

**SIMCOE-YORK  
PRINTING &  
PUBLISHING  
LIMITED**

**Publisher of the**

Innisfil Scope  
The Times  
King Township Sentinel  
P.O. Box 310  
Beeton, Ontario  
L0G 1A0  
1-888-559-2287  
Fax: 905-729-2541  
E-mail address  
thescope@rogers.com  
web site  
www.innisfilscope.com

P.A.P. Registration  
No. 09319

**Publishers:**

BRUCE HAIRE  
JOHN ARCHIBALD

**Editorial**

**Managing Editor**  
BRUCE HAIRE

**News Editor**  
CHRIS SIMON

**Reporter**

Richard Blanchard  
Wendy Soloduik

**Advertising**

**Director of Sales**  
JOHN ARCHIBALD

**Sales Reps**

Diann Gaston  
Cherry Hames  
Annette Derraugh  
Nancy Stenhouse  
Aileen Robbins

**Composing**

**Manager**  
KRISTEN HAIRE

**Ad Designers**

Penny Gilbertson  
Joanne Radyk-Carrick  
Lisa Rosati  
Brian Valdock

**Business**

Jaquie Archibald  
Janice Coté  
Sylvia DeShane

**Subscription rates:**

Within 65 km except  
towns with letter carriers -  
\$28.00 + G.S.T.

Beyond 65 km and towns  
with letter carriers -  
\$41.00 + G.S.T.

Single copies 71¢ + G.S.T.  
or 75¢ (includes G.S.T.)

Published every  
Wednesday

Copyright

The Scope 2007

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP) toward our mailing costs.

Canada 

 

# Changing the shape of Ontario's democracy

## Comment

by Chris Simon

Another election day is upon the residents of Ontario, and few people seem to care.

Some political pundits have already suggested the turnout for today's provincial election could be the lowest, percentage wise, in Ontario's history. Last week, New Democrat leader Howard Hampton blasted the media and Progressive Conservative leader John Tory, for failing to focus on important topics of concern in this election, besides premier Dalton McGuinty's broken promises and faith-based school funding. Child poverty and the plight of the elderly are being shuffled into obscurity, according to Hampton.

However, there's also one other significant item voters should be concerned with today. There's a referendum question on the ballot, one which asks voters to select between two different types of electoral systems.

Despite government advertising, pamphlets in the mail and websites dedicated specifically to explaining the choice, few voters seem to understand exactly what they're faced with. The decision will have a major impact on future provincial elections.

Local media have done a generally poor job of informing people about this referendum, and it's showed. On television and in print, the general public has had a difficult time even acknowledging the referendum is taking place. Even fewer people can explain how each of the systems work.

The first electoral system — called first-past-the-post — is our current method for electing politicians. Our municipal mayors and councillors, MPPs and MPs are all elected under this system. Essentially, the person with the most votes in a riding, or electoral district, is awarded a seat in the Ontario legislature. There's only one winner from each riding, regardless of the closeness of the race. Ontario currently has 107 provincial electoral districts, also known as seats. The provincial government is formed by the political party whose representatives have won the most amount of electoral districts.

The new system being proposed is called mixed member proportional representation. If this system were adopted, all future provincial elections could be radically altered. The number of electoral districts would be reduced to 90, while 39 proportional representation seats would be available. Voters would have two options on their ballot. They would be asked to select an MPP from their electoral district as well as a preferred political party. MPPs would be selected from their electoral districts in the traditional way, while the remaining 39 seats would be divided among political parties, based

on the percentage of the overall vote they receive. So, if the Liberal Party earned 33 per cent of the overall vote, they'd get 13 of the seats specifically designated for proportional representation.

Each party would have to list names and information on their proportional representation candidates prior to an election. Parties would also have to gain at least three per cent of the popular support, before they could earn seats. It's a bit more work and research for voters, compared to the current system. However, the proposed method gives smaller political parties a chance to earn seats, more accurately reflecting the political climate of the province.

Today, voters will decide whether it's fair that the Green Party has nearly 10 per cent of the popular vote, according to some recent pre-election polls, but may not have enough concentrated votes in a riding to win a seat in the legislature.

The NDP struggles with similar problems, usually earning between 15 to 20 per cent of the popular vote, but winning few seats in the legislature by comparison. The larger parties spend millions of dollars specifically targeting traditional stronghold ridings, simply to boost the number of seats they earn.

Before heading to the ballot box, check out [www.yourbigdecision.ca](http://www.yourbigdecision.ca) for more information on each system. The future of provincial politics is being shaped today.

# Find your 'motivation machine' from within

By Karen (Joy) Foster

When you were growing up, who taught you about motivation? Chances are that it probably wasn't in the classroom or at your first job working the cash at a fast-food joint. It just blows my mind how most people, especially schools and businesses today, don't believe that feeding the motivation machine should be part of our daily lives.

Don't get me wrong — there are those who do, but they're in the minority. How do I know this? It's easy: just look at the number of people out there who tune in to watch Oprah, Dr. Phil and many other talk show hosts. It's one of the few places people can turn to and hear that they can achieve anything if they put their minds to it and focus on the positive.

It's very frustrating to see that most people are looking for answers to questions that they can't answer themselves. Not that we're supposed to have all the answers, that wouldn't work either, but a lot of these answers could be found with a healthy self-esteem. Forget about chemistry and long division — self-esteem is a topic that needs to be addressed constantly, most importantly in the school system. And if it hasn't been addressed there, that's when we need to take matters into our own hands and discover ways to ensure that we, and our employees, develop the skills necessary to ensure that the proverbial show

must go on, no matter what life throws in our way.

It is amazing what happens to an individual when they feel empowered. They have a self-worth that's priceless as they themselves believe that they can achieve any of their goals. Is watching Dr. Phil for a year going to get you there?

If only it were as simple as watching TV or heading to the local shopping mall and picking up a new box of self-esteem — big economy-sized ones so you had enough for everyone. Self-esteem and motivation are so intertwined that you really can't have one without the other; it's like a buy-one-get-one-free deal. The hard part is getting the first one so that the second knows where to find you.

People ask me all the time what I do to motivate myself. Here is what I tell them that I believe in who I am and what I stand for in my business, family life and the love I have for my husband, our son and, most importantly, myself!

Call it a mission statement or mantra — it's what I need to stay focused and true to my goals. And, just between you and me, I didn't quite believe it at first. That took practice. What do you need to hear yourself say in order to start believing it?

Feeding your motivation engine means that you have to know what it needs. Is it gushing praise? A firm reminder of what needs to

get done? Something specific? An all-encompassing statement? One way that might help you find the words is to picture yourself accomplishing your goal. What are you thinking or saying to that journalist who wants to know what motivated you to keep on your path to success?

Without that motivational fuel, negativity steps in to keep us on the couch and as far away from our dreams as possible. Negativity is an easy trap to fall into, but that's not the skill anyone needs to practice, right?

Imagine you're in a room filled with people who are complaining, gossiping and basically confirming every negative thought you've ever had. Now tell me, honestly, how do you feel? Speaking for myself, I'd say rotten, weak and my thoughts are all confused, making me second guess my beliefs. In these situations you lose that successful vision of what you stand for and have to reclaim it again with positive energy. So why associate with the negative people? Hang out with the winners and succeed—it is as simple as that!

As a woman running my own business, it inspires me to hear other stories about women who have accomplished overcoming adversities without constantly whining (if you know what I mean) and just moving on, continuing forward and taking the time

to get the help they need to pursue and achieve their dreams.

And you can do it too. Take the time to discover what you need to hear to feed your own motivation machine and when you do—sing it to the world!

I'm owner and operator of Kimberlite Enterprises, is an accomplished motivational speaker, professional image consultant, singer, recording artist and career coach. I help unlock the invisible door that so often stands between people and their ultimate personal and professional goals. Whether to develop leadership or

communication abilities or to manage change and/or stress, my training is fast-paced, information-packed, interactive and guaranteed to deliver skills and techniques that can be used right away. I design and conduct both public and corporate workshops that assist participants in empowering their inner strength and in so doing increasing their profitability.

My seminars not only raise self-esteem but inspire the belief to achieve and win!

Discover how far you can go by contacting Karen at [kimberlite@rogers.com](mailto:kimberlite@rogers.com) or 705-435-5908.

## Rethink funding for faith-based schools

### Letters From Our Readers

I was a Liberal supporter and now am looking at a change in government.

My only problem with (the Progressive Conservative) platform is the faith based school proposal which we are totally against.

I hope that (PC leader) John Tory realizes this before too long and maybe gives the Ontario people a referendum if elected or a free vote in the legislature.

He must want to know if he is doing what the majority want to see being done for education. We need more money into the public schools not less. Four-hundred million dollars is taking out a large chunk.

I do like to change the monopoly that we have here in Ontario and a good way is to have beer and wine sold in grocery stores or other stores that sell to the public.

I think we need change in Ontario as the status quo and broken promises are not for us.

Walt Helling,  
Alcona