The Liberal minority government in Ontario was defeated on the budget by the opposition parties on May 7. Although an election was anticipated it was a rush to get the Green Party candidates (including John Fisher) confirmed and to satisfy Elections Ontario regulations so campaigning could begin.

I was the Green Party candidate from the Elgin-Middlesex - London riding. The local riding (district) did not have a permanent association so all campaigning (ie all spending etc.) had to be done within the election period which ended on voting day, June 12.

The Green Party of Ontario (GPO) had candidates in all 107 ridings. The local Elgin-Middlesex-London (EML) riding has an area the size of our smallest province (P.E.I.) and eligible voters numbering 75,660 or total population of 117,855. My core Green Team of five people were a great help with signs (300), campaign card, social media, strategy, fund raising and campaigning in general.

The issues of concern and discussion door to door and at the six All Candidates Meetings were jobs, electricity rates, health and education issues and in rural areas like EML farm issues like regulations, urban sprawl and wind turbines.

At the local level all five candidates got good coverage by the media and were included in all public discussion opportunities. It was an exciting and enjoyable time to get out the Georgist message. Expenses for the 36 day campaign came to $2300. Donations came to $2200 and the final total of votes was 2200 for Fisher. The Liberals won a majority in Parliament while a Progressive Conservative was elected in the EML riding.

Finally I was encouraged by an email from a Green supporter. It says, "I am one of those who has not voted all my life and I am 40 years old. For some reason the Green Party has caught my attention. I watched you on the Debate and I feel we really do need a change... My husband is open for the Conservatives and has a huge sign in our front yard. I would like a Green sign. For the very first time in my life I will vote... I will vote for my girls and my Grandson's future."

(Editor's note: from John Fisher's web site, http://www.gpo.ca/riding/21/candidate)

John Fisher was born in Windsor, Ontario and graduated from Western University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. His teaching career includes 10 years of elementary, and 25 years of secondary school experience. This includes five years overseas in four different countries.

Fisher's political experience includes 15 years as a municipal councillor. As Reeve of Rodney (2 years) he was also on County Council. John has been a candidate in federal elections three times and provincially twice. His community service record includes 18 years as chair of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, 22 years as a Kiwanian (2 years as president) and Director of the School of Economic Science. John has coached hockey and soccer and has worked on various tourism, recreational, educational and environmental committees.

John strives to make people aware of the links between a healthy natural environment and the costs of ignoring the quality of land, air and water that sustain us. The economic and social costs of urban sprawl, bad air, and water must be factored into the 'things' we produce (food, cars, energy) so that we will make economic decisions that do the least damage to our environment, and ourselves

(John Fisher may be emailed at fisherjm44@yahoo.com)