

# The TORONTO PARTY

## LEADING THE WAY

**TTP UPDATE  
APRIL 2008**

This is the official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

### **Meeting Shorts**

The Party thanks Maxwell Wynter for Chairing the second annual membership meeting. Max was fantastic in keeping the meeting lively and on time.

Styli Pappas was elected by party members to Chair the Elections Committee. Ed Sweet and Hugh Prendergast were also elected to the committee, whose task will be to establish rules for the formal election of a party Executive this Fall. Congratulations, Styli, Ed and Hugh.

### **Rumours**

Unconfirmed rumours are swirling around that Health and Long Term Care Minister George Smitherman will run for Mayor in 2010.

**For more information  
about the party, please  
visit:**

[www.thetorontoparty.com](http://www.thetorontoparty.com)

## **DEL GRANDE RAISES THE STAKES**

**Veteran Councillor stirs emotions at successful annual meeting**

Toronto City Councillor Michael Del Grande set the tone of The Toronto Party's second annual membership meeting when he began with the announcement, "I am mad as hell" to capture the sentiment of Toronto electors.

Councillor Del Grande had an encouraging message for party members and supporters, suggesting that 2010 would present a golden opportunity to changing the face of council given all the new taxes and user fees piled on by Mayor David Miller and Budget Chief Shelley Carroll.

The veteran Councillor spoke of his own experience with an organization called Scarborough Needs Accountable Politicians, and how a grassroots movement could have a positive impact on getting fresh faces elected to City Council.

He did recommend dropping the word "party" in favour of a more neutral name. He also suggested that in 2010, our organization should wrap a campaign around one popular theme. The mood of the meeting appeared to point to a specific policy developed around repealing one of Miller's new taxes might be very popular.

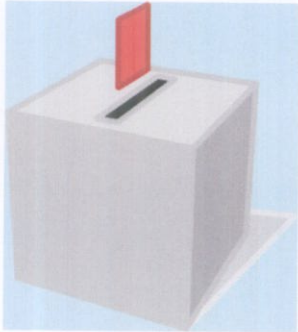
Del Grande noted that he was the only Chartered Accountant on municipal council and he had a wealth of experience as a forensic accountant. Still, Miller froze him out of the city's budget committee.

Scarborough-Agincourt MPP, Bas Balkissoon (and a former City Councillor) was also in attendance. The Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care spoke briefly about his own grassroots experiences with an organization he helped form called SHAFT.

## **MILLER MATH IS CONTAGIOUS**

*The Toronto Star* recently reported that the property tax on the average price home (\$380,000) in Toronto is \$2,322. *The Toronto Sun* places the figure at \$3,117.

## 2010 CAMPAIGN STARTS NOW!



Party co-founder, Stephen Thiele, sent out a call for action with an inspirational speech touching on the reasons why The Toronto Party was created.

Thiele pointed out that *Toronto Sun* columnist Sue-Ann Levy had called the party "A New Hope for Toronto", adding that hope needs support, and that the party would need thousands of members and supporters by the 2010 election.

"The 2010 campaign starts now," Thiele declared.

Real democracy in municipal elections, however, requires amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act* which currently bars individuals from raising and spending money during non-election years.

So far the province, while backing Mayor Miller's demands for more power, has refused to listen to the party's concerns about balancing Miller's demands with democratic reform.

Echoing Liberal MPP Bas Balkissoon, who had spoken earlier on the positive impact of court action, Thiele challenged the provincial government with a Charter proceeding to strike down the undemocratic provisions of the Act. A Charter challenge would be based on the rights of freedom of expression.

The protection of political speech is at the heart of s. 2(b) of the Charter.

## TRANSPORTATION PLAN RECEIVES UNANIMOUS APPROVAL



James Alcock, Chair of The Toronto Party Transportation Committee, presented an updated transportation plan to party members

Continuing on the theme that all modes of transportation must be supported in our city, James laid out a strategy for the implementation of a comprehensive infrastructure building project that would benefit public transit users and vehicular traffic as well as cyclists and pedestrians.

James informed the meeting that the party was currently working with members of the private sector to examine ways to pay for the infrastructure projects found in the transportation plan and that the feedback to the plan was very positive.

Members of the transportation committee have worked on ideas found in the plan for nearly 20 years. The committee has worked extremely hard over this time and their dedication to Toronto and our party is greatly appreciated.

## ONLINE PARTY POLL

Last month, The Toronto Party ran an online poll to find out who people wanted to run for Mayor of Toronto in 2010. 53% of the votes cast wanted businessman Theo Caldwell, of Caldwell Securities, to run for Mayor. Tied for a distant second, at 4% each, were Councillor Karen Stintz and Michael "Pinball" Clemons.