

Your election day primer as voters have their say

Written By **CITIZEN STAFF**

Finally, the day has arrived to choose a new premier for Ontario, and an MPP for Dufferin-Caledon.

Progressive Conservative MPP Sylvia Jones has won the previous three votes and appears poised to go for No. 4, but she has faced stiff competition.

Here's a last, brief look at the candidates:

Sylvia Jones Progressive

Conservative

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones officially kicked off her campaign ahead of this summer's provincial election on April 28 promising the more than 100 people in attendance that change is coming in Ontario.

The three-term incumbent who was first elected to Queen's Park in 2007 has said the Tories would remove the provincial income tax for everyone earning under \$30,000 a year. That is going to make a big difference in the lives of people who are struggling in our community.

She has served as the Critic for Community and Social Services, the Critic for Children and Youth Services, the Critic for Government Services, and the Opposition Deputy House Leader. She currently serves as Deputy Leader of the PC Caucus and the Critic for Infrastructure.

Bob Gordanier Liberal Party

Mr. Gordanier said health is a priority, so the Liberals would continue to look into how much more funding is required for provincial hospitals, along with seeking ways to allow seniors to live at home later in life.

He also described the province's free tuition for students whose parents earn under \$50,000 as "forward thinking."

He's the past president of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, former chair of the Risk Management Coalition, and a long-time farmer, former police officer and firefighter. He received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award in 2012 for service to the community.

Andrea Mullarky NDP

Ms. Mullarkey has lived in Bolton for almost 30 years. She is the mother of three children all of whom continue to reside in Dufferin-Caledon. Her Facebook bio states she is committed to preserving the green spaces which make Dufferin-Caledon such a beautiful place to live and is committed to fighting for the less fortunate members of our society and to implementing NDP policies which will allow access to dental care and medications for all. She has trumpeted public transit, the Greenbelt and affordability as her top priorities.

She is currently a health and safety co-ordinator with Give and Go Prepared Foods in Toronto.

Laura Campbell Green Party

Ms. Campbell said that while the Green Party doesn't have a seat at Queen's park, they are "electable," and have "been working for you for years," including helping to stop the mega quarry in Melancthon.

She's a small business owner, running a restaurant she owns with her husband, and a PhD student at the University of Toronto focusing on international economics.

She has been an environmental activist since childhood.

Jeff Harris Libertarian

Mr. Harris said a recent candidates forum that he only got into politics in December last year. 'I'm a business owner, not a career politician.'

He said voters should say no to the carbon tax, 'Especially at a time when we don't have a balanced budget, and more spending just means more borrowing.'

He's a successful entrepreneur and the founder of the consumer advocacy website www.thesqueakywheel.com. He touts a blend of public and private healthcare, giving parents the choice of schools for the kids, lower taxes and lower Hydro rates.

Stephen McKendrick Consensus Ontario

Consensus Ontario's Stephen McKendrick has been a resident of Dufferin-Caledon for more than 27 years. A long-time business owner in the region, today's election will mark Mr. McKendrick's first foray into provincial politics. Launched in 2016, the Consensus Ontario party considers itself to be 'the party to end all parties, including itself', says one of its founding members, Brad Harness. Elected officials would act on an independent basis, with no party leader to please and no official line to toe. After watching the economy in PEI crumble some years ago, Mr. McKendrick is committed to doing what he can to ensure the same thing doesn't happen here in Ontario

Andrew Nowell Trillium Party

Melancthon resident Andrew Nowell has proudly flown the Trillium Party of Ontario flag here in Dufferin-Caledon ahead of today's vote. The local farmer only joined the party back in February, but believes Trillium to be 'the party of the people', claiming its members would work strictly for their constituents rather than for any leader. The party gained its first member of the Ontario Legislature in May 2017 when Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP Jack MacLaren made the jump having been removed from the PC caucus for making negative remarks about Francophones. Trillium ran two candidates in the 2014 provincial election, receiving 397 votes. Mr. Nowell is hoping to make some headway in a busy Dufferin-Caledon riding this time around.