



# THE TRUE WHIG

A Publication of the Kingston and the Islands Federal Liberal Association

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Volume 1 Number 2

## LEADERSHIP RACE TAKING SHAPE

### REMINDER

# Renewal Time Is Here!

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While, as far as we know, no one has yet put their deposit down to enter the federal leadership race (a significant \$75,000), several Liberals have expressed their intention to do so. It is the stated policy of the Executive that as an organization KIFLA does not intend to support a specific candidate. This does not preclude, of course, that individual members whether on the Executive or not can, and likely will, declare a favourite choice. To make the decision easier for everyone in the Riding (and those surrounding us), we have invited all potential candidates to come to Kingston and meet local Liberals.

Thus far we have enjoyed the company of David Merner, former President of BC Liberals (above), Deborah Coyne (below), and Jonathan Mousley, all of whom



answered interesting questions from members.

In addition, Marc Garneau—who has not yet declared an intention to run for the leadership—was in town to lead one of the historic walks of the downtown area in celebration of

the bi-centennial of Sir John A. Mac-Donald.

With the entry of Justin Trudeau into the race, things have definitely heated up.



A very recent poll by Nanos Research has put the Liberals ahead of the NDP in national support—a change at least in part attributed to the buzz around Mr. Trudeau's bid.



The True Whig is planning a special issue of the newsletter to feature all aspects of the race and final vote, and profile all the official candidates in some detail when the convention date draws closer.

This is a pivotal moment for the Liberal Party of Canada as many pundits have stated, and it is a great time to be a Liberal. Don't forget to renew your membership—or join for the first time if you are not already a member.



## A WORD FROM TED HSU M.P.

Dear Liberal friend,

Your Liberal caucus on Parliament Hill has been fighting hard these past few weeks. **Frank Valeriote**, my seat-mate and agriculture critic, has taken the lead in holding the government to account for its handling of the largest beef recall in Canadian history. Nova Scotia Liberal **Roger Cuzner** has been the voice in parliament pressuring the government on its new clawbacks of EI payments that are a disincentive for people to do a few hours of work while they are receiving EI.

**Stephane Dion** made sure that the Liberal party was the only party to say that we regret the Quebec legislature is not proud to fly the Canadian flag, and yours truly said on CTV's Power Play, "If you let people take the Canada out of Quebec, you're helping them take Quebec out of Canada."

Income inequality - which is increasing faster in Canada than in the U.S. - is a theme that your caucus has decided to focus on. In June, Liberal finance critic **Scott Brison** managed to pass a private member's motion to have the Finance committee study income inequality, and the Liberal opposition day motion in September was devoted to five specific proposals to start addressing income inequality in Canada.

Fact and Evidence based policy is a core value of the Liberal party. From keeping tabs on changes in criminal justice laws and corrections policy, to trying to save the world renowned Experimental Lakes Area in northern Ontario, your caucus always takes into account facts and evidence in deciding what positions we take, and it's sad how often that finds us opposed to Mr. Harper's government.



Your Liberal caucus is always on guard for threats to national unity. It has advocates for every part of Canada, and no region's interests are discounted. I am pleased, for example, that **Justin Trudeau** went to Calgary and said, "I promise you, I will never use the wealth of the West as a wedge to gain votes in the East."

Mentioning Justin brings me to the leadership race. I have not chosen whom I shall support for Liberal leader. I want to see how each contestant answers certain questions and then I will make my decision and make it public. I'm sure you'll think about the leadership yourself and come to your own decision. In the meantime, please encourage your friends and neighbours to sign up as members or supporters, so they too can vote and help choose our next leader.



Ted Hsu at Death of Evidence Rally



Gathering at the summer BBQ



Ted addressing the crowd

## YOUR EXECUTIVE

A profile of....

### Alice Gazeley, Secretary



As a very young woman, Alice Callaghan left the farm in Miminegash, PEI, to get her teaching certificate and land a job as teacher, principal, and janitor in a one-room schoolhouse in Kelvin Grove, PEI. She taught everything to 33 pupils from grade 1 to 10. Today she remembers it as a great experience. However, not to be confined, Alice moved on to larger schools on the Island and eventually secondary schools in Nova Scotia and Quebec before landing in Kingston on her cross-country pedagogical odyssey. She was highly qualified and was offered a position at Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic SS where, during her nine-year tenure, she met a young Kingstonian by the name of Ray Gazeley. The peripatetic Miss Callaghan became the more settled Mrs. Gazeley and adopted the Limestone City as her permanent home. As such she went on to becoming a founding member of

the staff at the newly created Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and finally retired in 1994, having won the Bishop Reding Outstanding Teacher Award, an Ontario-wide recognition.

As is so often found with high achievers, retirement merely means the opportunity to do something else, or in Alice's case, a great deal else. She leapt at the chance to volunteer with any number of community organizations such as becoming the Chair, Justice & Peace Commission, Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston & Anglican Diocese of Ontario, member of Neighbourhood & Transportation Committee, City of Kingston, and former Co-Chair, Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. Alice is currently a Director, Social Planning Council, Kingston & Area. She is particularly enthused by her role as Director and Vice-President, Town Homes Kingston (Kingston Non-Profit Housing Corporation) and by the efforts the organization has made to alleviate the crisis in low income housing in this city.

However, it may well be that Alice Gazeley is best known for her activities surrounding golf, both on and off the course. A long time member of Cataraqui Golf and Country Club, she has served on any number of committees up to and including Women's Captain and Board Director. The roll call of her off-course involvements is a magnificently long list. And she has managed nicely on the green parts of the club as well, having twice scored the magic hole-in-one and adding a couple of trophies to her accomplishments.

Finally, Alice is a committed Liberal and has served on the Executive of KIFLA for the past 6 years. She is highly valued as Secretary, she is an Officer of the organization, and yet is still available to do any little job requiring attention. You may have seen her sitting at a table at almost every Liberal event, selling tickets, taking membership applications or just answering questions. Next time, say Hello.



KIFLA Runners in Terry Fox Run



Prime Minister and Speaker



Meeting with David Merner



## Why Canada Needs Liberals

Mr. Harper's September 18<sup>th</sup> question as to why the Liberal Party still exists is one for which every one of us should be prepared to answer unequivocally. While there is much truth to the trite retort that the very fact he so badly wants us gone argues for our Party's continued importance to Canada, the question deserves a more fulsome answer.

In democracies at least, highly-centralized power based on fooling enough of the people enough of the time is inherently insecure. Mr. Harper's populist style of one-man government depends on gross simplification and the demonization of all contrary opinions. An obscene portion of our tax dollars is dedicated to conveying the message that the Harper Conservatives are sound fiscal managers, a big lie which is contradicted by the evidence. Once big lies start to unravel, governments reliant on them tend to collapse like a house of cards. Hence the Harper obsession with controlling the message, suppressing sources of evidence like the long-form census, and eliminating a competing evidence-based party like ours with its long history of actually delivering good government rather than just pretending to do so.

Natural systems like the global climate and human systems like the economy are now known to be highly complex and adaptive, prone to non-linear and hence unpredictable shifts. That's why command-and-control economies such as those in the former Soviet Union all failed to adapt to the complexities of a globalizing world economy. Hobbled as we are by simplistic neo-conservative economic orthodoxies such as the quasi-divine providence of unregulated markets, the US and Canadian economies are likewise increasingly underperforming. As happened in 2008, such markets invariably crash to the detriment of all but a few insiders. More to the point, neo-con policies continue to promote ever-increasing income inequality, which results in crime, human misery and stalled economies.

Our economy and society are already far too complex for the Harper model of public policy: decisions taken in

secrecy by a small group of like-minded advisors in the Prime Minister's Office for primarily partisan reasons, rammed through Parliament without adequate scrutiny, and implemented without any meaningful consultation with either those affected or subject matter experts who actually know what they are talking about.

The billion-dollar G8/G20 security debacle is just one small example of the degree to which that approach is a recipe for failure. Contrary to Mr. Harper's laughable "world statesman of the year" pretence, the harsh reality is that the world has clearly demonstrated its recognition of how little Canada has to offer under his leadership by rejecting our bids to join the East Asia Summit and the UN Security Council. The longer he stays in power, the greater the damage to Canada's future.

Stephen Harper's interests are best served by moving Canada to a US-style, hyper-partisan, two-party system. By sufficiently demonizing the "socialist" NDP to induce the majority of Canadians to either stay home or vote Conservative as the lesser of two perceived evils, such a system will enable him and his successors to retain power despite expensive policy failures and a disappearing middle class. That's why Canada needs a renewed Liberal Party. You can do your part by debunking Conservative myths at every opportunity.

Ron Hartling  
President, KIFLA



For the latest in news, comments, events and activities, don't forget to check our website:

[www.kingston.liberal.ca](http://www.kingston.liberal.ca)

## FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

We have been asked a number of times how (or why) we came up with the name *The True Whig*, and the answer lies in history and political philosophy.

'Whig' is a term referring to a form of Liberalism that puts its faith in the power of human reason to reshape society for the better, regardless of past history and tradition. It demonstrates the inevitable progress of mankind. Its opposite is conservative history or "Toryism." English historian A.J.P. Taylor explains, "Toryism rests on doubt in human nature; it distrusts improvement, clings to traditional institutions, prefers the past to the future. It is a sentiment rather than a principle."

Whiggish principles were embodied in the *British Whig*, "a semi-weekly journal, devoted to Commercial and Political information" in Kingston, Upper Canada, in February 1834. Today's Kingston Whig-Standard was founded in 1926 through the merger of the *British Whig* and the *Kingston Daily Standard*.

The Liberal Party of Canada unequivocally supports "human progression towards ever greater liberty and enlightenment, culminating in modern forms of liberal democracy" which enhances the lives of all Canadians, and therefore its local branch reintroduces the name 'Whig' to its proper meaning in *The True Whig*.

### Please Renew your Membership

For Renewal go to [www.liberal.ca](http://www.liberal.ca) or phone (613)237-0740

Have you joined the Victory Fund? Please call 1-877-542-4271

### iPOLITICS NOW AVAILABLE

Ron Hartling, KIFLA President, has urged every liberal-minded person to engage everyone they can in political discussion aimed at fostering a more critical perspective on where Canada can and should be going. Doing that effectively requires having easy access to in-depth, up-to-the-minute information on the issues in which those people may be interested, the sort of high-quality information which may not be readily available in your newspaper or other media.

Fortunately, we're now in a position to give you access to a great information tool for just that purpose. We have negotiated a special deal with iPolitics.ca that gives all of our activists unlimited access to their information at no additional cost. That includes optional email bulletins and daily political news summaries. Please check it out at [www.ipolitics.ca](http://www.ipolitics.ca). For full access, you'll require a code which all of our directors are empowered to provide. By activists, we mean any of our members, donors or other volunteers who are actively helping to spread the Liberal message in our community. We would be delighted if you see yourself as being a Liberal activist.





IN MY OPINION...

### Dignity: Even Unto Death

by Judy Speagle

Who among us has witnessed a loved one suffer from an incurable and terminal illness? And who among us has fervently hoped and prayed for our loved one to have a peaceful and humane death? If our “loved one” was a dear family pet, then our prayers were answered; we were able to choose to end our pet’s life by having it put to sleep. But when it comes to human life, even though human beings have the ability to make their own rational decisions, there is little choice available. The time is long past for Canadians to demand – and engage in – a political dialogue that could, and should, result in the legal right to die with dignity.

Despite all the medical advances of the last quarter century, we have not conquered the major forms of cancer or progressive physical illnesses such as ALS or Huntington’s disease. What we have in place are more extraordinary measures to keep people alive longer, even with obvious grievous lowering of the quality of life.

Dr. Gifford-Jones in his weekly newspaper column in the Whig-Standard in February of 2009 advocated “A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Humans.” He argued that in a progressive nation such as ours, Canadians should have the right to make end-of-life decisions with the assistance of medical personnel. Other countries, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland for example, have allowed and controlled medically supervised lethal injections for many years with no evidence of abuse or exploitation of the elderly or disabled. Even several states in the US (Oregon and Washington) have passed Death with Dignity Acts which allow terminally-ill adults to obtain and use prescriptions from their physicians for self-administered doses of medications.

Meanwhile, our current Criminal Code prohibits aiding, abetting and counseling someone to suicide. A maximum sentence of 14 years could be the result of a conviction.

I was incredibly moved by the resilience and determination of Nagui



Morcos whose end-of-life plan was described in a September 7, 2012, feature article in the Toronto Star. He resolved to cut short the progressive nature of his incurable Huntington’s disease while he was still mentally capable. Had medical-assisted suicide been legally available to him, Nagui may have enjoyed another year or two of quality life.

This issue affects every living Canadian, but will it ever get the airing it deserves? And will the politicians take notice? Yes, if Canadians start acting on what every poll seems to suggest – that we support the right of individuals to carry out their end-of-life decisions, with medical assistance if desired.

*Judy Speagle is a retired teacher and guidance counselor in Kingston where she still lives with her husband Bob. She loves golf, bridge and vacations and is a whiz at organizing trips for herself and others.*

## THE TRUE WHIG

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## LIBERAL YOUTH

### The Rebuild is Working, Just Ask Young People!

September has been a *very* busy month for the Queen's University Liberal Association (QULA). With a new cohort of over 6,000 new students, most of whom are looking to get involved in their school and local communities, QULA has had several opportunities to market the Liberal Party and its values to youth, providing not only a valuable base of members and supporters but also serving as an impromptu "proving ground" for some of the party's efforts to rebuild and the effects of these efforts on younger individuals. Those which had a most significant impact proved to be the new "supporter" category as well as the party's new policy on the legalization and regulation of marijuana.

Over the course of Orientation Week at Queen's, QULA was able to have a presence at two events: Queen's in the Park (a clubs exhibition held in City Park) and the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society's Sidewalk Sale. Over the course of these two days, aided by beautiful weather, we were able to sign up nearly 300 new supporters! This turnout exceeded our expectations, significantly lengthened our mailing lists, and provided us with some very important notes in marketing the renewed Liberal brand to younger voters:

- The notion of a free, no-obligation method of stating your "shared values" with a major political party turned to be very popular amongst visitors to the QULA booths (in politics, as with much else, *free* is always a selling point for students).
- Young people still identify with the values of the Liberal party, and some are particularly wary at the pro-

spect of a New Democrat government. With smart policies and savvy marketing, a Liberal recapturing of the youth vote is still very possible.

- A significant portion of those who registered as supporters at these events expressed interest in being able to elect the next Liberal leader. Many place lesser importance on this point when engaging with a potential supporter, particularly if they are younger people, but it still resonates strongly with the politically-minded.

Furthermore, it is clear that youth are responding very positively to the Liberal party's new policy on legalizing and regulating marijuana consumption. Aided by several pieces of policy-specific literature produced by the Young Liberals of Canada, QULA was able to effectively market this new aspect of the party to a sympathetic demographic, many of whom were not aware of this new policy. Upon learning that legalization is now official Liberal Party policy, many stated that they would be more likely to consider supporting the Liberals in an upcoming election (and affirmed this by signing up as supporters).

By actively identifying our vote among the campus community in this way, QULA has been able to identify issue-oriented supporters, establishing rough "micro-targeting" parameters for future outreach and involvement. This, simply, would not be possible without the infrastructure provided through the "supporter" program and the bold steps taken to engage otherwise unlikely supporters through innovative policy. As far as we at Queen's are concerned, the rebuild is working beautifully.

John Patrick Stanley  
Policy Director, Queen's University Liberal Association



KIFLA theatre event with Youth Director Renata Colwell (left) and youth members at the corn maze (right)

