

# Kingston & the Islands NDP

Riding Association

## 2008 Annual General Meeting: A Time for Change and Renewal

The 2008 Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 24 in the Wilson Room, Central Branch, Kingston Frontenac Public Library.

Registration will start at 6:30pm, with the meeting starting at 7:00pm.

All local riding association members are urged to attend.

This year's event will feature NDP Member of Parliament and Foreign Affairs Critic, Paul Dewar; as well as distinguished members of the Ardoch Algonquin First Nations.

It is also your chance to look towards the future of our riding association, and take part in the continuing growth of the NDP in Kingston & the Islands!

Questions? Call 549-2444

## Newsletter: April 2008

This is a special supplementary edition of our riding association newsletter, and as such, it will be slightly smaller than the usual four pages.

There are two primary reasons for the release of this edition, and they are: To once again invite all members of the riding association to our AGM on April 24; and to announce a constitutional/bylaw amendment vote that will take place at the AGM.

As we have reached the end of the 'Active Year' for the current Riding Executive, we have reflected on the successes and failures of the past year; and begun to look to the future of the Executive and the ways that we can better serve riding association members in 2008.

This inevitably led to the discussion of the constitutional requirements for how the Executive is formed, our responsibilities to members, and of course...How do we convince our untapped pool of talented and principled members to get involved?

There is no easy answer to that question, but the Executive has made a commitment for 2008 to 'get down to the basics' of our model Federal and Provincial constitutions (provided by the party), and engage in a process of constitutional reform that will produce documents that are dedicated to the future success of our riding association in Kingston & the Islands.

In the spirit of democratic transparency, all members can expect to receive copies of the current model constitutions at the AGM, as well as our ongoing plea for our members to get involved in the process.

We hope you approve, and most importantly...We hope you will consider adding your input. You will find advanced notice of the first proposed amendments on page 2.

In solidarity,  
Daniel J. Beals, Newsletter Editor  
daniel.beals@gmail.com

## Coming Events: ORANGE CAMP

*\*Do you have any news, opinions or events to add to future newsletters?*

*If so, then contact Daniel Beals at (613)549-8399 or [daniel.beals@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.beals@gmail.com)*

*The next newsletter is scheduled for July 2008\**

OrangeCamp is an event that will gather like-minded activists who are interested in discussing policies and topics pertaining to the New Democratic Party and other socialist ideas.

OrangeCamp is based on the concept of an ad-hoc gathering born from the desire for people to share and learn in an open environment. It is an intense event with discussions, demos and interaction from participants.

The purpose of this camp is to mark the CCF's 75th birthday and to develop ideas based on our political tradition and to reflect the realities of today's challenges.

This event will take place between July 18 and 20. The main event will take place on July 19 at Queen's University at the Integrated Learning Centre of the Faculty of Applied Science - Beamish-Munro Hall.

For more information, please visit [www.OrangeCamp.org](http://www.OrangeCamp.org) or email Matei Savulescu at [matei.savulescu@gmail.com](mailto:matei.savulescu@gmail.com)



### We Need Your Help!

**With a Federal Election just around the corner, the Renee Stephen Federal Campaign is looking for volunteers, donors and activists.**

For more information, call 613-549-2444, or visit [www.ReneeStephen.ca](http://www.ReneeStephen.ca)

## Going the Extra Hour by Jamie Masse

On March 29th at 8pm, some 30 million people around the world participated in this year's Earth Hour. In our community, the Kingston and the Islands NDP helped to lead and support an outdoor event in Kingston's Market Square which was a huge success.

Our Federal NDP Candidate Renee Stephen was one of 3 speakers who addressed some 100 members of the Kingston community regarding the real issues surrounding the environment in Canada. It was a great step towards making a difference in the fight against Climate Change.

The wonderful diversity of our community was on display, as individuals, young families and students all stood side-by-side to make a difference for one hour.

Thanks to Earth Hour, our community was able to share ideas and raise a united voice for change. I am very pleased to have organized the event on behalf of the Kingston & the Islands NDP, and am looking forward to 'Going the Extra Hour' again next year.

## AGM Amendments

This year's AGM will feature a vote on the revision of the Membership Organizer's position on the Riding Executive (as defined by the NDP's model constitution) into two definitive positions: Membership Coordinator and Membership Administrator.

The decision to create these two positions is due to the extremely heavy workload incurred by the Membership Organizer - especially in light of the NDP's reliance on NDPVote, which is the party's private voter database and information network.

The decision to take this amendment to a vote was unanimously supported by the Riding Executive. Members should also be prepared to vote on the discrete number of Provincial and Federal Council Delegates that will be required for 2008.

You can find the proposed constitutional changes on the bottom of the following page. They are provided to ensure the transparency of the amendment process, as well as to enable members to make a timely decision at the Annual General Meeting on April 24.

# An Open Letter to NDP Leader Jack Layton

Dear Jack,

On July 20, 2008 the Regina Manifesto will be 75 years old. With this in mind, the Kingston & the Islands NDP riding association last week passed a motion to urge that the federal NDP mark this important anniversary with a suitable birthday party.

There have been many accomplishments of the CCF/NDP that most people don't know about. We believe the NDP should celebrate its roots to show Canadians how much has been accomplished by the CCF/NDP even though it never formed the government of Canada.

One of our senior members, Vince Maloney, cites an early example which occurred in 1926 when Prime Minister Mackenzie King had a majority of one and the Labour Party had two members, J.S. Woodsworth and A.A. Heaps. These two agreed to support King if he brought in old age pensions. King did this in March, 1927, and that's how Canadians got old age pensions. Both Woodsworth and Heaps, as you know, were instrumental in the formation of the CCF, with Woodsworth becoming its first leader.

The CCFer's were forward thinkers and recognized the importance of controlling finance. Capital for public financing "shall be provided through the medium of the National Investment Board and free from perpetual interest charges". The Bank of Canada did not yet exist, but was created in 1934 as a private bank. King

declared in 1935 that if elected he would nationalize the Bank – reflecting a major CCF goal listed in the Manifesto as the Socialization of Finance. King followed through in 1938.

Besides identifying accomplishments, the 75th birthday will provide an opportunity to re-examine our roots and our priorities. For example, why doesn't the NDP promote the use of the Bank of Canada ("the National Investment Board" in earlier days) to provide financing for public infrastructure "free from perpetual interest charges"? The huge public debt and interest charges, which have accumulated because right-wing governments have favoured their friends running the private banks, are then used by these governments as an excuse not to fund adequately social programs and public institutions.

Our riding association believes a celebration of the Regina Manifesto would highlight how different Canada could be if we wrested control from the business parties. Thus, we recommend that if planning for the 75th birthday hasn't already begun it begin immediately, because July 20 will be upon us very quickly.

Best wishes,

Gary Wilson  
President,  
Kingston and The Islands  
NDP Riding Association

That Article 5.1.5, Membership Organizer, be renamed Membership Coordinator with the following description (5.1.5.1) and that Article 5.1.11 be created as Membership Administrator with the following description (5.1.11.1). Further, that Article 5.2 be amended to include 5.1.11 among the 'core' Executive members.

5.1.5.1 Membership Coordinator shall: Recruit, direct and be responsible for the activities of a membership committee to which membership duties can be delegated; maintain a telephone tree that will be used to contact our current members to notify them about upcoming events or other important information; keeping the Membership Administrator informed of all changes of information reported by the telephone tree volunteers; the organization and implementation of a membership drive early each year in which there is no early election.

5.1.11.1 The Membership Administrator shall: forward membership applications and fees to the Provincial Office; keep accurate records using NDPVote and Excel of all members, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.; gather and maintain riding maps, marked voter lists and other information essential to current activities and election campaigns, including through NDPVote; give month-by-month reports to Executive and Association meetings on total membership, renewed membership and new membership. Due to the extensive use of NDPVote required of the Membership Administrator, it is essential that they have intimate knowledge of the workings of the program, or be given the necessary training.