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Doug Burn, Editor

Choice and Responsibility in Education By Allen Small

The McGuinty government's recent proposal to reform the Sex Education curriculum in Ontario and the hasty retreat just days later, illustrates two of the major problems with publicly financed schools and "over-government" in general – choice and responsibility.

The current Ontario curriculum on Sex-Ed had not been reviewed since 1998. The decision for change was made to reflect Ontario's more diverse society.

When I was a student growing up in the Toronto Public School system, sexual information was reserved for recess or after school and disseminated by "knowledgeable" friends in hushed whispers. How they received this knowledge was not an issue for us then, but it likely came through word of mouth or printed sources published by people like Hugh Hefner, if we were lucky. For me it was well into the middle of high school before a gym teacher at my school even broached the topic of sex during class, and he assumed we had already done some of our own research. Of course the topic of sex arose in our biology classes but the transfer of information was teacher dependent and not related to actual curriculum.

By 1966, near the end of my high school years, the first draft of "human reproduction" was introduced to the Grade 9 curriculum and it focused on disease prevention, a bit late for me and my peers. I'm certain that my parents and many others would not have objected to full disclosure of sexual information during our public schooling, I'm equally certain that some would. Disclosure of curriculum was not common in those days. Parents in my neighbourhood assumed that the schools and the Ministry of Education (MoE) knew what they were doing.

Certainly things have changed and curriculum review is a proper function of school administrators in consultation with their client base, the parents. When the McGuinty Liberals came to power in October 2003 one goal was to reform education and repair the damage done

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Federal Party to be Deregistered?

If the Libertarian Party of Canada does not submit 250 **Member Declaration forms (enclosed)** to Elections Canada by the end of June, they will be deregistered and all their funds will be confiscated! If you haven't already sent in your form, **please do so TODAY!** If you have, get another libertarian to complete both forms and send them to us. You may use the enclosed return envelope.

LIBERTARIAN PUB NIGHTS

Come on out and meet other Libertarians from the area in a relaxed, informal, friendly atmosphere. We will discuss whatever is on your mind. Order dinner and/or drinks and pay your own tab.

BARRIE - Tuesday June 15 - 6:30 PM

Mullies Bar & Grill, 17 Mulcaster Street, For more information contact Paolo Fabrizio (PaoloTheBaker@yahoo.ca or 647-300-8555). The next Barrie Pub Night will be July 20.

HAMILTON - June 27, 7:00 PM

Jan Narveson, one of Canada's most accomplished philosophers and a recipient of the Order of Canada, will be at the meeting. He will speak for 30-45 minutes and then open the floor for questions and some debate. For more information (e.g. location) and to RSVP, please contact Anthony (anthonygiles1976@gmail.com or 905-691-0818).

K-W/GUELPH - Thursday June 16, 7:00PM

Delaney's restaurant 930 Woodlawn Rd. W. For more information or to make sure you are on the local contacts list, contact Phil Bender (phil.libertarian@gmail.com or 905-703-6248). Next Pub Night is July 22 in Waterloo.

Pub Nights will alternate between Guelph and K-W

LONDON - Wednesday June 9, 7:00 PM

Palasad/Fiamma Restaurant, Adelaide & Oxford. For more information contact Dave Barnesky (dave.barnesky@gmail.com). Next Pub Night is July 14.

OTTAWA - Saturday June 5, 3:00 PM

South Side Bar and Grill, 1670 Heron Road, (Heron Gate Mall). For more information contact Andrew Philips (andrewmp@rogers.com or 613-733-8948). Next meeting is September 11.

STOUFFVILLE - Wednesday June 23, 7:00 PM

Earl of Whitchurch Pub, 6204 Main St. upstairs room. For more information contact Allen Small (small4357@rogers.com or 905-477-4357). The next Pub Night is **August 25**. (No Pub Night in July)

TORONTO - Wednesday June 9, 7:00 PM

The Granite Brewery & Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Ave. E.. For more information contact Jim McIntosh (416-283-7589 or cfo@libertarian.on.ca). The next Pub Night is July 14.

If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, contact Jim McIntosh at 416-283-7589.

Report From the Leader—By Sam Apfelbaum

Dalton McGuinty's Liberal Party government has been the worst I can recall in a sorry line of incompetent Ontario governments. The next provincial general election is scheduled for October 2011 and, by all rights, Dalton and his gang should be tossed. During their bungling two term reign, they have been spending wildly, running up big deficits year after year. Ontario has become a "have not" province in the Canadian federation, the populace has been pummelled with new taxes, such as the soon to be implemented HST, and electrical power rates in the state controlled and regulated power monopoly are spiraling upward. At the same time there is no law or regulation that Dalton and his cohorts do not embrace in their never ending quest to control and direct every moment of our lives. Among the worst of his follies, the Green Energy Act promotes energy scarcity and has created new barriers and expenses for industrial production while milking the public for subsidies to support uneconomic "green" projects.

I have little respect for our so-called political leaders. Nonetheless, I acknowledge they generally display some degree of competency and intelligence within the context of democratic pandering to the lowest common denominator. Otherwise, they could not have climbed to the top of the political dunghill. There is even an occasional politician with some vestige of principle floating around in his head that might serve to restrain him from enthusiastically embracing some popular idiocy or ignorance, but too often he proceeds to sell out that vestige for power, money, privilege and prestige. However, I have recently come to the startling conclusion that our Ontario premier is not simply being politically correct but actually believes some

of the silly things he says and advocates. Unlike, for instance, Stephen Harper, McGuinty could and would proclaim with pureness of heart something along the lines of: "Climate change is real!" and, to compound the foolishness, believe he and his bureaucrats can do something about it. This is ominous for the future of the people of Ontario. Let us hope enough of them awaken from their torpor to select somebody else with some smarts at the next Election.

At the moment, there are few who fully appreciate that respect for individual liberty and cutting back the state in every possible way as quickly as possible is the solution to the mess we are in. If you are one of them and want to see libertarian ideas become more influential, we need your help.

Activity and enthusiasm around our Party is now the best I have experienced since my first involvement in 1994. Today we have more people than ever advancing the libertarian cause by hosting or participating in numerous functions and events. We have competition now for our executive committee positions rather than merely hoping we can find someone to fill the slots. There is no doubt our level of play and professionalism has significantly improved with all the new talent and energy. We have bigger plans. All this requires that we raise more money to keep the momentum going. An election year will give us new opportunities to spread libertarian ideas and improve our position. The Ontario income tax credits for political contributions are significant and most of the time you will be little out of pocket for the money you choose to contribute. We welcome and thank you for your support.

Lots of room for bees, just not for people — Letter to the editor By Allen Small

Re: Markham at crossroads: to sprawl or protect, Apr. 29

I carefully read and re-read the column by David Suzuki and Faisal Moola of the Suzuki Foundation. Nowhere in the piece was there any mention of concepts like property rights and private ownership and freedom to dispose of property.

There was a blanket statement in the article that described "an extraordinary new path....limiting all future growth to further development in areas already built up". This was followed by:

"This visionary proposal is aimed at protecting the town's remaining farms, fields and forests, known as the white belt, as a foodbelt that would be out of reach of future development."

Does this mean that those farmers who own this property, in some families for generations, will not be able to sell the property on the open market for a fair price? That is exactly what it means; they are out of luck, too bad for them.

Like many in Markham, my family enjoys locally grown food when it is briefly available, but the bulk of our food, produce and meat come from far off shores and at lower prices. If local farmers cannot sustain a living for their efforts why should they continue to farm? Their chance to

escape the farm and enjoy a comfortable retirement through the sale of their valuable land is about to be thwarted by environmental and political bullies.

What alternatives do Suzuki and our politicians offer? Densification, the creation of urban high-rise ghettos and massive townhouse complexes "preventing urban sprawl onto agricultural lands....using the principles of smart growth" a concept that has already been dismissed in large parts of the United States where much better agricultural conditions exist. "Smart growth" is a euphemism for coerced growth. If land use is restricted in Markham, what happens to available property values? Of course property values increase, good for me, maybe good for you, but what about our children, will they be able to escape the expensive high-rise ghettos?

Suzuki and Moola offer that "critical ecological services" will be provided if Markham preserves its green spaces. Habitat for wildlife, songbirds, wildflowers and the economically important "flying \$50 bills" called bees will have freedom to grow and roam in Markham, but not people. Is it possible that these benefits may still exist in an urban or suburban environment? I think they can. I'm prepared to tell Suzuki and those politicians where to get off. Are you?

HEATH THOMAS - PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP IN TORONTO'S WARD 44

A copy of his letter to the residents of Ward 44 in Toronto

Dear Supporter;

As a fellow lover of freedom you have watched in frustration as Toronto City Council has grown larger encroaching on your individual rights. Your property taxes have increased by 4 percent in 2010 and yet services continue to deteriorate. We need to stop the growth of Statism at City Hall. We need practical free market alternatives to provide municipal Government services.

I am writing you today so that you can share in my vision of a new Toronto. With your help together we can bring the moral and practical vision of the free market to Toronto City Hall.

Elected to City Council I will concern myself with the following policies:

- Tax and Fee Policy
- Economic Development Policy
- Fiscal Policy
- TTC/Transportation Policy
- Garbage Policy

However, in order to achieve this ambitious goal I require your assistance. I am certain that free markets are the best alternative. In order for me to bring this radical vision to City Hall I need to reach every resident in Ward 44. So, I plan on hiring a communications firm to contact them. Estimated costs are anywhere from \$7,000 to \$15,000. In the coming months I plan on making business cards, election signs and pamphlets. I am also buying advertising space in local newspapers. All of this will cost money. In order for me to run an effective campaign I will need to raise \$30,000 dollars.

And this is where you can help. Tax laws in the Province of Ontario will give you a rebate of \$450 dollars on a contribution of \$750 dollars. If you contribute \$750 dollars to my campaign it will only cost you \$300 dollars. If this is too much, any amount you can afford will be greatly appreciated.

In 2006, the current City Councilor, Ron Moeser, won by a mere 61 votes. That leads me to believe my chances of winning a seat on Toronto City Council are good.

I am a small businessman and long term resident of Toronto. I am passionately committed to free market solutions. In fact, I've run for MPP as a candidate for the Ontario Libertarian Party in three elections.

By supporting me you're advancing your own agenda. If you're not in Toronto, please remember, this is a cultural battle that affects us all.

Please visit my website. Feel free to contact me at 416-420-0855. Please make your Cheque payable to "Campaign for Heath Thomas" and mail to 1150 Shoal Point Rd. S., Ajax, ON L1S 1E2

Sincerely,

Heath Thomas

"Ask yourself whether the dream of heaven and greatness should be waiting for us in our graves – or whether it should be ours here and now and on this earth." - Novelist/Philosopher Ayn Rand

Recommended Reading

Meltdown: A Free-Market Look at Why the Stock Market Collapsed, the Economy Tanked, and Government Bail-outs Will Make Things Worse by Thomas E. Woods Jr.
Reviewed by Allen Small

For weeks after the stock market crash of 2008 and 2009, media pundits and business guru's tripped over one another pointing fingers at the greed and corruption of the Wall Street brokers that sold the so-called "toxic" asset-backed commercial paper around the world. Cries that unbridled Capitalism was evil and the root cause of the entire mess were everywhere. Even "free-market" experts like former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, admitted that yet more government regulation was needed to prevent a repeat of the crisis. There were few if any voices to the contrary.

As the dust settled more coherent explanations of the current economic crisis, its causes and possible solutions were presented. ***Meltdown*** by Thomas E. Woods is one such explanation from the viewpoint of Austrian economics. Woods is a senior fellow at the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Alabama and wonderful writer.

In ***Meltdown*** Woods points to the ultimate cause of the crisis, the Fed, which he calls the "elephant in the living room that everyone pretends not to notice". Then he proceeds to expose each of the culprits involved in how the government created the housing bubble from Fannie and Freddie to the idea of "too big to fail". Woods shows how the bailouts will only make things worse creating greater moral hazard than already exists. Woods takes readers on a trip through economic history showing how government has created boom and bust cycles and how government interference made the Great Depression even worse.

My favourite chapter is the one about money. Here Woods explains the origin and need for money and how paper money that was once backed by precious metals has become a fiat currency and why we must return to a gold standard.

The best part of Woods' book is the fact that it is ex-

plained so that virtually anyone can understand it; no previous economic knowledge is required. I would advise that you read some other explanation of Austrian economic theory before you read ***Meltdown***. Hazlitt's ***Economics in One Lesson*** is a great start.

Woods ends ***Meltdown*** with solutions that involve allowing the "too big" to go bankrupt, eliminating the government mortgage lenders, ending the bailouts, cutting government spending, and putting an end to or at least reducing the immediate influence of the Fed. It is a great lesson for the Americans and for Canada to heed.

The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine by Michael Lewis

Reviewed by Jim McIntosh

Lewis explains how mortgages were purchased by investment banks and pooled into asset backed securities and sold to investors. When investors bought standard mortgages, their concern was that they would get repaid early when interest rates went down. So the investment banks split the securities into "tranches;" the 'worst' tranche suffered the early repayments first but got the best interest rate. For sub-prime mortgage pools, the 'worst' tranche suffered the first wave of defaults instead. The problem was that rating agencies used the same model to rate both sub-prime and standard mortgage securities. They had no idea how to evaluate this new type of 'asset.'

Lewis tells an engaging story about the characters involved in the financial meltdown, especially the ones who understood the problem and used Credit Default Swaps to bet against it, or "short" these sub-prime securities.

Lewis doesn't address the issue of government responsibility or even try to recommend solutions, good or bad. However, in the epilogue he claims the stage was set for the debacle when the Wall Street firms went public. This allowed them to transfer the financial risk to the shareholders and focus on sales. We know the Partners made lots of money in spite of the meltdown.

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in the Harris years. In 2006 Kathleen Wynne was appointed Minister of Education in a Cabinet shuffle. Wynne had been a school trustee in the Toronto School Board and became Ontario's first openly lesbian cabinet minister around the time the Sex-Ed curriculum was under review. Curiously, Wynne was shuffled to the Transportation portfolio within days of the new curriculum being posted on the Ministry of Education website in January 2010. I'm sure that was just a coincidence.

The new curriculum included topics like the proper names for body parts in Grade 1, sexual identity and orientation for Grade 3, explicit descriptions of physical changes in puberty for Grade 4, and terms like "anal intercourse" and "vaginal lubrication" for Grades 6 and 7.

My view has always been, knowledge is better than ignorance, so none of those changes really troubles me, though I shudder to think what dinner conversation would have been like if my children came home explaining what they had learned in school that day. I can see where

some parents would have a problem, and so did Dalton McGuinty, eventually.

In April 2010 a "family focused" religious group, after examining the new curriculum online, threatened to boycott Ontario schools unless McGuinty removed the offending curriculum changes and that was done within days. While some might disagree with this tactic, what choice did the religious group really have? To be an accredited public or private school in this province, observance of the Ontario Ministry Guidelines is mandatory. All publicly funded schools including the Catholic Boards must comply, and private schools or parents that "home school" must comply if they expect their children to qualify for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

So the question is who was consulted during the curriculum review? Obviously not that religious group, and here is where the other problem lies. How much responsibility do parents give to the Ministry to educate their children? Or put another way, how much responsibility does the Ministry take from parents?