

Conservative Party of Canada Victoria EDA Newsletter

September 2009



Message From Your President

These busy times are calling for prompt action from your EDA executive. I am very pleased to write that, by the time you read this, the National Party will have assigned us a date for the nomination of our candidate. You will be notified by mail, e-mail or telephone. As well, the website will have it under Candidate News.

Our campaign readiness package is in place. Our EDA office returns to 3 days per week and the staff is now fully trained and growing. Membership and donations are increasing.

If you have any changes to your membership, home address, e-mail address, or telephone numbers, please let the office know so we can stay in touch. I look forward to seeing all of you out at the Nomination Meeting and eager to assist in electing a Conservative Member of Parliament.

Brian Siddall, President

Message From The Secretary

Members, the Rules and Procedures your Party and Association operate under may be found at the Conservative Party National Website under 'Key Documents' at www.conservative.ca/EN/4684/.

These include the revised Party Constitution, amended Party Policy Declaration, current Candidate Nomination Rules and Procedures Document as well as the Electoral District Association Constitution.

Current Victoria EDA financial and other information including decisions taken by your board are contained inside the Monthly Victoria EDA Board of Director Meeting Minutes. All association members may obtain photocopies or emailed Wordpad attachments through the Johnson Street Association office.

K. McNeil-Smith, Secretary



Minister Lunn (right) with Troy DeSouza (left)

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT:

The June 28 Member Appreciation Picnic had everything going for it – a perfect family gathering spot, excellent weather, lots of prizes, a great space for kids and a visit from Min Lunn with news from Ottawa. Troy De Souza was there to announce his official candidacy in Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca.

There were many opportunities for political chatter and strategic analysis. Another highlight of the afternoon was a large Conservative Cake followed by draws for valuable prizes. To enjoy photos of the event, visit the website <http://sopowphoto.smugmug.com/>, click Commercial, then click CPC.

Hope to see many more of you at next year's event. Many thanks to Geoff and Barbara Buck for hosting along with their able assistant organizers Joan Peggs and Dorene Steele. The work of Kathie, Alyson and the EDA Office volunteers was greatly appreciated.

EDITOR'S NOTE: After listening to member's complaints about the cost of attending events, I can now state that there was one event this year costing time and the lunch my family would have been eating at home. Put it on your calendar for next year. A great day to gather and talk politics. jh

PM'S BBQ WAS A "CAN DO" EVENT

by Hugh Kruzal

STEPHEN HARPER – FIRST PM EVER TO VISIT RRU by Patrick Hunt

Our Prime Minister chose Royal Roads University (RRU) to announce \$35 million in federal economic stimulus funding for fifteen post-secondary schools in B.C. and made history in the process as he is the first PM to ever visit RRU.

Mr. Harper lauded the physical beauty of Hatley Park, and praised RRU for being a cutting-edge institution with innovative distance education programs.

Deborah Hunt, CA, the former Director of Finance at RRU, and her husband, Patrick Hunt, a graduate of Royal Roads Military College, were photographed with the Prime Minister (see the EDA website).

"Would you like to have dinner?" It is an invitation you know you can't resist. Nor could nearly 2000 other Conservatives who flocked to Indian Springs Ranch on the evening of August 4.

Phone calls and emails made for instant communication, connecting two members of the Victoria Conservative membership and in less than 24 hours the trip was all arranged. Reservations got Alyson Hawksworth and Hugh Kruzal a secure last minute space on a 3 PM ferry. Their destination: Senator Gerry St Germain's South Surrey Ranch.

Organization was so well executed that from parking lot sign-in to having a knife and fork you felt the depth of planning that made for an incredible evening. Dinner was great, but the feature wasn't BBQ or summer salads. It was Stephen Harper.

The Prime Minister's message was strong and clear. He held the audience, and spoke on the topics that concern Canadians: crime, Afghanistan, the economy, the opposition, and then he offered a vision for the future. As he ended, the PM stated that Canada would be one of the first countries to recover from the global recession.

The applause was overwhelming. Hawksworth called the PM's message "factual and realistic" and is firm in her belief that "The Conservative Party has a leader who absolutely knows what he is doing!"

Also at the podium was Russ Hiebert, MP for South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale. In the dinner line there was a chance to connect with MP Gary Lunn and other members of Parliament. On the minds of all: the possibility of a Fall election.

The PM shook hands with everyone lining the walkway as he made his way from the stage. His next destination – Victoria. A long day in the life of a Prime Minister. A great day for us.



Victoria Shipyards Wins Coast Guard Contract The government of Canada has awarded a \$20 million contract to Victoria Shipyards, for construction of five small search and rescue vessels for the Coast Guard. The boats will be about 15 metres, 47 feet in length and are described as 'motor lifeboats'. Two will be stationed on the west coast with the remaining three each in Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. Delivery is to be in March of 2011.

From The Office, And Membership

Now that summer is over, and volunteers are back from varied pursuits, office hours have returned to Tues, Wed, Thurs, 1000- 1300 hours . This is effective Tuesday Sept 16th.

Summer office tasks included streamlining paper and computer files and a better system for tracking monthly memberships for both the Membership chair & for the Treasurer. The laptop computer for mobile financial and membership issues has been updated and is ready for use.

Goals for the immediate future are to reconnect with the CIMS trained volunteers for CIMS data entry during an election, and to process memberships weekly in preparation for a fall election.

We average about 20 memberships per month in renewals and this past month saw a marked increase in new memberships. As both the local office and National are sending out renewal notices, please notify me through the office if it becomes confusing. Our office staff can easily check the National database for your current status or correct renewal date.

A plan is in place for anticipated new memberships by candidates seeking the nomination. With a Candidate Nomination Meeting in the immediate future, it is important that your membership be current if you wish to participate in the selection.

Passages

PASSAGES: We mourn the passing of Ann Hungerford and Gordon McKay and thank them for their long and strong support. If you wish to have a loved one remembered in the newsletter, please advise the office by email or telephone.

For Volunteers

Kathie Csomany has included a sign-up sheet or you can

Drop into the office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 10-1

Moving?

Membership or not, whenever you leave the Victoria Electoral District (ED), the only way for the Conservative Party of Canada to know is if you advise them using <http://www.conservative.ca/> or you contact our local office.

Fall election would be 'irresponsible': Baird

Monday, August 31, 2009 CBC News

Canada's opposition parties would be "irresponsible" to trigger an election just as Canada's economy shows signs of rebounding, Transport and Infrastructure Minister John Baird said Monday.

Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, Baird said the latest economic indicators showed the Conservative government's stimulus package is working. But he added the economy is too fragile for a snap election.

"I can tell you the very last thing this country needs is an unnecessary election, less than a year after we had the last one," Baird said following the release of Statistics Canada's latest figures which showed Canada's gross domestic product grew for the first time since July 2008. "It would be irresponsible to interrupt our important work on the economy with an unnecessary election."

According to Statistics Canada, the country's GDP grew in June by 0.1 per cent compared to May, driven by a growing service sector and improved domestic demand.

The monthly gain was not enough to push Canada's GDP growth into positive territory for the second quarter of 2009, but likely sufficient to have economists backing the belief that the country is on the road to economic recovery.

Harper Looks To Even Out The Senate...

The government is ... calling on the new appointees to stay for only eight years and to support Senate reform.

Jacques Demers, former Montreal Canadiens coach

Doug Finley, Harper's election campaign chair. (Ontario)

Don Plett, president of the Conservative Party of Canada and National Councillor. (Manitoba)

Carolyn Stewart-Olsen, who recently stepped down from her post as Harper's director of strategic communications, has been rewarded for her more than seven years of service. (New Brunswick).

Dennis Patterson, former Northwest Territories premier (Nunavut).

Claude Carignan, a lawyer and mayor of Saint-Eustache (Quebec).

Linda Frum Sokolowski, a Canadian journalist and bestselling author (Ontario).

Kelvin Ogilvie, scientist and past president of Acadia University (Nova Scotia).

Judith Seidman, health expert and long-time community service worker (Quebec).



SOUTH ISLAND BREAKFASTS:

Breakfasts on the 4th Friday of September, October, November, January – June will continue at The Union Club. With an election being thrust at us, September 25th will be a Candidates Forum. We are presently expecting five speakers but this can change quickly. Minister Lunn will represent SGI, Troy De Souza is the declared candidate for EJDF and Christopher Gillespie, Patrick Hunt and Hugh Kruzel are campaigning for the opportunity to represent VIC in any upcoming election. Registrations are taken on-line at the Victoria website

Don Martin, National Post
September 02, 2009

"The senior Liberal was seething over the cellphone from Sudbury, where his federal party had gathered to plot their electoral suicide. "Wanna hear my analogy to this mess?," he confided. "The car is ready and moving forward. Unfortunately there's a cliff straight ahead. But the real problem is that the driver is accelerating because he thinks he can jump the canyon."

That head-smashing-in Liberal jump could take place two weeks from today, ...

Board Members

Brian Siddall,
President
Jack McClintock, Past
Candidate

Vanessa Aldridge
Kyle Bienvenue
Jay Bradshaw
Charlotte Brocklesby
Geoff Buck
Kathie Csomany

Chris Gillespie
Carl Gustafson
Alyson Hawksworth
Jean Howell
Irvin Kew
John Marsden
Brian McCulloch
Kevin McNeil-Smith
Ihor Osobik
Ian Pyper
Art Sherwin
Lloyd Skaalen
Doreen Steele

Telephone Tree

We now have seventeen polling areas covered with volunteers who will attempt to contact all members and supporters without internet connections who wish to be advised when riding events are announced via e-mail.

However, we need an additional twelve phone volunteers so that all polling areas can be covered without any single volunteer having more than 12 numbers to call. Please call Lloyd Skaalen at 250-388-7512 or e-mail him at VicEDAtel@shaw.ca if you can spare some of your time for the Party.

The next forecast occasion for calling activity will be related to the pending Nomination Meeting at which the new Victoria Riding Candidate will be selected!

Lloyd Skaalen

Editorial Comment

Can a Liberal Minority do Better?

Sold Out was the label on the Thursday, September 10, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce Luncheon well before the day arrived. Minister of Finance, the Honourable Jim Flaherty was the featured luncheon speaker.

Fortunately for me, this speech was being telecast live on CPAC and I was able to hear nearly 90% of it.

While taxpayers rarely agree with Ottawa, the message today is loud and clear. Even with a minority government, Canada is accepted by members of the G8 as the gold standard in banking, securities and in escaping from the worst of the economic downturn.

In addition, it is expected that by 2012, all provinces and territories will be on board a program to ensure that corporate taxes are no greater than 10% at the provincial level and 15% at the federal level. Four provinces, including British Columbia, are currently in compliance. This greatly improves chances that business and investment developers will seek out Canada over other possible countries. Mr Flaherty cited the return of Tim Hortons head office to Canada as a prime example.

Shortly after that I turned from TV to print media and read an article by Gerry Nicholls of Sun Media. His opening line states The Liberal Party campaign slogan in the next election will be, "We can do better." Both Mr Nicholls and I agree that this is not likely to be the case with Mr Ignatieff at its head.

It seems even more likely that Canada will be looking at another Conservative minority government. However, there is a possibility that enough anger can flood the country to produce one of two things: a voter turn-out of less than 40% giving no clear mandate to anyone; or a complete Conservative landslide.