

Mark's Views

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is upon us again. From my family to yours, we wish you every happiness over Christmas and the holidays. If you are free, we would love to see you at our Festive Season Celebration at the Ajax Community Centre, Commodore room, on December 11, from 7pm to 9pm.

As we give thanks for our many blessings, please also take time to give to those less fortunate in our community. Food banks this Christmas will be under greater pressure than in times past, and our help is needed. You can bring food and gift items to

our Christmas party which will be provided to the Durham Region Police Service Food and Toy Drive. You can also drop off food and toy donations in person at the local police station.

As official opposition critic for Public Safety and National Security and as the vice-chair for the House of Commons committee that deals with matters arising from my critic role, I have been traveling over the last two weeks to see first hand how Canada's correctional facilities work. From what I have observed it is clear that the Conservative government's crime and corrections policies will make our communities less safe and lead to more crime. I invite you to follow a summary of these investigations and many other issues on my Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/markhollandmp.

In Ottawa, important changes have been made to our team in the Leader's Office by the steady and experienced hand of new Chief of Staff Peter Donolo. His first actions included appointing some of the smartest and most seasoned staffers who know how Ottawa politics works. I am greatly inspired by the work this new team is doing and have no doubt that together we can build the message and the momentum to rid Canada of the regressive and mean-spirited Harper government. In that regard, we welcome your input and participation in our riding association meetings. If you are interested in getting involved and having your say on the future of our party, please let us know.

All the best and I look forward to seeing you on the 11th!

Mark Holland is the federal Member of Parliament for the riding of Ajax-Pickering.

Transport Canada "Bulldozers by Stealth" – Holland

Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Holland denounced last weekend's eviction of tenants by Transport Canada from the storied Bentley – Carruthers home on the Pickering Lands which the federal government expropriated in 1972 to build an airport that is neither needed nor wanted.

"After a period of relative peace, Transport Canada has resumed its plan to slowly depopulate the community by evicting tenants as well as to destroy the vestiges of our connections to the area by boarding up heritage properties and allowing them to decay," said Holland. "They are bulldozing by stealth our history and communities away."

Holland noted that Transport Canada has a history of resorting to deceptive tactics when carrying out evictions and demolitions in order to avoid public backlash. As in this case, Transport Canada claimed that the historic house, built in the 1850s, was mouldinfested. Yet when inquires were made by Holland's office for



diagnostic proof, Transport Canada fell silent.

"They tried this before with Tullis Cottage," said Holland.

In 2005, Transport Canada announced that they were going to demolish the historic home of the Bentley family, claiming that it had mould. But Holland was able to get

the federal Liberal government of the day to agree to an independent third-party assessment. The tests proved that Transport Canada's claims were false. The historic home was not only saved but also designated a heritage property.

Time is the single biggest factor in the
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POP'S LAST STAND

by Mary Delaney

Thirty-four years ago, three courageous women from People or Planes illegally occupied the magnificent 19th century farmhouse where Ernie Carruthers was born – and the nation watched and held its breath. Last week Land Over Landings learned that the current tenants were being evicted from their home of 30 years and this iconic structure is to be boarded up. That 'Last Stand' in 1975 was just a part of the massive campaign by POP that brought about the cancellation of the airport. Hundreds of houses were demolished and people displaced, but



this house was saved and the airport was stopped. I met Ernie Carruthers in 1981 when I worked for the Oshawa Times. He was renting his own farm from the federal government. He was a small man, shy, with an easy smile but sad, sad eyes. I was pretty ignorant about it all. I knew nothing about the Last Stand or that this quiet man had been famous. The news story I was covering was about the fires occurring in the dump across the lane from his house. Pickering council was furious and wanted the federal government to pick up the bill. But I was
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COMMUNITY SERVICES VS SUPERJAILS

by Lynda McCarthy

On November 13, 2009 Mark hosted both an expert panel of community leaders and a Round Table on the issue of crime prevention. In far ranging discussions a number of important issues emerged.

It was made clear that the majority of prisoners in our institutions suffer from mental health and/or addiction issues, neither of which is addressed during their prison terms. This makes the likelihood of reoffending far too high. Youths placed in detention with hardened criminals are also likely to emerge as more serious offenders after being influenced by those with long records of criminal activity.

A variety of proven programs in our community are competing with each other for the ever dwindling funding dollars available and are in danger of collapsing altogether because of this lack of funding. Without these

programs to address the needs of youth and to provide alternative justice programs we fail to provide the services needed to prevent a breeding ground for crime and to assist prisoners to make a successful readjustment to the community.

It would seem that teens in particular may be denied the opportunity to the counselling and programs they so obviously need. According to the Toronto Star (Nov. 9, 2009), "Troubled teens promised cutting-edge treatment at Ontario's new \$93 million superjail for youth have instead been deprived of food, denied programming and subjected to questionable body cavity searches, according to a review by a senior provincial official.

Irwin Elman, Ontario's advocate for children and youth, is investigating cases of excessive force used by some staff at Roy McMurtry Youth Centre

in Brampton, which holds 102 male and female youths, 90 of whom are still awaiting trial."

One can only wonder if some of the \$93 million dollar budget for the superjail had instead been allocated to community organizations to provide stable funding and expand their successful programs there might be fewer inmates. Indeed, one must question why such a facility is needed to house just 102 young people who needed support and guidance prior to their crimes.

By providing a forum for community leaders Mark addressed a problem facing many Canadian cities and towns. Those who already struggle to provide services to at-risk youth face huge difficulties and in our community they have come to the conclusion that they need to provide a united front. Proven programs must be saved. New ones must be introduced.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF MY COUNTRY?

by Lynda McCarthy

I am a 14th generation Canadian who has always been justifiably proud of my citizenship until the recent past. I can hardly believe what I have witnessed and I wish it weren't so. Our present government has attempted to destroy opposition parties by means of a budget statement; set back the advance of women's rights; relied on an archaic precedent to thwart a legal non-confidence motion; ignored a court ruling to bring home Canadian citizen Omar Khadr, a child-soldier under paternal influence; turned its back on a Canadian citizen denied return home because she no longer resembled a dated passport photo; appointed more senators in one month than any other Prime Minister in history despite their platform promise to end the practice of political patronage; made the gun registry a partisan issue which divides Canadians; used our own tax dollars to persuade us that they have saved the economy by its undocumented stimulus funding which found its way in much higher amounts to Conservative ridings than to those of its opponents; and stooped to ethnic and religious slurs as a means to discredit political opponents, particularly in mailings to the Jewish community.

On the world stage this present government refused to participate in the Copenhagen Conference until Barack Obama announced his intention to be present, and subsequently our Minister of Foreign Affairs has

indicated that there is little likelihood that Canada's stance on carbon controls will shift; apparently acted in contravention of the Geneva Convention by handing over detainees for almost certain torture despite any evidence of complicity in terrorist activities and without any concern for their human rights; in doing so put our soldiers in harms way as they are now understandably feared and disliked by the civilian population; and engaged in smear tactics to denounce the courageous statements of Mr. Colvin who has nothing to gain and much to lose.

This is not the Canada of which I have always been so proud. This is not the Canada whose Prime Minister received the Nobel Peace Prize for initiating the concept of peace-keepers. This not the Canada that has always been respected around the world. Our country has lost much of its international integrity due to this government's failure to respect our own law and to meaningfully attempt to resolve domestic and world issues. It has, meanwhile, contributed to reducing the respect for our duly elected officials by engaging in highly polished, vindictive, and expensive media tactics to attack opposition members and effectively reduced our respect for and belief in the integrity of all politicians. How have we as Canadians allowed this to happen? I no longer recognize my country and I am deeply saddened by what this present government has done to divide Canadians and to tarnish our reputation in the global community.

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT

With this issue we are introducing a new feature to allow us to better understand the needs of our members. The following is our first poll and it concerns the newsletter and its delivery to you. Please take a few moments to respond to the questions and forward your answers to lynda.mccarthy1@rogers.com

1. How frequently would you like to be updated on APFLA issues?

- a) daily
- b) weekly
- c) monthly

2. What is your preferred method of APFLA communication?

- a) our website
- b) text messages
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter
- e) other

3. What time of day is best for us to contact you?

- a) Daytime
- b) Evenings

4. Demographic Information

Gender: M / F

Languages: E / F / Other
 (please specify) _____

Age Group:

16-24 / 25-45 / 46-60 / 61-90

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What do you feel are the most important issues that need to be addressed by the Liberal Party?

Please respond to:

lynda.mccarthy1@rogers.com

MARK'S FESTIVE SEASON CELEBRATION

Friday, December 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Ajax Community Centre, Commodore Room, 75 Centennial Road

You are warmly invited to join in the fun, enjoying festive foods, games, and activities for the children. Of course, we can expect a visit from that jolly old soul, Santa Claus. Circle December 11th on your calendar today.

Transport Canada "Bulldozers by Stealth" – Holland

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way of mounting a similar defence to save the Bentley – Carruthers home. No one knew about the eviction until just a week before the tenants were removed.

"I think that Transport Canada is putting tenants in an unconscionable position by forcing their silence in exchange for housing elsewhere in north Pickering," said Holland.

"The fight to save Bentley – Carruthers house isn't over, nor is protecting north Pickering from a government whose clear bias is to clear the community to build an airport."

Holland will continue to press Transport Canada to reveal the basis for the eviction, both diagnostic reports of mould as well as the cost to repair.

Holland appreciates the support that the City of Pickering has given both community and heritage interests in the north. He will ask Pickering Council to advance resolutions that obliges the federal government to save the historic house.

POP's Last Stand

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caught up in Ernie's story as he showed me around his amazing home.

You see, the dump had been established by the federal government when they were trying to force the Carruthers out. As they bulldozed the houses of their neighbours they would send dump truck after dump truck up the driveway and dump the debris. Ernie told me his wife cried every day. And that's why they finally gave up. It was the day they moved out that People or Planes held a party for them – and secretly moved the three women in.

Anne Howes, Brenda Davies and Frances Moore (the wife of a judge!) spent two weeks in the house, without electricity or plumbing, connected to the outside world by ham radio. They called it their 'Last Stand'. Headlines of the day said 'Community Activism Flows From the Kitchen'. The women only gave up their occupation when the provincial government backed out

on its support and the airport project was stopped.

Mark Holland was on the case as soon as he was alerted by Land Over Landings, and was able to visit the tenants and see the inside of the house just days before they were locked out. He understands that buildings which are boarded up fall into disrepair and are open to vandals in very short order.

This iconic house – known to the heritage community as the Bentley-Carruthers house – must be saved, as much as the fertile land surrounding it. We need long-term leases and a Land Trust so that heritage buildings and Class One farmland can be protected forever, for everyone.

In an ironic side note, while not all of you will have seen Ernie Carruther's house, perched amid trees at the end of a long farm driveway smack dab in the middle of the Airport Lands, you will have seen the other house built by one of the Bentley Brothers. It is the strikingly handsome house on the four corners in Brougham, home – until very recently – of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority. How ironic that as the GTAA moves out of one Bentley House, the federal government boards up the other Bentley House, just as grand but of even greater significance in the history of Pickering as the home of The Last Stand.

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31

by Andrew Hutton

Liberal Party members of Ajax-Pickering play a vital role throughout the year, shaping policies at the national level, working within our community to drive social action on important issues and we carry the banner for our Member of Parliament, Mark Holland, on Election Day. The broader and more diverse our Liberal membership is, the better we can be in responding to, and ultimately, meeting our community's needs.

The Ajax-Pickering Federal Liberal Association represents progressive national and local values, we are inclusive, and our activities and efforts on behalf of our community and our members continue on a year-round voluntary basis.

We encourage you to join the Victory Fund whereby you can make a donation of as little as \$10 per month which is divided between the national

party and our local riding. Your membership is automatically renewed each year without further cost and your monthly contributions are eligible for a 75% annual federal income tax rebate. A \$10/monthly contribution would actually cost you \$2.50 or \$30/year.

All memberships expire on December 31st and renewal forms have been sent to all with expiring memberships. Please return those forms with payments in the paid envelope that was provided. If you did not receive your renewal form, contact Humera Khan at hum29@hotmail.com or renew online at <http://www.liberal.ca>. So be a part of the Liberal Party and APFLA as we build the Canada of tomorrow. Please renew your membership today.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes all the difference!

apfla
Ajax Pickering
Federal Liberal Association

APFLA MEETING

Date: Wed., December 16

Place: 1701 Finch Ave
(at Brock), Unit 76

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

All members are most welcome to join Mark and the association at our monthly General Meeting. This is your opportunity to be heard, have input, and become more informed. Meetings are friendly and informal. Please join us.

PRESIDENTS REPORT



Of the many interesting activities members of the Ajax Pickering Federal Liberal Association participate in, one of my favourites is the annual Santa Claus Parade. Held in Pickering in the morning and Ajax in the evening, the November 14th events were a huge success. A number of our members came out on what was a mild day and evening and handed out candy along with good wishes to the many thousands of families lined up along the parade routes. Seeing the smiles

on the faces of the children as they received their present of candy was a heart-warming way for me personally to start the holiday season.

In this issue of our newsletter you will see a poll on how you would prefer the association to stay in contact with you. This is one of the results of the establishment of a communications committee at our associations September meeting. They have been asked to look at better ways to communicate with the members of APFLA. I ask that you take time to fill it out and respond. With this information we will be on our way to developing a stronger communications strategy. Another sign of the great progress the committee is having is the new layout and design of our newsletter. We hope that you find the new design and content appealing and informative. Thank you to the members of the committee for their creative and diligent work.

In closing it is with regret that I inform you of the passing of one of our mem-

bers. Leslie Siklos was well known for his violin playing and entertaining style. He had been a performer at our True colours event in 2008 and was the musician who played O' Canada every July 1st at celebrations in Pickering. Leslie passed away on Monday November 30th in Ajax Pickering Hospital at the age of 94. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Leslie. Funeral services will be held on Sunday December 6th at Accetone Funeral home. Located at 384 Finley Ave in Ajax, visitation will begin at 1:00 PM with a chapel service to follow at 2:30 PM.

I look forward to your responses to our poll and idea's on how we may serve you the membership better. Please feel free to contact me by email at president@apfla.ca or on my cell phone 416-821-5771.

Dave Johnson
President – Ajax Pickering Federal
Liberal Association

APFLA PARTICIPATED IN THE AJAX AND PICKERING SANTA CLAUS PARADES

