

The **TORONTO PARTY**

LEADING THE WAY

**TTP UPDATE
NOVEMBER 2008**

This is the official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

IT'S YOUR TURN

THE CITY BELONGS TO YOU!

Accordingly, it is time for you to tell us the direction the city should take.

You can help us build a new Toronto by participating at our Annual General meeting.

AGM NOTICE

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 29,
2008**

9:00 am to 12:30 pm

**Columbus Centre,
Columbus Room**

**901 Lawrence Ave.
West**

Website:

www.thetorontoparty.com

E-mail:

thetorontoparty@yahoo.ca

A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

By Stephen Thiele, President-elect

Recent announcements from City Hall regarding coffee cups and grocery bags and Mayor Miller's decision to publish and distribute a 24-page colour newspaper at the cost of nearly \$1 million proves that Toronto badly needs a change in its municipal government in 2010.

Regardless of whether we are in good economic times or bad, the policies of Mayor Miller are unjustified.

But what are the alternatives?

For many years, people have looked for a new Mayor. But no one has emerged to provide the city with hope.

Although a group of city councillors is now talking about having a leadership convention of some kind to choose a challenger to run against Mayor Miller in 2010, the "opposition" on council is often without a clear vision for the city and is too fractured.

In the municipal context, their idea of a leadership convention is refreshing, yet very few of the same councillors who support this idea support the notion of civic political parties.

The Toronto Party was created because the 2006 municipal election was uncomfortable to watch.

The victory achieved by Mayor Miller was an obvious result.

But his victory was a defeat for Toronto since 100,000 less people voted in the 2006 municipal election than in the 2003 municipal election.

Accordingly, unless there is groundbreaking change in the next two years, it is safe to predict that voter turnout in the next municipal election will decline again.

In such a climate, Mayor Miller will waltz to easy victory as will every incumbent councillor who chooses to seek re-election.

The Toronto Party is working hard to stop this from happening; we are acting as a catalyst for change.

We are currently collecting signatures on a petition to change the *Municipal Elections Act* to permit candidates to put a civic political party affiliation beside his or her name on a municipal election ballot.

We are recruiting candidates to carry the party banner in the 2010.

But these activities and the other activities in which we have engaged are not enough to stir the passion of Toronto voters and to get them excited about city politics.

The residents are disinterested in the political affairs of Toronto

...the interests of the people come first...

because they believe that City Hall no longer listens to them and that Mayor Miller rules as he pleases.

Their heart and their spirit are defeated because no one has set forth a vision for our City that is different than the Mayor's.

Does The Toronto Party have a different plan?

Yes we do.

Our plan for city government is founded in the guiding principle that the direction of government is set by the people.

It is the interests of the people that come first.

Instead of government telling people what to do, the people are the ones who tell government what it should do.

As a result of what we have currently been told, the vision of The Toronto Party is to get back to basics.

It is time to end frivolous spending and waste at City Hall and to start reinvesting in the core services that matter the most to Torontonians.

The people understand that taxes are a necessary evil of a prosperous and safe society, but at the same time taxes are not paid to government to support the pet projects of politicians and wasteful and inefficient programs.

In this time of economic uncertainty, consumers are being advised to tighten their belts, and so to must City Hall.

We cannot afford to increase the city's debt without jeopardizing the city's ability to fix our crumbling infrastructure and to deliver the services that are in high demand.

The Toronto Party will support its police, fire and ambulance services to ensure that they are able to respond to the needs of our residents.

We understand that people want to live in safe communities and that they do not want to be the innocent victims of crime. But when our Mayor

believes that shutting down two guns clubs being operated on city property is an answer to rampant violent gun crime, the residents have a right to believe that nothing is being done to keep them safe.

We will target the criminals and not law-abiding citizens.

With respect to our parks, streets and recreation facilities, we hear the people complain about the increased litter. We hear the people complain of roads that are in disrepair. We hear the parents who want their children to enjoy the outdoor ice rinks during March break and the swimming pools in the summer. We will make solving the issues in these areas a priority.

There is no reason why outdoor ice rinks cannot be kept open during March break, except that our current Mayor prefers to spend nearly \$1 million on a newsletter instead of investing in our children.

We are told that our waste management system is complicated and inefficient. Three trucks do the job that can be done by one. In other cities, modern technologies have been adopted to deal with waste, but in Toronto we can't even recycle a coffee cup with a plastic lid. This is an area that is badly in need of a new vision that does not place unreasonable burdens on residents and businesses.

Lastly, we have heard complaints about the inefficiencies that exist in our public transportation and traffic systems. A city cannot function at an optimum if our buses and subways do not run smoothly and traffic congestion is the norm.

Unlike the Mayor's plan to concentrate spending on public transportation (which has not resulted in discernable improvements), we will focus on a balanced transportation plan to get our city moving.

We will also leave a legacy for our city through a bold transformation of our Gardiner Expressway into a new structure that spans the railway corridor.

By concentrating on these core issues, we will change the attitude at City Hall from one of pessimism to one of optimism.