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Cornered by Mike Baldwin



"Then a window popped up and asked, 'Are you sure you want to empty trash?' I shouldn't have clicked 'okkeydokey.'"

## StreetBeat

North End sisters run for the Greens, the party whose slogan is *Someday is now.*

# Pavlov girls roll up their Green sleeves



PAUL WILSON  
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The Pavlov sisters — both Green party candidates in Hamilton — are not heading to Ottawa today. But we should get to know them better because they vow to be back.

So here we are, in the brown-vinyl splendour of Christopher's, a no-pretenses place on King East — two political Pavlovs and the mother who made them. We've got a table at the back. Good thing because with these three, it gets loud.

We're guessing the sisters, being Green and all, will be ordering salads and quiche. But it's fries all around. Jo, a vegetarian, gets hers with gravy. She's positive there's no meat of any kind in that gluey paste.

She's 31, and ran for the Greens in the provincial election last fall. When she ordered signs, 500 arrived, but they were missing her first name. That could only mean one thing. "Next time," she said to sister Anne Marie, 33, "you're running too!"

The two scoff at convention. They say they won't get married, won't have kids. Jo parks "with glee" at those places reserved for pregnant customers. Anne Marie's longtime boyfriend is twice her age and she's gone on national TV to explain why that's OK.

Jo, "a bingo blond," never wears makeup. Anne Marie wears "a full face every day," but is a member in good standing of the Size Acceptance movement. (She weighs 209 pounds and carries it well.) Jo has five tattoos. Anne Marie has three.

As Jo says, "We march to the beat of our own accordion."

The girls say mother Maggie, 63, often talks about "the genius that sprang from her loins." Maggie did pray for daughters because, unlike wandering sons, you've got them for life.

And lately, at St. Lawrence Roman Catholic

Church, she was saying Novenas to help her daughters on election day. Are you supposed to do that? "If you were a carpenter," Maggie says, "would you use all your tools?"

Her girls have been green all their lives. They grew up in the 101-year-old house in the North End where their father was born. There was no conspicuous consumption there. Things were used until there was no life left in them, and then some. "My parents just replaced the toilet," Jo says. "That's the one my father learned to pee in."

Jo, computer technician with the public school board, drives a four-cylinder Mazda. Anne Marie, full-time investment administrator with a downtown firm and part-time musician, doesn't drive at all. She walks, cycles, takes the HSR.

So it was no stretch for them to take on the Green Party candidacy. The Pavlov sisters were relaxing in a clothing-optional spa at the Luxor in Las Vegas when they learned via cbc.ca on a Web-equipped cellphone that the writ for this election had been dropped.

"We knew we'd have to hit the ground running," Anne Marie says. She has a conventional job with a conservative firm. "It is hard for me to be myself at work," she says.

But she found running for office was hard too. "I struggled with not feeling like a real politician — the impostor complex."

I struggled with not feeling like  
a real politician.

ANNE MARIE PAVLOV

Jo wasn't troubled that way. But the two did find it gruelling — working all day, then answering phonecalls and e-mails at night.

No matter. They felt the swell of Team Green's fortunes. The party slogan is "Someday is now!" The Pavlov sisters believe they're young enough to see Green play a role in government — as in Germany, New Zealand, Brazil.

Jo ran on Hamilton Mountain. Anne Marie ran in Hamilton Centre where Liberal Stan Keyes invited her to his "E-night" party at the Venetian



JOHN RENNISON, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Green Party candidates Jo, left, and Anne Marie Pavlov, right, with their mother, Maggie, who talks about 'the genius that sprang from her loins.'

Club. But the Greens had their own victory party last night at the Acclamation Bar, around the corner on James North.

Today it's back to work. At 5:30 tonight, Anne Marie and Jo and Maggie will have a three-way telephone call. They'll talk about the election, but that's not the reason for the call.

They make this call every single night. They all have their TVs turned to CH for the evening news. They dissect, interrupt and catch up on the day. It goes on for an hour.

Mother treasures this time. "I didn't care what they did with their lives, as long as they were independent and happy," she says. The Pavlov sisters are certainly that, and Green to boot.



SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Anne Marie and Jo Pavlov grew up in the North End house where their father was born.

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