



News Centre

NORFOLK COUNTY : Jan Watson Profile

2007 ONTARIO ELECTION

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK co-founder

Candidate Name: Jan Watson

'Community Friends'

Posted by [Renee Berube](#)

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Party: NDP

Resides Where (and for how long): Caledonia (8 years)

Family Life: Single Mother of a 16 year old daughter. Youngest of 5 children, Father is a ordained Baptist Minister (retired), WW II Vet and mother was a manager at an insurance broker.

Hobbies & Interests: Reading, advocacy

Reason for Running - what will you bring to our riding: Very frustrated with the current leadership in our Govt (municipal, provincial and federal). I feel ALL of our elected leadership has failed our Community with the issues around Six Nations. This was and still is an issue with national and international implications had the leadership been more understanding and supportive of the issues facing Six Nations, the division in our communities would not be as great as they are now.

Political Background: Minimal, until the issue with Six Nations came up. Since then, I have been very active, organizing events, speaking at public meetings, and organizing. I have joined the NDP recently but all my life I have identified with the political principles of respect for human rights and support for the underprivileged and oppressed that they stand for. From working with the NDP I realize that they are the only political party that truly represents the needs and rights of the 'working families'. Protecting our farm lands and farmers, improving our public educational system through lowering of tuition fees and residential costs for out of town students, increasing the special educational needs among other things, The closure of the naticoke plant and looking towards cleaner greener ways for the environment, healthcare is such an important factor in today's society with the shortage of doctors, aging seniors and what things will NOT be available if we continue with our current healthcare system, level of service that is offered to smaller communities, waiting list for children with Autism, increasing minimum wage and looking at tax breaks and interest free loans for the businesses in the communities, etc. The NDP is very clear on how it is time to stop the money from going into the pockets of people like the MPP's (an example of the 30% raise that they received) and back into not only the pockets of the working families and people that are struggling to make ends meet but also back into our systems that are suffering due to cut backs throughout the direction of the past governments. We need to make some major changes in order to build back up our communities so that we are not loosing our farms, we are seeing our locally grown produce on our shelves and our businesses and families are surviving and living in a clean environment for all of the generations to come.

Non Political Background: I worked as a nurse for 10 years. For the past 13 years have worked at McMaster University in managing financial accounts. I have had my own business for the past 5 years, and spent the last 3 years working as an advocate. I have been working since I was 14 years old in many areas including retail, industrial, food services, healthcare, research and financial management.

One and a half years ago after the reclamation of what was then known as "Douglas Creek Estate" I co-founded a group called CommUNITY Friends for Peace and Understanding. This is a support group comprised of both communities, Haldimand and Six Nations. We have now had over 200 members through the group and have held regular meetings in my home. We have had successful events like a Educational event around Why Canadians should support Six Nations, numerous public speaking events at Ontario Universities, organized a Community Potluck, door to door educational leafleting. Since February 2006 I have continually seen the failed leadership in both Municipal, Provincial and Federal Gov't. I have had meetings with Dianne Finley, Negotiator from the side table among talks with the Mayor and the leadership has failed not only the people of Six Nations but the people of Haldimand / Norfolk hence my journey in trying to find a political party that supports aboriginal rights. When I read up on the NDP I was impressed on where they stood not only with the Aboriginal issues but also the environment, healthcare, workers rights etc which connect with my beliefs. I then became a member of the NDP and met with one of the team organizers and when I was asked to run as a candidate I accepted and was nominated in.

NOTE: IN 2008 'COMMUNITY FRIENDS'
RECD A GRANT FROM THE
'FREEDONIA' ANARCHIST FOUNDATION
www.freedonia.ca

Attached Files: [jan_watson1.jpg](#)



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