



THE TRUE WHIG

A Publication of the Kingston and the Islands Federal Liberal Association

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A TRULY NEW BEGINNING

REMINDER

**AGM
SUNDAY
APRIL 28**

**2:00 PM
RCAF CLUB**

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April 14, 2013 may well be the birthday of a new, more vigorous and successful Liberal Party. Justin Trudeau won the leadership of the party with a majority that surprised even his most ardent supporters. Not only was this the largest number of people ever to vote for a leader of any political party in Canada, almost 105,000, Trudeau received an astounding 80.1% of the vote. We, in Kingston, played a significant role in this process.

Kingston and the Islands cast 1402 ballots, which put us in the top 4 ridings of the 308 in Canada. Some 71% of that vote went to Trudeau, and that percentage would have been even higher among the younger voters, particularly the 10 to 29 age group. When Justin addressed a huge throng at Queens's on February 13, the enthusiasm was palpable, as can be seen from the picture below. And that youth enthusiasm has carried through beyond the election. Andrew Green in his article on page 3 discusses the positive reaction to the outcome among the student body. Every political movement, regardless of stripe, must be fed from the



grass roots, and these signs portend extremely well for the future of our party.

There might be only one thing missing from this rosy picture, and that is YOU. We urge you to jump on the bandwagon. It's OK. You will be welcomed. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the party – and we need you! There is much to do, from writing letters to being part of a telephone chain, from getting the word out to your friends and neighbours to organizing community events. Choose your own form of participation, but please participate.

HV.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Why be politically active?

I'm often asked why, given that I'm retired, I devote so much of my time to unpaid work for the Liberal Party and our riding association. It's a valid question, which is why I'm sharing my answer with you.

I'll start with a confession – I'm not a born Liberal. It wasn't until I was in my 50s that concern about looming big-picture issues like climate change caused me to get involved. Because I view political parties, party leaders and members of Parliament as means to their members' ends, not ends in themselves, I shopped for the party in which I thought I could make the most difference, and chose Liberal.

So why do I keep going when it's been seven years now since our party was last in power and hence in a position to act on the issues that most matter to me? Well, because political involvement by ordinary citizens and not just career-minded politicians has never been more important. Frankly, those are seven wasted years in which Canada has fallen ever further behind a rapidly-changing world.

Seven years ago, by objective UN indices Canada was the best country in the world in which to live. Now we don't even make the top ten. We enjoyed global respect, consistently punched above our economic weight on the world stage, and were universally liked to the point that young American travellers would sew our maple leaf flag on their backpacks. That longstanding respect has been squandered to the point that we're at best irrelevant, even seen as obstacles when global action on the big issues is up for discussion, and no longer merit a seat on the Security Council. After much sacrifice, we were in surplus. Now we're deep in deficit. We had one of the world's best scrupulously non-partisan public services. Now it's demoralized and politicized. True, we weren't doing enough to address climate change, the plight of First Nations peoples or mounting income inequality, but we had plans and we had made commitments to do better. Now we've backslid on all those fronts.

Worse, our youth are losing hope for the future and we're no longer a leading democracy. Our scientists are being muzzled, government policies are being driven by political expediency rather than evidence, and the government acts without consultation or listening to people who actually know what they are talking about, a recipe for national failure in today's complex world. Parliament is being marginalized, with all decision-making concentrated in the small, unelected circle around the Prime Minister. Voters are being discouraged through the Republican tactic of turning people off by making politics as nasty as possible, as well as outright fraud (e.g. the robo-call scandal).

Sadly, those tactics are working. In 2011, 24% of electors voted Conservative. Mr. Harper won a majority **only** because close to 40% chose **not** to vote. Even more sadly, those are the people whose life chances and children's prospects are being most badly undermined by the Harper Government's short-sighted, corporatist agenda. With the entire federal budget being used as a tool to convey the false Harper message of good fiscal management, we're left with a simple choice. Those who see what's happening can either give up and let them drive our country into the ground, or work to counter the propaganda at every opportunity. Being politically active, giving that 40% good reasons to vote in the next election, is the only way to defeat the Harper machine and get our country back on track. We have two years to lay the groundwork. Let's do it!

THE VOICE OF YOUTH

A Youth Perspective on Trudeau's Victory

by Andrew Green

Justin Trudeau's victory as Liberal Leader offers the Liberal Party of Canada, and the future of Canadian politics, an opportunity for rebirth and renewal. This is Canada's chance to reset the Canadian political agenda. In Trudeau, a new generation of Canadian youth now feels they have a voice in Parliament, one that encourages and actively seeks their input. When I ask my friends what they think Trudeau's victory represents, they tell me that he represents political renewal; that he shifts the tone of politics from exclusion and tight party discipline towards a greater willingness for open and passionate debate. They believe he listens to their ideas and encourages their engagement. We as youth are excited because Trudeau's leadership victory is our victory; it is our opportunity to make our mark on Canada.

When people feel they have a stake in something and that they can affect the process, they are much more willing to engage and be creative in applying their efforts. I believe Queen's University students and alumni feel such a strong connection to our campus because we feel we had a stake in shaping our own destiny. We collaborated around our shared values and built something in which we take and share immense pride. I am not alone in this sense of ownership and pride – I think most graduates share this unique bond based on shared values that foster a lasting commitment to each other.

I believe that today's youth are starting to see a similar opportunity in Justin Trudeau's Liberals. I doubt the 150,000 new Liberal party members Trudeau inspired to join did so because they want to use their votes to delegate political control to just another MP. I believe they joined because they want to be part of the process of nation building, and they feel Trudeau uniquely gives them that opportunity. I and many members of my generation see Trudeau as the antithesis of the traditional politician, despite his pedigree, which might suggest otherwise.

Trudeau shares Liberal youths' approach to politics. We approach issues scientifically, not ideologically; we are guided by our own reason and think about solving issues progressively. We want to reduce crime not by building larger prisons after the fact, but by preventing it in the



first place through mental health care, investment in education, and providing alternatives to crime by nurturing human capital potential. We approach drugs rationally: if safe injection

sites are the best harm prevention techniques, then let's support what research studies have proven. Let's put an end to the censoring of our scientists and their research; we need transparent, independent and vocal branches of bureaucracy, from scientists' labs to the budget office auditors. We want to hear all the facts and make rational decisions for ourselves. We're adults, so let's be realistic: marijuana is available regardless of its legality. Let's produce it safely, control it, and tax it. Instead of digging a hole in the ground out west and creating wealth for a few, let's use our resources responsibly and invest in sustainable energy and our greatest energy resources: the Canadian people. Let's work to restore our record on the environment instead of muzzling reports on pollution and tarnishing our planet and international reputation.

Canada is a great country and we are proud to help make it so. Trudeau is helping to integrate a new generation of youth into the political process. Liberal youth are eager to control our destiny and set a new tone in national politics, one of inclusion, hope and progress that we can all share. We congratulate Justin Trudeau on his victory and look forward to working with him towards building our shared vision of Canada.

Andrew Green graduated from Queen's University in 2012 with a Bachelors of Arts Honours in political studies and a minor in economics. He has been a member of the Liberal Party of Canada since 2012.



A WORD FROM TED HSU M.P.

Dear Liberal Party Members and Supporters,

The Liberal caucus has been energized by the debut of a new leader!

Now that the leadership race is over, and all of us have expressed our opinions on leadership, it's time to work together as a team.

I want to give you an MP's view of Justin Trudeau's first few days at the head of the Liberal Party.

Just after the televised leadership announcement rally on Sunday evening, we had a brief closed-door caucus meeting. I can tell you that the Liberal caucus was united and in a very optimistic mood. Justin addressed us briefly, giving a few hints of his plans for the Party, and Marc Garneau and Joyce Murray were given standing ovations for their work as candidates.

The very next morning at 8 am, the daily House strategy meeting was packed as MPs and staff discussed how to address the Conservative budget and present Justin as the leader in the House of Commons.

As you now know, Justin decided to focus immediately on the economy -- on tax increases for consumer goods in the Conservative budget, and on Conservative mismanagement of the temporary foreign worker program as we saw in the RBC affair.

Justin's first question period (QP) as leader was notable in that the press gallery was the most crowded that many veteran MPs told me they could remember. So was the media scrum after QP. Also notable during our first day back in the House were Liberal MPs passing around their Blackberries and iPads to show each other the just-released Conservative attack ads.



That brings me to a request for your help. The Liberal Party has planned ahead and set aside something like \$1 million to fight the Conservative attack ads. But that's a lot less money than the Conservatives can spend and, furthermore, there are some things money cannot buy. You can help make a difference. I'm asking you to talk to your friends or write publicly about those attack ads -- to ridicule them, to expose them in print and on social media.

Remind people that Canada deserves, indeed requires, a higher level of political discourse. Join Liberal supporters across the country to turn those attack ads back against the Conservatives!

THE TRUE WHIG

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Ron Hartling

YOUR EXECUTIVE

A profile of....

Ron Hartling, President



Ron Hartling is retired. After a long and fruitful career as first a Foreign Service officer followed by many years as an IT planning and systems consultant, Ron deserves his leisure time - canoeing, leisurely lunches, reading all those books he has put off for decades, going for walks with friends, that sort of thing. Unfortunately for him, but definitely fortunate for us, Ron is not doing any of those things. Instead, his principles and commitment to a better Canada led him to accept the Presidency of Kingston and the Islands Federal Liberal Association in 2009, and he has barely had the time to even think of those things he gave up.

Born of a military family then posted to Germany, Ron led the peripatetic life which is the lot of most military brats. With stops in places like London, Halifax, Fredericton and more Germany, where he finished high school, Ron chose to go to Queen's, "...because" he said, "Queen's had the highest ratio of books to students of any university in Canada." He completed his Honours degree in sociology with a split minor in physics and math in the minimum four years and was immediately recruited into the Canadian foreign service. In fact, he

was one of only three of the approximately 300 who wrote the foreign services exams in Kingston that year who were offered the job. After some interesting postings (Tel Aviv, Delhi), Ron left the service after 7½ years and returned to Queen's to pursue his technology interests and raise a family. Two further years of study allowed him to graduate with a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering followed by another year for a Master's degree in computing science, whereupon he launched his own software consulting business. No slouch he.

The company grew in size in number of employees, revenue and importance as it transitioned from a software development concern to one focussing on managing major government IT projects and then strategic planning. Given his background he found fertile ground in the federal government at the highest levels. Among his more notable accomplishments in this phase of his professional life was the conceptual design and management of a 5-year, \$256 million computerization project to provide secure communications between all Canadian embassies and diplomatic offices worldwide, and he brought it in on time and within budget. It is still the system Foreign Affairs operates on around the world – and it has never been hacked.

An activist by nature, Ron decided to release the bonds of political neutrality and get involved. His major passion was, and is, climate change and he naturally gravitated to the Liberal party as being both on the right side of the question and possibly in a position to make a difference. So he joined up in 2002, and since he had lived in Kingston for more than 25 years, he did so here. But climate change wasn't the only issue that drove him. Reading his article elsewhere in this issue of the True Whig will provide a clear picture of how he feels our country's future prospects have been diminished by the present government. Ron has proven his activist credentials. He has launched local initiatives on climate change and another on prison overcrowding and more to come on issues such as aboriginal rights and income inequalities. And just in case he doesn't have enough to occupy his days, he has since 2012 been the President of the eastern region of the LPC (Ontario), which entails 15 ridings in this region.

The Liberal Party is experiencing a revival and it is Ron Hartling and people like him who are going to help prepare it for a return to government in the not too distant future.

HV.



IN MY OPINION....

Bullying Laws

By David Pinkerton

Not long ago in London Ontario, eight female high school students were led by police out of their school to police headquarters for questioning regarding alleged bullying on Twitter and Facebook. I have not read how this played out, but I have to ask: Is this the way we want to deal with the issue of bullying of our teenaged sons and daughters?

Bullying is a very real and growing problem. It has been made worse by the advent of the internet and by social media. Fifty years ago if young people were faced with peer rejection, with ridicule, even physical intimidation or worse, they could retreat to the refuge of their homes, bedrooms, or to books and to music. Today the bullies follow our children to their bedrooms via computers and smart phones. There is no escape. And, as recent tragedies have shown...the whole school has seen the pictures. For far too many, unfortunately, suicide seems the only way out of an unbearable and seemingly hopeless situation.

What can be done? First, educators and parents must address the issue of bullying directly. And, as is the position of the Ontario Liberal government, gay/straight/bi clubs, or “rainbow clubs,” should be available in every school—Separate, Public, and private—and be promoted by teachers and administration. As society becomes more inclusive, and as awareness of an individual’s sexual orientation becomes more common at a younger age, our schools will inevitably be the place where friction will first be felt. But, when it comes to school corridors, education not enforcement is the answer.

Obviously, when violence or sexual assault has occurred, as we have seen in several recent tragedies both in the States and Canada, we must rely on the judicial system. But we do not need new laws to deal with most cases of bullying. In the nineties we witnessed “zero tolerance” policies in most of our schools—fight and you would be expelled, not just suspended. This too was heavy-handed, and the wrong approach. Students are developing their moral compass and may make mistakes that they regret later, and they are vulnerable to peer pressure.



How can we create an environment that allows students to grow, and learn what is appropriate, while at the same time protects the victims of bullying?

What we have always needed and valued are engaged teachers who will confront the issue head-on in their classrooms. Why not invest in them? Provide our teachers with the materials—books, digital and media aids (Rick Mercer’s rant “It gets better kids” comes to mind)—to incorporate this issue into the core curriculum. Refocus provincial investment to increase the number of guidance counselors who are available to listen in a non-judgmental way, to intervene or escalate as necessary.

Finally, we need to support school sports teams and extracurricular activities. They help to develop and nurture a sense of self-worth and self-confidence which will enable students to escape victimhood and confront the bullies.

Is it not wiser to put money into schools to prevent bullying, than to put it into the courts and enforcement to punish it? Why criminalize the behaviours, and youthful mistakes, of a “mean girl” daughter or misguided son?

David Pinkerton, retired, lives in Harrowsmith where he loves country life with a large dollop of reading. He was an English teacher with the Limestone Board for 29 years.

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Kingston Liberals raise over \$2,500 for local charities

As part of "The Good Neighbour" outreach program, which began in January of this year, Kingston Liberals have donated more than \$2,500 to local charities. As part of the program, we pick a different activity each month that gives our volunteers and members a meaningful way to engage and contribute to a great cause in our Kingston community.

In January we sponsored, prepared, and served a meal at Martha's Table with the help of 28 volunteers, including MP Ted Hsu and Former Speaker of the House Peter Milliken. The nutritious and delicious meal collected many compliments from the 110 patrons served that day. The flawless service and kitchen management earned our volunteers many appreciative comments from the regular volunteers and staff.

In February we ran "The Last Penny Drive" in collaboration with the Queen's University Liberal Association to help sponsor a bed for six months at the Kingston Youth Shelter. We easily reached our goal of \$1,200 thanks to our volunteers and the generosity of the community who were eager to contribute their change. The drive also helped raise awareness of youth homelessness in Kingston since this issue is not as visible here as it is in the bigger cities like Toronto. Both KIFLA and QULA have committed to sponsoring a bed at the shelter on a continuing basis.

In March we asked our members to put on their running shoes and join us for the Annual Child Development Centre Run/Walk. Many Liberals, including our treasurer Robert Hamilton, braved the March chills for this great cause. The Kingston centre provides services for children and youth who have neurological, physical or developmental disabilities or impairments.

In April we organized a Bowling Fundraiser with MP Ted Hsu for Kamp for Kids. Thanks to some generous local businesses like Chez Piggy, Tir Nan Og, and Earth to Spirit we were able to give away some great prizes to our bowlers and donors. Kamp for Kids helps disadvantaged children and youth go to summer camp.

Our next initiative will take place on April 26 and we'll be looking for volunteers to help MP Ted Hsu clean-up an area in the city as part of Pitch-In Kingston, a program run by Sustainable Kingston. Keep an eye out for our email with more details to come!

If you have any ideas for a volunteer opportunity or a charity fundraiser, or would like to be part of our amazing volunteer team, please email outreach@kingstonliberals.ca

Raly Chakarova
Outreach Director

UPCOMING EVENTS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ◆ Friday, April 26 **Pitch-In Kingston**
Help clean up your community. Ted Hsu will be leading a group of volunteers to conduct an Earth Day trash pickup. Respond to:
rsvp@kingstonliberals.ca.
- ◆ Saturday, May 11 **LPC(O) Eastern Regional**
Ogwanada Resource Centre
191 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston
Coffee & Registration 8:15 AM
Program 9:00 AM
Information [here](#)

- ◆ Sunday, April 28 **Annual General Meeting**
We will report on recent activities and discuss plans for 2013/14. Come and meet fellow Liberals and become part of the democratic process.
416 Wing RCAF Club
Norman Rogers Airport
2:00 PM
All Welcome

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

www.kingstonliberals.ca



LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA



The Liberal Party of Canada is an association of members and supporters who share a vision of a prosperous, socially just, united and environmentally healthy Canada for all Canadians.

Our mission is to represent Canadians in Parliament in order to realize our vision and to have Liberal values and principles embodied in the governance of our country.

Values

INTEGRITY: *We act according to our values and principles*

We believe that ethics should govern all that we do so that the highest standards of conduct are considered and reflected when we engage in responsible representation of Canadians.

DIGNITY: *We believe that every person has the right to be heard and represented in a democratic society*

We recognize that the dignity of each individual is the cardinal principle of a democratic society. We believe in the autonomy, responsibility, and freedom of the individual, in a respectful society.

COMPASSION: *We are realistic optimists who believe in peace and universal common good*

We celebrate diversity and are committed to the pursuit of equality of opportunity for all persons and in the unlimited potential of the human spirit. We believe that it is important to provide fair and equitable treatment to all.

RESPONSIBILITY: *We believe that long-term vision is important for a sustainable society at home and abroad*

We believe that social, economic and environmental issues are interconnected and that society is strengthened when we take action on all three.

REASON: *We believe in making decisions based on facts and evidence*

We rely on legitimate research and expertise to make rational and informed decisions in order to provide Canadians with a responsible and responsive government that addresses their needs.

Principles

A federal Liberal government is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the lives of all Canadians and is committed to democratic governance, federalism and the rule of law.

We are compassionate and responsible fiscal stewards, committed to providing a good and fair balance between the economy and social justice. Based on our values, we work with Canadians to provide equal opportunity and security of the common good to all citizens.

We govern with the understanding that we have a responsibility towards the well-being of individuals, families, businesses, industries, and our environment. Therefore, we have a role in ensuring properly regulated fair and free markets and in preserving the Canadian identity in a global society.

We value education, learning, creativity and innovation as it leads to evidence-based public policy. We are open-minded, pragmatic and supportive of intellectual curiosity and skepticism.

Priorities

BRANDING: Advocate and support our values, principles, policies and our Leader

ENGAGEMENT: Promote engagement in the Party and in Canadian communities

FUNDRAISING: Fundraise to support our activities and realize our mission

ACCOUNTABILITY: Improve accountability to the membership at all levels of the Party

Key Milestones

2012 New Supporter Category

2013 Leadership Vote

2014 LPC Biennial Convention

2015 Federal electoral campaign

