

The TORONTO PARTY

LEADING THE WAY

TTP UPDATE MARCH 2008

This is the official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

Memberships Available Online!

It is now easier than ever to join or make a gift-in-kind donation to Toronto's most exciting political movement.

The Toronto Party's new look [website](#) now includes a secure hassle-free online feature for taking and renewing a membership, or making a cash gift.

Ontario legislation prevents us from providing tax receipts for donations, gifts-in-kind or corporate sponsorship.

But your dollars will go to reforming municipal government and setting the stage for The Toronto Party to field a full slate of candidates in the 2010 election, running under one banner and one vision.

All major credit cards are accepted.

What's on your mind?

E-mail The Toronto Party at:

thetorontoparty@yahoo.ca

www.thetorontoparty.com

DEL GRANDE HEADLINES MARCH MEETING

Outspoken Toronto City Councillor Michael Del Grande will be the keynote speaker at The Toronto Party's second annual membership meeting on March 29, 2008 (please see details on page 2)

With less than two years before the start of the 2010 municipal election, organization is going to be essential to The Toronto Party's success that November. Councillor Del Grande will speak on the topic of putting together a municipal political organization.

Councillor Del Grande has much respect among members of The Toronto Party even though he is not necessarily a supporter of the party's core objective, having recently told *Eye Weekly* that he is "100 per cent opposed" to party politics at City Hall, because "I'm not interested in being labelled a Conservative or a Liberal or whatever." The Councillor does, however, acknowledge that party politics at City Hall may exist.

He is a considerable political organizer, dating back to when he was actively involved in organizing "SNAP" - Scarborough Needs Accountable Politicians.

We are honoured to have Councillor Del Grande speak to us. It should be a balanced and frank presentation.

Trough gets wider

The list of entitlements City Councillors award themselves grew a bit longer this month with an automatic \$1,800 increase to their \$95,000 salary (plus \$53,000 annual office slush fund and a goodie bag of free parking and TTC passes, access to city owned golf courses and other attractions).

It could have been worse. The increase is linked to inflation, which is 1.9 per cent, and not the 3.75 per cent Mayor David Miller pulled out of a hat for the purpose of his latest property tax increase (plus a grab bag of other increases and user fees).

Had councillors used Miller math, their salaries would have jumped by over \$3,500. Three cheers for "restraint"!

DISPATCHES FROM OUTSIDE 416



It would appear that Toronto is not the only city population growing restless over how we are governed locally. Civic parties have also been set up in London and [Windsor](#). More are expected as citizens tire of spiraling taxes, declining services and unaccountable councillors who have had it too comfortable for too long.

The Municipal Elections Act that blocks civic parties and stacks election financing rules in favour of incumbents is unconstitutional, and a Charter challenge is inevitable unless the McGuinty government snatches control of the agenda and levels the playing field prior to the 2010 election. As it stands, challengers are prevented from fundraising or campaigning prior to January 1st of an election year, while many incumbents sit on fat surpluses built up from previous elections. Also, councillors have their \$53,000 annual office budget to spend on newsletters and other items of self-promotion.

“Pressure will be brought onto the province to permit municipal candidates to organize, fundraise and promote themselves prior to the writ period,” Brian Roussie, co-founder of The Toronto Party told the *Newsletter*. “Federal and provincial candidates face no such restriction, and municipal councillors have four years to promote themselves.”

The Toronto Party in the News

Toronto Party co-founder, Stephen Thiele, was one of several municipal activists and City Councillors interviewed by *Eye Weekly* writer Dale Duncan for her feature story, “Party Time?”.

Thiele again served notice that The Toronto Party intends to run candidates in each of the city’s 44 Wards (more Wards if Councillor Adam Vaughan has his way; fewer if Councillors Rob Ford and Francis Nunziata get theirs) whether the province green lights the idea of formal civic parties or not.

“What we’ve done is essentially said, ‘You know [party politics] happens; let’s bring it out in the open — let’s have formal civic parties’,” Thiele said. “It’s not an unusual concept throughout the world, and it’s not an unusual concept in Canada.”

MEETING NOTICE



THE TORONTO PARTY WILL BE HOLDING ITS SECOND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008

**AT MASTER’S BUFFETERIA,
310 BLOOR STREET WEST**

FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 5:45 P.M.

**If you are planning to attend, please e-mail us at
events@thetorontoparty.com**