

Jones not part of move to dump Hudak

By Bill Rea

There might be a movement developing in the Ontario Progressive Conservative ranks to see party leader Tim Hudak ousted, but Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones says she's not part of it.

These stories started after the Tories were able to win only one of five byelections that were held Aug. 1.

It was reported last Monday (Aug. 5) in the Toronto Sun that 10 party members from London had called for changes to the party's constitution to allow a leadership review to take place.

Jones said last week there was a caucus call the day after the byelections and she heard no mention of that at that time.

"I don't know where it's coming from," she said.

Although things could have gone better for the PCs in the byelections, Jones was pleased with their one victory in Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that Doug Holyday is going to be part of our caucus," Jones declared.

She added that while she doesn't know Toronto's former deputy mayor personally, she's been impressed with his good business sense.

"I think he'll add a lot of value," she commented.

The Etobicoke-Lakeshore seat became available with the resignation of Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Laurel Broten.

The London West riding, which had been vacated by former energy minister Chris Bentley, was one Jones said the Tories had been hoping they'd get back. But it was taken by New Democrat Peggy Sattler with Conservative Ali Chahbar coming second.

Former premier Dalton McGuinty's seat of Ottawa South was held on to for the Liberals by John Fraser, while former finance minister Dwight Duncan's Windsor-Tecumseh seat went to Percy Hatfield of the NDP. Jones was not too surprised the Conservatives could win in either of them.

"The were pretty steep hills to climb," she observed.