

libertarian bulletin

Newsletter
of the Ontario
Libertarian Party

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Bulletin Vol. 32 No. 4
Summer 2012
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liberty Summer Seminar July 28 - 29

This will be the twelfth annual Liberty Summer Seminar.
Registration opens June 1. For details visit
<http://liberalstudies.ca/events/>

Word on the Street 2012 Operation: Politically Homeless Sunday September 23, 11am-6pm

The Ontario Libertarian Party has a booth reserved at Word on the Street (WOTS) in Toronto. This will be our fourth year at WOTS representing the Party. For more than 20 years, WOTS has attracted thousands of educated, affluent, professionally influential individuals from across Toronto and the GTA – mostly women (71%). Is it possible that among this group some may support the libertarian cause? That's what we are attempting to find out.

A small group of Libertarian volunteers will supervise the booth giving out our literature (like the Bulletin), and presenting the World's Smallest Political Quiz to selected candidates under Operation Politically Homeless. You can come out and help. There is no charge, and if you able, your support would be appreciated.

Contact: info@libertarian.on.ca OR call 416-283-7589
or Toll Free - 1-855-ONT-LIBerty (1-855-668-5423)

Who knows, you might even pick up a good book, cheap! Our booth is located at St. Joseph's St. and Queen's Park Cres. Taking transit is a good idea. The Word On The Street Exhibits will be located on Queen's Park and Queen's Park Crescent and open to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. During festival hours, the site will be closed to all vehicular traffic.



**Liberty Now - The Canadian
Liberty Fest**
Saturday November 3, 2012, 9am-5pm
Victoria College, University of Toronto
91 Charles Street West, Toronto, ON

Liberty Now is a festival promoting freedom, liberty and individual rights. Ideas are the most powerful forces in our society. Restoring
(continued, over)

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

HAMILTON - Saturday June 16, 7:00 PM

Third Saturday of each month The Snooty Fox, 1011 King Street West, Hamilton.; (Phone 905-689-8196) We will be discussing plans to create a riding association. Help plan activities and fundraising events. Be sure to bring a friend. For more info contact Glenn Langton (glangton3@cogeco.ca, 905-689-1896). Next pub night is July 21.

ST. CATHARINES – Meeting in Hamilton (see above)

Contact Adam Hyde if you would like a ride (adam@niagarafallstours.com or 905-356-6359) Time and location of next meeting in St. Catharines to be determined. Let Adam know if you would like to have a meeting in St. Catharines or Niagara Falls.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO - Thursday June 21, 7:00 PM

Third Thursday of each month Benny's Restaurant, 183 Weber Street North, Waterloo (519-884-8074). With the resignation of the sitting MPP, there will be a by-election within 6 months. Allan Detweiler has agreed to be our candidate. Come along and meet Allan and discuss political issues, platform, strategy, and election plans. 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 July 19.

STOUFFVILLE - Wednesday June 27, 6:00 PM

Fourth Wednesday of each month The Lion of Stouffville, 5917 Main St (905-642-1344) Come meet other libertarians in a friendly atmosphere and discuss the government-created issues of the day. We meet in the dining room. Order dinner and/or drinks and pay your own tab. 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 July 25.

TORONTO - Wednesday July 11, 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 August 1.

OTTAWA - TBD

Wally's Bar & Bistro, 2532 Innes Road, Blackburn Hamlet (east Ottawa, plenty of free parking, main bus route, minutes from hwy 417 exits, full menu & bar, etc.). I hope to see you there. There is no charge for the meeting. Just pay for your own food and drink. For more information contact Dave Paul (jp_dashco@yahoo.com or 613-824-5907). Next pub night TBA.

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.

(from page 1)

true individual freedom means to restore peace, prosperity and stability. Sound money, free markets, non-aggression and the downsizing of government are the first steps in this direction. A variety of speakers will be featured throughout the day. The themes will be split up into two categories: IDEAS and ACTION.

For details and to register, visit Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/events/340831322642197/> Tickets and more information will be available on the website in early July. The website will be www.libertynow.ca when it becomes active in early July.

2012 Annual General Meeting
Sunday November 4, 10am-5pm
Victoria College Alumni Hall, Room 112
University of Toronto
91 Charles Street West, Toronto, ON

This will be a continuation of the June 10 Caucus Meeting. We hope to present and discuss our election platform at the AGM and provide training for candidates. We will also elect two Members-at-Large and two members of the Ethics Committee.

View from the Fringe: A Course Correction
by Allen Small, Leader

I met Bruce Evoy in 1966. I was still in high school and he was a secondary school teacher in Scarborough. He was introduced as Marshall Bruce Evoy, by a school chum, that's how I came to know him; he was always the gentleman, always well dressed, a good role model.

I had recently read Atlas Shrugged and Bruce drove my friend and I to the local Objectivist Group meetings in Toronto. The meetings of course were interesting, but after a while, I found them difficult to tolerate. Not for philosophical reasons but because of the smokers, the air in those meetings was so thick with smoke my clothes reeked by the time I got home. Reluctantly I stopped going to the meetings and instead I subscribed to The Objectivist Newsletter, a thin green and white booklet edited by Ayn Rand herself.

By the early 1970's I had lost touch with Bruce Evoy, the Objectivist group, and I cancelled my subscription to Rand's newsletter. My job became priority number one, teaching in a high school very near to where Bruce Evoy taught, but we never met again.

In 1975, Bruce Evoy along with others formed the Ontario Libertarian Party (OLP) just three years after the U.S. Libertarian Party was formed. That fall was the first time Libertarians ran for election in Ontario.

That was 37 years ago. Thirty-seven years is a long time. In that time I raised a family, had a career, and now my son is raising his family. Ontario Libertarians took part in eleven general elections in that time; their best showing was 1990, with 0.6% of the popular vote. In the recent 2011 election, it was 0.45% of the popular vote.

During those years, I can recall that my local newspaper actually mentioned a Libertarian candidate in my riding twice (before I came along); I voted for him both times (Jay Miller), but I did not have an interest in politics, even though I was critical of virtually

everything government did. I am a news junkie, and I held pretty tightly to Objectivist principles. I had read Rand's pronouncement against libertarians, but by then that did not matter to me. I would have noticed any reference to libertarians or the OLP if it had occurred in the news. I certainly was aware of the American Libertarian party via the U.S. media.

Had the OLP been more visible over the years, I might have become an earlier supporter and maybe others would have, too. Political parties cannot play peek-a-boo with the public, coming out only at elections. To gain support a political party must gain recognition, and to gain recognition it must be credible enough to gain support. The OLP must be visible and credible to be recognized. It's a chicken and egg problem. For most Canadians back then and up to the present day, Libertarians do not exist, at least not on their political radar.

Back then, gaining superficial recognition through advertisements was expensive. It's not any cheaper now, but the Internet has altered the entrance fee. Information now spreads in a totally new and more egalitarian way. Money is no longer the barrier it was.

That leaves credibility, and unfortunately, this is where the OLP fails, at least in the eyes of voters and the media.

When I joined the OLP I went along with the idea that we can attract new members, grow slowly, and exert influence, somehow. The hope was, with education, a critical mass of libertarians will form, and society will change. The problem is life and elections don't work that way. Most of the time, people view politics as a sideshow, not that important in their life. When people vote they momentarily notice the sideshow, but they vote according to their immediate self-interest or against something they don't want. They don't take the time to be educated, because most don't see it as important. Education doesn't work. Even libertarians may abstain or vote for a lesser evil in an election. We, as a party are not likely to attract many voters that way and political issues have become too complex.

The way to attract voters is to attract media attention, become part of the sideshow. The media may notice us if we present a coherent platform on the important issues, one that is not weak on specifics, one that they can encapsulate and turn into news. It's the media that gets educated and they will distill ideas for the electorate to consume. We need to focus on the media.

Of course, to get media attention and credibility in their view, we also need to run as close to a full slate of candidates as possible. Offering a platform that is acceptable, and saleable, to the media will attract candidates too.

Once the media notice us that lends more credibility and deserved or not, credibility leads to support and eventual recognition by the electorate. This is not guaranteed, but someone needs to be dressed for the mainstream to be treated as mainstream. If we present fringe policies, we will remain on the fringe.

That doesn't mean we toss out our principles. Politics is like a football game, the ball needs to move down the field to reach the goal line. Every yard in the right direction is a victory.

Principles or Pragmatism

By Jim McIntosh, Treasurer

In the past, the Party has tended to campaign on our principles, arguing that government should not be involved in education, health care, auto insurance, rent controls, or whatever the latest infringement on liberty the other parties were promoting. Our objective was to attract people who identified with our principles but who had no idea we existed, in hopes that they would join and help us or at least vote for us. That was my situation back in the 1970s, and I've been working for the party ever since, running as a federal or provincial candidate about ten times, and working as Treasurer for the last 17 years.

However many of our newer candidates and members believe it isn't enough to present our principles and objectives. They believe we need a platform that has more answers about how a Libertarian society would work, and how we would get from here to there. They want to be able to answer the question, "What would you do if you formed the government tomorrow?" They believe if our platform has answers to these kinds of questions, we will get more votes, maybe win a seat or two sometime soon. They argue that we should campaign on allowing private health insurance companies to compete with the government plan. We should provide education vouchers to parents so they can send their children to the school of their choice, government-run or private. This is what I refer to as the pragmatic approach. Since our motto is "The Party of Choice" it might make sense to offer people a choice between the government-run system and a private system. Of course, they still won't have a choice about paying for the government-run system.

So what's wrong with a strategy that offers choice to the voters? For starters, it loses sight of our real objective, a libertarian society, where people understand that the force of government should not be used to take from some to give to others, or to coercively regulate activities in a way to limit competition and favour the well connected. Offering them a middle way does not get that message out. The choice we want to offer is a party of principle, not a party seeking power.

Will this pragmatic strategy get us more votes? I suppose it might get us 2% instead of 1%. But will it motivate people to join and support us? If we don't have a lot more volunteers working for each of our candidates, we aren't going to win many more votes, let alone a seat any time soon. When we do have lots of volunteers, it will be an indication that public opinion is moving towards our principles. But how will they know what our principles are if we water them down with compromise solutions? Let's face it; we aren't going to convert voters during an election, especially with glossy pamphlets with snappy platform planks. The best we can do is let more people know we exist and what we stand for. Converting people to libertarianism is a slow process that happens one-on-one between elections. Elections are simply one part of our education strategy. They are an opportunity to get our name in front of voters. Our best target audience is the people who don't vote because they don't know of any party that promises less government. And we aren't going to reach many of them during an election.

Besides, the questions about what we would do and how we would get there are impossible to answer; it isn't going to happen in the short term or even the medium term. At best we will be able to influence the party in power to move closer to our objectives, but

only if we are clear on what they are. This is how the NDP accomplished many of their objectives. They have lots of supporters who believe socialism is the way to improve the lot of the world. We want the same thing, except we know that free markets and personal responsibility are the way to do it. We need a lot more supporters than we have now.

Instead of offering compromises, we should be offering *better health care* for our parents and *better education* for our children by eliminating the government monopolies. We want a *better standard of living* for all by reducing the burden of taxation and regulation. Imagine what life would be like if you weren't forced to pay more in taxes than you spend on food, shelter and clothing combined.

Instead of worrying about the content of our election pamphlets, we should be worrying about how to get more people to *read them*. A pamphlet stuck in someone's mail box has a very small chance of being read. We need to get more candidates and their volunteers to knock on doors and give people a reason to at least look at our pamphlets. When I campaigned, I would introduce myself as the Libertarian candidate, and say something like, "Libertarians believe we need a lot less government and much lower taxes. I hope you read this [handing them a pamphlet] and if you agree, I hope you will vote for me." That has to at least double the chances it won't go straight into the recycling bin.

Ron Paul has had huge success with his principled stand in favour of limited constitutional government. He doesn't explain how the US will get from here to there; he explains why it will be better if we go there. We need to learn from him and others how to answer the challenges that the statist throw at us.

Property Rights and Our Constitution (Part 1)

by Jean-Serge Brisson

I have been paying special attention to the Ontario Landowners Association for the past year because outside of the Ontario and Canadian libertarian parties, they are the closest organization I have been able to find which is actively devoted to one thing, property rights.

The OLA has been around now for 7 years and has been a watchdog on various government agencies and the governments that regulate them who (if left unchecked) would diminish if not obliterate property rights. They have made incredible strides by exposing new criteria and government intentions to control private property. They have been advancing the case for protecting property, but most of all, in the past three years the OLA has been promoting "Crown Land Patent Grants." This is a piece of our history and also a very important legal process which unfortunately, piece by piece of legislation, has slowly been removed from our knowledge of land ownership and how we transfer property rights when land is dealt between two people. The history of CLPG is simple.

Since 1763, whenever the King or Queen of England granted a piece of land to a soldier or settler who would establish themselves in Canada, the deed to the land was made through a CLPG. This was the name of the contract that was issued when the Crown was "giving away" land to new settlers. These grants are Canada wide. Elizabeth Marshall, the sole researcher on this topic, is not

only raising the interest of members of the OLA and those looking into the group, but also attention and criticism from politicians, bureaucrats, media and yes, lawyers.

The details that can be "read" in the CLPG explain why this information needed to disappear from our language and knowledge base; it would defeat the agendas of special interest groups and certain government agencies. When land was given by the Crown in a CLPG contract, the terms stated that the owner would own it "outright" and could do what they wanted with their land as they saw fit, "Forever." The only restrictions the King or Queen kept in case of war or extreme need was the rights to the white pine, in order to build ships, and the gold, silver and other such metals. Other than that, all that was on AND under the land was the deed holder's property, "Forever." These Land Grants cannot be changed once given by the King or Queen, as they are out of the control and regulations of the Federal and Provincial government unless one of the previous owners dealt away some of his right on the land, or with expropriation, but that is another story.

The rule that applied to this piece of land was that the owner could do whatever they wanted with their land, providing that it did not affect the capacity of the neighbors to enjoy their land also. The libertarian golden rule is applied to CLPG. When this information first came out, the membership of the OLA had a hard time believing it. But there it was in black and white for anyone to see in a certified copy of the Patent. Now we do not see the definition of property rights in our Charter. This has led some politicians to push for having property rights included in the Charter. Those who are either criticizing or dismissing CLPG or are pushing to include property rights in the Charter, need to look at Section 26 of the Charter and read the side notes. It says any rights that existed prior to this charter are not affected.

This is an important part of how our Constitution works as it is separate from the Charter. It means that CLPG is a law on its own, exclusive from the Charter. The Charter has no jurisdiction over CLPG just like the division of powers between the Federal and Provincial governments in the BNA Act, who have no jurisdiction over each other, yet work together.

Now many might think that CLPGs are only good for rural people with large pieces of land, but you would be wrong. Anyone who owns property, whether a foot square or 15,000 acres, has the same protection under a CLPG, no matter what the size of land they own. As the various pieces of deeded land were broke up to sell to smaller landowners, the same right as the original deed followed the new properties.

We need to pay close attention to this newly rediscovered piece of history because Dalton's government has started a process to destroy a lot of the information locked away in land registry offices. This would prevent the information on these Patents to be recovered to counter the allegation that the provincial and municipal governments have a higher jurisdiction over a piece of land than the owner who holds a certified copy of his Crown Land Patent Grant.

Part two to follow in next issue.

MEDIA FILES

First Candidate for Kitchener-Waterloo by-election

Waterloo, ON - It is my pleasure to introduce to you today the candidate for the Ontario Libertarian Party in Kitchener-Waterloo, Allan Dettweiler.

Allan was born in Kitchener and has lived in Waterloo County/Region most of his life. He was a Candidate for the Ontario Libertarian Party in Cambridge-North Dumfries in the recent provincial election. Allan has a grown family, is self-employed, and has deep roots in this area that reach back to some of the earliest settlers in Waterloo County.

The stage has been set for an election in Kitchener-Waterloo. This happened immediately after Dalton McGuinty's backroom Budget deal with NDP leader Andrea Horwath that has allowed the Liberals to cling to power.

For the past 9 years, the McGuinty Liberals have mismanaged Ontario's affairs. In that time, the Liberals have pandered to the public sector unions in an effort to increase their voter base.

Instead of living within our means, the Liberals, even more than previous governments have borrowed heavily, almost doubling Ontario's debt since coming to power. This combined with the world wide financial crisis and recessionary times have prompted ratings agencies to downgrade Ontario's debt. That means that the banks are concerned that our province will not meet its debt obligations. This will actually make borrowing more expensive, and servicing the debt is already Ontario's third largest annual expense.

Aside from mismanaging Ontario's finances, the Liberals have mismanaged electricity production, increased corporate welfare, failed to improve education or health care given the amount of additional money spent. I won't even get into the previous and ongoing scandals, like eHealth and ORNGE. All of these issues have been detailed in recent reports from the Auditor General, and the Drummond Commission.

The election of Allan Dettweiler, would give Libertarians the balance of power and be the only true voice for fiscal restraint in the provincial legislature. Libertarians advocate for better, faster healthcare, improved educational outcomes, and cheaper more secure electricity production by allowing competitive choices in all these areas. Competition would lower prices; eventually reducing government expenses and as a result, taxes. Ontario's taxpayers would have more economic freedom allowing for the expansion of the private sector and improving opportunities for working people.

The Ontario Libertarian Party has been a registered political party since 1975. We advocate property rights, limited government, and voluntary interactions within communities between individuals and groups. - Allen Small