

# Newsletter Spring/Summer 2012

## Strong Leadership. A Better Canada.



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### **The Executive:**

Tako van Popta, President Tanya Tait, Vice President Mark Warawa, MP Jim Pratt, Treasurer Rita Thiessen, Secretary Kim Houlind, Director

#### **Directors:**

Nicole Hackett, Policy/Constitution Director Kim Houlind. **Events Director** Austin Machholz, Youth Director Margaret Hsieh, Ethnic Outreach Director Misty van Popta. Communications Director Pam Milburn, Membership Director Ursula Neuscheler, **Fundraising Director** Janice Irwin, Volunteer Director

## A Message from our President— Tako van Popta

We have just marked the first anniversary of Canada's strong, stable, national, majority Conservative government. Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his government are moving forward with their legislative agenda and focussing on strengthening Canada. This new reality has had an impact on EDA's across the country which, until a year ago, had been in permanent election readiness mode. Now we are refocusing to support a majority government, to broaden community support for the Party, and to build our coffers for the next election anticipated in 2015.

One initiative currently under way and consuming some of this EDA's attention is the pending redistribution of electoral districts. With BC's population continuing to grow, we will see an additional six ridings in this province. No doubt this will affect the Langley riding on at least one of our borders. The Electoral Boundaries' Commissions has started its work and we expect public hearings across the province to start later this year. They should complete their

work by early 2013 and be ready for final presentation to cabinet for approval later that year. With the next federal election likely to be in 2015, BC will elect 42 MP to represent this province in the House of Commons.

Our EDA subcommittees have been busy on local activities. The Events Committee is planning for the upcoming Canada Day celebrations and to continue our proud tradition of flying Conservative Party colours at this great community event. We are always looking for volunteers to help out so if you are interested in celebrating Canada's special day by working with fellow Conservatives, or if you know someone who might want to lend a hand, please call or send us an email. But even if you can't volunteer, please drop by our booth to say hello.



## Join Us for CANADA DAY!



Now an annual tradition, join fellow Conservatives at the BIG BLUE tent with the large Canada flag for a fun game of bingo and prizes, at McLeod Park. Stop by to hear notable Langley folks call a game of bingo or two and say 'Hi' to your MP, Mark Warawa. We are looking for up to 35 volunteers to join us on June 30 & July 1. Please contact Kim Houlind by phone at 604-916-8330 or by email: info@langleyconservatives.ca for more info or to sign up. Thanks!

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# **Meet the 2012 Board of Directors**



**STEPHEN DINESEN:** Stephen is a long time Langley resident and Conservative supporter. Stephen believes in fiscal responsibility and a business friendly economic landscape. He is an active volunteer in his church and local sports. Stephen is a VP, a company director and a businessman.

**NICOLE HACKETT**: Nicole served as Financial Agent with the South Surrey-White Rock EDA from 2008 until 2010. Nicole is a Professional Engineer with a passion for developing the party infrastructure called the CPC Constitution.

MARGARET HSIEH: Margaret is a student at Capilano University taking paralegal studies. She has a degree in science from UBC and worked at the National Research Council in Ottawa. During the 2011 Campaign Margaret was a critical volunteer keeping the office and computers running!

**JANICE IRWIN** Janice is a long serving Conservative volunteer. A year ago she joined the Langley EDA President's List. During the 2011 Campaign, she volunteered every single day in the office and out on streets delivering flyers. Janice has regularly served as an EDA Secretary, most recently in South Surrey – White Rock. Janice's nickname is "Energizer Bunny."

**AUSTIN MACHHOLZ** Austin is a secondary school student with a passion for politics and speaking out for what is right. He volunteered throughout the 2011 Campaign. Austin has worked in the Constituency Office as a volunteer doing data entry. His volunteer work also includes: student mentoring, school event planning, managing a student concession and building homes in Mexico.

MICHAEL PRATT Michael is in grade nine. He has won Silver Medal awards in French Public Speaking at the BC Provincial Championships in 2009 and 2011. In addition to achieving a 94% average in Grade 8, he was also a co-winner of Brookswood's Grade 8 Athlete of the Year. He is a military history buff and last year visited Juno Beach where he first had the idea of commemorating our fallen soldiers. Along with his sister Elizabeth, a former Board member, he is a founder of Langley Youth for the Fallen: A Walk to Remember.

**MISTY VAN POPTA** Misty is a co-owner of a local business. She is a long time resident of Langley where she lives with her family. Misty is an active volunteer in her community, most recently she has been elected Director of the Fort Langley BIA. She has experience on the BIA's Marketing sub-committee. Misty has just completed a three-year term as Secretary on the Board of Directors of a private school. She has served on their committees on Elementary Education, Distributed Learning Feasibility, Debt Reduction Strategy and Superintendent Search.

Returning Board Directors: Eric Bysouth, Annette DeKraker, Paul Fast, John Hof, Kim Houlind, Jessie Legaree, Austin Machholz, Pam Milburn, Ursula Neuscheler, Tanya Tait, Tako Van Popta, James Pratt, Steve Schafer, Rita Thiessen



The Conservative EDA is building on the good work in the field done during last years' election team and is expanding it's outreach to various ethnic communities in Langley who share the Conservatives' values. Our goal is to build and connect with new Canadians that are starting to



"tune in" to the Conservative message. Please look forward to our upcoming events. We look forward to meet new friends and maintain old friendships.

- Margaret Hseih, Chair Ethic Outreach Committee



## Nicole's Notes.....The Policy and Constitution Committee

has a busy year ahead.

The National Constitution and Policy Committee met over the last month and have set out tentative timelines for submissions for Convention 2013. Whether you have a passion

for policy or a craving for constitution there will be something in the offering from spring to fall to whet your appetite and get your input. We will be holding a few Policy and Constitutional nights for all members to get the discussions flowing and to have some fun!

Come fall we are looking forward to seeing many participate in the BC convention where further discussion can take place.

If you are interested in participating in our riding workshops, please contact me at <a href="mailto:nhackett@shaw.ca">nhackett@shaw.ca</a>. Nicole Hackett, Chair of Policy/ Constitution Committee



There's lots going on in Ottawa and in Langley! As Chair of the Environment Committee I have been travelling the country holding public consultation meetings

to advise the government on the development of a national conservation plan.

In Langley, 70 young people will have summer jobs thanks to more than \$322,000 of federal funding for the Canada Summer Jobs program in our community. We have also recently announced a \$70,000 loan to the Vista D'oro Farms install a new processing line and hire 10 staff. More than \$21,000 has been awarded to help celebrate Canada Day at MacLeod Park, so I hope to see you there! Most significanly, our Conservative government has contributed \$50,000 towards the newest Langley cenotaph, honouring our soldiers killed in Afghanistan by Langley's Youth for the Fallen, Michael and Elizabeth Pratt.



## Help us save money!! ...get this newsletter by email!

Email <u>info@langleyconservatives.ca</u> with your name and email address, and we will send you email updates about local events, activities and

political happenings as well as this *fabulous* newsletter! It costs about \$6.00 per person to send this snail mail!



Thank you to everyone who joined me in the May Day Parade!

Despite the weather, Conservatives showed our community

pride. Job well done!

### Get Your Christmas Turkey Here!

Save your loonies and twonies for a Christmas Turkey Fundraiser that you won't want to miss!



### **MEMBERSHIP Facts:**

- •Membership in the Conservative Party of Canada makes you a member of the CPC Langley Electoral District Association.
- •Membership is \$15.00 per year.
- •Cheques, money orders and bank drafts can be make out to the Conservative Fund, or a credit card can be used for on-line membership s at <a href="www.conservative.ca">www.conservative.ca</a> (hit the "JOIN" button).
- •You can call the Conservative Party of Canada at 1-866-808-8407, or via mail: 1204-130 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5G4
- •We welcome members 14-140; please encourage your like-mined friends to join too!
- •Members and supporters can each donate up to \$1,200 per year to both the CPC Langley EDA **and** to the Conservative Party of Canada.
- •Member benefits include: Newsletters, invitation to events, volunteer opportunities, and a chance to form life-long friendships (like mine, with the handsome fellow on the right)!

   Pam Milburn, Membership Chair.



<b>Conservative</b>	(Please return with payment envelope.)
Name: Address: Phone: Email:  YES, you can count on my support. I'm still undecided.  No.	Membership:         □ 1 Year \$15 □ 3 Years \$45 □ 5 Years \$60         I would also like to make a tax-deductible contribution of:         □ \$50 □ \$100 □ \$250 □ Other \$



Maclean's Magazine got up close and personal with our very own EDA Board member and die-hard conservative, branding her as one of Canada's Top 10 people under 25 to watch. We couldn't agree more:

> JESSIE LEGAREE



Jessie Legaree: Politics: As an undergraduate at Trinity Western University, Jessie Legaree's favourite course concerned the development of the Canadian Constitution. "There were seven students and maybe three of us showed up regularly," she says. "So, I mean, I recognize my passions are not very common." However uncommon, they have positioned her well for a future in politics and public policy. And at 23, she is already a veteran of this stuff. Legaree currently works in the Langley, B.C., constituency office of Conservative MP Mark Warawa, and up until recently she was a member of the board with not one, but two Conservative riding associations. For five weeks last spring she put her master's studies on hold-she's due to graduate this spring with an M.A. in Canadian political philosophy—to work as the assistant to the Conservative party's lead organizer in B.C. Despite coming from a family of British Columbia New Democrats, Legaree found herself coming down on the Conservative side of issues—on crime policy, for instance—but says she is not "hyperpartisan." In Ottawa, she might be surrounded by similar twentysomethings—the dutiful aides who trail every minister and backbencher—but at the riding level a 23-year-old is rarer. "I've been the youngest person on every board that I've joined. And then I've tried to transform it," she says. "Any board I've left there have been at least two people younger than me when I leave. Young people tend to attract other young people." She says she's been asked about running as a candidate, or running a campaign, but for now she's focused on law school at the University of Toronto in the fall. Aaron Wherry

#### More about Jessie Legaree

- I was a conservative before knowing my grandparents met through their involvement with the Labour Party in Scotland (when they immigrated this translated into support for the NDP).
- I am very supportive of fiscal conservatism. The MacLean's article mentions my leanings toward conservative crime policy -- that was when I was asked about the policies that initially made me conservative and I realized I probably wasn't too concerned about taxes when I was in high school. I read a book called Getter Away with Murder: the Canadian Criminal Justice System, and it hooked me. At that time, I actually wrote down a list of policy changes I would implement if I were ever in a position to do so.
- Law and politics were affirmed as my future path when I was chosen to participate in *Access Ottawa*, a now defunct week-long program for grade 10-12 students to stay at the Laurentian Leadership Centre and be immersed in politics.
- My degree is an MA in Interdisciplinary Humanities, focusing on Canadian History and Political Philosophy
- My favourite place in the world is sitting in Senate Gallery (for guests of Senators, or Senator themselves) in the House of Commons.

### A Youthful Snapshot—by Jessie Legaree

Sponsorship from the Langley Conservative EDA enabled me to participate in the first ever CPC Youth Conference in Montreal March 2-4, 2012. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet 150 active young conservatives representing every Canadian province, as well as hear from prominent political figures.

A theme throughout the weekend was ideas as the lifeblood of a political party. Minister Kenney spoke of the importance of remaining principled rather than becoming the party "of" government. Similarly, Minister Bernier referred to our need to continue convincing the electorate that we are not merely aiming to be a better manager of a bigger government; we are involved because of believing something, with ideas at the core of passion. Contrary to some media speculation, Senator Finley described Prime Minister as remaining "rock solid" as a man built on principle. This ties into Minister James Moore's mantra of "good policy is good politics." Success is therefore related to ideas. The ability to identify and craft a vision which others can rally around is what Minister Paradis attributed his success in Quebec to. We cannot forget our vision.

That we cannot become complacent was emphasized also by a parliamentary panel; MPs further spoke of the role youth play in moving our party forward and continuing the conservative message. To that effect, participants were given some tools for getting involved in local riding associations, developing and expanding campus clubs, and engaging the media. The goal Senator Demers stated for the weekend was that youth would leave understanding "how and why we do it better." This was certainly accomplished with the powerful speeches from the speakers above, as well as contributions from MPs John Williamson, Dr. Kellie Leitch, Michelle Remple and Randy Hoback, and Party Operative Jenni Byrne.

I hope to see another CPC Youth Conference in the future that further trains and inspires young people in navigating politics. Youth can be the spark that maintains our party's vitality. For as we were reminded by Jamie Ballie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Nova Scotia, "the fight never ends." Thank you, Langley Conservatives, for helping equip me for battle!