

libertarian bulletin

Newsletter
of the Ontario
Libertarian Party

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Doug Burn, Editor*

Convention Notice

Saturday November 5, 2011 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Ontario Libertarian Party Convention will be held on Saturday November 5, 2011 to elect a Leader, Deputy Leader, Party Executives and two members of the Ethics Committee. The venue is to be determined, but will likely be at the Yorkland Hotel. This will be a full day event. We plan to have two speakers. Lunch is included. Registration fee will be \$60.00 until October 28, 2011, and \$70.00 after that. (Fees will be treated as Political Contributions eligible for a 75% tax credit.)

Registration forms will be mailed in September.
MARK NOVEMBER 5 ON YOUR CALENDAR

Caucus Meeting

Sunday July 17, 2011 – 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Eastern Senses Chinese Restaurant, 200 Marycroft Ave., Woodbridge, Ontario.

All members interested in running as candidates in the October 6, 2011 Ontario General Election are invited to attend this final caucus meeting prior to the election. We plan to discuss the key issues and how to respond to questions. As before, lunch will be provided at no charge, however donations to help cover the cost and to help out our war chest will be appreciated.

RSVP – Jim McIntosh, 416-283-7589, 1-855-ONT-LIBerty,
cfo@mcintosh.on.ca

Election Campaigns Cost Money

We are well on our way to signing up at least 60 candidates for the election this fall. By this measure we should be the fastest growing party in the province. But getting the name of the Libertarian Party and our candidates on ballots is only a part of the campaign. The other part is getting our name and ideas in front of voters well before they see the ballots. We have candidates who are willing to pound in signs and hand out pamphlets as well as tell our message of less government at All Candidates Meetings. This will take many signs and lots of pamphlets. We want to try radio and newspaper advertising in smaller markets where we have a full slate of candidates like Barrie and Cambridge. And we want to provide support materials like buttons and *Short Answers to the Tough Questions* by Mary Ruwart.

Of course, this all takes money. We estimate a good campaign will cost \$30,000.00. If you've been to our web site, you can see we have a long ways to go. We need your help. If you want to see the Party continue to grow, if you would like to see a Libertarian candidate in every riding in Ontario in 2015, then we need to make a good showing in this election. We need you to contribute \$500.00,

\$250.00, \$100.00 or whatever you can afford. If you can afford a monthly pledge of \$20 or \$10, that will help too. You can donate in several ways. Go to our web site and click on the Donate button to make a monthly or one-time contribution using PayPal. (You don't need a PayPal account but you do need a credit card.) Or you can send us one cheque or several postdated cheques. Or you can phone us to make a donation on your VISA card.

Please don't delay, do it today. We need your help now.

LIBERTARIAN PUB NIGHTS

Come on out and meet other Libertarians from the area in a relaxed, informal, friendly atmosphere. We will discuss the past federal and coming provincial elections and whatever else is on your mind. Order dinner and/or drinks and pay your own tab. Bring a friend!

KITCHENER WATERLOO - Thursday June 15, 7:00 PM 3rd Thursday of each month

Benny's Lounge, 183 Weber Street, Waterloo For more information about events in this area, contact Phil Bender (905-703-6248 or phil.libertarian@gmail.com). Next Pub Night is July 15.

HAMILTON - Friday June 17, 7:00 PM New night - 3rd Friday of each month

The Snooty Fox, 1011 King Street West, Hamilton (Phone 905-546-0000). Come and meet the candidates in the Hamilton area for the May 2 federal election. For more information Email Anthony or phone him at 905-691-0818. Next Pub Night is July 15.

STOUFFVILLE - Wednesday June 22, 6:00 PM 4th Wednesday of each month

Earl of Whitchurch Pub, 6204 Main St. For more information contact Allen Small (small4357@rogers.com or 905-477-4357). The next Pub Night is July 27.

OTTAWA - Sunday June 26, 2:00 PM Rescheduled from long weekend

O'Brien's Eatery and Pub, 1145 Heron Road. Katrina Chowne, the newly elected Leader of the Libertarian Party of Canada will be the guest speaker. She is anxious to help build the party and would like to discuss her ideas. Please come and show your support. For more information contact Andrew Philips (andrewmp@rogers.com or 613-733-8948).

TORONTO - Wednesday July 13, 7:00 PM 2nd Wednesday of each month

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 August 10.

If you would like to organize a monthly Libertarian meeting or Pub Night in your area, contact Jim McIntosh at 416-283-7589 or 1-855-ONT-LIBerty (1-855-668-5423).

THE PARTY OF CHOICE - Our Vision is communities of freedom, harmony and abundance.

The Mission of the Party is to enable endless possibilities through recognition of, respect for and protection of individual liberty.

The Federal Election

By John Shaw – President – Libertarian Party of Canada

The Libertarian Party of Canada ran 23 candidates in 2 provinces in the May 2 Federal Election. It was a major disappointment that people in 4 other provinces decided to withdraw their candidacies. B.C. and Ontario are also the only two provinces with provincial parties, and in some cases it was simply isolation that was a barrier. Alberta had its own unique dynamics which resulted in the active community there not running anyone.

There is now a majority Conservative government. Given their track record of the worst deficit, the fastest increase in spending since 1961 (fiscal 2009-10) and their highlighting of extremely restrictive social engineering legislation no longer limited by other parties the next 4 years of federal politics will be very tough on anyone who is a Libertarian.

Convention Report

By John Shaw – President – Libertarian Party of Canada

The Libertarian Party of Canada held its 2011 convention April 30 – May 1 followed by a general election the next day. Such was not the plan!

Speaking and debating at the convention were Jan Narveson, Pierre Lemieux, and Walter Block. The entire event was videotaped. Topics ranged from pragmatic libertarianism to anarchism. Some of the convention videos are posted at the Libertarians of Canada Youtube channel (link in sidebar).

A new leader was chosen, Katrina Chowne and about half the board of directors was changed. The deputy leader is now Tyler Pierce, the CFO is Paul Geddes, and the president is John Shaw. Katrina and Tyler are both young and full of energy. Katrina's short form bio follows:

"My passion for Liberty started more than 10 years ago through interest in reading the National Post newspaper, then owned by Conrad Black. I happily read Mark Steyn, Andrew Coyne, Paul Wells and Christie Blatchford. My 18th birthday fell four months before B.C.'s 2001 election. I spent time researching who I would vote for and I came to understand my dilemma: do I support the Personal Freedoms of the NDP or the Financial Freedoms of the Liberals. Luckily I came across the B.C. Marijuana Party's slogan of "Choices, Options, Tolerance." After a bit of inquiry, I was asked to make a bid for MLA in Vancouver-Quilchena under the B.C. Marijuana Party flag; which is when I made the record for youngest person to run in BC Politics.

"There I met Marc Emery amongst others who helped me philosophically. My first "Libertarian" book actually was Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. I came close to failing Grade 12 because I had a hard time buying into the system, and more importantly, was too focused on trying to finish her book- rather than my courses that were not nearly as interesting. I ran in the 2004 election for the Federal Libertarians in Vancouver-Quadra and also the 2005 election for the Provincial Libertarians in Vancouver-Quilchena.

"I spent a lot of time talking to people one-on-one. I found my ideas disregarded by statist, using my age and lack of life experience as their way to dismiss me. Feeling disenfranchised, I took a break from politics. In 2010, after many years' hiatus, I decided to get back involved. I am the Financial Agent for more than half a dozen Candidates in Metro Vancouver.

"In my time away from the political scene I focused on living life to the fullest and working towards a successful future. This included keeping abreast of both local and international news, and participating in the local arts & culture scene in Vancouver where I have lived since since May 2010."

One of the main thrusts of the new executive will be to improve communications, starting with digital communications. Katrina has setup a twitter feed @CLibrtrn. The Facebook group is much more active, even if some do enjoy testing the limits of free speech. The Website will be spruced up, but as always with an all volunteer group it will only be through the efforts of volunteers that we can grow so there is an alternative to the no choice offered by the other parties. Katrina will be traveling to Ottawa in late June and will be attending the Ottawa get together; details are below. Please make an effort to come and welcome her aboard.

Meet Katrina Chowne The Newly Elected Leader of The Libertarian Party of Canada

When: 2 p.m. June 26

Where: O'Brien's Pub & Eatery
1145 Heron Rd, Ottawa

Katrina is anxious to help build the party and would like to discuss her ideas, please come and show your support.

You can follow her on twitter at @CLibrtrn.

Report on 2011 Caucus Meeting By Craig Hodgins, Campaign Director

On Sunday April 17 the Ontario Libertarian Party held its spring caucus meeting. Over 20 people attended, many of them newcomers to the party. Most attendees were interested in helping with the 2011 election as a candidate or in some other fashion.

Party leader Sam Apfelbaum welcomed everyone and gave a brief statement (see below). Our guest speaker Gerry Nicholls explained that the media want to report on party strategies during a campaign and not issues. We can use this insight to gain media exposure during the campaign.

Campaign director Craig Hodgins presented the Candidate's Handbook which is available to candidates on our web site - *Take Action – Be a Candidate*. It presents our campaign theme (We Are None of the Above), our strategies, and candidate tactics to get the most free media coverage possible during the campaign. Craig also covered some pointers on how to effectively debate on our terms, not those of the other parties.

Much discussion arose during and after the formal meeting, and overall the meeting seemed to be worthwhile and educational for all.

Our campaign goals remain the same in 2011 as in 2007:

- to run at least 60 candidates across the province
- to have a full slate of candidates in specific key regions
- to increase media exposure
- to double the number of votes received by the party's candidates (to 18,000)



Libertarians of Canada
Youtube Channel

Scan this image with
your smartphone
or enter the
following link:

<http://bit.ly/kXmeQ2>

Our Summer Caucus meeting is scheduled for Sunday July 17, 2011. Anyone interested in being a candidate is welcome. See the announcement elsewhere in this issue.

Spring Caucus Meeting – Introduction

Sam Apfelbaum, Leader, Ontario Libertarian Party

Welcome, and thank you for attending the 2011 annual caucus meeting of the Ontario Libertarian Party. This being an election year, we hope you agree to contribute to the libertarian cause by committing to participate as best you can in the October provincial election, whether as a candidate, assisting candidates, or otherwise.

As recently as ten years ago, the libertarian movement was little known and the term “libertarian” was rarely heard outside libertarian circles. Times have changed and public awareness of libertarianism has substantially increased. This has happened thanks to the dedicated advocacy of many people, including those within our own organization, as well as the ease with which information can now be disseminated over the Internet. I would like to believe it is also due to our rational and consistent view of how society can and should organize itself, through individual choice, in voluntary, non-coercive associations.

Since most people in Ontario still look to democratic electoral politics to address their dissatisfaction with government, it is important we keep plugging away in this arena. When I wanted to “do something” to support my own libertarian thinking back in 1994, the first thing I thought to do was to join and work within a libertarian political party. We want to find more such activists as one result of our political efforts.

We do not live in a libertarian culture and should have realistic objectives for the next election. Although I expect no breakthrough in winning ridings or large vote totals anywhere, we can still influence for the better a small but important number of thoughtful people. Even though success may not always be immediately apparent, our efforts will help achieve this.

Amidst the ever multiplying depredations of the state, it is easy to become concerned with negatives and forget why we are involved in a seemingly quixotic quest. For me it is the satisfaction of helping to create a world in which human potential has been freed from the chains of the chaotic and destructive institution of the state. What is it for you?

Making a Difference

By Allen Small, <http://thebrightlibertarian.blogspot.com>

In the federal election just passed, the number of rejected ballots in Markham-Unionville beat my total as the local Libertarian candidate, again. But this time it was closer. I’m not discouraged because I know I made a difference. People don’t necessarily vote for or against a particular individual or party, so I don’t feel slighted in any way with only 0.5% of the popular vote.

As a case in point, look at the NDP surge in Quebec and elsewhere. One young NDP candidate never set foot in her riding, had no election signs or campaign office, spent a week of the campaign vacationing in Las Vegas, and was virtually invisible, but won her election handily. Effectively she was a “paper candidate,” riding on the coat tails of her leader, Jack Layton. The Harper majority has presented her with a four-year contract and an annual salary of \$157,731 plus perks, just for showing up; not bad for agreeing to help out her party. She obviously made a difference with very little effort. For the NDP it was important to field candidates in every riding across the country for the sake of credibility, even if their candidates were not credible themselves. Helping the party is one important

lesson for Libertarian candidates and potential candidates in the upcoming Ontario Provincial election.

For all the considerable effort that I put forth in this election campaign, my vote count barely budged from my 2008 results. It was not for lack of trying. I had an unpopular package to sell the voters of Markham-Unionville. Some day, in the future, that package may look more attractive to voters, but not yet.

This campaign was my second attempt. This time I had signs throughout the riding, attended “all-candidates debates” (except where I was involved with other party matters), I was profiled on the local cable channel, and local newspaper, had a widely heard radio interview on a Toronto Rock station, I used social media like my blogs, Facebook, and Twitter. I also had short YouTube clips online, and a website dedicated to the election campaign. I campaigned with pamphlets from door-to-door and in public areas.

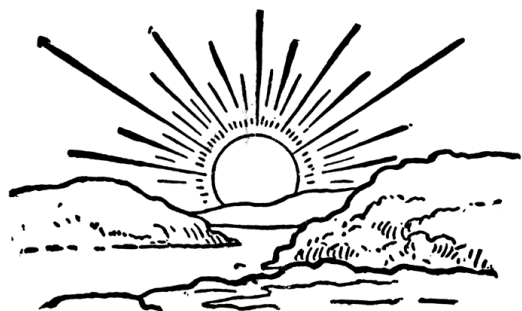
Did it have an effect?

Well it certainly did not translate into votes. However, on several occasions people that I met on the campaign trail told me that they saw my signs, but didn’t know what the Libertarian Party represented, or more often, they had never heard of the party before. The point is, now they have. No party wins voter trust instantly, and it takes repetition and familiarity; look at the NDP story.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the NDP, and it has taken 50 years of repetitive collectivist rhetoric and thinking for them to achieve the trust of a large percentage of the electorate. Over 30% of voters across Canada (much improved from 18% in 2008) chose an NDP candidate in this election, making the NDP the official opposition for the first time. In those 50 years Canada has changed enormously from a nation that accepted a relatively limited role for government with emphasis on individual, family and community responsibility. The current paradigm in Canada is one where government should do as much as possible for as many as possible. This happened in a slow but steady evolution, with the assistance of politicians that pandered to the public sector unions and corporations, and was abetted by the public school system and mainstream media.

The other important lesson we Libertarians should take to heart is the role of leadership. If we are going to act like a political party and ask people to vote for us, they need a face, and a persona to go with the party name. The NDP example demonstrates my point; look at what Jack Layton accomplished. In ridings all over the country, disenchanted Liberal and Bloc voters chose NDP candidates sight unseen. That will not happen to us necessarily, but an effective leader allows the generally lazy mainstream media to zero in on one individual who can deliver the message for us all.

We have much to offer to a thinking electorate. We are the only party where principles of freedom would direct policy. The only party that openly advocates free enterprise, reduced spending, reduced government, and actually means it. The problem is we are few, and it will take each of us to make a difference, but make no mistake, you can if you try.



The True Nature of Taxation

By Rod Rojas

Nobody really likes paying their taxes. But, as the old adage about "death and taxes" conveys, there is a sense that taxes are as legitimate and as inevitable as death itself. In their acceptance of taxation, many well-meaning people forget that taxation violates our most basic moral principles.

If you have ever been to a kindergarten or a playground where very young children play, you might have realized that, although the kids are too young to understand many things, they already have a surprising sense of justice.

Take a toy away from a toddler who cannot yet speak a word, and you will often be met with a very clear protest. As far as the toddler is concerned, you have stolen her toy, you have initiated violence, and therefore it's time to cry. The toddler's reasoning probably isn't this sophisticated, but the understanding is there.

Slightly older children are even more amazing. They understand that there is illegitimate violence (when a toy gets stolen), but they also understand that there is such a thing as legitimate violence as well, which is when the victimized child goes to the thieving child and takes her toy back. The astonishing thing is that the usual focus is on getting the toy back rather than punishing the aggressor. Punishment is a concept that they learn later, probably from us.

The initiation of violence is the act of an aggressor against you or against your property. This can be done through actual violence or through intimidation, because the mere threat of violence is an act of violence in itself. A good example would be a thief that points a gun at you to get your wallet without actually pulling the trigger. Another less obvious example is the way the government takes our money. To say that taxes are a form of theft may seem a bit over the top, but refuse to pay your taxes and you will be thrown in jail. Refuse to pay your property taxes and you will see who really owns your house.

Governments have done a wonderful PR job: They call us taxpayers, not victims, and the taxes are somehow "collected," not stolen. Taxes are also called contributions, as if it had been a matter of choice. And because it is the government that decides whether this form of theft is legal or not, there is nothing we can do legally to get restitution. No playground justice for us.

Many actually see the crime but take it as a necessary evil, and when you ask for the complete abolition of taxation, they ask in minute detail how we would pay for roads or law enforcement.

I admit, it is hard to imagine how our society would work in a completely new order, but I would like to offer some ideas and historical facts that may ease these worries.

One important thing to remember is that all of the services now funded by taxation and provided by the government were at one point in the not-so-distant past funded and provided privately. Indeed, many are being provided privately today, from affordable private education in Ghana to the luxurious streets being built every day in our North American cities for new residential developments (which are later handed off to local governments).

Another reassuring example for those who want answers right now regarding a future without taxation is that not so long ago slavery was normal, and in many parts of the world nobody could have conceived of life without it. When some pointed out the ethical and economic problems behind the practice, the vast majority of people claimed that, not only was it impossible to abolish slavery, but even the slaves themselves were actually better off in captivity than in liberty. Today these claims seem ludicrous to us.

Some were genuinely concerned about the slaves. Because they had no property, some said they would all be homeless and scattered around. Such well-meaning conservatives even feared that without their masters the slaves would be unemployed. And above all, the worriers claimed that the entire economy would collapse, putting everyone — former slaves included — in a state of abject poverty.

The idea of a world without taxes is hard for us to imagine, and there are many unanswerable questions that we would like answered. But we need to stand for liberty regardless of our reservations, just like we still stand against slavery.

While I agree that lots of neat things can be done with stolen money, we need to remember that we would never go to our neighbors with a gun and tell them to pay for our education or retirement, regardless of how rich they were. We wouldn't do it because it's wrong. Even a toddler knows that.

Rod Rojas is a holder of the Canadian Securities Course designation and performs as a financial adviser in personal, corporate, and public-policy matters. He is a proud member of the Ontario Libertarian Party.

Custody Dispute to be Decided October 6

By Doug Burn, Editor

Dalton 'Premier Dad' McGuinty and 'Uncle' Tim Hudak are locked in a battle for sole custody of Ontario's 13,280,000 dependent children and adults that will be settled on October 6. A joint custody, similar to the Peterson/Rae arrangement of 1985-87 is a possible outcome depending on the success of 'Auntie' Andrea Horvath.

Uncle Tim claims that Premier Dad has taken too great a share of the children's grass cutting, baby sitting and paper delivery earnings. Auntie Andrea insists that all the children deserve larger allowances. Daddy Dalton protests that Uncle Hudak's plans to require the time-out children to wash dishes and launder clothes would be inhumane but all agree the interests of the caregivers must take precedence.

Years ago there had been some dispute as to the age at which children should be considered sufficiently mature to make their own decisions. But, beginning about the time Uncle Bill Davis was appointed Minister of Education in 1962 it was concluded by the teachers, professors and other professional caregivers that we can never really know when anyone of any age can be trusted to make the same mature and rational decisions as their caregivers so it is best to be on the safe side and regard everyone, with the exception of professional caregivers, to be children. Uncle Bill retired as Premier in 1985.

Auntie Andrea won't likely allow Premier Dad to outbid her again for the support of the various caregiver guilds needed as references in custody disputes. As leader of the Nanny Deference Party, she is likely to promise the hiring of more caregivers particularly at the senior levels reserved for professional B4's (Busy Body Bossy Boots). Premier Dad may be obliged to match her bid and raise the ante with the promise of more accountability through the hiring of yet more DDSP (Double-Dipping Superannuated Politician) watchdogs. Uncle Tim appears to have written off the guilds, aside from the law and order professionals and will instead seek the support of unlicensed caregivers (parents), particularly those favouring the family values of random drug tests, line dancing and early curfews.

On October 6, Premier Dad, Uncle Tim and Aunt Andrea will say they respect you and seek your support as mature adults capable of making rational decisions in your own best interest. But please don't ask to be shown the same respect after Election Day unless you want to be branded a heretic - or a libertarian.