

**What Did You Do for Democracy Week 2013?**  
***A report of activities by Fair Vote Canada chapter and team leaders***  
**See full schedule at [www.democracyday.ca](http://www.democracyday.ca)**

**FVC Perth Team** (Anita Payne)

I attended the FVC event on Parliament Hill on Thursday Sept. 19, delivered the petition signatures I collected to my MP, Scott Reid and put the tabloids out in public.

**York Region Chapter** (Dan Desson)

We did not have the expected throngs attending our Democracy Day event, but we did have eleven enthusiastic patrons. We were fortunate to have the former Mayor of Newmarket, Tom Taylor, give a presentation that touched on reasons for voter apathy, what to do about the Senate and integrity in politics from his perspective. The questions and comments were civil and engaging.

While the numbers were small, they were larger than last year's venture.

The organizing committee would like to thank all those who attended. We are certain next year's event will be even more successful as we build activism toward the 2015 federal election.

**Fair Vote Canada Guelph Team** (Ken)

We advertised an evening event for the Monday during which we proposed to show the DVD entitled "City Idol". However, City Idol turns out to be a documentary that is almost 1 1/2 hours long and it does not mention Fair Vote nor Proportional Representation. So we made a Plan B using three of the videos from the FVC collection. At the beginning of the meeting, Norah Chaloner outlined the two options: Plan A was to run the DVD as advertised and Plan B was to switch to a discussion of Fair Vote supported by three FVC videos. Norah asked the audience to VOTE (a) for the advertised City Idol DVD or (b) for a discussion of Fair Vote. The audience voted essentially 100% for the Plan B.

About 20 people attended the event and a very lively discussion took place. One of the videos was amusing as well as educational !!

**St. Johns' Newfoundland Fair Vote Canada Team** (Marilyn and Robert)

During Democracy Week three things happened in St. John's:

1. Four of us either helped to facilitate, or attended as participants, a forum on Liquid Democracy sponsored by another group called the People's Assembly. Several of the participants at that session signed up to our group. We will see if they turn out at our next meeting.
2. There was a Fair Vote table one day at the Student's Centre of Memorial University.
3. There was also a Pub Night that week so that new people could get to know each other.

We have some really good people in our group. All come with strong ideas about how to proceed. Our challenge will now be to identify specific strategies and goals that don't exclude particular voices.

I'm very pleased with the energy level in the group.

### **Fair Vote Canada Calgary Chapter (Mark)**

At short notice and after wondering what (if anything) to do, and after discussions with a few people who responded to the invitation for ideas:

- Fair Vote Calgary decided to hold a meeting on Sunday 15 September (Democracy Day) in 'The Joyce' Irish Pub (the one **not** flooded in June!);
- We formed a Meetup group ([www.meetup.com/Fair-Vote-Calgary](http://www.meetup.com/Fair-Vote-Calgary));
- The meeting attracted nine people, nearly all former stalwarts of previous iterations of Fair Vote Canada – Calgary Chapter. We discussed beer, ate food, and formulated ideas of events to do and when to do them. Petition signatures (to Parliament and the Alberta Legislature) were collected;
- Next event will be announced shortly – a presentation on a couple of forms of Proportional Representation and a discussion. If you are in or near Calgary -- join and watch the Meetup site and expect an e-mail from myself to publicise the event (not a pub next time).
- Following that event, Mark attended the Green Party of Alberta annual meeting on 28 September (apologies for date slippage. . .) and obtained more signatures to declarations and petitions, but more especially raised awareness of Fair Vote Canada in key Alberta provincial constituencies.

### **Fair Vote Canada Northumberland Chapter**

The Northumberland Chapter held a public meeting Sept. 18 at Cobourg's Terry Fox Public

School, with three panelists. Fleming College lecturer Rosemary Ganley of Peterborough was active in Joyce Murray's campaign for the Liberal leadership. Judy Smith Torrie of Cobourg was Deputy Leader of the Ontario Green Party from 2008 to 2012, and is now its shadow cabinet member for Health and Long-Term Care. Wilf Day of Port Hope reported on NDP Democratic Reform critic Craig Scott's cross-Canada Democracy Tour. After the three panelists led off the discussion, several of the FVC members present turned the discussion to "how will we get to PR in the 2015 election?" A strong consensus emerged that, in order to show the public how PR could work, Fair Vote Canada must produce a sample model of a PR system for Canada.

### **Fair Vote Canada Waterloo Chapter**

On Monday, September 16th FVC -Waterloo Region held an exciting WALK,RALLY,TALK event to celebrate UN Democracy Day. We partnered with the Kitchener-Waterloo NDP & Kitchener Centre NDP to host Craig Scott, NDP MP for Toronto-Danforth and NDP electoral reform critic to walk, rally and talk with us.

In the late afternoon we met at Kitchener City Hall where we supported the Stand Up for Science rally after which Craig Scott joined us for the 45 minute walk through downtown Kitchener & uptown Waterloo to Waterloo Square. There were about 30 people marching with banners and noise makers having a great time in the early autumn sunshine.

At Waterloo Square, Craig Scott gave a very inspiring and passionate rally speech which addressed why we need a fair voting system in Canada. There is a short excerpt of his speech on Youtube. Craig was followed by Anita Nickerson, the ED of FVC who spoke about the work of FVC toward bringing about electoral reform.

After the rally, we walked to First United Church where Craig gave an in depth talk about numerous aspects electoral reform. Craig's deep knowledge of the details of voting systems astounded many of the people present.

Many thanks and kudos to the KW & KC NDP riding associations for working with us to provide an opportunity to bring Craig to Kitchener-Waterloo and organize a great celebration of UN Democracy Day.

### **Fair Vote Canada London Chapter**

Hosted Craig Scott's Democracy Tour on Democracy Day.

### **Fair Vote Canada Toronto Team**

Hosted Craig Scott's Democracy Tour, preceded by a spirited march to the event with singing and speeches. Crowd of almost 200 for Craig Scott, with an appearance by Thomas Mulcair.

### **Fair Vote Canada Prince Edward County Team (Norm)**

With the help of Lynne, Bill, Robin and Christine (chief Librarian) we put together a 40-45 minute presentation on PR. That plan lasted five minutes into the evening, until just after the FPTP election. As soon as we announced the outcome of the election - the Purple candidate won and the Purple supporters collected their chocolate bars - the questions started. Question period lasted an hour and forty-five minutes. Your materials were excellent, very helpful in answering all the questions, and helping one participant get over being totally cynical about about Canadian federal politicians. Total participants: 12. Six participants signed the Declaration. Next presentation we will have a straight PR election and MMP election.

### **Fair Vote Canada Niagara Chapter (Norm)**

In Niagara we attended two Farmer's markets, one on Sept. 20th held at Brock University and one in Welland on Sept. 28th.

Both events went well as we added to our local contact list, talked about the on-line petition and may have even picked up an Executive member for our chapter.

Many people we spoke to certainly agree with the concept of proportional representation and we hope to continue our local momentum with future community information sessions and events very soon.

### **Fair Vote Canada Mount Allison Team (Simon)**

The new team at Mount Allison University in NB had a table during Democracy Week. There was a lot of interest among students. They are now organizing an event.

### **Fair Vote Canada Vancouver Chapter**

Les and Alan went out handing out leaflets on Commercial Drive. They're planning another

afternoon of doing this soon.

### **Fair Vote Canada Vancouver Island North Team (Mike)**

Here is a brief summary of our event that we held in Vancouver Island North.

On Thursday September 19th we hosted an event described as an evening of short entertaining videos and discussion on electoral reform. This was our first endeavour as a fledgling group here as an attempt to determine the amount of people and support there would be for proceeding further with Fair Vote activism in our riding. We had 22 enthusiastic people show up to see us show the following videos from the Fair Vote Video Contest:

First Past The Pizza, Disproportional Misrepresentation, A Fair Voting System for Canada, Proportional Representation - Make Every Vote Count, Why We Need Proportional Representation.

Between each video we had the group break into discussion for a few minutes to elaborate and dig into the topics covered by each video. At the end of all the videos we then opened up to a `round table` type discussion to brainstorm ideas about local activities that could be done to help raise the profile of proportional representation and raise awareness in our local area. It was a very good discussion. We ran out of time and have planned a subsequent meeting on November 07 where we can hopefully nail down some specific campaign activities to move forward with.

It was a very good first meeting and it was very encouraging to see so many engaged and interested individuals out. I think we should have a strong and viable team to establish a formal presence for Fair Vote in this riding and to begin to engage in activities that increase awareness amongst the local electorate and also local political candidates.

### **Fair Vote Canada National Capital Region**

FVC NCR had it's AGM with guest speaker Joyce Murray. On Sept 19 we joined the Make Every Vote Count press conference and launch on Parliament Hill. We also handed out flyers at the John Cleese show in Ottawa. Sharon Reeves from the Unitarian Congregation also put out flyers at the church and encouraged people to come to the event.

### **Fair Vote Canada Edmonton**

### **Fair Vote Canada Lunenburg Team (Linda)**

On September 19, while the "Make Every Vote Count" campaign was being launched on Parliament Hill, a new Action Team was being launched in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Fair Vote Lunenburg County unfurled its new banner at the local farmers' market. One of our founding members, Zalman Amit, was unfortunately recuperating in hospital after emergency surgery, but two other strong supporters of PR stepped in to fill the gap. The three of us had great conversations with market goers, got lots of signatures on the Declaration and handed out many tabloids to a very receptive public. A few people signed up to join the team and we are now in the process of organizing our first formal meeting.

### **National Campaign:**

Watch the Make Every Vote Count campaign launch press conference video and read the report at [www.fairvote.ca](http://www.fairvote.ca)