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Annual General Meeting

November 1, 2015 - by Rob Brooks

This annual event was held at Monte Carlo Inn in Markham, a real nice hotel with great service and yummy food. 27 people attended and the day's agenda was jam packed. It started with Allen giving us an inspiring and uplifting presentation on where we are and how far we have come. From 25 candidates in 2007, to 51 in 2011, to 73 in 2014 and on the road to a full slate which may very well be achieved in 2018 (see page 2). Our Treasurer Jim gave us a rosy financial picture.

Then we were treated to presentations from two highly qualified communications experts - Gerry Nicholls (live) and TJ Walker (via Skype from New York City) - both amazing.

It was great to meet some people for the first time - Craig Hodgins, architect of our 2011 campaign, George Dance former Leader and angel, Heath Thomas and everybody else. Our newest and latest bright light, Katerina Androutsos, was there and also another up and comer Damien Wilson. The rest of the faithful crew was there and we all just shared the unspoken words with a nod and a wink - kind of like Newman and Redford in the movie *The Sting* - "we are almost there - we just have to keep at this a little longer."

We held elections (see page 4) and had a strategy discussion about running as a candidate and elections in general. At one point somebody asked "who is ready to be a candidate in 2018" and I believe all but 1 or 2 people had both hands in the air. What an amazing day. I don't have pictures, but maybe Paolo Fabrizio does.

The key message that came out of the event is that we have a small but very strong base of support and this in spite of an awareness level of around 10%. This means 90% of people have no clue we even exist or what we stand for in simple terms. So that is our contin-

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Editor: Jim McIntosh

Libertarian Pub Nights and Events

Ottawa Pub Meeting – December 6, 2-4 PM (1st Sunday of each month) - O'Brien's Eatery and Pub, 1145 Heron Road. Everyone welcome. For more information contact Damien Wilson, j.damien.wilson@gmail.com. Next meeting is January 3, 2015

Toronto Pub Night - Wednesday December 9, 7:00 PM (2nd Wednesday of each month) - Granite Brewery and Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Avenue East at Mt. Pleasant Rd. For more information email Jim McIntosh (cfo@libertarian.on.ca) or phone him at 416-283-7589. The next Pub Night is Wednesday January 13.

Guelph Pub Night - Friday December 11, 7:00 PM (2nd Friday of each month) - Bobby O'Brien's, 90 Macdonell St, Guelph. See www.facebook.com/LocalsForLiberty. RSVP to Andrew Donovan (cellphone 519-362-7660). The next Pub Night is January 8.

Kitchener-Waterloo Pub Night - Thursday December 17, 7:00 PM (3rd Thursday each month) - Benny's Family Restaurant 183 Weber St. N., Waterloo. RSVP to Paul Herriot (519-208-8379 or paulforfreedom@outlook.com) so he can reserve a large-enough table. The next Pub Night is January 21.

Hamilton Pub Night – December 19, 7:00 PM (3rd Saturday of each month) - FLA Cafe & Bar 660 Barton St E Hamilton. Contact RobertYoungHBS@yahoo.ca for more information. Next meeting January 16.

St. Catharines-Niagara - TBA - If you would like to get together with other libertarians in this area, contact Robert Paugh, robert.paugh.01@gmail.com

If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, please contact Jim McIntosh by email (cfo@libertarian.on.ca) or phone 1-855-ONT-LIBerty.

For the latest, visit http://www.libertarian.on.ca/pub_nights

uing challenge - not to endlessly try to redefine and repackage liberty - but to present it professionally and simply, to get it into the eyes and thinking of people, many that are already sold. We are the next party in line to break-through. I can hardly wait!

Everybody left with a full stomach and lots of buttons and other promotional items to take back to their home ridings.

Thanks to Jim and Allen and anyone else that organized this memorable event.

Leader's Report to the Annual General Meeting - by Allen Small

Welcome to you all and I'm very appreciative of those of you that have travelled a long distance to get here this morning, and thanks for your continued support.

The most important political event that happened in the past year was the federal election that delivered to us a possibly more socialist and authoritarian government with a smiley face and fresh sunny ways, that we may all regret in time. We'll see. "Happy days are here again." I heard that on CBC radio last Sunday morning. The good news of this majority Liberal government is there will be no federal election until the fall of 2019 barring any catastrophe, so we can concentrate our troops on Ontario.

That federal election was *soooo long*, one of our boys, Darren Roskam, was able to run a campaign within a campaign. Darren was the federal candidate for the new riding of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte, and he also managed to run in the Patrick Brown Simcoe-North provincial by-election, and he did it within the federal election time period. That may be a record, one candidate, and two simultaneous election campaigns. Darren deserves our respect for his efforts, a lot of credit and our thanks.

For Libertarians across Canada I'm convinced that the momentum created by the Ontario party in our 2011 and more so the 2014 election campaigns, helped propel our Federal colleagues to the impressive levels they have not seen in 27 years. It's our job today, and over the next 31 months to continue to build on that momentum.

So, like the Blue Jays, we in the Ontario Party have had a good year, but we had no headlines, no homeruns; mostly what happened was essential behind the scenes stuff.

I've been fortunate to be a part of a very active Executive committee team this year. Much of that was due to our party secretary, Peter Sodhi. Peter introduced me to the term 'K P I' (Key Performance Indicator). Peter is in marketing and sales with a major software company, and he helped us structure an organized approach to growing the party membership. That is our primary objective in the run-up to the 2018 election. We set specific goals and used key indicators to measure achievement. We met as a group in person several times, and many, many times online, to track and tweak our progress. I think each of us in the Executive Committee agrees it's that kind of organization and dedication to the details that will deliver a successful outcome for us in 2018.

One of the results of the 2014 election was that we had candidates in over 68% of Ontario ridings. That

meant we theoretically could form a government, and that changed our relationship with Elections Ontario. We are now required by law to have an electronic database to record contributions and issue tax credit receipts, and Elections Ontario needed to approve it. Phillip Richard, our chairperson, took on the task of complying with the new demands of the Elections Finances Act, and working together with Jim McIntosh our CFO, those requirements were approved just this week. Phillip also tweaked various aspects of our CRM (Customer Relations Management software), which is the way we keep track of and interact with our membership online. He also overhauled the way we send emails to our members – all this was essential stuff.

I should also mention that we have been able to interact with anywhere from 10,000 to 40,000 people on our Facebook page on a weekly basis. That, I'm certain, will pay dividends for us in 2018.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing for us this year. We lost our deputy leader over a policy issue. Our campaign director, Scott Marshall, left for health reasons but has continued to help us whenever we ask. The deputy leader position will remain vacant until the next Convention in 2017, but I hope we can fill the campaign directors position today.

So that's a brief look at what happened over the year. What's next? Clearly we're still not close to that libertarian utopia, where a grass roots movement of libertarians will rise up and take over the government and leave everyone else alone. Not even close. The evidence from the recent and previous elections is plain to see, a large plurality of people think government and more government is the solution to all our problems and "in Canada, *we can do better*," according to Trudeau Two.

Sadly, there is no grass roots movement of libertarians now, and likely never will be. Even in American elections the Libertarian Party gets just 1% of the popular vote. If we use our own data from the 2014 June election and extrapolate it out, we also get 1%.

Most ordinary people don't have a clue about how politics affects their lives until it does, so they don't care 95% of the time. They're concerned with their own lives, and who can blame them. Those same people, the voters, have no coherent view of public policy, or economics, or personal freedom, or human nature, or basic science, and how all of those may be related in politics.

Worse than that, I believe that's also true about libertarians. I read this about libertarians somewhere and I think its true especially of the kind of stuff I see in

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our Facebook group discussions: Quote -“We need to stop making ‘the better’ the enemy of ‘the best’ and cease complaining that the former commits the unpardonable sin of ‘compromising on principle.’” By definition – if you’re a real libertarian, advocating anything short of the night watchman state “compromises on principle,” and the night watchman state (the minarchist view of government - the view that I hold – that the only legitimate function of government, is the police, courts, and military) is a fantasy. Let me repeat that: “We need to stop making ‘the better’ the enemy of ‘the best’ and cease complaining that the former commits the unpardonable sin of ‘compromising on principle.’” Anyone who has heard me speak about the Overton Window will understand what I’m talking about, and if you don’t know what I mean, please ask me later or look it up at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy – our friends in Michigan.

Very often I don’t agree with the average “Jane or Joe libertarian” on so many, many political issues. It could be a generational thing. I’ve learned to bite my tongue and keep quiet; unfortunately many people don’t have that same discipline, which I think, does not help our cause.

That brings me around to, what is our cause? It’s not that well defined, and it needs to be. What do we all agree on, is there anything? Well, there is one thing, and we need to be disciplined and focused laser-like on it. I used to call it limited government, but only the politically connected understand that term. We can **ALL** agree that there is just too much government; and sometimes it intrudes on the way we want to live our lives. Many people will agree with us on certain specific issues that affect them. That’s how we can bring people to our side, to vote for us. Everyone understands that sometimes government gets in the way, with too much red tape, long wait times, poor service, unjust family court decisions, high taxes, poor schools, large

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could be made into a much better places if only they could coerce all greedy, stupid, immoral, selfish, licentious, irresponsible people to behave according to their vision of goodness.

What makes a good libertarian is the recognition of the futility of these efforts. The state has never been able to create a better society. Or a better economy..... Or a better individual. Only individuals can better themselves and only society can solve society’s problems. Racism, poverty, education, tolerance, health-care should all be left to the market and civil society.

hydro bills, the Beer Store and LCBO, stupid rules, the Human Rights Commission, the WSIB, the College of Trades, the Conservation Authority, too much paper work.... and on and on and on. Everyone has a story, everyone can relate at some level on some issue. That is our wedge.

My friend, Rob Ferguson, in his federal election run in Brantford two weeks ago said at a debate “the Liberals, they’re about big government, the Conservatives, about big business, the NDP about big unions, the Greens, trees, big trees.”

What are we about? We’re about smaller government, less government. It’s the niche that we own, where we have virtually no competition, and it needs to be associated with our brand, **the party of less government**. We need to be careful though, its not enough to advocate less government for its own sake – we will be labeled as “ideological” if we just do that. We need to supply reasons, give evidence, and show cause. The good news is there is tons of empirical evidence that shows that jurisdictions with smaller governments are more prosperous, healthier, better educated, etc. etc. We need to show that getting governments out of the way can make things better, cheaper, faster.

Libertarians have been roaming in the political wilderness for over 40 years now. What we have been doing - isn’t working as well as it could. Sure, there are so many roadblocks, and that only means we need to adapt, to change tactics, to try something else.

We are the fifth largest party in Ontario. The Greens, in my opinion have had their day; their reason for being has been usurped by the NDP and the Liberals and those other two have more credibility. We actually offer something totally different from all the other parties that could become popular if we are careful with our language and our approach. It’s our time to make a breakthrough.

Thanks for listening.

The task of Libertarian parties should not be the finding of answers to various social problems but to free society and the individual to deal with them.

Neither should Libertarian parties be expected to take sides on these issues. It should not matter what libertarians think about homosexuality, drugs, guns and prostitution, gods, religion and education as long as they can stay united in their dedication to free all of these issues from the control of the state.

The message of the party should be clear: **We do not take sides on social issues. We advocate freedom, not particular outcomes.**

Read more at zorkthehun.wordpress.com

State—Individual—Society - by Zork Hun

It was asked in a libertarian Facebook conversation what the proper relationship should be between our political and personal/moral/social views. In subsequent conversations a related question was asked, “How can the party ensure the ideological consistency of its message?”

The problem behind these questions is the binary perception of the libertarian ideals. It is us versus them, the libertarians against the statist, the individualists against the collectivists, the individual against the state. Proper discussion of the third element, the role of civil society is missing from most classical libertarian literature.

The political reality of the world we live in is the result of the interactions between the individual, society and the state. In the state-society-individual trichotomy, the state is in a constant conflict with both society and individuals. The state is most effective when individuals are atomized and the different groups of society are pitted against each other. That is how the state grows. Using its power to take over the functions of civil society in a slow process of ‘divide and conquer’, a process of conferring benefits to one group at the expense of others, strengthening its position as the arbitrator of social morality.

The leftists like to conflate the notion of society with the notion of the state. When they say society, they usually mean the state. This is not by accident. The individual is not a match to the power of the state but society is. In order to be truly successful, the state must weaken society by coopting its functions. The way this is done in practice is by pretending that the state equals society. The very essence of libertarianism is the clear separation of these three spheres.

Individual rights

The most important individual right is self-ownership and EVERYTHING that grows out of it. The right to do whatever you wish with your own body. The right of ownership of the fruits of your labour. The right to freely associate with others. The right to voice your opinion. The right to conduct your business in whatever way you wish as long as you do not directly harm others in the process.

Societal functions

Society is where we interact with each other as individuals and act together as a group; where we communicate with a set of codes called language; where we exchange goods with each other called the free market; where we freely associate and decide how to accomplish certain tasks together. Society is where we help each other. Society is the realm of voluntary exchanges, interactions and associations.

Marriage is a social function, the state should have nothing to do with it. Welfare and social assistance is a social function, the state should have nothing to do with it.

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Election Results

Nominee	Nominator	Votes
* indicates “Elected”		
Campaign Director		
Rob Brooks *	GJ Haganaars	18
NOTA		0
Members at Large (2 to be elected)		
Igor Bily *	Allen Small	10
Ron White	John White	8
Damien Wilson *	GJ Haganaars	12
GJ Haganaars	Jean-Serge Brisson	8
NOTA		0
Ethics Committee (2 to be elected)		
Ron White *	Allen Small	13
Jean-Serge Brisson *	Damien Wilson	15
Sam Apelbaum	Jim McIntosh	9
NOTA		0

The Party Executive

Party Leader—Allen Small
 Deputy Party Leader—Vacant
 Chairman—Vacant (Phillip Richard resigned after AGM)
 Vice-Chairman—Mark ‘Wojo’ Wrzesniewski
 Secretary—Peter Sodhi
 Recording Secretary—John White
 Treasurer—Jim McIntosh
 Campaign Director—Rob Brooks
 Member at Large—Igor Bily, Damien Wilson
 Ethics Committee—Chester Brown (2013, 2010),
 George Dance (2013, 2010), Greg Janisse
 (2013), John Shaw (2014, 2011, 2008), Jean-
 Serge Brisson (2015), Ron White (2015)

State power

The essence of the state is the power to compel. Properly used, the state may compel the individual not to aggress against another individual. To compel social groups not to advocate or perpetrate violent acts or coerce individuals or other groups. A proper use of the power of the state may be the settling of disputes between individuals, social groups and businesses.

Social conservatism and social progressivism are insidious versions of statism, trying to use the power of the state to force their social norms onto the whole of society. The problem is not just the coercion, but the conflicts that it creates.

What makes both the left and the right equally dangerous is their good intentions. Both the left and the right want to use the power of the state to do ‘good’ according to their own ideals. Both sides believe that this world

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