

# Alberta Greens

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## Newsletter

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July, 1993

### Election '93

*June 15th, 1993 was a historic day for the Alberta Greens, marking their first opportunity to participate in an Alberta General Election. And a respectable showing it was, with the party contesting 11 out of 83 ridings. The overall outcome of the election, with the PC's returned to power, greatly concerns many Greens, but at least we can hold our heads high, proud that we offered an alternative. And, for the future, the election results are a challenge. Next time ... More Candidates, More Votes!!*

### Leader's Summary

As party leader I am proud of our collective efforts. I know we all did a lot to gain credibility in our constituencies, both as candidates and as 'support' team members.

The common theme I detect from each riding we chose in Edmonton is the need to present practical answers to the question perceived as paramount by the public. Hence we are faced with creating an acceptable image as well as challenging the media (and the status quo political power behind it).

Party process is both exasperating in its slow growth, and exhilarating because of the trust and friendships that are built as kindred spirits struggle to formulate acceptable policies and workable strategies.

I want to express sincerely my appreciation for the patience and devotion to the task, of every one of you who have worked through the past unpredictable but greening years.

- Betty Paschen, Leader Alberta Greens

### The Candidates

What better way to learn about the election from the candidates themselves. We have given most of the newsletter over to the thoughts of the candidates, in their own words, about the election, the future of the Alberta Greens, and many other issues.

The vote count from each candidate was taken from the Calgary Herald on June 16th. While close, the vote counts will differ from the final tallies in most cases. Abbreviations for party names include:

All	- Alliance
CoR	- Confederation of Regions
<b>GREEN</b>	<b>- Alberta Greens</b>
Lib	- Liberal
ND	- New Democrat
NL	- Natural Law
PC	- Progressive Conservative
SC	- Social Credit
Ind	- Independent

### Raymond Boyko - Edmonton - Mill Woods

Don Massey (Lib)	5332
W. Bill Pidruchney (PC)	2557
Laat Bhinder (ND)	997
Robert Alford (SC)	414
Ken Kozak (Ind)	102
<b>Raymond Boyko (GREEN)</b>	<b>46</b>
Mary Romach (NL)	44

The first problem was the paperwork: getting 25 nominator signatures, a campaign official and a bank account. I did most of this by telephone first, followed by a door to door encounter with the electors. Finally I had to get Dr. Harry Garfinkel and Party Leader Betty Paschen to complete the deal - get the campaign official, Mary Ray, signed up and get the bank account in place.

I was determined to not use any printed material. So I did it all by telephone and by sitting in my car with the Alberta Greens sign on it, parked by roadways, at malls and at schools. I participated in two candidate forums: one on Shaw Cable and another at the Gray Nun's

Hospital. My impression of the electorate mood was that over half were interested enough in the Green Message to positively support our effort. Most of the rest were interested but not committed. Only about one percent were negative. They wanted an answer to the Economy, and I did not represent an immediate answer to that concern.

Reflections:

1. The experience was important to the Alberta Greens. We came of Age. Eleven of us had the experience of getting the Paper Work done.
2. We had to face the public head-on with our dreams. We had the experience of acceptance, hesitation and rejection.
3. We now know that there is fertile soil out there. We have to develop constituency associations and plant the Green Seed well ahead of the next election.
4. Everyone I talked to by telephone liked the idea of raising funds by having Garage Sales.
5. I think we can displace the New Democrats as the alternate party in this country. They are stuck with the union agenda that links to the corporate agenda. The Greens are linked to the Quality of Life agenda for all: Clean Water, Air, Forests, Vegetation, Bio-Diversity. Jobs and the Economy take second place in the long run. Greens do not have to do business with corporations like third world countries do. All electors understand this.

### Sol Candel - Calgary - Glenmore

Diane Mirosh (PC)	7972
Brendan Dunphy (Lib)	7064
Noreen Murphy (ND)	603
Stuart van der Lee (SC)	545
<b>Sol Candel (GREEN)</b>	<b>147</b>
John Vrskovy (NL)	89

Many thanks to all who helped me, especially my campaign manager, Dan Post, and all the workers who helped: Danny O'Connor, Jihad Kassatly,

Richard Foxton, John Mahood and Rachelle Herscovic. We spent under \$1,000 including the \$200 deposit and got 147 votes. The Green Party would normally have received more votes in Calgary-Glenmore but there was a strong anti-Diane Mirosh vote which went to the Liberals. Strategic voting will continue to hurt us at the polls until we can institute the mixed proportional representation system they have in Germany. It gives each voter two votes and allows the voter to vote for their favorite candidate or party as well as a second vote for strategic purposes.

Mike Sawyer's near 500 vote outcome proves the Alberta Greens can do better with more money, candidates with a higher profile and more workers.

Congratulations Mike on your performance! All the major parties have at least \$20,000 and hundreds of workers in each riding. Just imagine what we could do with similar resources. Congratulations also goes to Rebecca Matiowsky and Dave Crowe on very cost-effective campaigns.

My experience in the campaign has strengthened my conviction that the Alberta Greens have better solutions to our social and economic problems than any of the other parties. Our strength right now comes from our ideological perspective. With more work on policy we will be able to convince more people that the Green platform can solve many of our social economic and environmental problems. I did find myself ad-libbing on issues like education and racial discrimination. Our policy committee has done excellent work, but we need to fill in more policy gaps before the next election. Our perspective is so different than the other parties that people find us a refreshing change.

The greatest achievement of the past provincial election has been to create awareness, where before there was none, of the existence of the Alberta Greens political party. This was only our first provincial general election. My guess is that all 12 provincial candidates collectively spent under \$15,000. For this relatively small amount of money we got hundreds of thousands of dollars in coverage. I fully expect the Alberta Greens to do much better at the next election.

### **Dennis Clark - Edmonton - Avonmore**

Gene Zwozdesky (Lib)	6729
Ken Alyluia (PC)	3434
Marie Laingg (ND)	2190
Leslie M. Jackson (SC)	285
<b>Dennis Clark (GREEN)</b>	<b>97</b>
Lucia Hoff (NL)	40

The most positive aspect of being a Green candidate was the assurance that I served the major parties with an effective

indictment against their social and environmental irresponsibility. I believe that our actions as Green candidates will produce a positive effect upon otherwise unconcerned mainline parties that want to win back their eroded support.

Second most encouraging was the warm response of the electorate which was far more supportive of the Green movement than I anticipated. My doorstep experience has led me to believe that Greens are electable if they can overcome major media belittlement. Whether people I talked to voted for us or not I know that their hearts are inclined toward social and environmental responsibility. I anticipate and look forward to greater Green victories in future Alberta elections.

### **David Crowe - Calgary - Bow**

Bonnie Laing (PC)	6777
R. Van Wallegem (Lib)	5365
Anne McGrath (ND)	1880
Patrick John Hudson (SC)	370
<b>David Crowe (GREEN)</b>	<b>265</b>
R. McDonald (CoR)	120
Alan Livingston (NL)	77

I learned a lot from my first foray into politics. My campaign was a lot more fun and more rewarding than I expected. Partly because of this I worked harder at it. I soon got used to knocking on doors, especially as the response was generally friendly, sometimes outright enthusiastic, or even relief from some people who felt there was no alternative voice in their riding.

I thoroughly enjoyed the televised debate in my riding. I did my best to tear a few strips off the local PC incumbent, Bonnie Laing. All in all it was excellent training for next time. I hope I will be able to run again, and I will be challenging myself to work harder, win more votes and have more fun!

The campaign had its hard moments as well. There is no way to avoid the disappointment when someone refuses to even take a pamphlet and looks at you like you are diseased. But worse than that are the "committed" environmentalists who were too busy to help. The people who did help me were already too busy but knew how important this was to the Alberta Greens and to myself.

### **Myles Evely - Edmonton - Rutherford**

Percy Wickman (Lib)	8583
Brenda Platzer (PC)	4231
Olive Dickason (ND)	969
David Wozney (SC)	398
Wade McKinley (NL)	66
<b>Myles Evely (GREEN)</b>	<b>64</b>

I decided to run for the Alberta Greens for very basic and simple reasons. I feel that the Alberta Greens need to field a considerable number of candidates in order to appear a viable alternative to the electorate. I noticed early on that we did not have enough candidates running. To have the word "Green" with all its connotations is beneficial to the public in general, especially when raised to the level of a political movement. It sends out the message that some of us continue to take environmental issues seriously. I also feel that the three mainstream political parties can no longer think as creatively as they should be able to, and I feel that they have been taking subtle and obvious steps to consolidate their hold on political power. Unfortunately they have convinced the public that they should continue to monopolize political power, or that the only choice is the lesser of the three evils.

I also ran because I wanted to say things that I thought might not be said by other green candidates.

I was handicapped during my campaign by a lack of time, and so did a very limited amount of door knocking and campaigning. On principal I decided not to hand out any literature. I attended a couple of all-candidates forums, got a good response and really enjoyed the occasions. I did not get many votes, but I expected that.

### **Mario Houle - West Yellowhead**

D. Van Binsbergen (Lib)	3562
Fiona Fowler Cleary (PC)	3030
Jerry Doyle (ND)	2197
Garry M. Klewchuk (SC)	583
<b>Mario Houle (GREEN)</b>	<b>119</b>

*No statement available from the candidate.*

Mario Houle is involved in research and application of alternative building technologies. He is currently involved in a project to build an environmentally friendly Youth Hostel Center in Jasper.

Mario emphasized sustainability as the key in his election campaign. He believes that Greens are important because they understand the interdependent nature of the world, bringing a different and much needed perspective to both local and

global issues, and particularly on the economic globalization of the world.

- the Editors

## Rebecca Matiowsky - Calgary - Buffalo

Gary Dickson (Lib)	4826
Steven Yu (PC)	4267
Israel Lachovsky (ND)	1062
Ralph Holt (NL)	232
<b>R. Matiowsky (GREEN)</b>	<b>211</b>

If you could picture the main parties as giants fighting over promises to cut the deficit, eliminate our debt; and then some very tiny doggies yapping around at their feet with the same issues and promises and ideas on how they would do it. Because only the top of the pictures are being taken, nobody even notices the poor little doggies. The biggest short-coming of the Green Campaign was our inability to tell the people what the Green Party is about, what is different from the other parties and why voters should support the Alberta Greens. The candidates did not want to get together and have a common cause (us included). We really want to present our ideas but we do not want to listen to the thoughts and ideas of others. As a result, the Alberta Greens did not run one provincial campaign; they ran 10 individual campaigns.

## David Parker - Edmonton - Gold Bar

Bettie Hewes (Lib)	10586
John Szumlas (PC)	4716
Lorraine Crawford (ND)	1816
David H. Friesen (SC)	519
<b>David J. Parker (GREEN)</b>	<b>150</b>
Roni Shapka (NL)	94

I decided at the last minute to run in the election mainly because I would have felt guilty at being such a great supporter of the Green Movement and having a belief that the most potent tool at our disposal is a voice in the political process. The major parties do not address our concerns in any meaningful fashion and, as such, we must have an ecology-based party to articulate for those individuals who also see the world as we do.

Our strategy was fractured but, given the embryonic state of the provincial party, we did quite well. Like any successful party we need a core of dedicated party members who will meet frequently and concern themselves with fund-raising, increasing membership, policy development, education and awareness. There are thousands of individuals doing these things for their own organizations and for their specific concerns. We must convince them that their own small niche in the environmental movement would be

better addressed through a political movement.

I was only invited to one forum and I think my performance was satisfactory. I considered cutting off my pony tail and would probably do so at the next attempt. I feel that most people are very conservative, wanting things to remain as they are, even in the face of essential change. This feeling manifests itself in being distrustful of anyone who breaks with tradition, appears different or does not fit within some undefined parameters. Middle class, middle aged, professional white males (of which I am one) still have a distinct edge of trustworthiness in the public eye.

We do a disservice to our party by refusing to "play the game". Even though we all support Randy Lawrence for the fingering incident, I think that the aggregate outcome, by way of public perception of environmentalists, was negative. I have been told by one of my own campaign helpers that the incident in Calgary with Ralph's limo, turned off some of her neighbors who might have given me their votes. To assume, as the Natural Law Party did, that something as foreign to the general public as TM would win them votes is naive. The Greens now have the advantage that ecological decline has become a main stream issue. It is right up there with the debt, education and health-care. We must exploit this awareness and, sad to say, try to leave our long haired, hippie origins behind. This does not mean that we cannot continue to think progressively, but we must try to "look like them", exploit their language and make use of the media whenever possible.

The media will generally try to make politicians look foolish by, for example, exploiting a trivial remark. They realize that this is what the public enjoy, and confirms them in their ignorance. I was allowed to speak on Shaw Cable with no interruptions or script. I was interviewed by the Edmonton Examiner who gave a good account of what transpired, but a 15 minute interview with the Edmonton Journal was reduced to one paragraph. In it, my brief mention of concern over cattle and meat farming was reported, although most of our conversation was about pulp mill pollution and deforestation. My past experience leads me to think that a rational, sensible spokesperson will be thrown over for the guy in the tree costume.

Let's try to change the image of the traditional environmentalist. Let's wear ties occasionally, mention church (if you attend), mention your 2.2 children (if applicable) and avoid the scuffles.

You are quite at liberty to berate me for this assessment. I wish I knew what worked and what didn't. Perhaps just truly knowing that you are right is all that matters.

## Betty Paschen - Edmonton - Strathcona

Al Zariwny (Lib)	6335
Barrie Chivers (ND)	5129
Don Grimble (PC)	4085
Patrick Ellis (SC)	581
<b>Elizabeth Paschen (GREEN)</b>	<b>258</b>
E. Benjamin Toane (NL)	108
Naomi Rankin (Comm)	48

The experience of a general election is far different from a by-election for a small party candidate because the work load is divided between the same few members. The added work load is balanced, however, by the collective enthusiasm engendered as so many members are sharing the same experience. On reflection, and as one whose phone number was 'broadcast', I think running as many candidates as possible was a good strategy, in keeping with our objective of advertising a fresh alternative.

I predict a long life for our party because of our perceived and actual concern for environmental health. The most obvious challenge is to exemplify our principles in our party actions and in visible projects. Our credibility as a political choice will grow as we pursue these goals. We could augment our growth as our public statements clarify the interdependence of the environment and a healthy economy and vibrant society.

Attending community functions and lending a willing hand will gain us a 'voice' and gradually build public confidence in the Green Future ahead of us all.

Sprouts, anyone?

## Mike Sawyer - Calgary - Varsity

Murray Smith (PC)	7662
Carrol Jaques (Lib)	6349
Sharon Kimmel (ND)	1645
<b>Mike Sawyer (GREEN)</b>	<b>489</b>
Santos Esposito (NL)	91

*No statement available from the candidate.*

Mike Sawyer ran probably the highest profile campaign of any Green candidate in the province. This was particularly true the day before the election when Mike, attending a demonstration outside a Conservative riding office, stood in front of Ralph Klein's limosine and ended up going for a short ride on the hood. The reports made the front page of the Calgary Herald and were picked up by media across the country.

Mike's actions helped create a predicament for the Alberta Greens, that

have yet to be resolved. The use of this type of civil disobedience by a candidate is not something that has ever been considered before. Some people think it was good, some bad and some have mixed feelings.

Whatever your feelings, Mike was more successful than any other candidate in garnering votes, and has unintentionally opened an important area of discussion.

- the Editors

## **Robert Wilde - Edmonton - Whitemud**

Mike Percy (Lib)	8627
Dave Hancock (PC)	5349
Daniel Aitken (ND)	647
<b>Robert Wilde (GREEN)</b>	<b>74</b>
Richard Shelford (NL)	62

I have no regrets as an Alberta Greens candidate in the provincial election. The following are some of the comments and questions I heard most often during the campaign:

"I didn't know the Green had a candidate in my riding."

"What does the Green Party stand for?"

"Who is going to pay for the environmental measures?"

"I'm glad to see an alternative party; I'm not voting for the Conservatives, Liberals or New Democrats"

People agreed with statements like:

"We've got to admit there is a problem before we can solve it."

"The politicians want to sweep it all under the rug."

At the all-party candidate forum most of the questions were directed to the Liberal (he had been knocking on doors for about a year) and PC candidates. The questions dealt with the deficit and community involvement. The only thing I said that elicited applause was, "We must start thinking about the kind of world we are going to pass on to the next generation".

People were rarely hostile. Some considered the Greens irrelevant as a political force, and therefore not worthy of a vote. Most people acknowledge environmental concerns, but are not yet sure how to enunciate this in political terms.

In other words, we have got a lot of work to do - identifying achievements, identifying prime ridings, building riding associations, creating implementable alternatives, electoral strategies, etc., - and all this requires a major Alberta Greens membership drive.

## **President's Summary**

I was very pleased with the performance of the Alberta Greens during the election. We ran 10 good candidates, by itself a major achievement. More than that, we helped a little to help Albertans remember that the environment is still an issue. We couldn't stop the PC's and Liberals from steamrolling over everyone else, but remember ... we are building for next time!

Talking about next time, we should make some changes, among them:

- Run at least 20 candidates.
- Get prepared with paperwork and pamphlets *before* the election is called.
- Run a more coordinated campaign.

Between now and the next election, or by-election, we have lots of work to do:

- Finalize our sane, but radically different policies.
- Network with other "Green" groups.
- Attract members who want to work on a campaign.
- Go after the media to get all the publicity that we can.

As Betty Paschen says, the Alberta Greens have a long future ahead of them. We have to keep going, there is so much that needs changing. I am proud to be associated with all the candidates and all their helpers.

## **ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION**

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### **Alberta Greens Executive**

Leader of Alberta Greens	Betty Paschen	436-4913
President	David Crowe	289-6609
Executive Secretary	Madeleine Oldershaw	282-4788
Treasurer	Pamela Munroe	245-3441
Recording Secretary	Albert Munz	230-8891

### **Meetings**

Calgary meetings are held most Thursday evenings at #206 - 110 11th Ave SW. Phone 269-2384 for more details.

Edmonton Greens meet on Tuesday nights. For times and locations phone Harry Garfinkle at 433-5578 or Roger Swan at 451-1826.

### **Comments Welcome!**

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter; articles, letters or criticism. Please send them to:

"Newsletter"  
Alberta Greens  
Box 133, Stn. M  
Calgary, T2P 2H6

### **Donations Needed!**

The Alberta Greens need donations to keep an environmentally and socially conscious voice heard during and between elections. Donations are subject to *very* generous tax treatment: 75% of the first \$150 donated will be rebated!