

# Matten Ready To Run For H-N MPP

By Lindsey Stuckless  
The Haldimand Press

HAGERSVILLE—After volunteering for the Ontario Liberal Party for over 10 years, Dan Matten is ready to take the next step and run as Provincial Liberal Candidate in Haldimand-Norfolk.

"I have always been interested in politics and, as I continued to volunteer, I decided I wanted to be an active part of creating solutions for our community, province and country," said Matten.

Matten and his wife have called Hagersville home for 22 years, after leaving Germany for "opportunity and adventure" in Canada. The couple welcomed a son and a daughter in the next few years and gained a love of the community through the friends and neighbours that they met.

As his family grew, Matten became involved in his church, the Hagersville Lions Club and the local Chamber of Commerce. He says he is passionate about his community and thinks working at Queens Park is the next step.

"I have always been interested in helping my community and I feel very strongly we need a Liberal voice in Toronto to represent Haldimand-Norfolk," he said.

Matten said he wants to bring a stronger focus to many areas that matter to Haldimand-Norfolk residents. Top on this list is getting more emphasis put on rural issues.

"Ontario needs to start looking at what our rural residents need," said Matten. "Homes need natural gas lines for heating and working internet, as this is something that is used in our world every day. It's not a luxury, it's a necessity."

In addition to advocating for his rural constituents, Matten says with the growing number of baby-boomers ageing, more affordable re-

tirement homes and long-term care facilities are something the area needs.

Currently, Matten is waiting to be vetted by the Ontario Liberal Party. He has been approved by the Haldimand Norfolk Liberal Association and notified Election Ontario he would be a candidate. He is ready to begin working towards an election and knows running against Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Toby Barrett will be a challenge.

"Experience counts for a lot, but I believe our community is ready for fresh eyes and someone who is eager and ready to accomplish things in Toronto," said Matten.

Besides running against Barrett, Matten is aware that not everyone is happy with what the Ontario Liberal Party and Premier Kathleen Wynne have accomplished in the past four years. But, Matten is still positive and says the work they have done will prove itself in the future. He also believes the Liberal Party and Liberal ideas are what the province and country need.

"For me, Liberal stands for progress, for open minds and improvement. I have always been a Liberal person, and for the next generation these ideas are important," said Matten.

While waiting for official Liberal Party approval, Matten is already meeting community members. He recently spent time at both the Caledonia and Norfolk County Fairs, and he believes that those events further confirmed he is moving in the right direction.

"It was long days and I talked to many different people, but at the end I was excited. To me, it means I am following the right path," he said, "I am very lucky to have the full support of my family, they know this will be a lot of work, but they believe in the cause."

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