

FREEDOM FLYER

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THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

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- special Election edition -

Inside: Freedom Party PRE-ELECTION
News Coverage



RE-ASSEMBLY

-Paul McKeever



{Paul McKeever is leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario. The following address was delivered to attendees at Freedom Party's kick-off election workshop held in Belleville on September 21, 2002. (Media coverage of the event appears elsewhere in this newsletter.) Thanks to the remarkable collapse of Ontario's Progressive Conservative Party orchestrated by Ernie Eves, NOW is the time that we have been preparing for over the past 15 years: the time for Freedom Party to take its RIGHTful place in Ontario politics. To learn more, please read on...}

Leading in the right direction:

Freedom Party Leader Paul McKeever

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Time and events have drawn us together. And though each of us is sure to lay eyes upon an unfamiliar face today, and to exchange names for the very first time, ours is not an assembly, but a *re-assembly*:

- a reassembly of individuals associated not by application and fee, but by virtue of their common commitment to a guiding philosophy;

- an association of individuals whose members, for centuries, have passed a bright torch of freedom from old to young, seeking in each generation to preserve the light of reason in the halls of government;

- a reassembly of those who, through disciplined study, spirituality, or the experiences of life, have come to hold a belief that dignity and prosperity are the fruits of individual choice and personal responsibility.

I do not know in what century this house of like-minded individuals was built. But I do know that its foundation, though centuries old, remains firm and upright.

That foundation is not constituted of the rotten wood of class envy. Indeed, we recognize no classes among humankind. Our foundation is rather one of polished granite, reflecting our clear recognition of the rights necessary for the peaceful survival and happiness of every individual.

These rights are the natural compliment to humankind's mode of living: the rights of life, liberty, and property. Denied our liberty to make choices, our happiness and our survival are at the mercy of another's discretion. Denied the benefits of having exercised our liberty wisely, the exercise of our liberty is a waste of energy. Ours being an association that has always valued a life of dignity and prosperity, we have never long tolerated the denial of liberty or property.

Our common recognition the natural rights of every human being has, as its most striking compliment, the recognition that every individual has the *same* natural rights. We recognize now, as our kin did when they commenced the building of western society, that equality is a concept that refers not to wealth, not to physical or mental ability, and not to popularity, but to the *rights* held by each

(...McKeever cont'd from page 1)

and every individual by virtue of his or her humanity. We recognize not one individual on this earth as having any right to violate the natural rights held by all.

Our recognition of that equality of natural rights among all men and women compels us to promote and defend the only form of government compatible with a society of free and equal individuals: a government in which those who govern have only those natural rights held by every other person governed by the law, and in which no person has the right to violate the natural rights of any individual: we call this "DEMOCRACY" or, in English, "rule by the people".

We contrast Democracy with any form of government in which those who rule *fancy* themselves to have the right to violate the natural rights of the governed. Whether a single individual, or a group representing some subset of the governed, we cite as *anti-democratic* those who would use laws and regulations to curtail or violate our rights of life, liberty or property.

Over the centuries, our association has assembled itself under many banners. Previously, we have, in different times and places, organized under the brand of liberal or conservative. But we cannot do so today. In Ontario, Liberalism and Conservatism are concepts that have changed much over the years. Indeed, they have also come to overlap so much as to begin merging and, in the merger, we are seeing little concern for the individual freedom, personal responsibility, equality and democracy we hold so dear.

HEALTH CARE:

Consider the current government monopoly health care system, which was adopted by Ontario only 34 years ago. Dare we fail to compare its current functioning to a system of war-time rationing? Can the clearest of memories remember a time when our government health care monopoly was not in a state of crisis? Can any of us remember a solution to the crisis that did not involve the raising of taxes or the further cutting of health care services? Given the problems that Ontario's government-run health care system is facing, is it any wonder that proponents of the current system don't want government health care to have any competition?

Mr. McGuinty has made it clear that he is squarely opposed to competition in health care: he does not want government to have to compete with any company in the provision of health care insurance or health care services. *Not one to be out-Liberalled*, Mr. Eves has made it clear that he too is squarely opposed to competition in health

care insurance and services. His Health Minister, Mr. Clement, has made it clear that the Progressive Conservatives, like the Liberals, want to force every Ontarian to stand in a queue for their equal ration of health care. So-called "queue jumpers", or those who, by offering medical services, make it possible not to suffer in a slowly moving line, are to be punished by a Progressive Conservative government. In an attempt to distinguish himself from Mr. Eves, Mr. McGuinty essentially tries to assure us only that *punishment* would be much more *thorough* under a Liberal government.

Rationing, crisis, taxation, service cuts, punishment: These are not the hallmarks of freedom and democracy but of oppression and mob rule. A rule of many, by some, to the detriment of all. This Liberal-Conservative government health care system is not one to be found in a society of personal choice, but one most suited for a dictatorship.

But maybe I overstate my case. Let me be proven wrong. Let Mr. Eves and Mr. McGuinty demonstrate how one can make a health care system work better with threats and force than with incentive and reward. Let them demonstrate how more flies can be attracted with vinegar than with honey. Let them accept Freedom Party's challenge: open government health care insurance and services to competition from outside of government. Let those supposedly inferior, expensive, profit-motivated providers of health care and insurance try to compete with the government. If you, Mr. Eves and Mr. McGuinty, are so confident in the superiority of the government's ability to provide us with the health care we really want, surely you have nothing to fear from such competition. Surely, given the option between a health care system run by politicians, and that run by mere mortals, people will continue to spend their money on government insurance and government hospitals. Surely they will beg to stand in your "queue".

EDUCATION:

While we wait, let us consider that other, most disgraceful failure of government. I am speaking, of course, of government schools. One might argue that, unlike the situation in health care, our government schools do not have a monopoly. Strictly speaking, that is true. Anyone in Ontario is free to send their child to the school of their choice. And many would like to do so. Our so-called "public" schools are a disgrace:

The schools themselves receive only a fraction of the taxes paid by Ontarians for education. The rest goes to leather chairs and fancy glass-ceilinged atria at new board offices, and to the wages of a multitude of bureaucrats and elected officials who politicize education.

(...McKeever cont'd from page 2)

Our children have been going to schools that have no text books, no up-to-date resources for teachers, and photocopy budgets that are shamefully low given the absence of adequate text books.

Ideas, curricula and reading materials that challenge the status quo in a meaningful way, or that fail to conform with a politically correct, secular, agenda have been purged from public schools.

Learning has taken a back seat to learning to learn, with the effect that many emerge from schools with little but the potential actually to know something or be critical.

Things are so bad that even a self-styled Communist teacher I know in the public system has decided he will do all that he can to send his child to a private school. That should tell you something.

But, for the vast majority even of upper middle income Ontarians, the government has intentionally put private schools beyond financial reach. Specifically, the Ontario government requires Ontario parents to pay for public schooling even if their children do not attend it.

Having paid thousands to the public system, most Ontario parents are left without the money they need to send their children to the school of their choice. As a result, they have no option but to put their children into government schools. Lacking the funds necessary to escape the public system, parents instead switch to seeking tax increases to improve the government school system. Thus, by requiring parents to pay for the government system even when they don't use it, the proponents of state-run schools financially coerce parents into fighting for the improvement of state-run schools.

The money paid to the public system by such parents is essentially a penalty, and a bar to choice. In reality does nothing except assure that the children of Ontario's wealthiest parents will not have to share a classroom with the children of people who are not extremely wealthy. It is elitist.

Waste and mismanagement, coercion, political correctness, ignorance. Are these the values we want to instill in our children?

The time has come to stop discouraging parents from sending their children to the schools of their choice. Freedom Party is truly alone in offering that choice to parents. Freedom Party proposes that, rather than giving your education dollars to the government in the form of taxes, you should give your education dollars directly to the school of your choice: no wasteful and political board trustees, no expense accounts, no bureaucratic waste. One hundred percent of your education dollar should go directly from your pocket to the school your child attends.

FREEDOM PARTY:

As I have said, the Liberals and Conservatives have begun to overlap so much now as to merge. Barely weeks after Mr. Eves was elected by the red 60% of his party, the fears of the blue 40% came true. Mr. Eves abandoned his party's former course. By amending it, he violated the spirit of the very Taxpayer Protection legislation that his own party made law. He did so so as to break with the commitments of the Harris government. He did so to court the left and, in doing so, opened very wide a door for a political party with a track record of defending and supporting individual choice and personal responsibility.

Let us seize the moment and the opportunity. We have at our disposal a time tested, proven and dedicated organization. We have an organization whose constitution ensures that the party's policies, and the party's leader, remain true to the very principles and values upon which our age-old association - the informal association of free and personally responsible men and women - is built. We have at our disposal an organization the policies of which flow from a commitment to individual freedom and equality, and to democracy in the true sense of the term.

So let us, again, defend our freedom to choose.

Let us, again, demand equality.

Let us, again, promote democratic government.

Let us re-assemble, this time, as Freedom Party.

Freedom Party

Still right for Ontario...

www.freedomparty.on.ca

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This party deals with freedom

By Derek Baldwin
THE INTELLIGENCER

A new provincial political party is about to sink local roots.

Today, the first tangible efforts to launch the Freedom Party will surface in Prince Edward-Hastings County with a full day constituency workshop at the Ramada Inn in Belleville.

Robert Metz, a Freedom Party founder and Ontario president will be joined by Paul McKeever, Ontario party leader, in addresses to those registered for the conference.

The Freedom Party was formed Jan. 1, 1984 but has yet to gain political ground in the last 20 years.

In a statement, Metz acknowledged the battle for publicity and said he was quoted two decades ago that "it would be at least 20 years before enough people even heard of the name Freedom Party to make a party a viable option in Ontario's political marketplace."

Metz said the emphasis of the party during that time was not "exclusively political; it necessarily included advocacy, education, and lobbying."

But he said now is the time for the party to come out.

"There is a pending provincial election on the horizon and the time has arrived to focus on the Freedom Party of Ontario's efforts

on getting candidates elected...," he said.

The workshop, he said, is "a must for everyone wanting to get involved on an organization or candidate level in the next provincial election."

Local Hastings-Prince Edward Freedom Party president Trueman Tuck is organizing the event.

Following the 9 a.m. opening and a 10:15 a.m. address by Metz, party leader McKeever will give a speech at 11:15 a.m..

Tuck will discuss the organization of a constituency association at 1 p.m.

The day is expected to conclude at 3 p.m.

Freedom Party tries to take root locally

Sunday, September 22, 2002

Offers options Freedom Party wooing disenchanted with main parties

By Jennifer Bell
THE INTELLIGENCER

Paul McKeever wants people to know that Ontario's Freedom Party isn't "just the latest flavour of the month."

"Although many people may not have heard of us, we've been around since 1984, quietly building and organizing the structure of the party, and now we're ready to focus on getting our candidates elected."

As leader, McKeever — who spoke at the party's first constituency association workshop in Belleville Saturday — said the Freedom Party appeals to people looking for an "option" from the mainstream Tory and Liberal platforms during the next provincial election.

McKeever was joined by party president Robert Metz, its education critic Robert Vaughan and Trueman Tuck, president of the party's Prince Edward-Hastings constituency association. Each official addressed the approximately 25 members during the workshop, held at the Ramada Inn.



PAUL
McKEEVER

Choices in health care and education for Ontarians — which include turning over education tax dollars directly to the school of people's choice, and opening up government health care insurance to competition from outside agencies — are high-priority issues on the party's platform, said McKeever.

"Rationing, crisis, taxation, service cuts and punishment are not the hallmarks of freedom and democracy but of oppression and mob rule," he told members. "Our government's health care system is not one to be found in a society of personal choice, but one most suited for a dictatorship."

The party was founded on the "best of both liberal and conservative values," said McKeever: individual freedom of choice, and personal responsibility. We believe that, balanced together, these values are the blueprint for a better Ontario."

Metz, one of the party's founding members, said he was quoted in 1986 as saying "it would be at least 20 years before people even heard of the name Freedom Party to make it a viable option in Ontario's political marketplace."

"With a pending provincial election on the horizon, the time has arrived to focus on getting candidates elected." (In recent weeks, there has been growing speculation that Premier Ernie Eves is planning an early vote, possibly this spring. There have also been reports of Eves being advised to call one this fall.)

Born and raised in Oshawa, McKeever, a civil litigation attorney, said the Prince Edward-Hastings riding association "continues to receive an influx of members who are realizing that they do have an option to the current political parties. We are gaining ground day by day."

Far Left and Left: -from the *Belleville Intelligencer*, September 21, 2002 and September 22, 2002, respectively.

News of Freedom Party's presence in the riding of *Prince Edward-Hastings* was front-page news for the local press. Small wonder. With a mere 55 vote spread between the winning Liberal candidate and the losing Conservative candidate last election, it's understandable how new parties can have a major impact on the outcome of an election.

Is this a bad thing, or is it "the glory of democracy," as the editorial at right, perhaps cynically, observes?

At Right: -from the *Globe & Mail*, January 15, 2003

Whatever else the implication of Freedom Party's presence in the next Ontario election, the analysis of Murray Campbell certainly suggests that we will have a direct measurable effect on the outcome of many riding contests.

Thankfully, with the election of Ernie Eves as PC party leader, there is no longer any danger of 'splitting' any vote, since Freedom Party is now Ontario's only common sense choice.

As Fp leader Paul McKeever notes: "We now have two liberal parties: Liberal red and Liberal blue."

It will be interesting to observe if the media continues to use the derogatory 'fringe' label in connection with Freedom Party after this year's expected election. As evidenced by some of the other coverage in this newsletter, there's certainly nothing 'fringe' about choice in health care, education, and electricity.

We defer to Fp candidate Ray Monteith's reaction when faced with the issue of Freedom Party's assumed status: "*Fringe*!?! We're no fringe party! We're a *major* party just getting started!"



Far-right fringe aiming to influence Ontario vote

Queen's Park

MURRAY CAMPBELL



Erne Eves has jettisoned a lot of the Common Sense Revolution in his nine months as Ontario's Premier. He may also be turning away a lot of people who supported the Progressive Conservatives because they rather liked what is now out of fashion.

Right-wing splinter parties that shrivelled in the shadow cast by former premier Mike Harris say they are getting a new lease on life as the government moves to the centre. They are no threat to siphon off more than a small percentage of votes, but they don't need huge amounts of support to do a lot of damage.

Paul McKeever, leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario, condemns Mr. Eves as an opportunist who has forsaken the CSR principles that Mr. Harris espoused.

"In reality, we now have two Liberal parties: Liberal red and Liberal blue," he said.

Tough words from a party that has never attracted more than two-tenths of a percentage point of the votes in an Ontario election and that received just \$45,328 in contributions in 2001. But Mr. McKeever, a 36-year-old Oshawa lawyer, believes his party is poised to capitalize on disaffection with Mr. Eves among people who believe that society should revolve around capitalist markets.

He said the Freedom Party, which broke away from its Libertarian Party roots in 1984, has finally decided to get serious about being a political player. It has just 2,000 members and plans to field only 52 candidates, but Mr. McKeever said it has reorganized after deciding it no longer wants to be simply a group of whiners on the political margins.

Mr. McKeever, who once held a Tory membership, collected just 337 votes in the 1999 race as a Freedom Party candidate in Toronto Centre-Rosedale. An unimpressive showing, but he says he believes that the government's

abandonment of its electricity-market shakeup, combined with status quo health and education policies, means "all of the things that made a vote for the Freedom Party seem wasted are quickly fading."

Giuseppi Gori's heart is leaping these days, too.

The leader of the Family Coalition Party is hoping that his party can once again play the spoiler role. He, too, is critical of Mr. Eves, saying he is "going back to government by polls and government as usual."

Mr. Gori, a 52-year-old computer consultant, knows firsthand how a fringe party can influence elections. In 1990, the party picked up 2.7 per cent of the votes cast, but it was the deciding factor in 11 races in which its support was greater than the margin between the winning candidate and the runner-up.

Mr. Gori himself won 9.2 per cent of the vote in Halton North in a contest that the New Democrat won. If even half the 2,489 votes cast for the Family Coalition had shifted, the race would have been won by a Conservative or a Liberal.

He thinks the stage is set for a similar scenario in the election expected this year and hopes this will benefit his 60 candidates.

Who knows whether these are realistic hopes? Pollsters usually find only trace support for minor parties, but that may be because they don't plumb for it.

It's enough to know, however, that in a number of constituencies, the vote was awfully close in the 1999 election. The king of close votes is "Avalanche Al" McDonald, who retained Mr. Harris's Nipissing seat for the Tories in a by-election last year by an exceedingly slim 19 votes.

But there are plenty of other examples. Tory Bob Wood beat his Liberal opponent in London West by 294 votes; Tina Molinari won for the Conservatives in Thornhill by just 347; Liberal Ernie Parsons squeaked out a 55-vote victory in Prince Edward-Hastings.

The slightest bleeding away to the minor parties could affect these races. It's the glory of democracy.

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Signs point to spring election

A regional who's who

BY JOHN MINER
AND JONATHAN SHER
Free Press Reporters

SPECIAL REPORT

Anyone looking for a sign a provincial election lies ahead need look no further than the corner of York and Colborne streets in downtown London.

On a blue billboard, the colour of the Progressive Conservatives, Dianne Cunningham smiles above a slogan used by Premier Ernie Eves — "Experience for the road ahead."

Any candidate who is seri-

ous about winning a seat has been laying the groundwork since last fall, said Bob Wood (PC — London West).

"Some are going door-to-door, some are out at events, and in Dianne's case, she's

using a billboard," Wood said.

Though the election might not come until the fall or even next year, it could be called as early as April 1, he said.

One thing is certain: When Eves fires the starting gun, across the region, signs will be erected that feature familiar faces.

In the 10 ridings in the London area, nine members of the provincial parliament are going to try to keep their political jobs.

See WHO'S WHO Page A3



EVES: Finger on the trigger.

At Right: -from the London Free Press, March 17, 2003



The State of Election Readiness: Well, they almost got it right. Missing is Freedom Party's candidate for London-North Centre, Lisa Turner, who was also nominated and registered well prior to the appearance of this front-page London Free Press article.

March 11, 2003: Following is a list of Freedom Party candidates who were already registered or were in the process of being registered with Elections Ontario as of this date (ordered alphabetically, by riding):

RIDING

ALGOMA-MANITOULIN
DAVENPORT
DON VALLEY EAST
DURHAM
ELGIN-MIDDLESEX-LONDON
HALIBURTON-VICTORIA-BROCK
LAMBTON-KENT-MIDDLESEX
LONDON-FANSHAWE
LONDON NORTH CENTRE
LONDON WEST
OSHAWA
OXFORD
PARKDALE-HIGH PARK
PERTH-MIDDLESEX
PRINCE EDWARD-HASTINGS
SARNIA-LAMBTON
THORNHILL
TORONTO CENTRE-ROSEDALE
VAUGHAN-KING-AURORA
WILLOWDALE

CANDIDATE

Gordon Mood
Franz Cauchi
Wayne Simmons
Cathy McKeever
Ray Monteith
Charles Olito
Wayne Forbes
Mike Davidson
Lisa Turner
Bill Frampton
Paul McKeever (party leader)
Paul Blair
Dick Field
Rob Smink
Trueman Tuck
Andrew Falby
Lindsay King
Silvio Ursomarzo
John Genser
Vaughan Byrnes

With pundits predicting a spring election, nominations have begun to pour in for London and area ridings.

From Page A1

Three of them are Liberals — Steve Peters, Caroline Di Cocco and Pat Hoy.

The party has chosen six candidates in the seven other London-area ridings. The Conservatives are next with eight candidates selected. The NDP has nominated four candidates.

The only incumbent in the London area with a question mark beside his name is Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, who was recently promoted to a cabinet position by Eves. Hardeman could not be reached for comment.

The Conservatives took seven out of the 10 ridings in the last provincial election. Winners from that round who are already nominated are Marcel Beaubien, Bert Johnson, Cunningham, Wood, and Frank Mazzilli.

Huron-Bruce MPP and Agriculture Minister Helen Johns hasn't been nominated yet, but has committed to going after the nomination.

The election will feature some rematches with several former members of the legislature trying to reclaim their ridings.

Conservative Bruce Smith is trying to come back in Elgin-Middlesex-London against Peters, who won the riding by a slim 1,171 votes in 1999. Also running again in the riding is Ray Monteith, who polled 405 votes for the Freedom Party.

Another rematch is in London-Fanshawe, where former NDP MPP Irene Mathysen is running against Mazzilli. Mazzilli took 38.5 per cent of the vote last time, followed by Liberal candidate Peter Mancini with 35 per cent and Mathysen with 24.6 per cent.

The Liberals have scheduled their nomination meeting for the riding for March 30. Prominent London municipal politician Bud Polhill has announced he will run.

A third rematch is in Perth-Middlesex, where Liberal candidate John Wilkinson is running against incumbent Bert Johnson. Johnson won the riding last time by more than 6,000 votes.

Robert Smink is running in the riding again for the Freedom Party.

The Freedom Party, Green Party and Family Coalition Parties have all nominated candidates in the London region.

Last election, the Freedom Party had 14 candidates across Ontario. This time it will field more than 40, said party president Robert Metz. "We are going to be a factor in this election," he said.

The Freedom Party has eight candidates nominated in the 10 London area ridings, while the Green Party has four and the Family Coalition Party has one.



Freedom Party to field local candidate

ANDREW FALBY IS CONCERNED ABOUT DECLINING PERSONAL FREEDOMS SINCE SEPT. 11

By KAREN ROBINET
The Observer

As the province heads toward another election, widely expected to take place next spring, the president and a co-founder of the Freedom Party (FP) says his party is ready for what it's considering its "first serious election."

Since forming in 1984, Robert Metz says the party has expanded beyond its Canadian base and has become an international party.

"The whole party is restructuring and reforming our agenda," says Metz, adding that a new leader has been selected. Paul McKeever, a lawyer from Toronto now heads the party, a position Metz himself had held for some time.

"It's a whole new ball game," Metz said, although he says the party has not strayed from its original belief in personal freedom and responsibility.

The party's premise is that: "Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property."

In the last provincial election, the party fielded 14 candidates. Already, 20 have been signed up, and Metz said the party is hoping for at least 50

to be in place once the election is announced.

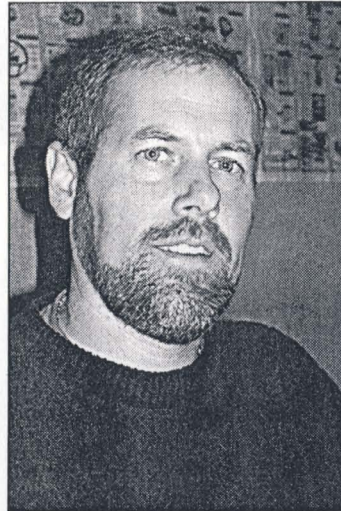
"We will make the difference between the winners and losers," in many of the ridings, Metz said. "We know we can count on one to two per cent of the vote, and if we can get five per cent, we're doing great."

Establishing a new party isn't easy, said Metz, adding getting the message out is the biggest concern right now.

Metz says party members believe strongly in the rights of the individual, and says nobody - including members of political parties - has more rights than anybody else because they happen to belong to a particular group, special interest or otherwise.

People "should have the right to do anything that doesn't violate the freedom of someone else," he said. Only when there are violations of that freedom should government be involved, Metz says.

He says the party has grown and evolved significantly since its early days when, "we thought we were doing great if we got 200 newsletters out in a month."



The Observer

Andrew Falby will be the standard bearer for the Freedom Party in the next provincial election.

These days, the party's Web site garners two million hits a year, he says.

Metz adds party members have seen the influence of smaller parties, like the NDP, and their ability to influence government even from a minority position. "Small party policies are often adopted by the larger parties," said Metz.

Preferring not to be labelled as belonging to either side of

the political spectrum, Metz says the FP could be described as "small 'l' liberal, and small 'c' conservative."

He said government has become too intertwined in the day-to-day lives of Canadians, and said, "government can't referee if it's one of the players in the game."

Locally, Andrew Falby, 41, is prepared to run in the Sarnia-Lambton riding for a third time. The first time, he ran as an independent, but discovered the FP in time for his second bid.

This time around, he said interest in the party has grown, and it's possible there could be some competition for the nomination. Falby said he not only welcomes it, but encourages people to become more involved in the process.

People are becoming more aware of the party and its ideals, said Falby, adding that since the events of last Sept. 11, there has been a tremendous focus on freedom in North America.

"How much freedom do we trade off for security?" asks Falby.

Governments, he said, act unilaterally in a bid to protect citizens, but in the process, personal freedoms can be compromised. "It's a slippery slope," he said. "At what point is it enough, or too much?"

At the same time, Falby said, "I don't believe in anarchy," and that some form of government is necessary, but not the all-intrusive governments which exist today in most parts of the world.

Exceptions, he says, include Costa Rica, which has a libertarian party in opposition, and the republic of Somalia. "It's not unattainable," he said.

An FP government would be reflected in a strong military designed to safeguard the citizens, as well as "a strong court of justice and a strong civil (police) force to protect people from hurting each other, but with as little government as possible."

Falby, who is self-employed, said he believes that most people are good and noble, but often don't realize how much government control is exerted on their lives.

Falby said, "I've been studying the history of freedom and liberty and I have certain insights that others might not. If I can influence just one candidate, the world might just be a better place."

To find out more about the party, visit www.freedomparty.on.ca.

To contact the writer: krobinet@theobserver.ca

**Above: from the Sarnia Observer
Section A page 2 - October 21, 2002**

Olito declares his candidacy for provincial seat

CAROLINE GRECH

Daily Post Reporter

KAWARTHA LAKES - The race to represent Haliburton-Victoria-Brock residents at the provincial level has another candidate with a Woodville farmer running on behalf of the Freedom Party of Ontario.

Charles Olito, who also ran in the 1999 provincial election on behalf of the Freedom Party, said since the last election, the problems in education, health and electricity still haven't been solved.

Olito said he is confident the Freedom Party will get considerable support from Harris Tories pushed out by Ernie Eves' move to the left.

"I decided to run because I want to change things. Right now, we have no choices. The Freedom party is a party of choices," Olito told *The Daily Post* on Friday.

Key among Olito's concerns is the state of the health care system in Haliburton-Victoria-Brock.

"We have a rationed health care sys-



tem. The health system has been broken since the last election and nothing has changed," Olito said.

The 17-year math and history teaching veteran said the Freedom Party believes in private clinics to help bring health care costs down.

"At first people will get an initial shock, with privatization of health care, but with competition the prices will go down."

Doctor shortages in Haliburton-Victoria-Brock are another sign of the rationed health care system in the province, Olito said.

In addition to changing the current health care system, Olito believes in major changes to the education system as well.

"We should open up the system so that parents can direct their tax dollars to the schools of their choice. People are unhappy with the public school systems. There is a demand for better schooling," Olito said. "What we're looking at is giving parents a choice, so that they don't have to pay double tuition," Olito said.

- More 'Olito' on PAGE 13

Olito tries for second run at provincial seat

The Freedom Party wants to provide people with real choices, Olito said.

In addition to opening up the education system, Olito also wants to see more funding for technical programs at the high school level and feels with his background in education will be an asset in addressing educational issues.

As for the financial bickering between the various levels of government, Olito believes that the province has enough resources to work with.

"It riles me when I see the premiers of Ontario asking the federal government for more and more money," Olito said.

In addition to health and education, Olito said that the mishandling of the hydro issue by the Eves government is only going to get worse unless alternate

sources of electricity are pursued.

"They are so far in debt and with a cap now on the price of hydro, we're still stuck with paying the whole debt off," Olito said.

Through examining alternate energy sources such as windmills and solar systems, Olito said the shortages and high prices faced by Ontario consumers can be alleviated.

"Our peak hydro usage is in the summertime and that is when you can use solar systems to generate electricity and it would also be good for Kyoto," Olito said.

Since retiring from teaching in 1986, Olito has been involved with several parties but said that he has found his home with the Freedom party.

A Race To Watch

Above & At Left: -from the front page of the Saturday February 22, 2003 Lindsay Daily Post.

Freedom Party's candidate for the riding of Haliburton-Victoria-Brock, Charles Olito, has become the focus of controversy in his riding where there is no incumbent and union leader Earl Manners is the candidate for the NDP.

Voters in this riding have already seen more electioneering prior to the writ being dropped than the rest of Ontario will likely see for the entire election period - whenever Eves musters the courage to take the plunge. The debate got nasty when the Daily Post depicted Olito as a strict disciplinarian in an editorial cartoon (see next page).

FP

Today's schools need discipline

Charles Olito
Freedom Party Candidate

Q. How would you improve education in the province?

A. Well I am a former teacher. The number one thing we need back in schools is discipline. I have to back track a little, the opening of the system back in the seventies made teachers vie for students. That is very much the case today too, that means the first indicators that we had were in the mid-seventies, when private businesses no longer came to the households to hire technical students, that was the first indicator that the standards have gone, so we can no longer count on the quality student. We were actually hiring grade 12 students out of technical because we knew they had the ability. These students could go out and work and make a living wage while they

Charles Olito

FREEDOM
PARTY
CANDIDATE



were making up their mind about whether they want to go onto something else and whether they want to go to university. When that happened, these people shifted into colleges because in the early seventies Georgian College where some of my students went, had to pay tuition for a whole year, and they were wandering around shops wondering what they wanted to do. Now isn't that a waste of time and money? You know how long it took me to make up my

mind? I was in the RAF recruiting office and they gave me a list with 300 trades on it and said choose one.

It is a waste of time for someone to pay tuition and be wandering around and do nothing for a whole year.

Q. Current MPP Chris Hodgson has clout being a former cabinet minister. That has resulted in a lot of funding coming to the riding. How would you plan to fill those shoes being a new candidate?

A. Listening to the people would be the first thing that I would attempt to do. I would also form a constituents assembly of interested people and that would be people from all walks of life and all parties, and more or less concerned citizens who have opinions and ideas and I would be doing a lot of listening. That is the first thing that I have to do. The sec-

ond thing is that you have to serve the people and you have to take back to parliament the things that need to be addressed and also what is very important which I have not seen happen is when you are in the house as an elected member, if there are any areas that come up from legislation or any problems arise that impact your riding, I feel it is up to you the elected representative, to take that back to the people and let them know about it. That is important and I haven't seen that happen in years. So basically listening to people and finding out where people stand, what their needs are and taking it back to the proper sources because you are not always dealing with legislation so you take to the proper sources in government and see what you can do. Anything that comes down that impacts your riding it is up to you to bring it back to the people.

OPINION

Daily Post News Desk
324-2113

Headline - Today's schools need discipline

- Charles Olito



At Left (where else?): Well at least they have them facing in the right direction...

"In my day," explains Charles Olito in response to the Lindsay *Daily Post's* mean-spirited March 4, 2003 editorial cartoon, "a *subject* was referred to as a *discipline*. Mathematics is a discipline. Literature is a discipline. From science to physical education, these are all disciplines."

In an intellectually dishonest portrayal, the Lindsay *Daily Post* used its own headline (which could more accurately have read 'Today's schools need disciplines') to launch an ad hominem attack on Olito. This would lead any reader who had not read the actual content of the original essay *under* the headline to believe that Olito advocated some form of conformity and the use of corporal punishment.

It's a poor joke, given that neither of these issues is even mentioned by Olito. There is no doubt, as readers can see by our reproduction of the original essay (above, from the Lindsay *Daily Post*, March 20, 2003), that by 'discipline' Olito was referring to objectively defined subjects and an integrated curriculum for students who are near graduating age (grade 12 and higher). The small children depicted in the cartoon have a long way to go before they have to worry about choosing a discipline of this nature.

What it is that would motivate the editors of the *Daily Post* to first misrepresent Olito's position, then to condemn their own misrepresentation, is something we leave for the reader to decide.

A great irony exists in the fact that government monopoly schools are the very thing that lead to conformity, political correctness (zero tolerance-forced conformity-forced funding) and mediocrity in education. Freedom Party's policy of choice in schools would go a long way to alleviate the very condition depicted in the cartoon, and which exists in the government-run schools of today. {end}



London-West candidates gear up for tight provincial race

By Joe Scott
The Reporter

If a provincial election isn't announced already, it soon will be, and would-be leaders will line up for a shot at the provincial throne.

But locally, there's an equally exciting run shaping up, as many candidates hope to claim the limited number of MPP spots available.

In the London-West riding alone, there are four candidates who are certain they are the best men or women for the job. Let's look at those candidates.

Bob Wood, Progressive Conservative, Incumbent.

Tale of the tape – age: 55, years in politics: 42, including eight as MPP of London-West.

Bob Wood is the most seasoned of the four candidates, with a resume that reflects his experience. He has been chairman or co-chair of several political task forces and committees.

Platform: Wishes to democratize the legislative process even more. He has seen his constituency increase by 120,000 people over the past eight years, and wants to represent them even better. He said he has the second-largest number of bills and proposals in the provincial legislation, and plans to see them through to fruition. Also wants to restore many of the lost programs in the London Health Sciences Centre and will try to make sure those programs are always available to Londoners.

Quotable: "I think Ernie Eves is the most effective leader out of the three (leading candidates.) I'm looking forward to the election. I enjoy



Bob Wood,
Progressive Conservative

campaigning and I enjoy meeting people. It's going to be a lot of work, but it's also going to be a lot of fun."

Chris Bentley, Liberal.

Tale of the tape – age: 47, years in politics: none

This newcomer is very excited about the upcoming election as well, and likes his chances considering his inexperience. He has owned and operated a small law firm in London for many years, and has always held a keen interest in politics. He says that London-West needs a strong voice, which he's convinced he can be, and being elected MPP would allow him to speak to a broader range of people. He lives in the riding, and knows many constituents well. He has run in three Boston Marathons, so he's ready for the long haul.

Platform: Bentley names two key issues that are important to him in this election; health care and education. As a Liberal, he feels that the current government has taken too much emphasis away from those two issues, and will work toward restoring the infrastructure of those programs.

He said the Liberals have a plan for education, and that is to make



Chris Bentley,
Liberal

education work for Ontarians again, not work for the government alone. That includes public schools, not just private. The Liberal choice is education for all.

Quotable:

"I'm going to stand up and speak out for the interests of the people of the (London-West riding.) I intend to speak for the community we want. I will also ensure that we reinvest in education, and start to fix the health care system that the Tories have let deteriorate."

William Frampton, Freedom Party, (vice president.)

Tale of the tape – age: 45, years in politics: about 16.

Frampton may be a newcomer to this race, but he assures all that he's no babe in the woods when it comes to political maneuvering. He has run for MPP three times in the past, but all were in different cities and different ridings. He is a computer programmer/analyst by trade who was born in London, but spent time in Ottawa before moving back to the area. Although the Freedom Party might not have much of a profile in the area, he feels he



William Frampton,
Freedom Party

can raise its standing in the province if he is elected.

Platform: The Freedom Party's platform is based on common-sense solutions to three serious issues that are prevalent in politics today. Frampton names health care, education and public electricity as those issues. They believe in a better and more accountable government, one that can be easily accessed by the common populace and held accountable for its actions.

Quotable: "I feel that the established parties do not have sensible, workable solutions to these (three) problems and we do. There are people out there who are looking for common-sense solutions, and our party is putting them forward. It will show the established parties that there is a call for those types of solutions."

Patricia Dalton, NDP

Tale of the tape – age: 43, years in politics: none.

Although Dalton is a newcomer to the riding, she has been a secondary school teacher for 15 years. Therefore she likely remembers the fight that the teachers had with Tory Premier Mike Harris six years ago, when the teachers



Patricia Dalton,
NDP

struck. She sees politics as a way to expand her horizons and get her voice out to the government, speaking for her constituents. She speaks vehemently about the "shambles" that democracy is in throughout this province, and vows to help restore some of that democratic system, riding by riding if she has to.

Platform: The NDP has always held high regard for Canada's social system, and now seeks to "repair the damage done to it in the past decade." The party's catchphrase is "Public Power," in which supporters look to restore power to the people by encouraging voter turnout and participation in public issues among the populace. She is excited, if a little nervous, leading up to her first election, and is looking forward to getting her feet wet.

Quotable: "I have strong convictions that the Tories have decimated this province with their policies. We wish to give power back to the people and restore democracy to the province. We're going to ensure that publicly funded resources are kept in the public's hands. We feel that we (NDP) are the only party that is strongly advocating that."

St. Thomas Times-Journal, Monday, February 24, 2003 — 5

LOCAL

IT PAYS TO GET IN THE RACE EARLY!

Above: An article from *The Reporter* (April 2003), a South London community newspaper, focuses on the tight electoral race in London West, where Freedom Party candidate **Bill Frampton** is featured as one of the four early candidates in the riding.

On the Right: - from the St. Thomas *Times-Journal* (February 24, 2003) Freedom Party's candidate for Elgin-Middlesex-London, **Ray Monteith**, was the first to declare his candidacy in the riding.

Monteith carries Freedom hopes First candidate for Ontario election

By TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF
Ray Monteith is off and running.

The perennial Freedom Party candidate has been nominated by the party to run in the next provincial election in Elgin-Middlesex-London.



▲ MONTEITH Monteith, a former Conrail employee, is the first candidate nominated in the riding.

"Eves' days are numbered," said Monteith in a press release. "Freedom Party's platform of choice in education, competition in health care, and priva-

tizing electricity are absolutely necessary to avoid the disastrous consequences of our 'wishy-washy' premier's actions. Ontarians need to understand how Eves' cap on electricity is forcing them to subsidize big business through their taxes. We are facing black outs, brown outs and rationed health care. This kind of

reckless mismanagement has to stop."

In the 1999 provincial election Monteith captured 405 votes in Elgin-Middlesex-London, just over nine-tenths of one per cent of the valid ballots cast in the riding, leading the three fringe candidates.

Liberal Steve Peters won with 20,417 votes.



MORTGAGE DEDUCTION

ANALYSIS

Eves' plan a watered-down U.S. model



JONATHAN CHEVREAU

Near the top of the list of tax advantages enjoyed by Americans over Canadians is deductibility of mortgage interest. News the Ontario Conservatives are considering a similar tax break — one once embraced by federal Conservative leader Joe Clark — was greeted with faint enthusiasm by tax professionals.

"I'd love to see it because I still have a mortgage," says Harry Uhrig, tax partner with Mississauga-based BDO Dunwoody LLP.

According to Statistics Canada, about five million homeowners are still paying off their mortgage.

But at best, Ontario is considering a watered down version of the type of break American homeowners enjoy.

First, the Ontario plan would apply only to provincial tax payable, not the federal portion.

Second, it would apply to 50% of mortgage interest, not the 100% Americans have.

Third, it would take five years to get there. As with Ontario's private school tax credit, the mortgage deduction would be phased in gradually, starting at just 10%.

As we saw with last year's Tory budget, such promises are often subject to postponement or retraction.

Americans can deduct mortgage interest and property taxes on two homes, Uhrig says.

However, those with very high incomes have the deduction "carved back."

Integration with the federal tax regime would be problematic unless Ottawa amended federal tax laws to allow a similar deduction, warns Paul Hickey, national tax partner for Toronto-based KPMG.

John Manley, the federal Finance Minister, said Ottawa won't consider a similar tax break.

But if the idea did spread to Ontario and other provinces, it would radically change attitudes about home ownership and investing.

Canadians pay off mortgages as fast as possible because interest is paid with precious after-tax dollars. The first pillar of retirement planning here is to be mortgage-free.

By contrast, Americans avoid paying off their mortgages quickly. They end up paying more interest to the banks but less taxes. It's not unusual to find Americans in their 70s or 80s still paying mortgages, Uhrig says.

"It's ingrained. They'll run up credit card debt and refinance the house to get deductible interest."

While tricky, Canadians with substantial non-registered investments can already deduct mortgage interest. They sell the securities, use the proceeds to pay off the mortgage, then repurchase the portfolio with tax deductible investment loans.

Those with modest incomes can practice a variation of this called *The Smith Maneuver*, a book by Victoria, B.C.-based Fraser Smith.

"Offering mortgage deductibility to beleaguered taxpayers is a great election ploy," said Smith yesterday.

Smith thinks Ernie Eves, the Ontario Premier, would leave a greater legacy by introducing Ontarians to similar techniques which require a commitment to divert freed-up taxes to investments rather than consumption. That would take pressure off government coffers in the future.

Canadians have been "screwed" by government tax policy, Smith says, because they are discouraged from using home equity. "At the end of their lives, people realize they have a nice house paid off but no income. Then they have to do a reverse mortgage at 65 to get enough income to live on."

It also defeats their original purpose of passing the family home on to the children.

Then there's the oft-cited fact Canadians don't pay tax on capital gains when they sell their principal residence for more than they originally paid. Apologists for high Canadian taxes often cite this difference but Americans also have this tax break, Uhrig says.

A U.S. couple can realize up to US\$500,000 from home appreciation jointly every two years, tax-free. For an individual, it's US\$250,000.

Several observers panned the proposals as a cynical election ploy.

Paul McKeever, leader of the Ontario Freedom Party, would "rather see a tax rate decrease or a single flat rate than picking and poking on various bits of politically expedient vote-oriented tax policy."

Uhrig suggests that if Ontario wants to adopt the U.S. model, they should go all the way and also allow property taxes to be deducted.

"Then any homeowner would have a deduction, as opposed to just the guy who hasn't paid off his mortgage." That wouldn't be too big a stretch, since Ontario already gives renters tax credits and low-income homeowners a property tax credit.

Financial Post
jchevreau@nationalpost.com

At Left: -from the *National Post*, Saturday, April 5, 2003.

Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever is among the critics cited who are skeptical of Ernie Eves's potential mortgage tax deduction plan. As *Financial Post* columnist Jonathan Chevreau himself observes: "As we saw with last year's Tory budget, such promises are often subject to postponement or retraction."

When you can't trust the PCs, who ya gonna call? Tax Busters! Freedom Party. We don't tinker with taxes - we *reduce* them!

Freedom Party



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FREEDOM FLYER

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