

Local beef farmer to run for Liberals in 2018 election

By Mike Pickford

The provincial riding of Dufferin-Caledon is not reaching its full potential, according to Bob Gordanier, who was named the Liberal candidate for next year's provincial election.

The announcement was made during a ceremony at Caledon Estates Banquet Hall near Palgrave Monday.

A man that possesses "great integrity and a passion for people" according to Dufferin-Caledon Provincial Liberal Association President Joe McReynolds, Gordanier brings a rich history of leadership and community service with him to the role. He spent three years at Port Credit Police Department and a year with Peel Regional Police in his early life before serving with the Brampton Fire Department for 32 years.

Gordanier is also a past-president of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, a former executive member of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and has served on the boards of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Dufferin Cattleman's Association, Feeder Financing, Agricultural Adaptation Council and Beef Cattle Research Committee.

"Bob has a long history of public service," McReynolds told a group of roughly 50 local association members. "He has displayed fantastic leadership in every role he's filled. He's a farmer who cares about our land and the people who live on it . . . We're very excited to have Bob represent us in the 2018 provincial election. He is the advocate that Dufferin-Caledon constituents need at Queen's Park."

Gordanier and his wife Elsie have four adult children and six grandchildren. They currently reside on a farm in Dufferin County. Gordanier was recognized for his continued volunteer efforts in 2012 when he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to the community. He will replace former Liberal candidate Bobbie Diad, who secured 13,861 votes in the 2014 provincial election "finishing second to three-term Progressive Conservative MPP Sylvia Jones, who received 18,017 votes.

Distinguished guests such as Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca and Community and Social Services Minister Helena Jaczek paid homage to a man they believe will bring an end to the 10-year reign of PC Deputy Leader Jones.

"Bob brings a particularly strong set of personal values to the public sphere, something that looks really good for us," Del Duca remarked. "As Ontario Liberals, we have to be phenomenally proud that, after 14 years of governing, we can continue to attract the calibre of candidates like Bob. That is something that speaks tremendously well for us as an organization."

"Bob is an individual that we are going to be so proud of in this next election," Jaczek added. "He has an excellent reputation and a wonderful background. I'm extremely optimistic of our prospects going forward, especially here in Dufferin-Caledon with Bob Gordanier."

Stepping forward and accepting his nomination to rapturous applause, Gordanier said it was "time for change" in Dufferin-Caledon, stating he was just the man to breathe fresh life into a community he believes has stood still for far too long.

While he cited the need for investment in local health care, transportation and infrastructure, education and agriculture, as well as recognizing the importance of supporting the senior community, the local Liberal candidate said he will be listening to the public and pushing "the people's platform" throughout the majority of his campaign.

"A lot of people have been asking me about my platform and I've answered the exact same way each time "I'll be discussing the people's platform, not mine," Gordanier said. "I'm not representing myself, I'll be representing Dufferin-Caledon and all the people of this great riding. Sure, we know some of the issues right now, but I think it's incredibly important that I get out there into our communities and learn about the issues and the problems directly from our residents."

A resident of Dufferin for some 36 years, Gordanier has grown to love the place he calls home. It's this love that inspired him to step up and represent change in the upcoming June 7, 2018 election. He believes a "beautiful" constituency such as Dufferin-Caledon should be doing more to attract new business to the area with its close proximity to the GTA.

"I call this riding 'Location, Location, Location,' just like the TV show," Gordanier said with a smile. "Where we're sitting in this province is nothing but the greatest spot we could possibly be sitting in for expansion. I'd love to see more jobs here. We need to stop encouraging people to go up and down the highway on a daily basis."

"This is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family," he added. "We have a fantastic workforce here in Dufferin-Caledon, if we could pull in a few more industries, a few more companies, we would certainly be in a much better place. I'm a big believer in people working where they live and living where they work. Rest assured, (if elected) I will be working hard to bridge the gap and create more opportunities for the people of this riding."

In a huge vote of confidence, Del Duca, one of the Ontario Liberal's highest ranking politicians, said he sees something special in Gordanier, stating that Dufferin-Caledon was fortunate to have such a "fantastic candidate" for next year's election.

?I'm thrilled to be here today to be able to support Bob because I know, come June 7, 2018, he will be the MPP for Dufferin-Caledon and will continue to make an exceptionally positive difference, only this time for his community and the Ontario Legislature,? Del Duca concluded.

For more information on Mr. Gordanier and the Ontario Liberal Party, visit dufferin-caledon.liberal.ca



Dufferin-Caledon Liberals officially nominated Bob Gordanier (second from right) as their candidate for the 2018 provincial election during a ceremony at Caledon Estates Banquet Hall Monday. Gordanier is pictured with local Liberal association president Joe McReynolds (left), Community and Social Services Minister Helena Jaczek and Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca.