



Debating the issues

Animal Alliance Environment Voters candidate Karen Levenson answers a question at Action Read's all-candidates debate on Tuesday, while Liberal Frank Valeriote, left, the NDP's Tom King, second from right, and Green candidate Mike Nagy listen. Conservative candidate Gloria Kovach did not attend. Action Read clients asked questions about housing, the environment, funding for literacy and legalizing marijuana.

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY PAIGE HILTON

Dion, Clement drop in

More heavy hitters are coming to Guelph to support byelection candidates.

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion is expected in Guelph today (Aug. 22) to support local candidate Frank Valeriote. He'll stop by Valeriote's campaign office this afternoon to meet Valeriote's campaign team before heading out to go door-to-door with the candidate. Dion will also be speaking at Guelph Tool Inc. This is the second visit Dion has made to the city since the Sept. 8 federal byelection was called.

Health Minister Tony Clement is also expected today to go canvassing with Conservative candidate Gloria Kovach. Clement was in Guelph previously this year for a Kovach fundraiser at a local seniors residence.

Candidates meet

The Guelph/Wellington Coalition for Social Justice and Make Poverty History are hosting a candidates debate on Wednesday Aug. 27. It will focus on issues about the environment and poverty.

It's at Dublin Street United Church, 68 Suffolk St. W. Moderator for the debate is Stacey Hare.

The debate will last from 7 to 9 p.m. NDP candidate Tom King, Animal Alliance Environment Voters candidate Karen Levenson, Green candidate Mike Nagy and Liberal candidate Frank Valeriote have confirmed they'll attend the debate, a news release said.

People coming to the debate are asked to bring their own mug as the event is waste-free.

For information, call 519-824-2091

or visit www.guelphcitizenaction.ca.

Survey questions

While a poll puts Liberal candidate Frank Valeriote in the lead to win the Sept. 8 byelection, one blogger is alleging the poll is bogus.

The poll from Winnipeg-based KLRVU Research found that Valeriote has a 10 per cent lead over Conservative candidate Gloria Kovach. The poll says more than 36 per cent of voters have indicated support for Valeriote, while more than 26 per cent will support Kovach, said a news release.

The Green Party will overtake the NDP, the poll suggested. It came in with support of more than 19 per cent, an increase of 11 per cent from 2006.

The poll has a 95 per cent confidence level and an error margin of two per cent, said a news release.

A blogger writing in the blog "Blogging a Dead Horse" at www.blogging-horse.blogspot.com, alleged in an entry Wednesday that the Conservatives had influence over the poll and are using it to show the Guelph riding race is between Valeriote and Kovach.

"Problem is, (the Conservatives) aren't going to win Guelph and their polling has to show that. With less than 20 days to go, the race is all but decided between Tom King for the NDP and the Liberals," the blogger wrote.

Instead, the blogger alleges, the poll illustrates a fight between the Liberals and the Conservatives for the seat. The blogger goes on to write that KLRVU Research is owned by Allan Bruinooge, who is the brother of Conservative MP Rod Bruinooge.