



**ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, 2008
ALDERNEY GATE LIBRARY, DARTMOUTH
2PM, 29 November, 2008**

What's it really like to run as a candidate for Parliament? Especially when you're not only a woman, but you're also the underdog, running against some of the most strongly entrenched incumbents in the country?

Equal Voice Nova Scotia has organized a panel to hear from three candidates who did just that in the 2008 federal election. Conservative candidate Wanda Webber ran against Mike Savage in Dartmouth, Liberal candidate Catherine Meade ran against the NDP machine in Halifax, and the NDP's Carol Harris ran against Scott Brison in Kings-Hants. None really expected to win the seat they contested. All think it was worthwhile to try.

Equal Voice Nova Scotia is a multipartisan group of volunteers committed to having more women involved in Canadian politics at all levels. They are presenting a post-election retrospective at the Alderney Gate Library this Saturday afternoon, November 29, from 2 to 4pm. Kim Kierans, Director of the School of Journalism of the University of King's College, will moderate. This is a free public panel; everyone welcome. There will be an opportunity to speak with panelists over light refreshments.

Eve Burns, a Dartmouth resident and member of Equal Voice, was impressed with how a candidate such as Wanda Webber was able to push forward with her campaign, overcoming the challenges caused by controversial late-night robo-calls made from Calgary on her behalf.

Louise Carbert, Associate Professor of Political Science at Dalhousie University, agrees that it's important to emphasize the positives as well as the negatives of campaigning. In her research, she's found even when candidates are defeated at the ballot box, they feel that they won rewarding experiences. For example, NDP candidate Carol Harris had previously run in her native British Columbia. It's important, says Carbert, to dispel the idea that such candidates are "sacrificial lambs," lying down to do duty for their party. These are strong, effective women who have minds and preferences of their own, and they make a tremendous contribution to public life.

2008 saw more women candidates than ever before. Only a few could succeed in being chosen for office. But their experiences are important for all of us. Their stories are even more important for anyone who is thinking of running for office themselves.

**Saturday, November 29, 2008, 2 - 4 pm
Maxine Tynes Room, Alderney Gate Library
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**

For more information, equalvoicenovascotia@gmail.com

Louise Carbert, Chair (443-9268, 494-6628)
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