

Filling Scott's shoes

KARISSA DONKIN
THE BRUNSWICKAN

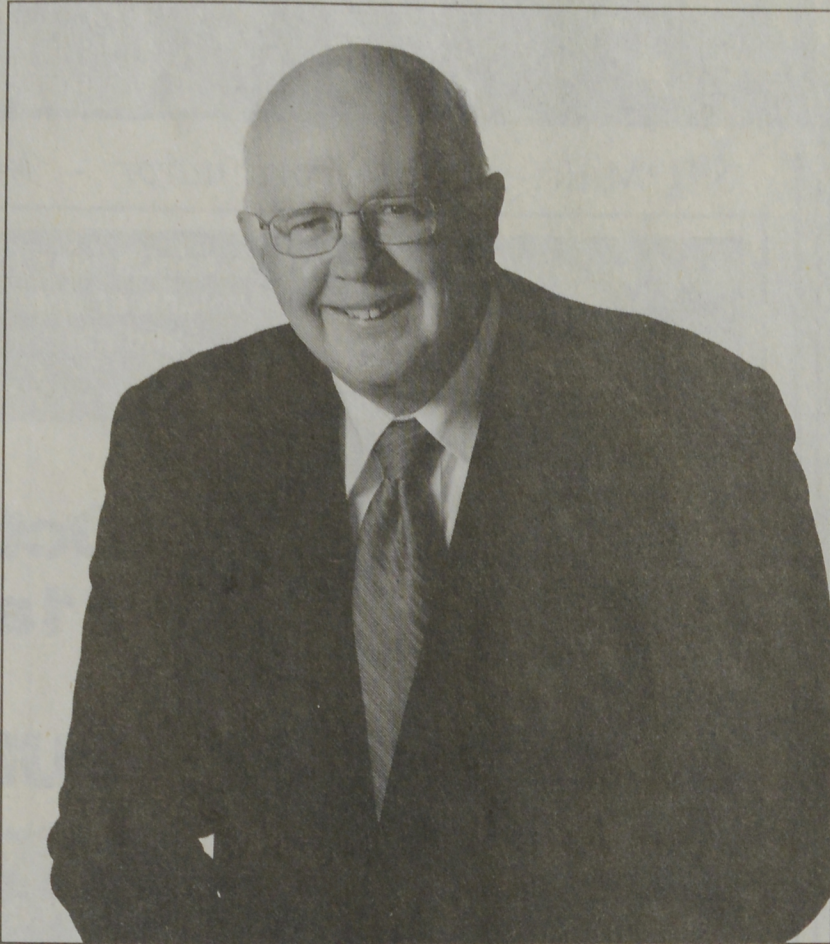
When former Liberal MP Andy Scott announced that he would not seek re-election in March 2007, the Liberal party began their search for someone to fill Scott's shoes should Prime Minister Stephen Harper call a snap election. The search ended with the announcement of David Innes' nomination that October. The life-long New Brunswick resident will represent one of five choices on the ballot for Fredericton residents in the upcoming federal election on October 14.

Innes explains that his concern for "the direction that Canada is going in" drew him into federal politics. "I think this election is really important. The direction of the two main parties is really quite different," Innes says.

"There is a stark difference between what the Conservatives are offering and what the Liberals are offering," Innes notes, promising that this could be one of the "most key elections" of his generation with contentious issues like education, protection of the environment and a volatile economy on the horizon.

As a former student and Engineering faculty member at the University of New Brunswick, post-secondary education is a hot topic for Innes, whose party recently announced a massive funding plan for post-secondary education in Canada including easier access to student loans and an extended grace period to pay off student debt. "I understand what the issues for a student are. Students are taking this election seriously. It's all about them and their future," says Innes.

University graduates who have difficulty finding steady and meaningful employment after graduating with a degree would have a much easier time doing so without leaving Fredericton if Innes was elected. "More jobs and opportunities, particularly for young people," would be a



Submitted

David Innes is the Liberal MP candidate for Fredericton. He discusses his major issues, which include education and the economy.

main priority, he promises.

In addition to his dedication to post-secondary education, Innes has also been a community advocate for French language education, having served as local Fredericton chairman for the Canadian Parents for French. His community involvement does not stop there. "It's been a long time, but I was involved in the Fundy Regional Solid Waste Commission," says Innes, who also can add working on the incorporation of New Maryland to a lengthy resumé of community involvement.

Although this is Innes' first official foray into politics, he admits that it was not difficult to decide which party he wanted to be affiliated with. The Liberals are the party that "sits down and deals with the major issues of our time," Innes says, using the Old Age Pension, Medicare and Canada Student Loans as examples.

Innes also offers the Liberal party's Green Shift policy, a crucial part of the Liberal

campaign, as an example of a way that the Liberals are trying to deal with a major issue campaign directly. He explains that the "carbon shift, certainly, is the biggest part of it [the Green Shift]," especially after New Brunswick residents and people throughout North America have faced more devastating natural disasters such as hurricanes in the past few years. The carbon shift changes the way that Canadians are taxed and is truly "meant to deal directly with the biggest environmental problem we have to deal with," Innes proclaims.

Using a four person family in Burton as an example of how the Green Shift policy would benefit anyone and everyone, Innes explains that because the family would be taxed based upon pollution as opposed to income, they would save around \$2,200 per year, as there is "very little in terms of carbon tax associated with their lives."

This is the second of a series of profiles for candidates running in the Fredericton riding in the federal election.

A sustainable candidate



Submitted

Mary Lou Babineau is the Green Party candidate for Fredericton. At the top of her priority list are PSE and, of course, the greater green.

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

In recent years there has been a lot of hype surrounding environmental concerns. You've heard it - global warming, too much litter, etc.

Mary Lou Babineau is running for MP in the upcoming election. As a member of the Green Party, she is concerned about the state of our environment.

Babineau was born and raised in Minto, N.B., which is actually a part of the riding that includes Fredericton. Because of this, Babineau is attached to the area on a whole other level.

Babineau tells the Brunswickan that she got involved with the Green Party upon meeting party leader Elizabeth May at a fundraiser here in Fredericton for the Conservation Council. The two environmentalists spoke, and May told Babineau that she was looking for a candidate to run in Fredericton. Babineau was asked to run, but at first she felt she might be too busy or inexperienced.

A few weeks later, they met again. Babineau read the platform, she says, and was convinced to run.

Elizabeth May is "extremely inspiring and very motivating," says Babineau. "A lot of people think politics are for someone else, that they're not the type, but everyone has a role to play," she says.

"This is a critical time for our planet and our country," the candidate states emphatically.

When asked about the virtues

of her particular platform, Babineau responds, "I can't say enough good things about the Green Party's platform. It covers all issues of importance to Canadians." Among those issues, Babineau includes health care, education, aboriginal rights, families and childcare, women's rights, immigration, culture and the arts, and foreign policy.

Also at the top of her list is, of course, the economy. There is a strong section regarding the economy in the platform, says Babineau, which addresses sustainability. She says that we need to prosper and thrive as a nation while remaining environmentally sustainable at the same time.

When questioned on her plans for Fredericton, Babineau gives a comprehensive response. She first points out that "the riding that is called Fredericton is actually very expansive. It involves a lot of communities." She says, "people are always surprised at how large it is."

"The plans I have are for all parts of the riding," says Babineau. The environment is a top priority. "People are concerned," she says. "They want to make the changes they need to make in order to live in a more sustainable way. People are saying, 'Yes, I would love to have solar heat and wind energy but I don't have enough money to make these changes to my home,'" says Babineau.

She says her party would implement a tax form to give

money back to individuals and families to build lower energy homes and make changes to pre-existing homes.

"The carbon tax shift will create a lot of revenue," says Babineau, and the revenue would be used to help people have their homes fitted for lower energy use.

They also plan to give money to communities for public transportation.

"The Green Party wants to aggressively combat dependency on fossil fuels," says Babineau.

The development of small businesses and green industry are important as well. "Also," she says, "There are quite a few challenges for immigrants." Their credentials need to be recognized, and there are extremely long waits for residency for doctors, she says.

The Saint Mary's aboriginal community has the basic need of housing, and along this same vein, residents of Chipman and Minto ask themselves the primal question, "How do we survive? How do we stimulate our economy to create jobs for our children and grandchildren?"

"This is the most diverse riding in Canada, I think," says Babineau.

Babineau also has a lot to say on the issue of post secondary education.

"My biggest concern about post secondary education is accessibility," she says. "It's a human right just like the right to housing and sustenance. With rising costs and student debt, it's becoming a privilege more than a right."

Babineau is concerned with the amount of debt incurred by students, emphasizing that they "graduate with such a heavy debt that they're stuck with it for 40 to 50 years."

The Green Party plans to combat the hefty amount of debt by simply forgiving 50% of it upon graduation from a post secondary institution. Since a lot of loans are federal or provincial, she says, the debt could be taken away.

The party also plans to increase the number of need-based scholarships and bursaries.

Mary Lou Babineau wants people to know that Green Party MPs are committed to working in cooperation with other parties.

"We're not part of the partisan approach where we fight with other parties," says Babineau. "If another party puts forward a bill that we think would be positive for our communities and sustainable, we will help."

This is the third of a series of profiles for candidates running in the Fredericton riding in the federal election.

Concordia bans Facebook

SARAH TOOTH
THE LINK

MONTREAL (CUP) - Concordia University students in Montreal let out a collective sigh of relief when the school's Facebook ban proved to be less extensive than it first appeared.

The ban on the popular website, implemented for the 2008-09 academic school year, is limited to hard-wired computers on the Concordia network.

Concordia's Instructional and Information Technology Services says it's a much-needed measure in order to ensure the reliability and performance of Concordia's Internet service.

Andrew McAusland, associate vice-president of Concordia's IITS, says it's not as bad as some students have made it out to be. While Facebook can not be accessed from any hard-wired school computer, connecting through a wireless access point remains unrestricted.

"[Facebook] has not under any circumstance been banned," he said. "[Wireless] access to that service is completely undiminished."

McAusland says the risk of jeopardizing the entire university's network is too high. Facebook, known for its virus-riddled applications, would affect all of the

university's 50,000 users.

"All of the university's business is transacted on the core network," McAusland said, and highlighted IITS' mandate to "protect the integrity of that network."

Morgan Krout, a first-year leisure sciences major, says it's a precaution he understands completely.

"Students are supposed to be doing work while they are in the labs anyway, and I think we all know what a distraction Facebook can be," he said.

Sarah Rogers, a third-year biology student, says the initial ban announcement was a scare she wasn't prepared for.

"[Facebook] is the easiest way for me to keep in touch with my cousin who lives in Vermont," she said. Rogers, like several other Concordia students, logs onto the site frequently to check messages, which "became an everyday ritual for me."

Larissa Dutil, Concordia's Co-op Bookstore manager, says the ban scare made her realize Facebook was more than just a social utility, and opened her eyes to how useful and integral to her business Facebook is.

"Over the past six months we really began to use Facebook to promote what we do [and] reach out to our members," she said.

"Facebook was really a tool that we started using and then realized it was a really powerful method

in community organizing, and getting people mobilized too."

Dutil says Facebook not only provided a free method to promote awareness of the bookstore business, but was also a powerful way to encourage community activism and recruit new people.

"We have gotten so many volunteers through Facebook," she said.

While Facebook may never again be accessible from school computers, McAusland assures Concordia students will always be able to access the much-loved website.

"I would never ban it," he said.

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Business leaves SUB

FROM SUB PAGE 1

"That would be extremely unattractive to me, obviously."

Flannery Jewellers, which currently operates in a more remote location of the SUB, has expressed interest in acquiring the space, as well as some individuals looking at opening up a new coffee shop.

The branch won't be affected by the move, says Aubie.

"Basically, I'm going to be more portable," she says. "I'll be able to come here, people will still be able to come and book right at my counter. Instead of having a desktop computer, I'll have a laptop."

Other Travel Cuts branches have also recently been closing shop.

"It is a trend. I'm not the first to be doing it. It has been happening gradually across the country."

Third Annual Brian Ouellette Spirituality and Social Work Conference

"Spirited Practices: Integrating Spirituality into our Personal and Professional Lives"

St. Thomas University
Fredericton, New Brunswick
October 3-4, 2008

St. Thomas University is pleased to announce the Third Annual Brian Ouellette Social Work and Spirituality Conference! The conference is especially designed to be relevant to students and practitioners who wish to learn more about spirituality. This year we are excited that the conference will focus on integrating spirituality into our personal and professional lives.

The Annual Brian Ouellette Spirituality Conference honours the memory of Brian Ouellette, a highly regarded practitioner and Professor who taught at St. Thomas for many years. Spirituality was of great importance to Brian and particularly through his course entitled Spirituality and Social Work many people were provided opportunities to explore this important dimension of life in greater depth. Brian is recognized as having made a significant national contribution to social work education in the area of spirituality. He was a treasured husband, father, colleague, friend and teacher. His exuberance and enthusiasm for life and learning was an inspiration to all who were privileged to know him.

The conference will take place in Brian Mulroney Hall St. Thomas University beginning at 6:30 pm, Friday, October 3 and will close at 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 4. The Registration Form and additional information is available at Notices page at www.spiritualityandsocialwork.ca For additional information, please contact Dr. John Coates jcoates@stu.ca or Dr. Laurel Lewey Lewey@stu.ca