

President's message



These are "interesting times". For the last six months it appeared that the new federal Liberal leader

was poised to call a spring election. Indeed, there is a very good chance that he still will.

As the sponsorship scandal continues to unfold, reporters are looking more closely at the Prime Minister's former dealings. It now appears that not only was he part and parcel of the sponsorship mess, but he has a large number of even uglier skeletons in his closet.

Will he go ahead and call an election in the next month, before the new Conservative party has time to organize, and before more details of his involvement in questionable dealings come to light? Or will he hold off until the fall, hoping the whole thing will blow over and be forgotten?

Whatever happens, the federal Liberals no longer are seen as the unbeatable force they were just two months ago. Now that Canada has two right wing parties, the NDP is the only party that can appeal to the centre and centre-left voters in the country. We can, and will, make large gains in the upcoming election. How large will depend on the work we do between now and the election.

We have significant challenges in Pickering-Scarborough East, including the political and geographic divide at the Rouge River. We will have to adopt organizing tactics from other multi-centre ridings. With the new federal funding formula, we have to go after every NDP vote we can get.

Our goal in this election is to achieve at least a second place finish. Even winning is not out of reach if we work hard enough.

here's your new Riding Executive!

The first executive of the new Pickering-Scarborough East riding association was elected in the founding meeting at the West Rouge Community Centre on Saturday, February 28. The new executive was established under the rules set out in the association's constitution, which had been adopted earlier in the meeting. The new executive is:

President: Gary Dale

Vice-president: John Forster

Secretary: Dorothy Hirlehey

Membership Secretary: Brian Blakely

Youth Member: Mike Newman

Members at Large: Judy Newman, Bill Signal

Unfortunately, the very important positions of Treasurer and Member Organizer are currently vacant. Gerry Batke, the federal Treasurer for the Scarborough East riding association, continues to look after the books until the old riding is officially divided. This could happen as early as April 1, 2004. We need a volunteer to fill this important position ASAP.

The member organizer position is even more critical. This person will be responsible for organizing communications with the members, including getting renewals and notifying people of events. This is perhaps the most important position in the organization.

As per the constitution, volunteers for executive positions must be approved by the executive and the confirmed at the next membership meeting (to be held April 7, 2004).

If anyone would like to volunteer for either position, please call Gary Dale at 416 282-0583 or e-mail garyd@scarboroughndp.org.

New Web Sites

The NDP is running regional campaigns this time out. One of those regions is a place called Scarborough. To facilitate a Scarborough-wide campaign, we've started a Scarborough NDP web site. The main page is www.scarboroughndp.org. From there, you can link to any of the Scarborough ridings, or you can go directly to the various ridings using the following URIs:

Pickering-Scarborough East: pickering.scarboroughndp.org,

Scarborough-Guildwood: guildwood.scarboroughndp.org,

Scarborough East: east.scarboroughndp.org,

Scarborough-Agincourt: agincourt.scarboroughndp.org,

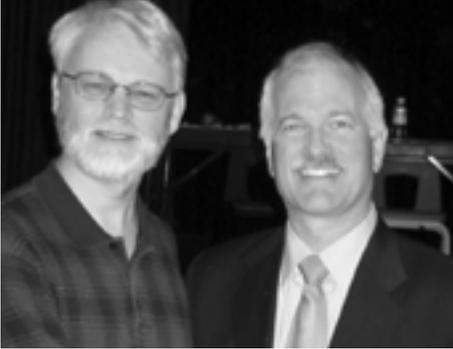
Scarborough Centre: centre.scarboroughndp.org,

Scarborough-Rouge River: rougevalley.scarboroughndp.org.

The www.scarborougheastndp.org URI also still takes you directly to the Scarborough East provincial riding site.

The breakup of the Scarborough East riding into two federal ridings has also forced another change. The scarborougheastndp.org e-mail addresses that the riding executive had been using have been converted to scarboroughndp.org addresses. This allows people who are on both the Pickering-Scarborough East and Scarborough East executives to use the same address for both roles.

Gary and Jack



Jack Layton congratulates Gary Dale and the Pickering-Scarborough East team on the great start the riding achieved.

Focus on Transit

NDP members from the Pickering-Scarborough East and Scarborough-Guildwood ridings were up bright and early March 10. They handed out some 600 NDP transit flyers to commuters at the Scarborough Civic Centre transit terminal. In attendance were Gary Dale, Judy Newman and Mike Newman from Pickering-Scarborough East; and Jeff Phillips, Cathy Kozuch, Joy Taylor, and Sheila White representing Scarborough-Guildwood. The press also showed up to take pictures.

Scarborough-Guildwood
and
Pickering-Scarborough East

NDP NPD

Joint Nomination Meetings



with Peter Kormos

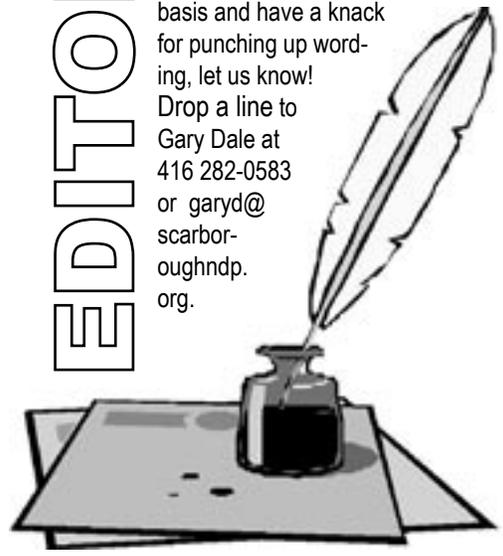
Wednesday, 7 April
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Port Union Community Centre
5450 Lawrence Avenue

Pickering-Scarborough East needs an editor!

EDITOR

If you feel up to encouraging people to submit material on a regular basis and have a knack for punching up wording, let us know! Drop a line to Gary Dale at 416 282-0583 or garyd@scarboroughndp.org.



Limited edition hand crafted plush toys created exclusively for NDP members by Scarborough designer

Joy Taylor

DESIGNER NDP MASCOTS

Meet Joy in person at the April 7th nomination meeting. Bid on a special edition "super-sized" creation!

