

Fringe candidates still here

At least two of four candidates from byelection running in general election

in the running

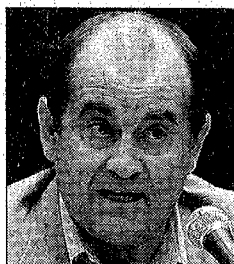
Here's a look at which fringe candidates from the byelection are running in the general election.

Yes



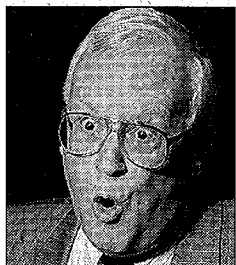
Karen Levenson

Yes



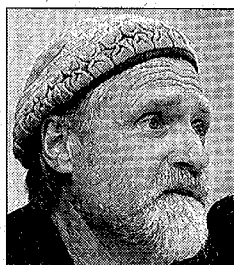
Philip Bender

Maybe



John Turmel

Unavailable



Kornélis Klevering

Thana Dharmarajah
tdharmarajah@guelphmercury.com

GUELPH — The Royal City's cancelled byelection offered several fringe party candidates the opportunity to get their feet wet for the upcoming federal election.

Karen Levenson with the Animal Alliance Environment Voters party said she is ready to start knocking on doors to collect another 100 signatures.

"I'm pleased we're doing it again," she said. "I think the byelection was the first kick at the can for me."

It was a learning process, Levenson explained, adding she was quite nervous at the initial debates and didn't know how people would take the information she presented.

Her party is running four candidates in the federal election, mainly in the Toronto area.

Libertarian candidate Philip Bender agreed the federal election will allow him to "work out some of the kinks in (his) pitch."

However, he admitted it would be quite a bit of work to collect another 100 signatures and come up with another \$1,000 deposit, which is returned to candidates if they receive more than 10 per cent of the vote cast in their riding.

Elections Canada will return the \$1,000 candidates filed in the byelection but only after they submit their expense reports.

"It makes it tougher for the small organizations like us," Bender said.

Bender has run previously in two provincial elections in Simcoe-Grey and a byelection in Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey.

Meanwhile, John Turmel, who ran as an Independent candidate in the byelection, said he hasn't yet decided whether he'll run in his home riding of Brantford or stick with Guelph.

He said he was leaning toward Guelph as the city has allowed him to participate in most of the debates, apart from one hosted by the Guelph Chamber of Commerce.

In Brantford he was escorted out by police from a televised Rogers debate and was denied access to a high school debate in last year's provincial election.

"Why should I stay in Brantford when they've got cops to keep me out of the debates?"

Turmel still has some time to decide. The deadline for prospective candidates to file their papers with Elections Canada is Sept. 22.

Kornélis Klevering, who ran for the Marijuana party in Guelph's byelection, couldn't be reached for comment yesterday.



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