

libertarian bulletin

Newsletter
of the Ontario
Libertarian Party

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Todd Howe, Editor

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Federal Byelection Update

By Rob Brooks

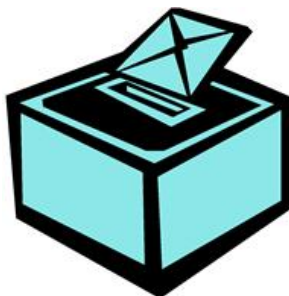
Toronto-Danforth Campaign Manager - #teamrecker

A Federal By-election is underway in the riding of Toronto-Danforth. This was the riding held by Jack Layton, who died in office last year. The Libertarian Party of Canada has chosen to run a candidate, John Christopher Recker. John lives in the riding and works in the community. He ran for the Provincial party last October. We all thank John for answering the call of duty. Voting day is March 19.

Although our means are modest, we are putting everything we can into this campaign. We have signs, buttons and flyers. All of these are ways to let people know we are in the race and what it is that Libertarians stand for. We have received media coverage, and we will be participating in all candidates meetings. Although our means are modest, we are putting everything we can into this campaign.

This by-election, along with the candidacy of Ron Paul in the US, along with the declining state of our mixed economy and problems in our society in general are all causing a brighter light to be shone on our ideas. Our goal in this by-election is to present a credible option and get our message out to as many voters as possible. Most people really have no idea who we are and what we would do if elected.

Anyone that wants to get involved or to find out more about the campaign is encouraged to contact the campaign by going to the website at <http://johnreckerlibertarian.ca/>



LIBERTARIAN PUB NIGHTS

Come out and join other libertarians and friends for lively discussion of issues and ideas. Order dinner and/or drinks, pay your own tab. No additional charge. For more information visit http://libertarian.on.ca/pub_nights

OTTAWA - Saturday March 10, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

O'Brien's Eatery and Pub, 1145 Heron Road (west of Bank St.). Updates on registering the Riding Association, initial executive positions, and the Toronto-Danforth federal by-election. Also: ideas for summer events. For more information contact Dave Paul (jp_dashco@yahoo.com or 613-824-5907). Next pub night TBA.

LONDON - Wednesday March 14, 7:00 PM

Second Wednesday of each month Blackshire Pub, 511 Talbot St (519-433-7737). We meet upstairs. Wednesday is \$6 Burger Night. For more information contact Tim Harnick (timharnick@live.com or phone 519-617-0982). The next pub night will be Wednesday April 11.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO - Thursday March 15, 7:00 PM

Third Thursday of each month Benny's Restaurant, 183 Weber Street North, Waterloo (519-884-8074). Please RSVP to Phil Bender so he can reserve a large-enough table (phil.libertarian@gmail.com or 905-703-6248). The next Pub Night will be April 19.

HAMILTON - Friday March 16, 7:00 PM

Third Saturday of each month The Snooty Fox, 1011 King Street West, Hamilton.; (Phone 905-689-8196) Note: Moved to Friday this month due to St. Patrick's Day. We will be discussing plans to create a riding association. Be sure to bring a friend. For more info contact Glenn Langton (glangton3@cogeco.ca, 905-689-1896). Next pub night is April 21.

ST. CATHARINES - Sunday March 18, 2:00 PM

The London Arms, Pen Centre Mall (905-688-0228). Contact Adam Hyde for more information (adam@niagarafallstours.com or 905-356-6359)

STOUFFVILLE - Wednesday March 28, 6:00 PM

Fourth Wednesday of each month The Lion of Stouffville, 5917 Main St (905-642-1344) We meet in the dining room. For more information contact Allen Small (small4357@rogers.com or phone 905-477-4357) or find us on Facebook. The next Stouffville pub night will be April 25.

TORONTO - Wednesday March 14, 7:00 PM

Second Wednesday of each month The Granite Brewery and Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Ave E at Mount Pleasant (416-322-0723). We are usually at the back of the restaurant, by the fire place. For more information contact Jim McIntosh (jim@mcintosh.on.ca or 416-283-7589). The next pub night is April 11.

If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, please contact Jim McIntosh (cfo@libertarian.in.ca, 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.

View from the Fringe

by Allen Small

Define or be defined! That is a well-known maxim in political circles. Libertarians are still on the fringe of Canadian politics and rather than deny that, we need to embrace it. We are the alternative, we are the different choice, and that is what defines us.

In the recent election, we were the only party in Ontario that called attention to Liberal government spending, deficit, and debt as a major issue. Yes, we were ignored, but we can proudly point to newspaper articles, Internet postings, and YouTube videos during that campaign that demonstrate those facts.

That's important because the recent release of the Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services headed by Don Drummond, in many ways vindicates our election campaign message.

The Drummond report is not a Libertarian document by any means. Drummond's mandate put him under certain constraints that we would not tolerate. For example, one of the five parts of the mandate required Drummond to simply balance the Ontario budget by 2017-18, another one, was to ensure sustainable revenues once the budget was balanced, and a third explicitly warned against recommending privatization of health care or education. See what I mean? A Libertarian approach would have given such a Commission a much wider scope of action. Everything would be on the table, with the view to reduce and limit the size of government rather than just balance revenues and expenses.

But the Drummond report is important because it acknowledges that there is a serious fiscal problem in Ontario, that there is an elephant in the room that no one had acknowledged during the election campaign but us.

Drummond himself suggests that his report needs to be swallowed whole; otherwise, the fiscal problem will persist, endanger Ontario's economy, credit rating, and future. Even so, Drummond was pre-empted by Premier McGuinty and Finance Minister Duncan both refusing to touch the ill-conceived full-day kindergarten program, which is destroying free market daycare, and the ten-percent hydro bill rebate gimmick. Both of these were among the cuts in Drummond's 362 recommendations. Minister Duncan hints that the 2012 spring budget statement will more than address the Drummond report. We'll see.

Media commentators and publications have already come out supporting the Drummond report. Our position needs to be that the Drummond report is a turn in the right direction, but not yet a first step. Drummond only addresses the deficit, not the debt, which is the third largest component of government spending. We must remain consistent to our principles. The statist parties must eventually move towards our position and it will appear that our position is more credible than theirs was. That, combined with a campaign that offers better services and more jobs in Ontario, might give us traction with the media and increase our popular appeal.

Allen blogs at <http://thebrightlibertarian.blogspot.com>

Good Luck Greg - Party Chairman Resigns

It is a pleasure to have met so many other rational people. It has kept me sane just to know that the whole country isn't left wing moochers and looters. It has been an honour to serve in the party and have been elected to the executive. I have gained and experienced tremendous personal and intellectual growth during my time with the party.

I have however, been faced with a really tough decision. I have been offered a position with a considerable salary in B.C. This party means so much to me but I had to make the decision based on financial considerations alone. I am not sure exactly how long I will be out there but I am guessing about two years. Hopefully that means I will be back before the next election but with a minority government it is hard to say.

This also means that I, unfortunately, will not be able to fulfill my duties as Chairman. We have put together a winning team on the executive with Allen Small as leader and so many other intelligent, hard working people. It is my sincere hope that the success and growth we have had will continue in my absence. If I am back before the next election I would like to continue to represent liberty as a candidate. In the future when I am back in Ontario permanently I hope the party will consider nominating me for chairman again. However at this time there are better options the party has for chairman since I will not be able to give the position the time and effort it deserves if I am not living in the province. It is therefore my deepest regret that this letter will serve as my official resignation.

Greg Pattinson

Internet Bills Pose Continued Threat to Canadian's Liberty of Expression

by Todd Howe

Federal buffoonery spiked recently around the February introduction of Bill C-30, cynically titled the "Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act". Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, stood in the house to accuse a member opposite of being with the bill or with the predators (or words to that effect). Oddly enough, the bill itself makes no reference to children, and on the heels of a massive public outcry has since disappeared into committee. Internationally and most particularly in the US, similar initiatives are in the pipeline with SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and its predecessor DOPA (Delete Online Predators Act), a fight publicized by website Wikipedia when it went dark in protest on January 18th sparking global controversy.

The real story is in how these bills (C-30, C-11) could trammel privacy and restrict access to knowledge and expression online. Those on both sides say the stakes are high - Open Media, an organization leading the charge against the bills claim "media conglomerates are lobbying for internet lockdown powers". They quote Canada research chair Michael Geist on the new powers sought, including website blocking and extrajudicial internet termination. The very ability to post links to content - the building block of the Internet's power to host public dialogue, libertarian or otherwise, is being questioned by a state-corporate compact. Conservatives may identify with alliances of that sort, but libertarians maintain a commitment to individual rights and should oppose these bills. To learn more, visit openmedia.ca/lockdown

Health Care in Ontario

By Adam Hyde

Overview

A society in which all individuals have equal access to medical care regardless of their socio-economic standing is often viewed as a fair and ideal system. In the early 1960's, the Government of Canada implemented a universal health care system, which changed the way Canadian and Ontarian residents received health care. Although Canadians and Americans share similar cultural backgrounds, morals and values, Canadians often differentiate themselves from Americans by their health care system. Canadians pride themselves on the notion that everyone has equal access to quality health care, even the very poor whereas it is often believed that the United States cannot make a similar claim.

The pride of having free health care is often a defining characteristic of Canadian values. However, is there such a thing as free health care? As I child, like many other Canadians, I was told by teachers, parents and other adults that Canada was the best country in the world and we should be proud of the fact that we don't have to pay for medical care.

As a teenager, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel the world extensively and as a young adult, I was able to live in two countries that don't have a completely universal health care and for some reason, the quality of care that I received was far better than in Canada.

The Myth of Free Health Care

The reality is that doctors, nurses and other health care workers need to be paid for their services in order to pay for the cost of living like any other member of society. Medicine, maintenance of hospitals and clinics, medical research and medical equipment all require substantial finances. In order to provide these services, Ontario tax payers spent an average of \$3,600 per person in Fiscal 2010 to finance a system that most people agree is crumbling. To express it another way, out of every tax dollar collected, almost 50 cents was spent on health care.

It is no secret that health care is underfunded in Ontario. Wait times coupled with inadequate medical attention are the most common complaints even by proponents of universal health care. To respond to this ever growing crisis, the Government of Ontario has increased taxes. Although Ontarians pay some of the lowest medical fees per person in Canada, rising living costs, an underperforming economy and tax increases at every level of government are forcing more families to seek social assistance, which ironically is also funded by tax payers.

With the aging Baby Boom Generation, it is estimated that the Government of Ontario could be allocating 80% of all taxes collected towards medical care within the next 15 years thus, leaving very little left over to fund other government programs.

Recent Issues in Niagara

While wait times and poor customer service continue to be an issue across Ontario, the c. difficile epidemic claimed almost 40 lives in fiscal 2011. Two hospitals in the Southern Region of Niagara (Fort Erie and Port Colborne) have closed in the last few years, forcing residents in those areas to travel longer distances to receive medical attention for serious ailments. There have been a few reported deaths for emergency patients who were unable to get medical attention in time from Southern Niagara.

Recent Personal Experience

In late January of 2012, my wife had a skating accident and hurt her wrist. Since we both despise the level of service we receive every time either of us visits a Walk-In-Clinic or hospital, she decided to not to go to the hospital on the day of the injury in hopes that it was not a serious injury.

The following day, her wrist was swollen and she was unable to move her wrist. Begrudgingly, we decided to go to the local Walk-in-Clinic, where we were told that she would have to go to the Emergency Ward at Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls. Upon our arrival, we were told in a stern voice to sit down and wait. 4 hours later, she had received an X-Ray and was simply told that it was not broken. As she was throbbing in pain, I assumed that she would have been offered a pain killer however it was not to be. She was not even given a prescription and was told to ice her wrist. Although neither of us are doctors, it doesn't take a doctor to know when one is in pain.

The most irritating part of our experience was the fact that we were told that her health card was invalid, but the administrative staff did not know why. We were told that she would have to pay for the visit. I reminded the staff that we were already paying for this experience.

Two days after the whole ordeal, I called the Ministry of Health and discovered that since we had moved in 2010, the address on her health card had not been updated and they couldn't verify if she was still living in Ontario. Even though my wife and I have lived together in Canada for close to 3 years, I personally have never had the same issue. Obviously my biggest concern is our health, but this administrative error was very sloppy.

Future of Medical Care in Ontario

While most Ontarians agree that health care is subpar across the province, few were willing to even talk about implementing private or semi-private care in the past. With a growing demand to aging population, a growing number of Ontarians are beginning to talk about replacing the current system or at least allowing people to purchase their own private health care insurance. Whether or not a private alternative to the universal system is accepted in Ontario, it is inevitable that the current system will collapse.

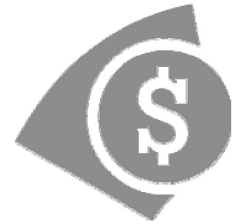
Possible Solutions

It is apparent that we must act to solve the emerging crisis of health care. A system in which doctors or private companies were able to open their own clinics would shift a lot of the burden off of the current system. Allowing patients to choose what type of coverage they would like to have would also be a way to curb spending instead of forcing everyone to pay for the same type of service through taxation.

Opponents to private health care often argue that the poor would suffer without a regulated universal system, which is actually quite the contrary. Allowing a free market would create an abundance of choice for patients in Ontario as well as a self-regulating system in which clinics or hospitals that provided poor service would go bankrupt. To simplify this further, let's use the travel industry as example. With relatively few regulations compared to other industries, travel agencies are able to set competitive rates and due to the abundance of travel agencies are forced to compete for clients. By taking the government out of the equation, everyone benefits.

2011 Annual Financial Report, By Jim McIntosh, Treasurer

INCOME	January 1 - December 31				Budget	
	2010	2011	Notes	Difference	2011	2012
Donations - Cash/Cheques	12,380.36	13,404.01	1	1,023.65		
Goods & Services	8,233.22	5,487.25	2	-2,745.97		
Elections - Cash/Cheques	-	7,053.88	3	7,053.88		
Election - Goods & Services	-	631.00	2	631.00		
Other Election Income	-	121.36	4	121.36		
Interest Income	62.02	78.95	5	16.93		
Social Functions, General Collections	21.00	76.00	6	55.00		
Other Income	130.00	303.22	7	173.22		
TOTAL INCOME	20,826.60	27,155.67		6,329.07		
EXPENSES						
	2010	2011	Notes	Difference	2011	2012
Audit	2,812.00	2,656.00	11	156.00		
Advertising	1,450.76	664.68	12	786.08	1,000	1,000
Bank Charges	531.32	610.55	13	-79.23	400	400
Brochures, Newsletter	1,002.96	1,399.60	14	-396.64	500	1,000
Election Campaign Expenses	942.09	6,404.09	15	-5462.00		500
Fund Raising Expenses	-	75.94	16	-75.94	800	200
Insurance & Utilities	1,235.52	1,292.76	17	-57.24	1,300	1,300
Meetings Hosted	4,188.64	3,638.92	18	549.72	3,000	3,500
Office & Equipment Rental	138.60	149.16	19	-10.56	150	150
Office Supplies	584.52	1,457.37	20	-872.85	1,000	1,500
Postage & Courier	1,182.98	2,273.63	21	-1,090.65	1,700	1,700
Professional Fees	1,956.00	2,432.00	22	-476.00	2,000	2,000
Telephone	949.03	1,015.61	23	-66.58	1,000	1,000
Travel Expenses	5,522.00	2,023.17	24	3,498.83		
Web and Internet	189.41	226.38	25	-36.97	400	400
Other Expenses	-	655.00	26	-655.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,685.83	26,974.86		-4,289.03	13,250	14,650
INCOME - EXPENSES	-1,859.23	180.81		-2,040.04		
Bank Balance January 1	10,878.90	9,175.67		-1,703.23		
Accounts Payable at January 1	-2,500.00	-2,656.00				
Accounts Payable at December 31	2,656.00	4,012.00				
Bank Balance at December 31	9,175.67	10,712.48		1,536.81		



NOTES

- 2 Audit and most travel expenses are Contributed Goods and Services
- 11 Annual Audit Fee is \$4,000 less Elections Ontario Subsidy which increased in 2009 to \$1488 from \$1344.
- 12 2011 Budget includes \$700 for Manning Conference and \$300 approved for a "Libertarian" banner (Jan 10/10).
- 13 2011 includes \$301.89 for PayPal (3.3% of \$9,149.65) and \$350.19 for VISA (19.0% on \$1,847)
- 14 2011 includes \$670 to print 1,625 *Bulletins* (vs Budget of \$500), \$535 for unused election pamphlet shells, and \$147 to print 1,000 mastheads for *Bulletin*. (Mailed *Bulletin* costs \$1.29 each)
2012 budget includes allowance for fewer printed copies of *Bulletin* (more emailed) and info pamphlets.
- 15 No By-elections in 2011. Assume one in 2012.
- 16 2011 includes purchase of 15 books and 15 CD sets by M Cloud (\$65.77), plus printing renewal notices (\$10.17)
2012 budget provides for quick turnaround when opportunities arise.
- 18 2012 Budget includes AGM (\$1,600), Caucus Meeting (\$500) and Executive Meetings (\$900)
plus motion at Sept 19/10 meeting to add \$500 for a meeting on Crown Land Patent Grants.
- 21 2011 includes \$1,034 for mailing *Bulletin*. 2012 assumes \$750 for *Bulletin* (20% emailed), plus \$300 miscellaneous, plus \$650 for fundraising.
- 22 2012 Budget includes \$600 for folding and mailing *Bulletin*, \$1,400 for (contributed) Web Site services
- 24 2011 includes trips by the Leader to Ottawa and Hamilton.
- 25 2012 Budget includes Web Site (\$200) and Meetup subscription charges (\$200).
- 26 Embroidering logo on Golf Shirt

Items not covered in this budget must be approved by the Executive under separate motions.