

The **TORONTO PARTY**

LEADING THE WAY

TTP UPDATE DECEMBER 2008/ JANUARY 2009

This is the official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!



Party Update

The Toronto Party is now over two years old.

This year the Party continued to make progress toward the 2010 municipal election. We created a Constitution, elected our first Executive, and continued to provide opposition to Mayor Miller's government.

2009 promises to be an exciting year as well as our newly elected Executive creates and implements a plan to promote our Party.

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OUR SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY AWARDS

Santa has loaded up a lot more coal than canes in his sack this year as Mayor David Miller and Toronto City Council continue to tax, spend and display utter contempt for the people of Toronto who loaned them our votes. The best we can say about this year at City Hall is, at least we don't live in Vaughan!



Coal: Bob Kinnear and Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 113, for stranding thousands of TTC riders in April by walking off the job without notice after members rejected the contract Mr. Kinnear negotiated. Mr. Kinnear, who immediately went into hiding and would not resurface until the heat was off, won re-election in 2006 with the largest majority in union history. Makes you think.



Coal: Councillor Maria Augimeri, who responded to local distress after the Sunrise Propane Industrial Gases explosion by screaming at a resident to "Shut Up!". Nuff said.



Cane: Premier Dalton McGuinty, John Tory, Howard Hampton and the Ontario Legislature, for calling a rare Sunday session of the Legislature to order the TTC back to work before the strike crippled the Monday rush. Few people covered themselves in glory that weekend, including **Mayor David Miller and TTC Chairs and Ward 18 Councillor Adam Giambrone**, who spoke disingenuously about limiting TTC workers' right to strike when the heat was on, only to back pedal later. The province was the notable exception.



Coal: Mayor David Miller, for launching his re-election campaign at taxpayer's expense, and more than one year before his opponents are allowed to begin theirs. The *Our Toronto* newsletter is an \$848,000 puff piece for the Mayor that we didn't ask for and our bankrupt city cannot afford. Sources at City Hall expect the cost of publishing *Our Toronto* three times a year will be closer to \$1.6 million when all of the bills have been paid. That would keep a lot of skating rinks open.

MORE CANES AND COAL...



Coal: Councillor John Filion and the Toronto Board of Health, for putting red tape before the food cart. More diverse food options on Toronto streets was supposed to be available by the summer of 2008, but Councillor Filion and his board have micro-managed the program to the point where if we ever expand the street food menu beyond hot dogs, City Hall bureaucrats get to decide what you eat and where you will eat it.



Coal: The plastic-bag tax. As of June 1, 2009, Torontonians will have to pay a nickel for every plastic shopping bag. We all must do our part for the environment, and this plan will likely remove some of the 460 million plastic grocery bags Torontonians consumer every year from landfill. But City Hall stepping in and telling retailers what they must charge for a product or service is a disturbing trend that given this Mayor and this Council's lust for new micro-management and taxes is unlikely to stop at plastic bags. Furthermore, at the end of the day, it is unlikely that the five cent charge is going to deter consumers from using plastic bags.



Cane: The pen is mightier than the sword. Too many times Mayor Miller has gone unchallenged for his policies because whenever the opposition cries foul, he trots out a statistic or some insignificant award the city has received to deflect criticism. Until recently, there have been few studies on municipal issue to pierce the Mayor's defence. However the C.D. Howe Institute is beginning to do the independent research necessary to provide the opposition with some strong counter-punches to the Mayor's disastrous policies. Its most recent study on the Mayor's land transfer tax proves that this policy has caused a significant decline in housing sales in the city and resulted in \$170 million being taken out of our economy. Candy canes all around for the staff and researchers at the Institute.



Coal: He's making a list, but not checking it twice. Whatever happened to the notion that all city councillors were created equal? We guess that it went out of the window with the decision to play *de facto* partisan party politics at City Hall by Mayor Miller. This was recently exposed by an email discussing garbage bin issues that was only delivered to the Mayor's supporters on council. While it must now be clear to the opposition councillors that unless they play by the Mayor's rules their constituents will be deprived of valuable information, the shameless tactic makes the Mayor a double lump of coal recipient.



We have reserved our biggest cane this year for the people of Toronto, who are working hard to make this a great city in spite of the policies of the Mayor David Miller and Toronto City Council which are causing many residents to rethink their willingness to continue living in a City that charges a Toronto-only municipal land transfer tax and motor vehicle registration fee. How many jobs must be lost and how much money must be taken out of the hands of consumers before the Mayor and City Council adopt policies that will actually help stimulate our troubled economy?

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!