

PROVINCIAL RIDING ASSOCIATION

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

2005 Spring Newsletter

Editor: Gerry Flaherty

ON COMMON GROUND

N E W S L E T T E R

John Tory Greeted Warmly Here

It was a cold January morning in Cornwall, but Ontario PC Leader John Tory received a warm welcome from about 75 party activists at the Ramada Inn.

Many who supported MPPs Jim Flaherty and Frank Klees in last year's leadership race appreciated his opening remarks, in which Tory praised both men for their efforts at party unity. The MPPs now sit in the front row of PC benches at Queen's Park; Flaherty is finance critic while Klees handles education for their caucus.

Diane Thompson introduced the speaker at the event organized by riding secretary Judy Bobka. Conservative MP Guy Lauzon welcomed Tory to the riding, prompting the Leader to say his goal for 2007 is to have Conservative governments in power in Ontario and Canada. "That's what I am determined to do."

The Leader said his priorities include boosting party membership, raising money to reduce the party's debt, finding great candidates, and developing policy with members over the next 1 1/2 years. Tory urged members to help deal with the "shortage" in the party of women, young people, and in the Toronto

region newer Canadians.

He criticized the McGuinty Liberals for having "no plan-no compass to guide them and no guiding set of values and principles" to govern their actions.

By comparison, he said the Ontario Tories in the next election will have "five, six or seven things we stand for in the forefront of our campaign," and not the Liberals' 231 election promises.

Tory said the party will offer "a balanced approach to government... rather than fight with the teachers we will sit down and talk to them." He said his team will hold the Liberals to account for their actions in power.

In contrast, he said Ontarians want honesty and competent management of their affairs from the Province.

Said Tory: "how can it be there is no money for health care?" He said the Liberals health tax is bringing in an extra \$2 billion from Ontarians, plus there is \$825 million in new federal money here. "This is the mark of an incompetent government."

He said the Liberals promised 8,000 new nurses; so far 757 have been laid off and another 7,000 are

approaching retirement. Tory said the doctor shortage is "a huge problem and the McGuinty Liberals are fighting the doctors and fighting the hospitals."

He criticized the Liberals for announcing \$200 million more in hospital funding a few days before his visit, with nothing for the hospitals in Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh.

Tory will seek election soon in the byelection in the Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey region northwest of Toronto to replace former PC leader Ernie Eves who has retired.

The leader said the Liberals "only pay attention to Toronto", and only 3 of 23 Ontario cabinet ministers are from the countryside. "Tory governments always had more rural representatives in the Cabinet," he said.

The local news media played up Tory's visit. Terri Saunders wrote two articles in the Standard-Freeholder, while John Divinski of Seaway News had a long story with a photo, and also recorded an interview for Cogeco Cable TV 11. Dennys Belanger had a photo and article in Le Journal de Cornwall.

SDC PC Riding Association Launches New Website!

On December 4, 2004, the Ontario PC Riding Association of Stormont, Dundas and Charlottenburgh went live with its new website at www.sdcpcriding.ca. The site designed by TMI Graphics includes a message from John Tory, details on upcoming events, Newsletter Archive, Executive Contact details, party information and much more. "Our new website will be an invaluable resource for the Riding Association to keep in constant communication with our membership," stated President Glen Grant. "One of Riding Association's missions is to keep you informed and our website will allow us to accomplish this mission. We will be officially launching our website in the upcoming weeks, but we wanted to provide our membership with a chance to see it first."

The key to a successful website is to see it updated regularly. The site has already seen a number of regular updates, but the Riding Executive would like to invite you to get involved! If you see an interesting article or have something to submit to be published on the site, please send a quick email to Judy Bobka at info@sdpcriding.ca. While the site has not been officially launched the traffic has been rather brisk. To date, the site has seen over 900 visits, 4,600 page views and almost 27,000 hits. Please visit www.sdcpcriding.ca today! Be sure to bookmark it and come back often!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Progressive Conservatives, Letters to the editor can be a great tool to promote our cause. With the actions of McGuinty and his group there is no shortage of opportunities to highlight yet another promise broken or a new mistake made.

It is important that we highlight as many shortfalls of this Government as possible.

Your help is needed!

Pick a topic and write the letter. We need as many different people as possible contributing as often as possible. If you are shy to write the letter please let us know we will help you in every way we can. Let's try for a Letter a Week in the local media.

OUR CURLERS ARE GREAT!

Our riding association in February sponsored a curling team participating in a fund-raising tournament for the Cornwall Community Hospital. It placed second out of 15 teams.

Todd Fetterly, Dan Bobka, Barry Millett and Gerry Flaherty started out by defeating a team from the Township of South Glengarry. In their second and final game, they easily defeated the St. Lawrence College team.

The event in the new Cornwall Curling Club raised \$2,200 for the hospital's fund-raising campaign. It was organized by City Councillor Chris Savard, who is also a member of our riding association's executive.



GOLF TOURNEY - AUG. 27

Chris Savard, one of our most active board members, is at it again. He and MP Guy Lauzon are busy planning for our second annual golf tournament Saturday Aug. 27th. It will be held at Summerheights Golf Links in Cornwall, and will feature a gourmet dinner along with the round of golf.

Last year's event raised \$1,200 for our PC riding association.

So mark your calendar, plan your foursome, and remember the organizers need volunteers and prizes to be donated. Contact chris@chrissavard.ca. Ticket prices have not yet been set.

RE-ELECTED

Cornwall's Judy Bobka, Ms. Energy in our provincial riding association, has been re-elected as Eastern Vice-President on the executive of the Ontario PC Party. She had just completed her first term in this position, and was re-elected by acclamation. Her duties include representing about 15 Eastern Ontario ridings at meetings in Toronto, Ottawa and elsewhere.

Bobka is also active as secretary of our local riding association. In the past she has served as a member of the Cornwall Police Commission, including one term as chairperson, thanks to an Ontario government appointment.



President's Report

At the February Ontario P.C. Annual General Meeting in Ottawa during the February 25 - 27 weekend, the Party launched its policy process that will focus on grassroots involvement. The results of the policy process will become the Party's platform for the 2007 election.

The policy process will include four steps. One of these steps will be to 'search for ideas' which will lead to a policy conference in early 2006. These ideas will be generated in three streams. The first will be White papers that will be led by the Caucus that will cover the following topics, Building a strong economy, Health, Education, Environment,

Energy, Community Safety and Communities. The second will be Riding Meetings between March and December 2005. The third will be Written Submissions.

I was truly excited when this policy process was introduced at the AGM because it gives all of us, at the grassroots, a chance to influence the party's platform for the next election. So get involved by attending the meetings scheduled in the Riding or send written submissions.

If you want more information contact me at ggrant1130@hotmail.com or at policy.ideas@OntarioPC.on.ca.

GET INVOLVED!

Annual General Meeting

Great food and a stirring speech are on the menu Thursday night April 7, when our riding association holds its annual general meeting.

The event is set for 6:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion on Industrial Drive in Chesterville. The organizer is Gerry Boyce from South Mountain, a director of our riding association who has a touch for successful special events.

Tickets are \$25 apiece and available from any member of the executive or by contacting Judy Bobka at 932-2720 in Cornwall, or at bobka@sympatico.ca.

A real live wire will address the meeting in the person of our Party's newest MPP, John Yakabuski. He's an Ottawa Valley boy whose fiery style has enlivened the Ontario Legislature since being elected in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

Yakabuski won the seat in the last provincial election, even though it had been held for 25 years or so by a Liberal who decided not to run again.

The business portion of the meeting will include the election of a new executive.

See you in Chesterville!

PCPO BREAKFAST

Eastern Region Breakfast
Governor General Room
Westin Hotel
Saturday, February 26, 2005
7:30 am – 8:45 am

Ninety delegates representing 15 Eastern Region Ridings were Building Toward Victory at the Saturday Breakfast. Federal MP's Gord Brown, Gord O'Connor and Scott Reid mingled with Eastern Region delegates. Judy Bobka, Eastern Region Vice President, welcomed delegates and invited MPP John Baird, MPP Norm Sterling, MPP Bob Runciman and MPP John Yakabuski to share Queen's Park happenings at the head table with us. The MPP's answered questions posed by delegates.

PCPO candidates for the Executive presented promotion pieces to delegates.

The arrival of John Tory, PCPO Leader was a special treat for all.. John answered a few questions and mingled with the delegates until the next event on the convention agenda.

PCPO 2005 Convention

Five SDC Youth – JJ Hollister, Joanna & Priscilla Franklin, Shane Barnes, and Eric Duncan – attended the immensely energizing PCPO 2005 Convention at the Westin, Ottawa.

Saturday morning kicked off early with the regional breakfasts. We attended the Eastern Regional Breakfast hosted by Judy Bobka. John Baird, John Yakabuski, Bob Runciman, and Norm Sterling delivered a Queen's Park update and answered questions from the floor. John Tory dropped by and also answered questions praising the excellent work of the Eastern Team.

Immediately thereafter, we attended a session on Teambuilding, Leadership, & Enthusiasm. Encouraged to stay positive, we learned and practiced tips for building a cohesive team atmosphere among volunteers.

Over lunch, Tim Hudak and Laurie Scott amused the audience with their comedy routine. Judy Bobka and Bonnie St George hosted the Trillium Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to Chris Savard and Gerry Flaherty who each won a Trillium Award for Outstanding Website and Outstanding Newsletter respectively.

The afternoon was full of stimulating, educational sessions. They included an outline of the Policy Development Process; prioritizing

Health, Education, Northern & Rural Issues, Economy, Energy and Environment; as well as E-campaigning. John Tory hosted a question and answer Session with the Leader, which many felt was the best part of the weekend. Then, he laced up his skates and led overjoyed attendees outside for an Ottawa Adventure.

James Murphy, "fresh, inclusive, and ready" candidate for OPCYA President, launched his "Tories for Tory" campaign Saturday afternoon. After giving an excellent speech, he introduced two of his team members – Joanna Franklin (Secretary/Treasurer candidate from SDC) and Jonathan Amor (Membership candidate from Ottawa-West Nepean).

Finally, the highlight of the weekend—the Leader's Dinner. The Tory MPP's showcased broken Liberal promises with an entertaining performance assisted on-stage by Joanna & Priscilla Franklin. John Tory then entered to a thunderous applause from over one

thousand participants. The enthusiasm projected from his speech is evidence that the Ontario PC Party is alive and well and ready to win the 2007 election.

Blair McCreadie, Mike Wilson, James Murphy, Georgina Blanas and many others hosted hospitality suites throughout the night.

Sunday morning, acclaimed new Executive members accepted their positions. Blair McCreadie's acclamation as PCPO President was cheered by a standing ovation. We volunteered as election officials for the vote and count. After candidate speeches and voting, Vic Gupta was elected Treasurer and Janet Browes Secretary. Rob Stark and Ryan Sydor were elected Regional VP's.

The theme of the weekend "Building Towards Victory" was clearly demonstrated throughout all the speeches and events. It was a chance to meet new friends, reunite with old ones, but most importantly learn how to "Build Towards Victory".



**STRONG
LEADERSHIP**

**WORKING
WITH YOU**