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Editor: Jim McIntosh

Libertarian Pub Nights and Events

Toronto Pub Night - Wednesday December 14, 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 11. .

Kitchener-Waterloo Pub Night - Thursday January 19, 7:00 PM (3rd Thursday each month) - Benny's Family Restaurant 183 Weber St. N., Waterloo. RSVP to Paul Herriot (519-208-8379 or paul-fornfreedom@outlook.com) so he can reserve a large-enough table. The next Pub Night is February 16, 2017.

Ottawa Pub Meeting - January 8, 2-4 PM (usually 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 February 5, 2017.

Woodstock Pub Night - TBA - If you are interested in getting together with other libertarians in the area, contact Matt Radford, mradford1977@gmail.com.

Peterborough Pub Night - December 11, 12:00 PM The Black Horse Pub and Restaurant, .450 George St.N...Peterborough. Contact Jacob Currier, jakecurrier33@gmail.com or 705-808-2308.

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

2018 General Election Update

By Rob Brooks

As everybody hopefully knows, we are planning to run a full slate of candidates in the next general election in 2018. There will be 122 ridings to fill. The thinking is the election will happen first week of June 2018, but who really knows right now. A full slate would be a milestone and a historic achievement for our party.

Right now we are taking names of people that are interested in being a candidate and putting their name beside the name of their riding. The list as of now is available at: <https://libertarian.on.ca/utilities/nominations/nomination-dashboard.php>

Once we get to 122, we will do an initial assignment of people to ridings. We expect maybe 1 or 2 out of 10 will want to be an active candidate - maybe more. We haven't really asked yet who wants to run an active campaign. Just being on the ballot is the biggest thing. Lots of people will need to run in a riding where they don't actually live, although it might be close or in some cases far. Of course we want our active candidates in the riding where they live. For others it doesn't really matter as much since the goal is mainly to get on the ballot. For our active candidates, we will have a basic candidate kit and send it out to them early next year - business cards, promotional postcards, and 2 signs - the party is paying for this out of donations. For everybody else and also the active candidates, we will also start getting paperwork together. All of this will likely start happening sometime after Xmas, maybe in January or February. We are not putting any pressure on anybody. We can all help a little or a lot to achieve a great result. Later in 2016, we will be getting generic election materials ready and start distributing them, perhaps at the 2017 Convention, for use in 2018 when the election happens.

It is looking good for a full slate. We are on track.

We do need more than 122 people to offer to help make the full slate a reality. We are looking to get 122 + 40 extra people or 162 total. Things come up that cause people not to be able to run when the time comes. Always happens. Also, we are almost sure to have ridings where nobody is living and willing and other ridings where 2 or more are willing. So, we definitely need people, especially people not really wanting to be active candidates to have their name on the ballot in a near or even far neighbouring riding. We all will need to help in ways that we can to help fill in the gaps in various ways. None of it is hard. It just takes effort and time. Think of it as a half day of effort for most people. Some will do much more. Don't underestimate or overestimate the challenge. We just need to understand the challenge and get it done!

Leader's report to the Annual General Meeting — By Allen Small

The following is an abridged version of the presentation Allen Small made to the AGM.

Welcome to you all, and I'm grateful to those who travelled a long distance to get here this morning. I know how easy that isn't. Thank you for your continued support and a special welcome to those from the federal party and in particular to Tim Moen, who has travelled the greatest distance to be here.

It's very appropriate that our two parties, the ones that are strong advocates for eliminating marijuana laws, are having a **JOINT** meeting.

The Ontario Libertarian Party has had a very good year. That is despite being midway between general elections. Not only have we retained our membership base, but we have grown and gained ground. Of course that can be attributed to our greatest boosters this past year, Kathleen Wynne of the Liberals and particularly to PC leader Patrick Brown, neither of whom are present today or have even noticed us at all I'm sure.

Joking aside, there are people that need to be given credit because they're certainly not being paid for their efforts. Our party would not exist without the efforts of our CFO Jim McIntosh, who has for two decades provided us with yeoman service that is largely unseen and too often unrecognized. CFO/Treasurer is the most important job in this or any party, because it keeps us legal and solvent. The lifeblood of every political party is money, and Jim McIntosh is our pumping heart.

Our success of the past year has also been due in no small part to the behind the scenes work of Rob Brooks. From the platform development that you will see today, to tweaking our website so it works better for mobile viewing, to online tracking dashboards, CRM management, membership kits, buttons, signs, Facebook likes, video streaming – Rob's fingerprints are all over the things that are seen and unseen in the party. Hardly a day goes by that Rob and I aren't chatting about something. I literally sleep better knowing that I can count on both Jim and Rob every day.

I also have great support from the gang on our executive committee, and we get help from guys like Scott Marshall, who was responsible for the banner behind me. We have a real Graphics Team now, and Scott is a vital member.

We could always use more help, particularly from people willing to roll up their sleeves and run with ideas that they initiate, ideas that will get the party name out, ideas that can spread our message and get us votes. The party can run with just 3 or 4 people doing the daily work – like the tires on a car. And like the tires

on a car, they need to be replaced eventually. If the party is to keep running, if you think it's worth carrying on this effort, then you may wish to step up, and be there when the tires are changed. And to carry on that metaphor, we could use more tires. We are all volunteers; and speaking of volunteers, we had two by-elections this year and now two more coming. In February young Adam McEwan finished 7th out of 10 in Whitby-Oshawa, and I finished 6th out of 11 in Scarborough-Rouge River on September 1st.

Of course it is elections and collecting votes that we are all about, that is the purpose of this party. We're not going to change society into a libertarian utopia. That will never happen. If you want to try to do that, join a think tank. We are all about getting votes, getting people elected, and winning – eventually. I'm told that Liberty will not be gained through elections or voting, but it is through political action, that we plant seeds, and particularly during elections, it gives us a soapbox and exposure. That's the most we can hope for at this point.

Votes are the only objective measure of the success of a political party. So by that measure, you are looking at the most successful Libertarian Leader ever in Canada. We were 5th in Ontario in 2014, with the most votes and candidates in the party's history and I fully intend to beat that record in 2018.

The second most successful leader is Tim Moen, who will be here later.

On the day of the Libertarian BBQ last June, which was organized by our great friends Paolo and Teresa Fabrizio, we started collecting candidates for the 2018 general election. This is the first AGM that I've been to, that Paolo has not attended and he sends his regrets. Anyway, we have been collecting candidates under the watchful eye of Rob Brooks, and at this point, we have under consideration almost 100 people, a spectacular number when you realize there is more than a year and a half to go before the next election. We need 122 candidates to fill the map, a full slate, and we have a real shot. I don't need to tell you how important that milestone will be for us. Imagine a Libertarian candidate on every ballot in Ontario, a real choice for everyone, for decreasing the size and scope of government. It would even be a legitimate media story; the media might be interested in how and why we could go from just 5 candidates in 2003, to 122 in 2018.

The Scarborough Rouge River by election last month was my 5th election campaign since 2008, both federal and provincial. So I've learned a few things over

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Report from the Annual General Meeting - By Jim McIntosh

A total of 35 libertarians attended the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Libertarian Party at the Monte Carlo Inn in Markham. Another 9 people had registered but were unable to attend. George Dance served as meeting Chairman.

Leader Allen Small opened proceedings by welcoming the 23 Delegates and 12 guests. He reviewed the Party's significant progress over the past year and our plans for the coming year, as reported on page 3.

Treasurer Jim McIntosh provided copies of financial statements for 2015 and for 2016 year to date. We had \$25,449 in the bank as of September 30, 2016. He reported on Allen Small's campaign in Scarborough-Rouge River. Supporters donated \$1636 and the Party spent \$1322. Jim answered several questions about expected costs for the 2018 election and how candidates can start getting donations for their campaigns. He also announced he does not plan to stand for re-election as Treasurer at the 2018 Convention.

Campaign Director Rob Brooks reported that our prime goal is to get someone elected. Running a full slate of 122 candidates in 2018 will help by increasing our credibility. Read more about his plans and strategy on Page 1.

After a buffet lunch, Tim Moen, Leader of the Libertarian Party of Canada, spoke of the case for pessimism, including the carbon tax, minimum wage, the war on drugs, and public education. He also sees reason for optimism; the federal party plans to run a full slate in the next federal election, and it only takes 10% to create a "Tipping Point" where others will follow.

The members of the federal party elected Wendy Kadonoff as Regional Coordinators for GTA and Dean Harris as Regional Coordinators for GTA Ontario. They also defeated a motion to combine the two regions.

Allen Small led a lively discussion on 7 planks in the draft version of the 2018 election platform.

The Leader, Deputy Leader and the Executives are elected for a term of three years at Conventions. Two Members-at-Large are elected for a one-year term each year. Two members of the 6-member Ethics Committee are elected at each AGM and Convention for a three-year term. Due to the resignation of Phillip Richards as Chairman and Peter Sodhi as Secretary, the Executive appointed Mark Wrzesniewski as Chairman, Damin Wilson as Vice-Chair and Ron White as Secretary. These appointments expired at this AGM.

Rob Ferguson was elected Deputy Leader by members of the Caucus via an online poll, concluded on October 31, 2016. See details on Page 4.

Minutes of the meeting are available online in our Wiki, http://wiki.libertarian.on.ca/index.php?title=Exec:Annual_General_Meeting_2016_Minutes.

November 1, 2015 Annual General Meeting—Election Results

Nominee	Nominator	Votes	
* indicates "Elected"			
Secretary			
Ron White *	John White	20	
NOTA		1	
Spoiled		1	
Chairman			
Mark Wrzesniewsk *	Jim McIntosh	23	
NOTA		0	
Vice Chairman			
Marsha Haynes *	Jim McIntosh	14	
GJ Hagenars	Rob Brooks	9	
NOTA		0	
Spoiled		2	
Members at Large (2 to be elected, 13 votes required)			
3 Ballots required	1st	2nd	3rd
Neal Dinnelly	6	5	X
Saxon Murray *	11	10	15
Jake Courier	5	X	X
Matt Radfird *	14		
Gene Balfour	12	10	9
NOTA	0	0	0
Ethics Committee (2 to be elected)			
Wendy Kadonoff *	Jacob Currier	21	
Neal Donnelly *	Saxon Murray	19	
NOTA		0	

The Party Executive

Party Leader	—Allen Small
Deputy Party Leader	—Rob Ferguson
Chairman	—Mark 'Wojo' Wrzesniewski
Vice-Chairman	—Marsha Haynes
Secretary	—Ron White (2015)
Recording Secretary	—John White
Treasurer	—Jim McIntosh
Campaign Director	—Rob Brooks
Member at Large	—Matt Radford, Saxon Murray
Ethics Committee	—Chester Brown (2013, 2010), George Dance (2013, 2010), John Shaw (2014, 2011, 2008), Jean-Serge Brisson (2015), Wendy Kadonoff (2016), Neal Donnelly (2016)

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the years. What I know is that most people have a very simple view of the political process. It's generally not based on any philosophy or ideology – they don't care about non-aggression, they don't care about liberty. As I've said many times, you can't sell freedom to people who believe they are free, and who don't view taxation as theft. Taxation is the cost of having government services, and what's wrong with that they ask?

There is no quick or satisfying answer to that question that we can give. Most people view politicians as something between Santa Clause and being a plumber. They want to know what you can give them personally and can you fix their problem? That is politics for them, and who can blame them? They know they get to vote once in a while, they also know their vote counts very little, so why bother investing time and effort in learning about issues? It's a perfectly rational viewpoint. My own children are totally apolitical – though my son is starting to get it because he deals with government almost daily and tells me stories that I cannot repeat because the gory details would expose him. And my daughter works for the Ministry of Health. Go figure.

So what can we offer people? How can we, with a disdain for government services and solutions, offer anything so people will vote for us? Years ago Paolo Fabrizio suggested an idea, why not let people that want to have government services keep them? Why not indeed? We can offer additional competitive non-government services. Its win-win! No pun intended. The draft platform you'll see today was written by Rob Brooks, discussed and debated by both of us, and it is true to Paolo's suggestion.

By-election Results—by Rob Brooks

We ended up with a 5th and a 6th place finish in the two by-elections held November 17, and 5th overall place combined. This is a "hold" for us. As the 5th place party in the province, we have to battle hard just to hold our position - and we did! We really have to thank our candidates, Dean Harris in Ottawa-Vanier and Stefanos Karatopis in Niagara West-Glanbrook. Both battled for votes, not only with the 4 bigger parties, but also with two Leaders from smaller parties, and each of them triumphed. I know many of us want to see better results. So do I. At the same time, I am realistic. These days, we are battling mainly for the non-status quo vote. While many voters are pissed off, most still think they can get a better society with a different status quo party. This will change.

The much bigger parties spent more money in one poll than we spent on the two by-elections combined.

The intent is that there is nothing about the platform that contradicts our principles and it's potentially attractive to the kind of people who would actually vote for us. We're NOT targeting libertarians necessarily, many of them don't even vote. We need to think of ourselves no longer as the party for libertarians; we are the Libertarian Party, like ANY OTHER party but with better ideas. Is there a plan? Absolutely. Rob Brooks will elaborate later.

We're a political party and we have one idea that knits us ALL together. We're about smaller government, less government, limited government, whatever you want to call it. It's the niche that we own, where we have virtually no competition, and it needs to be associated with the Libertarian brand. But it is incumbent on us to supply good alternatives to existing government programs and structures and not just be critics. So, let's stop arguing about who is libertarian and who is not, and show me a more sensible non-government solution to an existing government program. That is the kind of thing that will help us. 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're fortunate to live in one of those places, and we want to make Ontario and Canada better. We need to show that getting governments out of the way can make things better, cheaper, faster, freer.

What we have been doing - isn't working, but we are getting better and smarter. We actually offer something totally different from all the other parties that could become popular if we are careful with our presentation language and our approach. It's not rocket science; it just takes people, money and effort.

From my perspective, we competed well with the resources we have.

The big news from tonight is the Ontario PC party threw everything but the kitchen sink at Ottawa-Vanier riding and had a great candidate, and came up empty.

Deputy Leader Election

We conducted a poll of caucus members via email to elect a new Deputy Leader using a "Ranked-Pair" election system. 20 of the 71 members polled ranked the candidates with 5 points for first choice and 1 for fifth. Rob Ferguson was elected with the most points.

Candidate	Count	Percent	Rank
Rob Ferguson	56	28	1
Matthew (Matt) Radford	48	24	2
Rich Hodgson	42	21	3
Emmersen Azalea	33	16	4
Paul Layton	20	10	5