

Liberal Times

The Official Newsletter of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association
 P.O. Box 34026 Nepean, Ontario K2G 5B1 <http://www.ncfla.org>

CACCIA IN BARRHAVEN

Approximately 40 community members gathered at the Walter Baker Sports Centre on December 6 to hear a fascinating presentation from former environment minister the Honourable Charles Caccia. Caccia spent a total of 36 years in the House of Commons, and was uniquely qualified to share his educational insights on one of the most important issues facing humanity today: sustainable development.

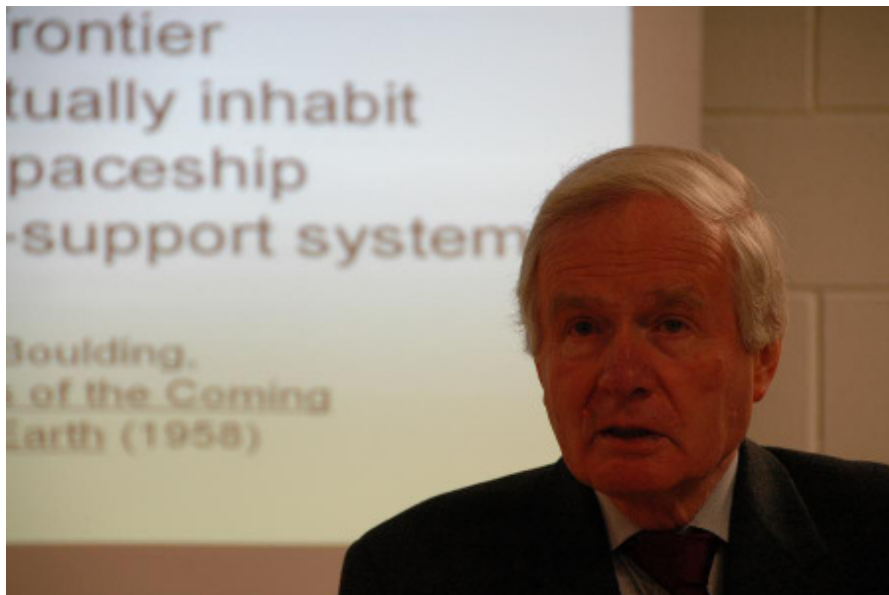
Caccia emphasized the importance of integrating social, economic and environmental policy goals, objectives and regulations in order to save our planet. The economy and the environment need not be viewed as separate and competing issues.

We have only one planet Earth, and it is non-refillable, non-reusable, and non-returnable, according to Caccia.

He spoke of the overfishing that nearly destroyed the cod presence in Eastern Canadian waters, comparing us with Iceland, which has kept its cod fishery sustainable. Humanity has cut the world's forest cover in half since records have been kept.

In terms of public policy, Caccia insisted that we must take a regulatory approach to emissions reductions, rather than the voluntary and ineffective measures the Conservatives are taking.

Contrary to popular belief, corporations are split on the matter. Many support stronger regulations so the playing field is level – if they willingly reduce emissions, why shouldn't their competitors have to take action as well?



The Honourable Charles Caccia outlined the seriousness of the world's environmental situation when he visited Nepean-Carleton on December 6

Our current tax system encourages greenhouse gas emissions, with tax advantages being given to the tar sands to help them pollute to their heart's desire. This left Caccia obviously troubled, as a carbon tax is needed. He praised those leaders with the political courage to impose the moratoriums Canada has seen on fishing and logging.

He praised the progress made with the popular One Tonne Challenge, one of the many environmental programs the Conservatives have thoughtlessly cut.

Caccia dismissed the approach of the current Conservative government – to implement widely-criticized “intensity-based” targets – as a “fiction.”

John Baird is misleading Canadians by preaching a 20% reduction in emissions by 2020 and comparing our policy to that of the Europeans. Baird is using 2006

as a base year, while the Europeans are following the much stricter and more meaningful guideline of 1990 as the base year.

One of our first acts, if we are to preserve this country's natural environment for future generations as best we can, must be to rid Canada of Stephen Harper. Rather than sabotaging international environmental conferences as is Harper's divisive, pathetic style, a Liberal-led Canada will be a leader on the environmental stage, as a consensus builder, not a consensus destroyer.

The Earth is too precious to leave in the hands of visionless fools like the Conservative Party of Canada and Pierre Poilievre. Help us paint Nepean-Carleton Liberal red to start the path toward sustainable development so we can leave the planet in at least as good of shape as we found it in.

QUOTES TO QUOTE

“Harper gets away with being badly out of sync with Canadian public opinion on this crucial issue largely because of the kid-glove treatment he gets in the Canadian media. Commentators relentlessly flail Liberal leader Stéphane Dion [...] while saying little negative about Harper.”

~ *Toronto Star*. 27 Nov 2007. Pg AA08.

“[The media] have ganged up like bullyboys in the schoolyard to bring Stéphane Dion down...Dion comes across not as weak, but thoughtful, intelligent, totally sincere and a cut above the average.”

~**Shirley Bush, Letter to the Editor.**
Toronto Star. 3 Mar 2007. Pg F7.

“Mr. Van Loan’s defence of Bill C-22 [seat redistribution], a brazenly anti-Ontario electoral gerrymander, was openly contemptuous of not only Premier Dalton McGuinty – who rightly complained about the bill – but virtually all Ontarians who failed to elect Conservatives in the last election.”

~ *Globe and Mail*. 22 Nov 2007.

“Cutting the GST was a regressive move

in that it put most of the money into the hands of people who buy expensive cars and diamond rings as opposed to those who spend their limited incomes on groceries and paying the rent.”

~ *Toronto Star*. Fri 4 Jan 2008. Pg AA04.

“A Conservative majority would be dangerous for this country.”

~ **Danny Williams, NL premier.**
Macleans. 2 Jul 2007 Pg. 17.

“All the brave talk while the Conservatives were in opposition about encouraging whistle-blowing and candour has disappeared into a strategy of minimizing dissent and controlling all information.”

~ **Jeffrey Simpson.** *Globe and Mail*. 30 Oct 2007.

“The biggest beneficiaries (of the Conservative government GST cut) will be the affluent. Women who can afford designer boots are going to profit far more than those who buy shoes at Value Village.”

~ *Toronto Star*. Wed 7 Nov 2007. Pg L01.

ELECTION READINESS

The NCFLA is very proud to have taken the step of striking an election readiness committee to prepare the riding association and an eventual candidate for an imminent election. I am very pleased by the response of both active association members and volunteers from the community at large.

It seems clear that residents of Nepean-Carleton are not as taken with Stephen Harper and his every man, woman and child for themselves mentality. The call for change from this short sighted, mean spirited minority Conservative government has come, and residents of Nepean Carleton are ready to answer.

Stéphane Dion represents the sort of change Canadians are looking for. His 3-pillar approach for a richer, greener, fairer Canada speaks to the heart of what’s important to Canadians not only for today, but also for our children and theirs.

The Liberal team is growing stronger with each passing week. Anyone willing to contribute his or her time and energy is encouraged to come forward to participate. Onward to victory in 2008...for Nepean Carleton; for Canada!

Josh Drache

“The Eight Riding Cocktail”

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 5:30 pm

The Ottawa Congress Centre

Colonel By Salon

55 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa

TICKETS \$150

Featuring Special Guests

Hon. Stéphane Dion

Liberal Caucus Members

Proceeds will be shared among the eight Ottawa Area Federal Liberal Associations: Ottawa Centre, Ottawa-Orleans, Ottawa South, Ottawa-Vanier, Ottawa West-Nepean, Carleton-Mississippi Mills, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, Nepean-Carleton

For more information please call: 613-241-9810

NCFLA clarifies Liberal position on Afghanistan

Canadians are becoming increasingly frustrated and concerned with our role in Afghanistan. New Opposition leader Stéphane Dion and the Liberal Party of Canada have been clear that Canada's position in this dangerous country must be reviewed and a new arrangement made with our NATO allies to ease the burden on our soldiers.

In contrast to the Conservatives, the Liberals like to take a wider, more open-minded perspective of what our role needs to be in the pursuit of greater global security and improved development assistance abroad in other war-ravaged areas such as Darfur.

While many agree with the Liberals that our current mission in Afghanistan is an important endeavor, we cannot overlook the role that we can and must play in other nations who are equally as devastated and torn apart by civil war.

As your effective and visible Official Opposition, the Liberal Party is offering clarity on foreign policy and true leadership for our brave troops. We believe that the combat mission should end as scheduled – as Canada promised to NATO – in February 2009 but recognize that we must stay committed to Afghanistan.

We remain open to a clearly defined non-combat role for our soldiers that could include assistance with the training of the Afghan police and army, or even the protection of Afghan civilians and reconstruction projects. First, however, we must have an honest debate in Parliament, and a discussion with our allies.

We are immensely proud of the work done by our soldiers in their Kandahar role, but it is now time for our NATO partners to take their turn as part of the

normal rotation of troops, as was originally envisioned when NATO assumed leadership of the greater ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

For having this position, Stephen Harper insulted us, calling leader Stéphane Dion “pro-Taliban.” Such unnecessary slander does nothing to raise the standard of behaviour in the House of Commons or bolster the morale of our troops in Afghanistan.



We firmly believe that Canada should build on our traditional strengths as a highly regarded nation and invest heavily in pursuing a good governance strategy – such as bolstering their judicial system and building political institutions – on the ground in Afghanistan.

There are 26 member states in NATO – 37 countries in total engaged in Afghanistan – and surely we can count on our allies to do their part, in line with a multilateral approach to democracy building. There can be no reconstruction in Afghanistan without security, but Canada's current combat mission cannot be expected to continue indefinitely.

Without an adequate plan for a new rotation of troops from one of our NATO allies, the successes gained by our troops could be put at risk.

The Liberal Party does not believe in

abandoning the people of Afghanistan, as the NDP would have us do. Our party has remained the one committed to the “three D’s”, which are defense, development and diplomacy. It is time for us to begin to focus more on the development aspect of our mission, and take steps to help the Afghan people rebuild their country.

The Conservatives recently announced a five-person panel to “study” whether we should remain in Afghanistan. For our part, we in the Liberal Party believe that our elected MPs should make that decision – not the prime minister's appointees.

If the panel serves to encourage an open, public and thoughtful debate about the mission beyond 2009, rather than delay clarity and override our Members of Parliament on the end of the current mission, the Liberals could support it.

Despite all of the confusion emanating from the current Conservative government regarding the Afghan mission, our party has been consistent in our belief that the government should immediately inform NATO and the Afghan government that Canada's combat role in Kandahar ends in February 2009 and the other nations of NATO must rotate in new troops.

Canada must establish a plan to focus on reconstruction in Afghanistan while trying to address other important relief issues in places such as Darfur.

As Her Majesty's Official Opposition, the Liberal Party of Canada, in Nepean-Carleton and across the entire country, will continue to stand for these principles and support the brave and hardworking men and women of our military.

*Gordon Shields
President, Nepean-Carleton F.L.A.*

DEATH PENALTY

In a move that greatly concerns many Canadians, the Conservatives have decided not to sign on as a co-sponsor of a United Nations resolution calling for a moratorium on use of the death penalty.

At the end of October, they failed to protect a long-standing Canadian practice when they announced they would allow Canadians convicted in foreign countries to be killed. The week after, they decided to abandon Canada's role as a leader in the fight against the use of the death penalty worldwide.

These changes to Canada's position on the death penalty have been made without a vote in Parliament and without any input from Canadians, and this is unacceptable.

As Liberals, we oppose the death penalty, at home and abroad, and we will fight to ensure this minority government does not reverse years of Canadian leadership on this issue.

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Council of Presidents meets in Montreal

Liberals from across Canada gathered in Montreal at the beginning of December to renew their sense of focus and share some new ideas to make sure we are victorious in the next election.

The meeting, attended by Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, Liberal Party President Senator Marie-P. Poulin, members of the National Executive, riding association presidents, representatives from the four Liberal Commissions, candidates, former Leadership contestants and Caucus brought Liberals from across the country together to discuss ideas and to prepare for the next election.

"By bringing members of the Liberal family together in this way, we not only promote cooperation between ourselves, but we also highlight our Party's national scope and organizational strength," said Stéphane Dion.

Over the course of the weekend, Liberals from across Canada engaged in discussions ranging from policy initiatives, fundraising, election

readiness and Party governance. The Council of Presidents was created at the last biennial Convention, held in Montreal one year ago, to ensure that the Party's management structure remains accountable to the grassroots. By enlarging the inaugural meeting to include candidates, former Leadership candidates and Caucus, the Liberal Party of Canada seized an opportunity to take another important step towards party renewal.

"I am so pleased at the strength and diversity of our team," said Senator Poulin. "Whereas Stephen Harper works to impose his narrow-minded view of the country on Canadians, Stéphane Dion works with Canadians at the grassroots. [During the weekend], he rallied our troops, further strengthening our determination to win the next election."

The Party President, in consultation with the Leader, must convene the Council of Presidents annually. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Liberal Party's biennial convention in 2008.

Liberal Women's Caucus Releases Pink Book Volume II

On December 5, 2007, the Liberal Women's Caucus released Volume II of the *Pink Book: A Policy Framework for Canada's Future*, to respond to concerns about violence against women, housing, Aboriginal women, immigrant and refugee women and rural women.

"Canadian women reacted positively to the first volume of the *Pink Book*," said the Hon. Belinda Stronach, Chair of the National Liberal Women's Caucus. "Women's Caucus continues to be a strong voice for Canadian women, at a time when it is becoming more and more apparent that the

Conservative government does not even listen to Canadian women."

The first volume of the *Pink Book* was released one year ago. Since that time, Liberal Status of Women Critic Maria Minna has held a series of roundtable meetings with women across the country to listen to and take note of their views on the first *Pink Book* as well as take their recommendations for Volume II.

In addition, Women's Caucus has held internal discussions on these issues and consulted with representatives of organizations that work on behalf of



women to help prepare the second volume.

“Women have had a direct say in the contents of the *Pink Book*,” said Ms. Minna. “Across the country, whether in St. John’s, The Pas, Vancouver, or Toronto, women echoed the need for childcare, a national housing strategy, access to services and education in remote areas, and greater protections for women facing violence at home and in their communities. With the publication of Volume II, we are building on the widespread support we have seen from Canadian women on Volume I and letting women in this country know that the Liberal Party of Canada is listening to them.”

“I would like to thank my colleagues for their hard work on *Pink Book II* as well as the many organizations and individuals who provided feedback,” said Ms. Stronach. “The National Liberal Women’s Caucus will continue to work to ensure that the voices of Canadian women are not silenced by the regressive actions of this Conservative government.”

To check out the full report, point your browser to www.liberal.ca.

CHEQUEMATE CLUB

Don’t miss out on enjoying all the wondrous benefits of your Liberal membership! Events such as our recent gathering with senator David Smith, along with some great food and wine, would welcome your attendance!

Our prestigious ChequeMate club is a growing list of area Liberals offering their support through small monthly donations and who at the same time enjoy a variety of social events with fellow Liberals, MPs and other special guests throughout the year.

Donating to the Liberal cause helps make the NCFLA and the Liberal Party stronger and all donations are tax deductible! Further, as a ChequeMate member, you will never have to worry about renewing your membership; that’s all taken care of for you. Join today!

Ralph Goodale Visits Nepean

Pho Thi Fusion fundraiser proves a hit with Nepean-Carleton Liberals

On October 29th, Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberals gathered at Barrhaven’s trendy Pho Thi Fusion Restaurant to hear encouraging remarks from the House Leader of Her Majesty’s Official Opposition, Ralph Goodale.

While indulging in an eclectic mix of culinary Asian delicacies, it was standing room only for over 100 area Liberals who were treated to insightful remarks from one of the country’s most respected politicians.

Ralph Goodale took time to remind Liberals that the Harper government’s tactics of threatening elections and deliberate attempts to delay committee work and House of Commons debates were not lost on Canadians.

However, recognizing that Canadians do not want a third general election in less

than four years, Goodale pointed out Stéphane Dion and the Liberal Party are steadfastly committed to making the minority Parliament work and forcing the Harper government to improve its weak approach to climate change, increasing support for municipal infrastructure development, honouring promises on health care wait times and providing a real plan for childcare in Canada.

Goodale served as Minister of Finance under the Paul Martin government and was designated Parliamentarian of the Year in 2006.

The Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association wishes to thank the generosity and hospitality of Pho Thi Fusion Restaurant and its staff. They made a great Liberal evening even better.



Shown at the Ralph Goodale fundraiser are, from left, former Nepean-Carleton MP the Hon. David Pratt, former Ottawa West-Nepean MP Marlene Catterall and Regina MP the Hon. Ralph Goodale



CONTACT US!



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NEW ADDRESS!

EDITOR'S DESK

Don't these Conservatives just frustrate you to no end? There are so many flaws to choose from, it's hard to decide what their worst blunder thus far has been.

There's the absolute lack of any moral fibre, displayed by their dismissive, flippant attitude over Afghan detainees being tortured – detainees that Canadian soldiers transferred to the corrupt Afghan authorities.

It's incomprehensible that these "people" in Cabinet can be so insensitive over something so horrendous of torture.

There's the horrible management of the economy; the GST cut was universally condemned by economists of being of no help to our overheating economy and high interest rates.

There's the disdain for Parliament – rather than have democratically elected MPs debate the future of the Afghan mission, Harper would rather let his political appointees decide, with the chair alone being paid at least \$312 000 a year, assuming a 5-day workweek for a year. That's a lot of taxpayer money to waste, even for a Harper crony!

There's the blatant lying – the income trust promise, the sudden ejection from caucus of Bill Casey, the claims that the Liberals are the ones holding up the crime bills (as if!) and the assertion that they're protecting the environment. The Conservative government never lets the truth get in the way of a good headline.

But as terrible as the leadership of this Conservative government is, it's not half as maddening as the despicable and oh-so-embarrassing performance of our local "MP" Pierre Poilievre, the clown of Parliament Hill.

He never ceases to impress with his infantile behaviour and juvenile antics. Rather than gather signatures for a petition he wishes to present as his own, like an MP is supposed to do, he attempts to bribe children to do it for him by offering a scholarship to the winner of

Nepean Women's Liberal Association

Our Liberal women's club has been in existence for over 25 years and it is one of the most active in Ontario, possibly in the whole of Canada.

We are proud of our history and the important work that we do as the voice of women in the Liberal Party.

We are ratified federally and provincially and elect delegates to conventions for both the Ontario Liberal Party and the Liberal Party of Canada.

Dinner meetings are held regularly throughout the year when we have a female federal MP, senator or a provincial woman MPP as our guest speaker.

In addition to social events held throughout the year, the Club also is active on the policy front. Issues that are important to women and their families are debated and discussed often leading to submissions and resolutions to the Party, both OLP and LPC(O).

Member ship costs \$10 per year. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact President Patricia Pepper at (613) 829-9821 or Patricia1@primus.ca; Vice-President Mary de Toro at (613) 247-1459 or mdetoro@sympatico.ca; or Treasurer Bernice O'Halloran at (613) 723-8987 or ohallbj@storm.ca.

Patricia Pepper

his little contest. He weasels out of earning his paycheque and he fills up the minds of our children with the matter of sexual predators – that was the essay topic demanded by Pierre. Shame on him.

He professes to support bill C-22, to raise the age of sexual consent, and yet he was silent when the Harper government delayed its passage not only by proroguing Parliament, but by introducing the measure at First Reading in the House when they had the option to accelerate its passage by sending it straight to the Senate. The hypocrisy of our MP on this bill is breathtaking.

The issue of the day is clearly the Strandherd-Armstrong bridge, and his games have only delayed the process. Pierre pretended to deliver results with a phantom \$35 million from the federal government, but it soon became clear that he misled his constituents, including Councillors Jan Harder and Steve Desroches, and that the "new" money was actually part of the \$200 million promised by the former Liberal government to fund public transit (including the bridge) in Ottawa.

With that money dedicated for transit, our MP knew full well that his promise would be meaningless and demeaning, and Harder now feels "hoodwinked" by Poilievre.

Is Poilievre so incapable of delivering results that all he can come up with is money provided by the Liberals?

What Pierre has done, in re-announcing money provided by our government, is reminded people that to get real results for Nepean-Carleton, you need to elect a Liberal MP. Poilievre's Conservatives have failed to muster even \$35 million for this needed bridge – a mere 0.3% of this government's \$13 billion surplus.

Clearly, results are too much to ask from a caucus nobody like Poilievre, even with his party in government. Nothing for Nepean-Carleton as long as our MP keeps himself on the backbenches with immature behaviour, slandering opponents and misleading constituents on every measure.

The election cannot come soon enough. The people of Nepean-Carleton have suffered more than enough embarrassment and humiliation at the hands of Pierre Poilievre.

Mark Johnson

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Questions / Comments? Please feel free to contact Mark Johnson, Editor, at mark.brian.johnson@gmail.com. He welcomes all feedback!