voice behind the Belleville Bulls play-by-play and the news director for Quinte Broadcasting. He lives with his wife Tawnya, and his two daughters Payton, 10, and Reagan, 8, in Belleville.

Smith credits Prince Edward-Hastings MP Darryl Kramp, who was re-elected in the 2011 federal election, as being one of the reasons he stepped up to the political plate.

Upon news of her loss, Dombrowsky entered her headquarters with her daughter and husband, and two of her sons not far behind. She was met with applause, words of consolation and hugs from more than 80 supporters.



Ashleigh Gehl

Defeated NDP candidate Sherry Hayes gave congratulations to newly elected Conservative MPP Todd Smith at the Belleville Club.

Addressing the crowd and all her supporters, Dombrowsky couldn't say enough about how much she appreciated the support over the years.

"I stood, I stand, our party stands, on your shoulders," said Dombrowsky.

She blames her loss on a combination of issues.

"We know that there were some unpopular things we had done — the HST of course. In this particular riding there was the Green Energy Act. There were folks in part of the riding that were vehemently op-

posed to that," said Dombrowsky.

She first claimed the Prince Edward-Hastings riding in 2007. She has held multiple positions in the government including minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs, and minister of the environment.

With news of Smith's win, NDP candidate Sherry Hayes thanked her supporters and campaign team, sharing sentiments of fear after the votes came in.

"The loss is hard to swallow. I fear for people in this riding with who they elected," said Hayes.

Even without the victory, Hayes still feels like she put together a solid campaign by engaging young people and rallying voters in North Hastings, a region often overlooked.

Andy Hanson, Hayes' campaign manager, said their main goal was to get people voting.

"There are 3,000-plus students at Loyalist College — what does that say? Young voters are the future of the party. We fought to get the poll back there but Elections Ontario didn't want it," said Hanson.

Elections Ontario removed the polling station at Loyalist when the support workers strike was called. Some people wouldn't be able to cross the picket line.

Hayes lives in McArthur's Mill east of Bancroft and works at Community Care North Hastings in Bancroft.

Provincially, the Liberals sealed a minority government with 37.6 per cent of the vote, losing 23 seats. The Conservatives were a close second at 35.4 per cent, picking up 11 new seats. And the NDP gained seven seats, securing 22.7 per cent of the vote.



Renee Rodgers

From left: Abby, 8, Chloe, 8, and Alisha, 8, make a snowman at the Yardman Arena. Prince Edward County OPP Const. Kim Guthrie helps them add the finishing touch — a police hat. The girls played in a small pile of snow as part of a press conference given by police, announcing the beginning of the campaign.

Local media, police help clothe Quinte area kids this winter

By Renée Rodgers

The local Adopt-A-Child committee may have been forced to scale back its services, but it's still working to make sure no child gets left without a coat this winter.

The committee, which is dedicated to providing warm outerwear for local children of low-income working families, began in 1987 as a partnership between Belleville Police Service and Quinte Broadcasting. That year, the committee helped clothe 118 local children for the winter.

This year about 1,000 children, ages 12 and under, have registered with the organization for new coats.

"But if we were doing 13-year-olds, we'd probably have closer to 1,200," said Constable Ann Earle, the committee chairperson.

A financial surplus a few years ago allowed the committee to start providing coats for 13-year-olds. But the committee found it so hard to make ends meet last year, they decided to cut back their services.

"Last year we almost didn't make it, so we had to go back down to 12 (years old and under)," said Earle.

The need for children's winter outerwear grows ever year, said Earle, but donations do not. The committee still needs hundreds of coats before they have enough for all 1,000 children.

This year, committee members will also

be attending three local businesses with the names of children who are in need of winter coats. On Oct. 12, the committee will be at Zellers on Bell Blvd. On Oct. 13, they will be at Sears in the Quinte Mall. On October 14, they will be at Wal-Mart. The committee will be at the stores from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day in hopes of receiving more donations so the 1,000 children registered can stay warm this winter.

Adopt-A-Child "Radio Adoptions" were kicked off Oct. 3 and run until Oct. 28. Local community members can call Quinte Broadcasting and receive the name of a local child they can then "adopt" and buy a new coat for.

"If they (donors) want to sponsor a child in Madoc or Picton, they can specifically ask for those areas and they will be given a child in that area," said Earle. "They're not given the full name, they're just given a (first) name and a code number so it's anonymous."

Donations of new winter clothing can be dropped off at Quinte West OPP, Picton OPP, Madoc OPP, Napanee or Stirling Police, the Belleville Police Service or Quinte Broadcasting.

Adopt-A-Child will also take cash donations and do the shopping for donors who are short on time.

Visa and MasterCard donations can be made by calling Quinte Broadcasting at 613-969-5555.

Trenton man hurt by oxy theft

By Renée Rodgers

Fredrickton Farrell says his trailer has been robbed for Oxycontin before.

Farrell, who suffers from a number of diseases, including Lyme disease, takes the prescription medication for pain. About a year ago, Farrell returned to his Trenton home to find his trailer ransacked and his medication missing.

But last week Farrell was home when he was attacked by two assailants.

The afternoon of Sept. 28, he heard a knock at his front door.

"I went to the front door — nobody," he said in an interview, two days after the incident. "I thought, 'well maybe it's the dogs. I have two dogs. So I went to my back door — nothing.'"

Farrell returned down the hall of his trailer.

"Next thing you know I was poked with something sharp in the back on the neck, grabbed by the back of the head, told to look straight forward and 'Give me your F-ing blister packs,'" he said. "And I thought it was kind of like a joke, you know? Like one of my friends trying to say: 'Look how easy it is to rob you' type thing."

Farrell said the two assailants then put a pillowcase over his head before he could

see their identities and tied it at his neck with electrical cord. They also used the cord to bind his hands. Farrell said they demanded to know where his medication was, hitting him over the head three times with a hammer. Farrell said he denied having the medication at first, but finally told them where it was.

When Farrell was sure the robbers had gone, he managed to find a knife in his kitchen drawer. He then cut a hole in the pillowcase large enough to see a phone and dial 911 with the back of his hand.

Police arrived soon after and Farrell was taken away by ambulance.

That was the first siren Shelley Hannah, a neighbour who lives near Farrell, heard that day.

"I never thought anything of it," she said. The sound of sirens, she said, is not uncommon in her area.

"Then about 10 minutes later, all these cops came in," she said. "We counted 17 police officers. There was canine. I don't know how many there were. I only saw one dog but my neighbour said there was more."

Hannah said about 30 minutes later, she heard noises overhead.

"There was a helicopter in the air, flying around the whole area," she said. "They

locked the whole park down. No one could go in and no one could go out."

Hannah, as well as other residents, reported the park was locked down for around two hours while police investigated.

Sharon Haisma, who lives a few trailers down from Farrell, was home at the time.

"I had just laid down for a nap," she said. "I heard sirens so I walked into the kitchen and looked out the window. The police had the property taped off and I saw six or eight police cruisers lined up along the road."

Farrell was released from the hospital after his wounds were treated. He said his first thought after the incident was to leave the park, but now he thinks he'll stay.

"By the time you sell and move and find a place, it's a lot of money," he said.

He also said the incident hasn't made him scared to be in his own home.

"Just more cautious," he said. "(I plan to) keep one eye open all the time. Actually I went out and brought a brand new lock for the door. Just beef up security, add a camera, one that I can look at the screen all the time, see my back yard"

Yet memories of the robbery will continue to haunt him.

"It's a shame that we have to live like this, with one eye open," he said.



Linda Horn

Billie Jo McNaughton waits to reunite with her daughter after police closed all access to the Trenton mobile park on Sept. 28. Det. Sgt. Brad Robson said the OPP were investigating a home invasion and minor assault. While the park was closed, OPP officers on the ground and OPP helicopter searched for suspects. No suspects were found. The victim suffered minor injuries.