

THE TORONTO PARTY

SHAME ON THEM

A fundamental principle of democracy is that the people choose who will govern them and how they will be governed.

However, after watching the sad saga unfolding at City Hall over public transit and listening to the politicians and their friends in the media, it is clear that the views of the people no longer matter.

The arrogance of our politicians is reiterated day-after-day by the phrase "council rules supreme". Meanwhile, the arrogance of our media is displayed in its one-sided view of public transit and its seeming unwillingness to permit a balanced debate.

In one newspaper story, readers were told that the leaked confidential TTC report showed that the Sheppard Subway had not fulfilled earlier growth projections for 2011 along the route. But, as well all know, job growth in Toronto has not been stellar overall. Poor tax policies and other policy decisions have impacted on our job growth.

At no time have either the media or, more importantly, the politicians in favour of building light rail above-ground transit told Torontonians how much the real cost of this mode of transportation will be.

We all can recall that the

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MARCH 2012

Official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

www.thetorontoparty.com

In this issue:

The Toronto Party expresses its displeasure with arrogant politicians and one-sided media reporting

The Toronto Party grows tired of "Liberals, Tories, same old stories!"

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IT IS TIME TO CHANGE THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN ONTARIO

Last month, we asked who at Queen's Park was listening to Torontonians in the subway versus light rail transit debate. Based on comments made by Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli and opposition leader Tim Hudak the answer is "NOBODY!"

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building of the St. Clair right-of-way was significantly over-budget. Yet once again we are led to believe that the costs of more rail lines on our city streets will have a fixed cost.

The reality is that when government undertakes to build something, cost estimates are vastly understated and additional taxpayer money is often required to complete government projects much to the exasperation of an already over-burdened populace. And in order to pay for their miscalculations, our governments dream up new schemes of taxation to pay for things that we do not want or do not need.

So what is the real story behind the support for light rail transit

expansion.

To understand what is happening here, one needs to examine light rail expansion in the United States.

Light rail has taken off in the U.S. because of a decision of the U.S. government to provide funding to states and cities for such projects. One can only conclude, that much like any other government policy, efforts were made by lobbyists to convince government that making these funds available would help public transportation.

Yet some studies show that cities which decided to build light rail transit systems caused ridership to actually decrease because costs for construction and maintenance were taken from other parts of transportation budgets. Bus service in one city was purportedly

sacrificed in poorer neighbourhoods so that light rail transit could be built elsewhere.

And what about the long-term costs of above-ground light rail transit. According to one writer, a light rail transit system must be replaced every 30 years. So not only must we pay now, we and our future generations must pay later too.

Have the politicians told us this? Has anyone else?

Mayor Ford and his brother Doug are right – the people want subways over light rail transit.

Yet who will listen to the people?

We will at The Toronto Party.

TIME TO CHANGE THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN ONTARIO Con't

According to a speech given by Mr. Chiarelli at The Toronto Board of Trade, council's decision to return to the out-dated vision of "Transit City" reigns supreme. The fact that Torontonians elected Mayor Ford on a vision of subway expansion carries no weight with the Liberal government at Queen's Park.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hudak and the Ontario PC Party are more concerned about horse-racing revenue that they are about infrastructure issues facing Canada's largest city.

And so it is time to change the political landscape in Ontario.

Four years ago, the Toronto Party was created as a municipal political organization because its leadership believed that formal municipal political parties were necessary to govern a large metropolitan centre like Toronto. Yet without legislation to support our vision, our party is handcuffed and hampered from building its message and promoting itself.

The only way to now fulfill our main objective is to register as a provincial party. We are tired of "Liberals, Tories, same old stories!" Aren't you, too?