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Editor: Jim McIntosh



OLPCON2019
ONTARIO LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

ANNADALE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
8:30 AM | 21 CHURCH STREET S
AJAX, ONTARIO

Registration Fee: \$65
Menu: Grilled Flat Iron Steak, Roasted Wild
Mushrooms, Thyme Jus Accompanied with Seasonal
Vegetables and Herb Roasted Potatoes, Traditional
Caesar Salad and Traditional Greek Salad.

NOVEMBER 2, 2019 - AJAX

The first thing you probably noticed is that we changed the venue for this year's annual event. The Convention Chairman, Jim McIntosh (who lives in Ajax) investigated and found it is about \$10 per person cheaper. The Executive agreed a change would be good. In the past we've held our Convention in Woodstock and may choose other locations in future.

The first step is to Register online at <https://libertarian.on.ca/Convention2019> or by completing the registration form mailed with this issue of *Bulletin*. Space is limited to 60 people and we had a full house last year. The fee is \$65 this year to cover the cost.

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Libertarian Pub Nights and Events

Ottawa Pub Meeting – September 8, 2-4 PM (usually 1st Sunday of each month) - O'Brien's Eatery and Pub, 1145 Heron Road. Everyone welcome. For more information contact Mark Snow marksnow@rogers.com. Next meeting is October 6, 2018.

Toronto Pub Night - September 11, 7:00 PM (2nd Wednesday of each month) - Granite Brewery and Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Ave. Everyone welcome - bring a friend. Free Parking under the restaurant. For more information email Jim McIntosh (jim@mcintosh.on.ca). The next Pub Night is Wednesday October 9, 2019 .

Kitchener-Waterloo Pub Night - September 20, 7:00 PM (3rd Thursday each month) - Angel's Family Restaurant, 190 Weber St. N. (Corner of Weber and Lodge). Come out to enjoy friendly libertarian conversation. Invite your friends - all are welcome. Please RSVP to Paul Herriot (call 519-208-8379 or email paulforfreedom@outlook.com) so he can reserve a large-enough table. Next meeting is October 18, 2019.

Bradford Pub Night—September 26, 7:00 PM (last Thursday of each month) - Village Inn, 2 Holland St., E. Come out, grab a pint and some wings and discuss politics with some local Libertarians. Everyone is welcome, so bring a friend. Next meeting is October 31, 2019

Other Pub Nights – If you're interested in getting together with other libertarians in the following places, contact the person indicated.

Mississauga-GTA West Pub Night—Contact Jay Ward 416.799.2699 or by email: Jayward0111@gmail.com

Peterborough—Jacob Currier, jakecurrier33@gmail.com or 705-808-2308.

Windsor-Essex—Ian Shalapata ian@windsorsquare.ca

If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, please contact Keith Komar by email (kfo@libertarian.on.ca) or phone 1-855-ONT-LIBerty or 416-283-7589 in the GTA.

For the latest, visit http://www.libertarian.on.ca/pub_nights

THE PARTY OF CHOICE – Our Vision is communities of freedom, harmony and abundance.

The Mission of the Party is to enable endless possibilities through recognition of, respect for and protection of individual liberty.

Rob Ferguson—Candidate for Party Leader



As a Libertarian, I believe that government should not infringe on personal rights, liberty and property. As an example, I have spent years fighting for family rights against a corrupt Child and Family Services Act and have advocated for accountability and changes to the "out of control agency". As government has grown it has taken away many liberties which must be returned to Canadians. I and many libertarians advocate for limiting the size and scope of government, resulting in lower taxes and more social and economic freedom. Each level of government should have a well-defined role and stay within that role. They should protect individual rights and allow people and businesses to flourish without force or fraud. I believe in a free market. The Ontario government should not have a monopoly over healthcare, education, electrical generation and the sale of alcohol. I have a vision of a better Ontario in spite of being legally blind.

I graduated from Pauline Johnson Collegiate in Brantford. I have always had a major interest in business most of his life and upon graduation started to explore new business ideas. I am now owner of a marketing and advertising agency in the Brantford area. I also serve as chair of the Brantford small business networking group. I have spent many years as a volunteer for local festivals and nonprofit groups.

As a teenager I volunteered in many local campaigns and served as CFO and campaign manager for other candidates. As an early adult I explored politics as a member of a few parties. Not happy with what they presented in their platforms I joined the Family Coalition Party and was their candidate in Brant riding in 2007. After a public snub by the FCP, I joined the Ontario Libertarian Party in the middle of the 2011 campaign becoming the first candidate to defect from another

Party during an active campaign. Since then I have run as a Libertarian candidate in 2011, 2014 & 2018 in Brant riding. I also ran for the Libertarian Party of Canada in Brantford-Brant riding. I have served as regional coordinator and Deputy Leader for the Party. When Allen Small retired in July 2018 I replaced him as Leader.

I have been with the love of my life, Kalena, for 17 years. She served as the Libertarian candidate in 2018 in the riding of Algoma Manitoulin. She has also served as my campaign manager in many elections. In 2006 we were victims of serious crimes of which the details cannot be made public. However that incident was one of the reasons I wanted to get involved as I felt no person should have to suffer the pain and loss as we did.

When I took over leadership I knew that my term was one year and thought about the best way to use that year before the next Convention. I thought of the issues preparing for and during elections. I came to realize that the Party Constitution, Bylaws and Statement of Ultimate Goals were out of date and decided that's where I would spend my year. I felt fixing the foundation of the Party was a great way to use the one year mandate given to me by the members of the Ontario Libertarian Party. We formed a committee to look at how to best update policy of the Party. In the year I listened to Party members and supporters on their opinions on how to make the Party better. I believe with the changes that the membership will vote on at the Convention will give our Party a much stronger foundation. I have spent hours each day communicating via Facebook, email and phone with our members to have conversations on how to improve the Party. Now that we are heading into the Convention with our first leadership race I can say I'm excited on the progress of our Party. New EDAS and holding events such as our BBQ and Convention at new locations giving more people a chance to attend these events. Our executive has refined the roles of officers that will assist in our Party's

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If you are unable to attend you can still have your say as a Member by completing the Proxy Form at <https://libertarian.on.ca/Proxy>

The event open at 8:30 AM. After you pick up your name tag and handout from the registration desk help yourself to a continental breakfast including scrambled eggs with bacon and sausage. At 9 AM Party Leader Rob Ferguson will welcome everyone and ask for acceptance

of the November 3, 2018 AGM Minutes. (Search our Wiki.) At 10 AM we will hear the reports of Officers.

At 11 AM our three candidates for Party Leader, Rob Ferguson the current Party Leader, Keith Komar, the current Treasurer, and Gene Balfour, a former Chairman of the Party, will explain why they should be elected and answer questions from the floor. Since we want our Delegates to make an informed decision we plan to have an online debate prior to the Convention and provide a mechanism (possibly Facebook) for asking ques-

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Keith Komar — Candidate for Party Leader



Keith is a single father of 2 originally from Cranbrook B.C. His mother is a Saskatchewan farm girl who can trace her lineage back to the late 1600s early 1700s to a town called Greenlay, Quebec. His father is an immigrant who managed to escape from Yugoslavia in the 1950s, only to be thrown in jail for deserting his country. Upon his release, he swam the Danube River into Austria and eventually made his way to Canada. This gives Keith both a Canadian heritage and an immigrant background giving him a unique perspective on some of today's more important topics dealing with immigration.

Showing the same toughness as his father, Keith turned down a scholarship to Waterloo in Mathematics and chose instead to become a bricklayer. He is an activist for many causes and has supported marriage equality since the early 1990s when his brother and his partner were one of the first same-sex couples to marry at the United Church in Toronto in 1992. Keith's activism for the Cannabis industry began in 2015 when he was in Calgary and Dana Larsen got arrested for handing out seeds. Keith was at the front line demanding they arrest him as well. In 2016, Keith warned against the impending Cannabis Act and the "man behind the curtain", so to speak, that would eventually lead to the problems we

are seeing today with the poorly executed legalization of cannabis in Canada. Keith is still fighting for the decriminalization of cannabis and spoke at the 420 Rally for cannabis freedom in Vancouver in 2017 and Toronto in 2019. He will continue to fight until cannabis is decriminalized. Keith is a staunch supporter of property rights and freedom of speech.

Keith discovered Libertarianism in 2008 while following the U.S. election. He was immediately captivated by Dr. Paul and his unapologetic stances on property rights and personal freedoms. Keith is well-read on many topics, has read all of Ayn Rand's books, and is a follower of Milton Friedman and Frederick Hayek. In September 2015 Keith found Tim Moen and the Libertarian Party of Canada and supported the local candidate in Grand Prairie for the 2015 election. In 2016, Keith became involved with the BC Libertarian Party and helped grow its membership and candidate numbers for the 2017 provincial election. Keith himself garnered the 2nd highest percentage of votes for the Party in that election (2.5%) and the 3rd highest vote total (410). In 2018 Keith moved back to Ontario and became involved with the Ontario Libertarian Party where he is currently running for Party Leader. Keith represented the Libertarian Party of Canada in the York-Simcoe riding in Barrie during the 2019 federal by-election, and will run there again in October for the general election.

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tions. You can see their resumes on these pages and on our web site.

Lunch at noon consists of Caesar Salad, Mixed Greens Salad, Grilled Flat Iron Steak, Roasted Wild Mushrooms, Thyme Jus Accompanied with Seasonal Vegetables and Herb Roasted Potatoes, and assorted pies and pastries.

At 1 PM we hold elections for Party Leader, Deputy Leader and six Officers to three year terms, two Members at Large to one year terms, and two (possibly three) members of the Ethics Committee to three year terms. Note that NOTA (none of the above) is always included on the ballot. Potential Candidates in addition to the Leader are listed here and will be updated on our web site.

- ◇ **Deputy Leader**—Paul Harriot (TBC)
- ◇ **Chairman**— Matt Dougherty, Jay Ward, Serge Korovitsyn, Mark Wrzesniewski
- ◇ **Vice Chairman**—Mark Wrzesniewski
- ◇ **Secretary**—Cindy Davidson
- ◇ **Recording Secretary**—

- ◇ **Treasurer**—Andrew Allison
- ◇ **Campaign Director**—Coreen Corcoran
- ◇ **Member at Large**—Ken Lewis, Brad Greulich, Cindy Davidson
- ◇ **Ethics Committee**—Jean-Serge Bisson, Brad Greulich, Cindy Davidson

The new Executive Committee will take over the reins at a meeting with the former Executives to be held soon after the Convention.

The Executive Committee appointed a Constitution and Bylaws Committee who prepared 20 amendments available on our web site. These amendments require a two-thirds vote. Amendments originating after October 3/19 (e.g. at the Convention) must receive a three-fourths vote to succeed.

If time permits, any other business will be dealt with prior to adjourning the Convention as 4:30.

"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

-- Thomas Jefferson

Gene Balfour — Candidate for Party Leader



Libertarian principles inspire most of Gene's personal and professional life choices. His personal understanding of Libertarianism can be summarized in one sentence: "Libertarians defend and protect individual persons (their mind, body and efforts) and their property from intentional and unwanted harm and aggression imposed by others including those employed by the state."

Personal perspective is very important to Gene. This comes from working as an IT Recruiter for 35 years and interviewing over 10,000 individuals for job placement and career planning purposes. While most politicians talk about issues and government action in "collective" terms, Gene never forgets that every individual possesses a unique life lens that informs his or her choices based on current circumstances and all past life experiences. He believes that "collectivism ignores people", and this explains why so many citizens have become skeptical of politicians campaign promises.

Politically, Gene has been a member of the Ontario Libertarian Party since 2007, Member at Large within its Executive Committee, and a proud OLP candidate in 5 Ontario elections. As Leader of the Ontario Libertarian Party, Gene will lead the Party to make politics relevant for all 9 million Ontario residents.

Career Profile

An avid student of Economics and Politics, Gene has read dozens of related books and learned extensively from hundreds of Internet podcasts. He applied this learning politically as a Libertarian candidate in 6 elections. Gene also led the Ontario Libertarian Party as its Chairman for the June 2018 election that fielded the largest number of candidates (116 out of 124 ridings) of any Libertarian political Party in Canada's history.

As a business professional, Gene was a top-performing IT Recruiter (1981-2009) within a complex and very competitive industry. From 2009-2018, he played a critical role in building a fledgling international consulting business into a successful operation that has improved the manufacturing productivity of over 100 plants located in the USA, Mexico, Brazil and France.

An athlete to this day, Gene has competed in many sports including hockey, rugby, cross country ski racing, participated in 19 marathons and numerous shorter running events. In 2008, Gene became an owner and subsequent Board member for the top cross-country ski and mountain bike center in Ontario.

As a father, Gene's two extraordinary daughters followed their dad's example to make good life decisions and to excel in everything to which they have devoted their time and efforts. Today, they both have careers in hospitals as health care professionals.

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efforts for the future. I believe I have been a fair and honest Leader to all of our members.

After the Convention our new executive will get right down to business preparing for the 2022 election. If I am elected Leader my plan would be to establish regional coordinators in the province to assist with candidate recruitment, training and candidate support during the election. After the Convention we can work on our platform. The platform of 2018 was one of the best platforms this Party has presented. With some minor changes it will attract new members and increase votes for our Party. We must start as soon as possible to fill the slate with the best candidates we can put forward. We must offer those candidates as much support as we can. This would include nomination support teams, training on platform and being a libertarian candidate. I found when I was a regional coordinator for our Party in 2014 it worked well to have a list of support contacts for our candidates. We should be promoting our Party through events, Party swag, and writing about current events. As Leader I will hold monthly member's forums so our members can keep in the loop with the Party

and contribute to our direction. I have always believed I am a member first and Leader second. My goal will be to have a full slate of candidates and gain 10 percent of the vote. With standing nominations our candidates could be working their ridings well in advanced of the next writ. We will come out swinging in the next election and move up the ladder. I don't want to be party 5 anymore I want to get a libertarian elected. In my riding I am invited to almost all debates and events and if elected Leader will fight for inclusion of our candidates in debates and other events around Ontario. I will reach out to media for interviews and to be included in political roundtable talks around Ontario. I firmly believe that politicians talk and leaders listen. Since taking over leadership I have been listening to our membership. I have lived on all sides of the fence of life and have been involved with politics for most of my life. I want my experience to assist the Party moving forward. I ask for your support and vote, but most importantly your trust. Vote Rob Ferguson Leader of the Ontario Libertarian Party.

Contact Information

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