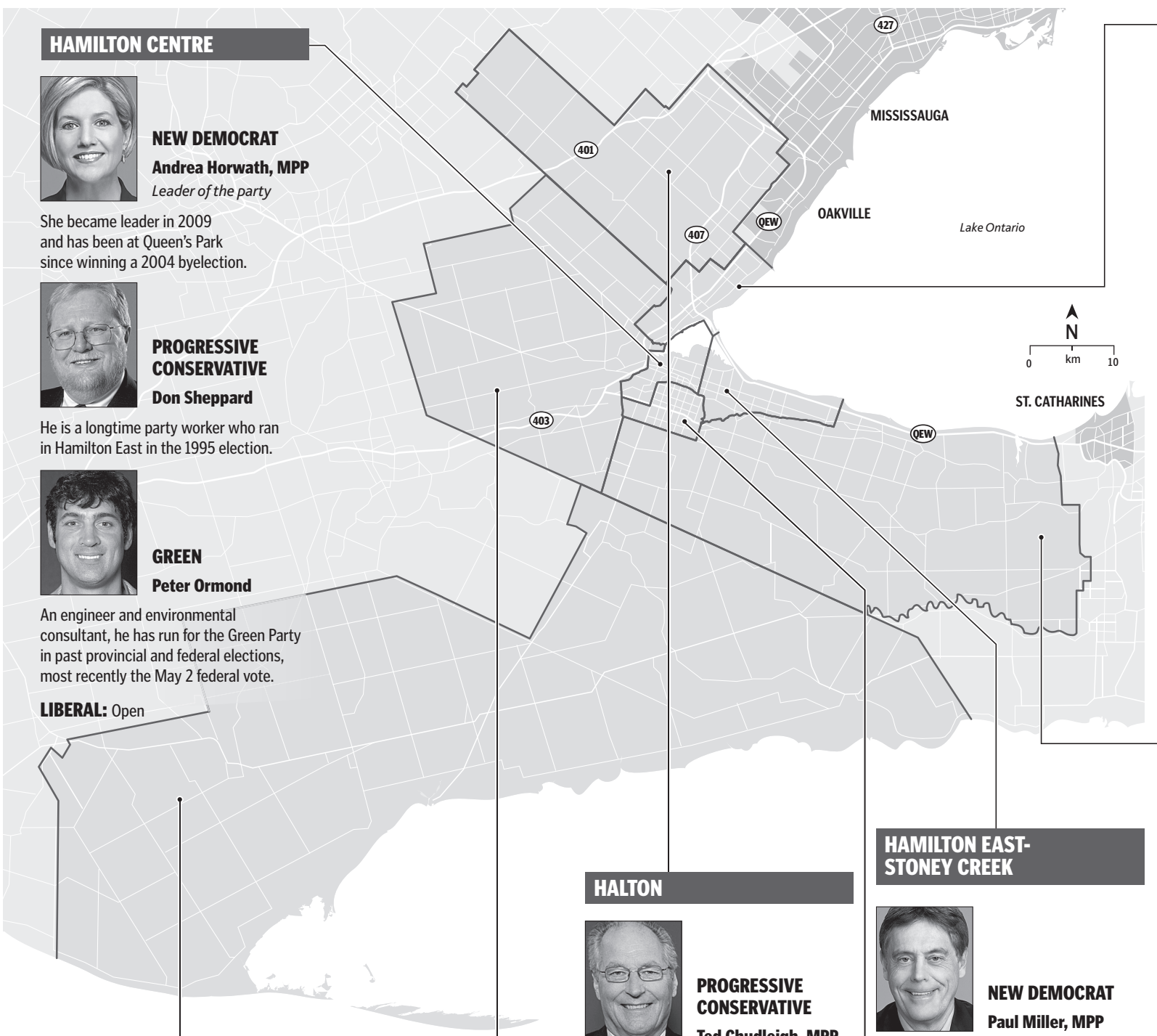
LOCAL

Declared candidates

The race is beginning to heat up for the Oct. 6 provincial election. Twenty-five candidates have been nominated in eight local ridings although the only riding in which all four parties have announced their candidates is Niagara West-Glanbrook, held by PC Leader Tim Hudak. The Tories and the NDP have candidates declared in all eight ridings, followed by seven for the Liberals and two for the Green Party.



HAMILTON CENTRE

NEW DEMOCRAT
Andrea Horwath, MPP
Leader of the party

She became leader in 2009 and has been at Queen's Park since winning a 2004 byelection.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Don Sheppard

He is a longtime party worker who ran in Hamilton East in the 1995 election.

GREEN
Peter Ormond

An engineer and environmental consultant, he has run for the Green Party in past provincial and federal elections, most recently the May 2 federal vote.

LIBERAL: Open

BURLINGTON

LIBERAL
Karmel Sakran

A lawyer, he has served on many local boards including the United Way and Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital.

NEW DEMOCRAT
Peggy Russell

She spent a decade as a trustee on the Halton District School Board and served as the vice-chair.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Jane McKenna
To be acclaimed July 26

She is a businesswoman and a community volunteer who ran unsuccessfully for the Ward 1 council seat last year.

GREEN: Open

NIAGARA WEST-GLANBROOK

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Tim Hudak, MPP
Leader of the party

He has been at Queen's Park since 1995 and became party leader in 2009.

LIBERAL
Katie Trombetta

She served as mayor of West Lincoln for 10 years until she was defeated last fall.

NEW DEMOCRAT
Anthony Marco

A former teacher, he is vice-president of the Hamilton unit of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

GREEN
Meredith Cross

The Beamsville resident set up an environmental club in high school and is now studying chemistry at the University of Western Ontario.

HALTON

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Ted Chudleigh, MPP

The owner of a pie and pastry company has been at Queen's Park since 1995 and is the grandson of Premier Tom Kennedy (1948-49).

LIBERAL
Indira Naidoo-Harris

She is a former TV journalist and anchor for CBC, CTV and OMNI Television.

NEW DEMOCRAT
Nik Spohr

He was the party's local youth representative and is pursuing a Master's in Environmental Studies at York University.

GREEN: Open

HAMILTON EAST-STONEY CREEK

NEW DEMOCRAT
Paul Miller, MPP

The former steelworker served on Stoney Creek council and narrowly beat Councillor Sam Merulla for the nomination in 2007.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Nancy Fiorentino

She ran in Ward 9 last year and was courted by the Liberals to run in Niagara West-Glanbrook in the federal election.

LIBERAL
Mark Cripps

To be acclaimed July 28. He is leaving his job as managing editor of Hamilton Community News to make his first run for political office.

GREEN: Open

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Toby Barrett, MPP

The Port Dover resident has been at Queen's Park since 1995 and won the riding in 2007 with more than 60 per cent of the vote.

LIBERAL
Greg Crone

The Caledonia resident was a reporter who became an aide to Premier McGuinty and cabinet minister Michael Bryant.

NEW DEMOCRAT
Ian Nichols

The Simcoe truck driver has run for the party in the last two federal elections.

GREEN: Open

ANCASTER-DUNDAS-FLAMBOROUGH-WESTDALE

LIBERAL
Ted McMeekin, MPP

The former Flamborough mayor has been at Queen's Park since 2000 and served in McGuinty's cabinet.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Donna Skelly

She has been at CHCH-TV for years and hosts a popular suppertime talk and phone-in show.

NEW DEMOCRAT
Trevor Westerhoff

He co-owns a toy store in west Hamilton and has worked in the film and television industry in B.C.

GREEN: Open

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN

LIBERAL
Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP

The founder of a homemade sauce company serves as revenue minister and minister responsible for seniors.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
Geordie Elms

The retired army colonel has served in Israel, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He now works for a security firm.

NEW DEMOCRAT
Monique Taylor

She is the executive assistant to Ward 7 Councillor Scott Duvall.

GREEN: Open

SOURCE: ELECTIONS ONTARIO; PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE, LIBERAL, NEW DEMOCRAT AND GREEN PARTIES

Daniel Nolan, Dean Tweed / THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Lining up local candidates has been a challenge

Tim Hudak in four-party race

Continued from A1

With a set date for Ontario elections, there's no more waiting for the premier to drop the writ (but that will still take place Sept. 7). The PCs and NDP have already released their platforms.

Hudak or a caucus member has been making almost weekly visits to Hamilton since spring to outline a policy or to fire shots at Premier Dalton McGuinty over such issues as the eco-fees debacle. The Liberals have visited Hamilton to announce projects such as $45.5 million for a new humanities building at McMaster University.

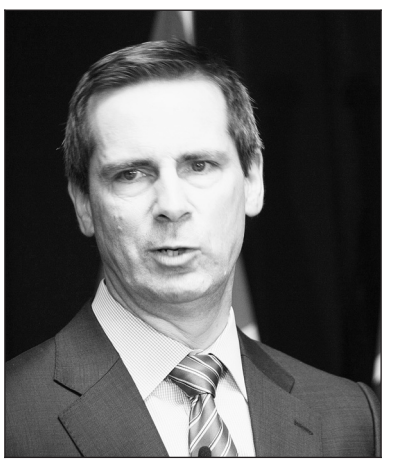
Four seats — Burlington, Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton and Niagara West-Glanbrook — are held by the PCs. Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale and Hamilton Mountain are held by the Liberals and Hamilton Centre and Hamilton East-Stoney Creek are held by the New Democrats.

Lining up local candidates has been marked by twists and turns. A polling firm was calling ADFW residents to see if they would vote for Ward 1 Councillor Brian McHattie were he the NDP candidate. McHattie and ADFW NDP riding president Herb Shields denied having anything to do with the calls. The party eventually selected Trevor Westerhoff.

Chris Corrigan, a retired Canadian army colonel and the Tories' 2007 candidate in ADFW, registered last year to run again. He, however, was pushed aside in March by party brass for TV talk show host Donna Skelly. That has given the Tories headaches from Corrigan supporters.

Burlington Liberal MPP Joyce Savoline announced in February she would not seek re-election and a few people announced they were seeking the nomination. But the date for the nomination meeting was not set until July 14.

Rene Papin, former president of the Burlington PC Riding Association, declared in March, but dropped out in May after he claimed key advisers were told by party brass he "does not fit the strategic direction of the party" at this time. Party spokesperson Alan Sakach, however, denied the party wanted Papin out and is at a loss as to where he got that impression. Papin declined further comment.



CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty

ROB FERGUSON, TORONTO STAR

Conservative Leader Tim Hudak

TORONTO STAR

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath

Lawyer Brian Heagle, a former Liberal, also announced his bid in March, but withdrew July 14 because "I never expected the nomination process would still be going on" and he had to make other commitments. The meeting will be held July 26 at 7 p.m. at Billings Court Manor. The remaining candidate, businesswoman and former municipal candidate Jane McKenna, will be acclaimed.

Sakach said the party took some time to set the date because it had a number of people who were interested, and it wanted to provide the opportunity for all to talk with family and friends before they made the commitment.

The Liberals have picked a newspaperman to help them win Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, a riding it lost to the NDP by 1,210 votes in 2007. Mark Cripps is leaving his job as managing editor of Hamilton Community News, which has weekly papers in Stoney Creek, Hamilton Mountain, Dundas and Ancaster, to become the party's candidate. He will be acclaimed July 28 at the Stoney Creek Legion.

Former Hamilton Mountain Tory MPP Trevor Pettit has been approached to run for the fledging Reform Party of Ontario, a provincial version of Preston Manning's old party. Pettit has also been offered the job of deputy leader by Leader Brian Harness. He'll make his decision in August.

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