

# THE REVIEW

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## Jeanne Charlebois makes history

Swept into Hawkesbury mayor's post on "wind of change"

### First female mayor in counties



Jeanne Charlebois shares her landslide victory with husband Rod.  
(photo R. Mahoney)

By Richard Mahoney

**HAWKESBURY** — "I'm crying!" declared Jeanne Charlebois moments after the results of the Hawkesbury mayoralty race were announced Monday night.

But these were tears of joy as Charlebois made history, becoming the first female mayor in the town's history and, at the same time, the first female member of Prescott-Russell united counties council.

"People wanted change, positive change," said Charlebois, who won convincingly over Councillor Jean-Jacques Poulin and former deputy-reeve Claude Demers. Charlebois got 2,637 votes, compared to 1,220 for Poulin and 567 for Demers.

Gender was not a factor in the campaign, said Charlebois who had reiterated that she was the best candidate who just happened to be a woman. But, after her victory, she agreed that this was a special moment. "Yeah, I'm proud of being the first woman mayor." Asked if she thought her win would encourage more women to enter politics, she said, "Yes, I'm hoping it will. I hope this shows other women that this can be done."



**Jean-Jacques Poulin**

## “We are going to open the windows”

Voters obviously accepted her “Positive Wind of Change” campaign slogan. This will be the first political office held by the 30-year municipal employee who lost in her bid for the federal Liberal nomination last year.

“The voters have said they trust me. They trust me, and that is a trust I will not abuse,” said Charlebois.

The desire for change was also evident in the nine-candidate race for the six councillor seats. Incumbent councillor Sylvain Brunette was defeated while newcomers André Chamaillard and Sylvain Dubé will join incumbent councillors Gilles Tessier and Gilles Roch Greffe, and former reeve Michel Beaulne and former deputy-reeve Gilbert Cyr. Beaulne and Cyr ran for councillor after their posts were eliminated. Bonnie Jean-Louis, the Green Party candidate in the last federal election, and Robert Spiro, making his first run for council, finished 8th and 9th respectively.



**Claude Demers**

“I will take my retirement,” said Poulin. “The population has pronounced itself. Jeanne Charlebois ran a good campaign; she deserves what she has won.” For Poulin, who has sat as a councillor for six years, this was his second shot at the mayoralty. In 1997, he lost in a three-way race against Lucien Berniquez and Marcel Massé. Berniquez was re-elected with 2,339 votes, Poulin was second with 1,509 and Massé got 1,315.

In this campaign, while he promised a “Better Tomorrow,” and had the backing of outgoing mayor Jacques Hétu, Poulin could not contend with Charlebois and her “new vision.”

Demers was nonplussed. He had not expected to win. He had constantly criticized Poulin and Hétu. Days before the final tally, he said he would continue to be the “People’s watchdog” and would scrutinize the new council. “But I won’t say this is my last campaign.”

### DAY JOB TO CHANGE

Charlebois is now Champlain Township’s deputy-clerk-treasurer, a post she will resign from before she becomes Hawkesbury’s mayor December 1. She will work as a Champlain employee two days a week and devote the rest of time as mayor of Hawkesbury.

### “OPEN THE WINDOWS”

“As mayor, my priority is the town of Hawkesbury,” she told reporters, adding she wants to instill pride in citizens. “I have ideas. We need to sit down with the members of council and we need to work as a team. We have a new team with a new vision. The people have spoken. They want change. I want to get everyone together and to be proud of what we do. With the staff we have at town hall, I am not worried. I want to open the windows and let the fresh air in. We will listen.”

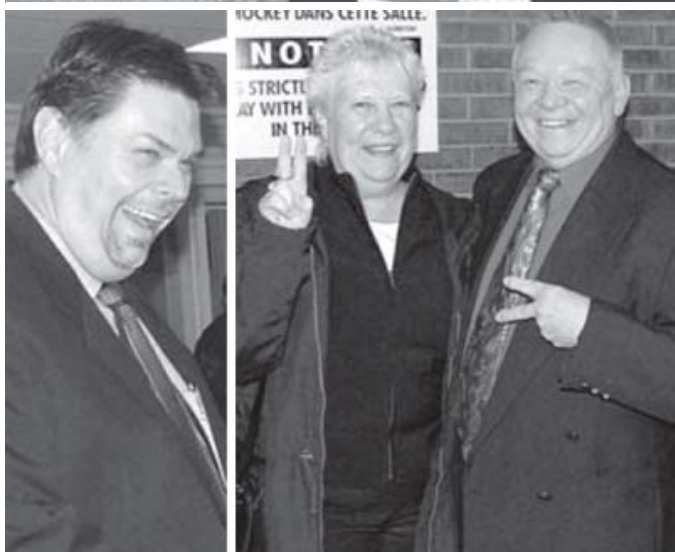
Charlebois said she would attempt to tackle taxes, which she has noted are the highest in the region. Taxpayers will know how their money is being spent, she pledged. “Everything will be on the table. If we are not able to do something, we will tell the people why we can’t.” In the councillor race, the winners were Beaulne who had 2,869, Chamaillard, (2,667), Dubé (2,427), Tessier (2,366), Greffe (2,220), and Cyr (2,128). Out of the running were Brunette, who had led the pack in 2003, but got 2,095 votes, while Jean-Louis got 1,556 and Spiro 1,551.

“This is my third attempt and we worked harder,” said Chamaillard, who credits his win to his wife, Thérèse, and the small dedicated team who went door-to-door. “I have experience and I believe in myself, without boasting. We had good feedback from the people. Let’s say that I would have been disappointed if I had not won.”

In his first campaign, Dubé stressed it was time to hit the “action” button. The business owner wants town hall to get moving. “We talk about the waterfront development, let’s make it happen.”



**Réjeanne Vassall congratulates veteran Gilles Tessier, who is starting his seventh term on council. (Photos R. Mahoney)**



**Clockwise from top: Hawkesbury's new mayor, Jeanne Charlebois is congratulated by Champlain Councillor Helen MacLeod, André and Thérèse Chamailard signal victory, Councillor Sylvain Brunette assesses his defeat and new member Sylvain Dubé celebrates his win. (Photos R. Mahoney)**



## How you voted

Here are the results for area municipal council and school board elections.

I = Incumbent A = Acclaimed

### HAWKESBURY

#### Mayor

Jeanne Charlebois 2,637  
Jean-Jacques Poulin 1,220  
Claude Demers 567

#### Councillors (6)

Michel Beaulne (I) 2,869  
André Chamailard 2,667  
Sylvain Dubé 2,427  
Gilles Tessier (I) 2,366  
Gilles Roch Greffe (I) 2,220  
Gilbert Cyr (I) 2,128

Sylvain Brunette (I) 2,095  
Bonnie Jean-Louis 1,556  
Robert Spiro 1,551

### EAST HAWKESBURY

#### Mayor

Robert Kirby (I) (A)  
Deputy mayor  
Richard Sauvé (I) (A)  
Councillors (3)  
Linda Séguin (I) 1,091  
Gabriel Dussault (I) 983  
Luc Lalonde 906  
Pierre Cousineau (I) 757

### NORTH GLENGARRY

#### Mayor

Grant Crack 1,605  
Léo Poirier 1,367  
Ron MacDonell 803  
William Hagen 700  
Allan Lerman 282  
Deputy Mayor  
Chris McDonell 2,074  
Jacques Massie 1,919  
Julie Akkermans 742  
Councillor At Large  
Gary Shepherd 2,636  
Maryanne Kampouris 1,511  
Philip Miller 431  
Councillors  
Lochiel  
Eric MacSweyn 829  
Wendy MacPherson (I) 509  
Kenyon  
Jim Picken 690  
Bob Linney 463  
Charles McIntyre 149  
Maxville  
George Currier (I) 235  
Gary Martin 162  
Alexandria  
Jamie MacDonald 1,338  
Kristina Michaud-Wilson 181  
Terry Sauvé 171

### ALFRED-PLANTAGENET

#### Mayor

Jean-Yves Lalonde (I) (A)  
Councillors  
(2 to be elected in each ward)  
Ward 1, Alfred Township  
René Beaulne (I) 445  
Richard Brisebois 424  
Jean-Pierre Cadieux (I) 330  
Catherine Hedrich 102  
Ward 2, North Plantagenet  
André Boudreault (I) 764  
Raymond Fredette (I) 637  
Donat Boulerville 565  
Lynda Lemieux 462  
Ward 3, Alfred village  
(1 to be elected)  
Benoit Lamarche (I) 310  
Monty Farrell 259  
Ward 4, Plantagenet  
(1 to be elected)  
Serge Lalonde (I) 243  
Paul Chamberland 160  
Serge Bossé 133

Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'est ontarien (Champlain, East Hawkesbury)  
Sergine Rachelle Bouchard 1,399  
Céline Lalonde (I) 952

Upper Canada District School Board (Prescott-Russell)  
Sherri Moore 2,941  
Allan Anderson (I) 1,892