

Fp NEWS

& Commentary - 85



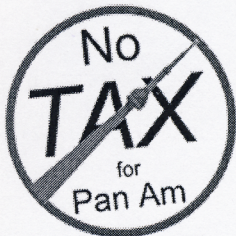
October 2009 - #2

NO TAX FOR PAN AM!

Grassroots Campaign Launched to Stop \$1.7 Billion Federal, Provincial and Municipal Tax Dollars from Being Spent on Toronto's 2015 Bid

TORONTO, Ontario - August 24, 2009 - A multi-media and social-networking campaign has been launched to encourage Canadians to petition the governments of Canada, Ontario, and Toronto to cancel proposals to fund Toronto's bid to host the **2015 Pan Am Games** with 1.7 billion taxpayer dollars [later officially-revised to \$1.4 billion]. In the fall, *Pan Am* officials will choose from among the three cities currently bidding to host the Games: Toronto (Canada), Lima (Peru), and Bogotá (Columbia).

The campaign commenced with the launch of a new website at: www.notaxforpanam.com, a *FaceBook Group*, and a presence on *Twitter.com*. Visitors to the web site are encouraged to sign a petition addressed to Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**, Ontario Premier **Dalton McGuinty**, and Toronto Mayor **David Miller**. The site also provides links to the letters editors of Canada's most influential newspapers.



One of the central features of the web site is a video demonstrating how the 1984-85 grassroots campaign against tax-funding for London Ontario's bid to host the **1991 Pan Am Games** was won, with the *1991 Games* ultimately being hosted by Havana, Cuba. Also included are copies of the flyer, guide, and newsletters that made that victory possible. Each helps explain why it

'Green Propaganda...'

ANTI-IDLING BY-LAWS A FRAUD, SAY LONDON Fp CAs

Health Care Dollars Used To Promote Green Agenda, Harm Environment - page 3

'Prince of Pot...'

MARC EMERY HEADED FOR JAIL IN AMERICAN PRISON

'Farewell Tour' - page 6

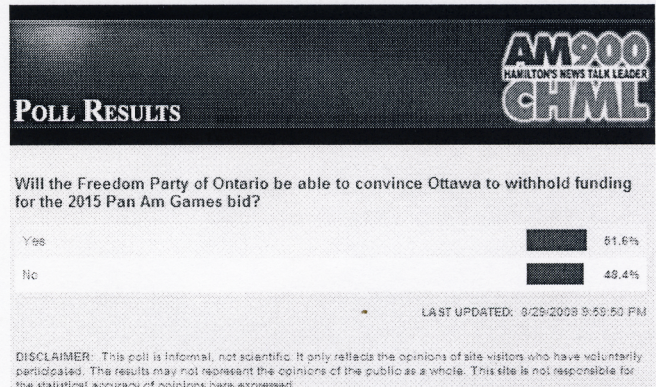
is a bad idea to spend taxpayer dollars on the hosting of international sports events such as the *Pan Am Games*.

"This sloppy gusher of government spending will cost every man woman and child in Canada approximately \$50, \$200 for a family of four", says **Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever**. "Yet the vast majority of Canada's 34 million individuals would not even be permitted to attend this limited seating event, while many of the attendees will be people who do not pay Canadian taxes at all."

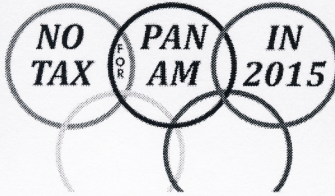
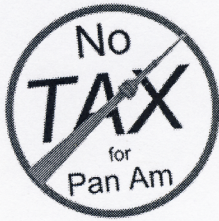
McKeever's arguments harken back to many of the same arguments used in the mid '80s by **Fp** president and *No Tax For Pan Am Games* chairman **Robert Metz**, and past **Fp** Action Director **Marc Emery**, who sparked the original campaign with a door-to-door information flyer.

Ironically, it was largely the same proponents of the Games in the '80s who are again promoting tax expenditures today, most notably former Ontario premier **David Peterson**. Doubly ironic was the poor economy which was cited as a reason for the federal *Progressive Conservative* government of the time to cancel its spending on the *Pan Am Games*; while today, the *Conservative Party of Canada* is arguing that a poor economy demands government *stimulus* to justify its spending on the Games!

[PAN-AM... - cont'd on next page]



Above: - HAMILTON, Ontario - August 29, 2009 - Radio AM900 CHML's informal on-line poll suggests that a slim majority believes **Fp's** campaign has a good chance at success.



www.notaxforpanam.com

[...PAN-AM - cont'd from previous page]

"Since the bid was proposed in 2008, the impact of the recession upon Canada and Canadians has become much clearer," says McKeever. "Our governments now are all running in the red, yet they quietly persist in their plan to put us another \$1.7 billion in the hole? Does nobody realize that the interest on that money will be about \$100 million per year?"

"We read, daily, of unnecessary shortages of doctors and timely health care services, and of suffering and even death due to limited medical resources. Our schools lack text books. The sounds of pistols are drowning out the sounds of crickets in our towns and cities at night. To spend \$1.7 billion tax dollars just so Toronto can host the 2015 games in-

stead of Lima or Bogotá would be a violation of every tax paying individual, every sick or injured individual, every student, and every crime victim in this country. There is still time for the governments of Canada, Ontario, and Toronto to reconsider this immoral and irresponsible plan, and to cancel taxpayer funding for the Toronto bid."

While former Ontario premier David Peterson prefers to 'dismiss and deny' Freedom Party's campaign [see *Hamilton Spectator*, below], current London municipal controller Gord Hume, who chaired the 1991 London bid, has cautioned the 2015 bid committee to "take this campaign seriously."

Hamilton taxpayers have good reason to be interested in the 2015 Pan Am Games, given that they are on

the hook for the \$60 million the city has committed to the bid. So it should not be surprising that Fp's *No Tax For Pan Am* campaign has attracted quite a bit of media attention in that community, and as of this writing has included a front-page story [reproduced below] and subsequent coverage in the *Hamilton Spectator*, coverage in the *Hamilton Mountain News*, and radio coverage on Hamilton's *Talk820* and *AM900 CHML* [reproduced on front page].

Freedom Party may not be alone in opposing the bid, as other groups appear to have been seen in sporadic protests against this waste of tax dollars. Fp would certainly be happy to work with other groups and individuals who share the same objective. For now, all are encouraged to sign our on-line petition. [end]

'Splinter' group campaigns to halt Pan Am funds

BY GARRY MCKAY

The Freedom Party of Ontario has launched an Internet-based campaign to derail the southern Ontario bid to host the 2015 Pan Am Games.

The No Tax for Pan Am campaign launched yesterday with a website, notaxforpanam.com, as well as a Facebook group and a presence on Twitter.

Freedom Party Leader Paul McKeever, who is also a spokesperson for the No Tax for Pan Am Committee, said the goal is to get the three levels of government to withdraw all funding commit-

ments for the Games.

David Peterson, who is chairing the bid, said he's not concerned.

"You are always going to have splinter groups, although I've never heard of these people. We have unbelievable support for this bid."

McKeever said the campaign is aimed at all municipalities in the bid, including Hamilton, that would use tax money to fund the Games. The City of Hamilton has committed \$60 million to the new stadium portion of the bid.

"I don't see any reason to step back, although I'm fully aware that there might be some who might be opposed and might align them-

selves with this," said Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

He noted the Games would provide a legacy of sports facilities similar to what the 1930 British Empire Games did.

McKeever's group says multi-sport games leave only debt and that government money could be put to better use.

The Freedom Party of Ontario was a partner in the grassroots campaign that effectively killed the London, Ont., bid to host the 1991 Pan Am Games when they convinced the federal government not to provide funding.

Gord Hume, chairperson of the

London bid, said the current bid committee should take this campaign seriously.

"The people who make the decisions, and I include senior levels of government, want to know that it's going to be a positive event in the community. They should be doing significant public relations. You need to show a groundswell of positive public support."

The southern Ontario bid is up against Lima, Peru, and Bogota, Colombia. A decision is expected in the fall.

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Above: - from the front page of the Hamilton Spectator, August 25/09: Labelling Freedom Party a 'splinter group' (from what?), former Ontario premier David Peterson continues the same well-practiced 'dismiss and deny' strategy that he employed when squaring off against Freedom Party on the 1991 Pan Am Games bid in London Ontario. Which apparently he does not remember losing. However, we must fully agree with his subsequent statement, also a repeat of his defence of the 1991 bid, that "We have unbelievable support for this bid." UNBELIEVABLE is right. In poll after poll, then as now, opposition to tax-financing of the Pan-Am Games was rarely less than 80% and never less than 70%.

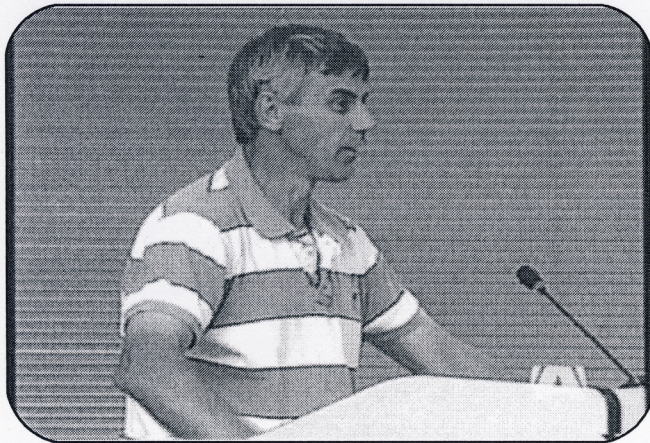
'Green Propaganda...'

ANTI-IDLING BY-LAWS AN ADMITTED FRAUD

...Health Care Dollars Promote Green Agenda, Harm Environment

LONDON, Ontario - June 23, 2009 - Members of the London-Fanshawe and London West provincial Freedom Party constituency associations attended the city's Environment and Transportation Committee (ETC) in an attempt to bring to its members' attention the fact that London's plans to strengthen its anti-idling by-laws were based on a self-admitted fraud by *Natural Resources Canada* --- the very group whose agenda the city is explicitly following!

Ostensibly, the issue was about decreasing London's 5 minute idling prohibition to 3 minutes (which ultimately ended up being an arbitrary 2 minutes), but, as Fp's pamphlet, *So Who's Idling?* clearly demonstrated: "What's really at stake in the idling debate is millions of dollars in government spending, specifically *health care* dollars, on posters, signs, radio ads and other means of propaganda promoting objectively unsupportable assertions."



Above: London-Fanshawe Freedom Party of Ontario C.A. president Dave Durnin appears on A Channel (June 22, 2009) as he addresses London's Environment and Transportation Committee: "You can't penalize someone for thinking rationally."

At Right: - from the London Free Press, June 23/09: Though London-Fanshawe Fp president Dave Durnin's presentation to London's Environment and Transportation Committee was mentioned, his affiliation with Freedom Party was not. This was remarkable, given that he was reading from Freedom Party's 'So Who's Idling?' pamphlet which was distributed to all the media, attendees, and committee members -- and that the affiliation was indicated in both A Channel's coverage, and in CJBK radio's 'News Maker of the Day' coverage on the preceding day.



Those who visit the following document on line at:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/idling/material/reports-research/london-by-law-report.cfm?attr=16>

will discover:

(1) That the report we've cited is written by **Natural Resources Canada** and is called: **Case Study: Implementing an Idling Control By-Law in London, Ontario.**

(2) That the report identifies only four 'stakeholders' in the pursuit of anti-idling by-laws. They are: (1) **City Staff**, (2) **City Councillors**, (3) 'a community advisory group on the environment, and (4) the **Middlesex-London Health Unit.**

[FRAUD - cont'd on next page]

■ AIR POLLUTION

Politicians divided over anti-idling bylaw

JONATHAN SHER
The London Free Press

London politicians were divided last night over whether or how to toughen the city's anti-idling bylaw after a public meeting in which most called for stricter measures.

Two politicians on the city's environment and transportation committee, Controller Gina Barber and Coun. Judy Bryant, pushed for measures backed by health and environmental officials that would make London's bylaw among the toughest in Ontario and limit vehicle idling to one minute.

Opposing that recommendation were councillors Cheryl Miller and Roger Caranci, the tie vote leaving the decision to full council when it meets Monday.

Caranci even rejected a more modest toughening he'd supported two weeks ago, one that would decrease the idling limit from five minutes to three while retaining broad temperature exclusions that make the existing bylaw unenforceable for half the year.

The committee vote came after a public participation meeting in which Londoners weighed in, most asking for tougher measures.

Speaking to politicians on the committee, a majority of whom recommended measures less stringent than what's been proposed by the city brass, Kevin Lomack said, "People's health is at stake."

Politicians were considering two options for toughening an anti-idling bylaw that since 1999 had limited idling to five minutes but with little enforcement and broad exemptions. City staff want to cut idling time to one minute, a feder-

ally recommended time frame for balancing pollution reduction and global climate change.

While a health official spoke of how air pollution is a serious threat to those with asthma, heart conditions and breathing ailments, another Londoner noted the city's moniker is at risk, too, since car emissions and pollutants make it difficult to grow trees in the Forest City.

"The atmosphere is killing the roots," said Shane O'Neill of Post-Carbon London.

But another participant argued the proposed bylaw stifles intelligent debate, saying there's no evidence linking idling with health problems.

"You can't penalize someone for thinking rationally," Dave Durnin said.

But King Abel is convinced of the link. While his wife has multiple sclerosis and a doctor's note that would exempt her from an idling bylaw, he's in favor of tougher limits. "I think it's a no-brainer," he said.

Earlier this month, city council put off recommending a new, tougher anti-idling bylaw, most voting instead to present two options, the tougher measure suggested by staff and a compromise proposed by some politicians.

The city's environment director, Jay Stanford, has recommended changes that would make the new bylaw among Ontario's most stringent. It would limit idling to one minute rather than today's five and increase enforcement from the part-time efforts of one officer to all bylaw officers, those who write parking tickets included.

[...FRAUD - cont'd from previous page]

(3) That there is **no evidence** and "little published material" to "link health benefits to idling-control by-laws."

(4) That "scientific journals" indicate "that the first few minutes after starting a vehicle accounts for 80% of pollution from cars equipped with converters."

(5) That subsequent attempts to disprove #4 did not provide "any helpful research results."

(6) That London already has had an anti-idling by-law since 1999, passed due to "three air quality alerts in the spring and summer of 1999."

(7) That the London Middlesex Health Unit, in 1997, identified "air contaminants from the Ohio Valley" as being the major identified cause "negatively affecting air quality in the Windsor-Quebec corridor."

(8) That there are two "Key Barriers to implementing the by-law": (a) a "lack of empirical evidence" citing the "concern" about the scientific reality "related to vehicle cold starts," and (b) "Skepticism regarding the by-law's impact," citing the fact that such by-laws in London Ontario cannot affect "air contaminants from the Ohio Valley."

(9) That a propaganda campaign should be undertaken by those advocating anti-idling by-laws: "Even if empirical evidence is not available, develop indicators of success. ...Parties

involved (the four identified previously) should work together to emphasize that the success of the by-law depends on effective promotion and public education."

(10) That the propaganda campaign, called a communications plan" will "include: (a) communications with municipal staff; (b) 'no idling' signs, (c) posters and literature to be distributed to key organizations, such as day-care centres; (d) billboards, and (e) 30-second radio spots, written by the Health Units' communications manager.

(11) That since there is no direct evidence supporting an idling ban, "communications initiatives should be within the context of the broader issue of air quality."

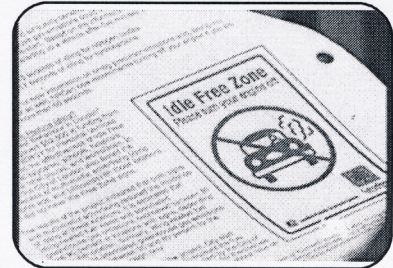
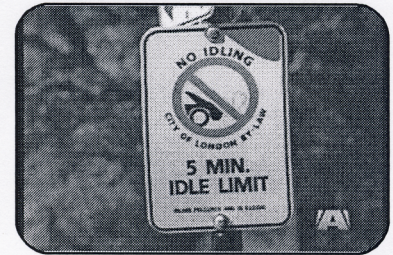
(12) That in a completely "new and unique role, ...the Middlesex-London Health Unit is playing the lead role in implementing and enforcing the idling by-law.

(13) That those who don't buy into the propaganda or who think for themselves, will be punished: "...enforcement will be linked with education. In time, tickets will be issued."

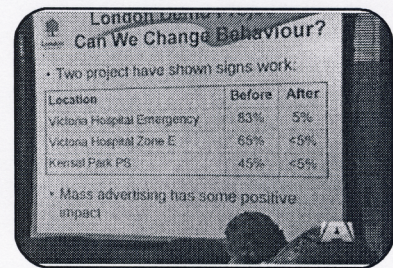
(14) That citizen policing of other citizens can be made in the form of complaints "directly to the Health Unit," while fleet operators will be "encouraged" to initiate idling policies.

(15) That the four 'stakeholders' must work together on these propa-

[FRAUD - cont'd on next page]



Above and Below: - from A Channel's June 22/09 coverage of London's ETC meeting: As a consequence of its 'toughening' of the city by-law as reported by the London Free Press (bottom), London City council is now free to waste precious health care tax dollars changing the 5-minute municipal signs (illustrated top) to 2-minute ones. Called an 'education' campaign, the orgy of spending on new signs and green propaganda is just beginning as the municipality attributes a 5% decline in 'changing behaviour' to 'mass advertising' (below). Common sense would suggest that it is fear of draconian fines and penalties that would have a greater impact. However, given the number of exemptions from the bylaw (in traffic, at drive thrus, above and below certain temperatures, under documented health conditions, and on and on) any 'education' is about the city's arbitrary regulations, not the environment.



Below: - from the London Free Press, June 30/09: Council settles on an arbitrary 2 minute limit, thereby unleashing precious health care tax dollars to promote the city's irrational 'green' policies. This, with full knowledge and acceptance of the facts as outlined in Fp's brochure! None of these facts are reported. The circumstance so outraged Fp president Robert Metz, that he devoted two entire broadcasts of his CHRW FM radio show, Just Right, to the issue, and became a 'Newsmaker Of The Day' on CJBK AM's news coverage of June 29, 2009.

CITY HALL

Council toughens anti-idling bylaw

JONATHAN SHER
The London Free Press

London city council voted last night to toughen the city's anti-idling bylaw, requiring motorists to shut off their engines after two minutes.

The new bylaw takes effect Sept. 1, reducing the current idling limit of five minutes and beefing up enforcement in a big way.

A divided council passed the measure after an alternative

proposal to reduce the limit to three minutes was defeated.

Though opponents to the tougher measure argued it would make it tough for young mothers to shuttle their kids in and out of vehicles, Coun. Joni Baechler said there were more important interests at stake.

"I'd ask you to think of the inconvenience for those who can't breathe on smog day alerts."

Though some on council pushed for a three-minute limit,

including Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best, Controller Gina Barber said that looser proposal made no sense when a study showed 80% of motorists who idle in London do so less than three minutes.

Last night's decision came after years of debate about toughening a bylaw passed in 1999, a process slowed when fast food restaurants organized opposition to regulating drive-throughs.

The new bylaw will boost enforcement, which under the

existing bylaw was enforced by the Middlesex-London Health Unit, mostly through the part-time efforts of a single health officer. There were no charges laid until *The Free Press* reported about the lack of enforcement a few years ago.

The new bylaw would be enforced by all city bylaw officers, including those who issue parking tickets.

The new bylaw exempts drive-throughs and won't apply to vehicles whose passengers have

health issues identified by a doctor. But it will be enforced against motorists stopped at London's many level train crossings.

Under the new bylaw, officers can hand out \$50 tickets that require less administrative costs than the current \$130 tickets that are rarely issued.

Council didn't adopt all the measures proposed by city staff, measures that would have made London's bylaw among the toughest in Ontario.

Staff had proposed a one-

minute idling limit, a time frame supported by Natural Resources Canada.

Council also rejected a proposal to narrow temperature exemptions, keeping the current exemptions that permits idling when temperatures rise above 27 C or fall below 5 C.

Supporters of the staff-drafted bylaw argue it will have symbolic value because Londoners will become more aware of reducing the production of pollutants and greenhouse gases.

"I am arrogant..."

MARC EMERY HEADED FOR AMERICAN PRISON

...Plans to support Green Party and NDP

VANCOUVER, British Columbia - September, 2009 - He was once better known as one of the founding members and *Action Director* of the **Freedom Party of Ontario**, and as a principled activist on a host of issues, too numerous to mention here. They included his key role as a catalyst in ending Ontario's Sunday Shopping prohibition, and his leading the charge with Fp's highly successful *No Tax For Pan Am* (1991) campaign in the mid-'80s, two issues which have resurfaced once again (see coverage, elsewhere this issue).

Today, Marc Emery's more recent and globally-recognized persona as the infamous 'Prince of Pot' appears

to be drawing to a close, unaccompanied by any signs of measurable success on his single issue of ending cannabis prohibition.

Emery is expected to begin serving a jail sentence this month in the United States, ostensibly for selling marijuana seeds online via his Canadian website. He has never contested the 'facts' of his case, and it is his own testimony and admissions of 'guilt' that formed much of the key 'evidence' that the American **Drug Enforcement Agency** (DEA) was relying on to press its original case for extradition. When Emery was initially arrested in Canada on behalf of the DEA, authorities found no drugs (which

Emery never sold), no weapons (as a pacifist, Emery has never owned a gun nor been associated with violence), no money (because he gave it all away by donating it towards defense legal fees for others charged under marijuana laws, and to social and political organizations). Fortunately for the DEA, it no longer faces the extradition process since it has cornered Emery into a 'deal' where he has agreed to 'voluntarily' go to the US and plead 'guilty' to one of the lesser charges against him in exchange for reduced time served and other related concessions.

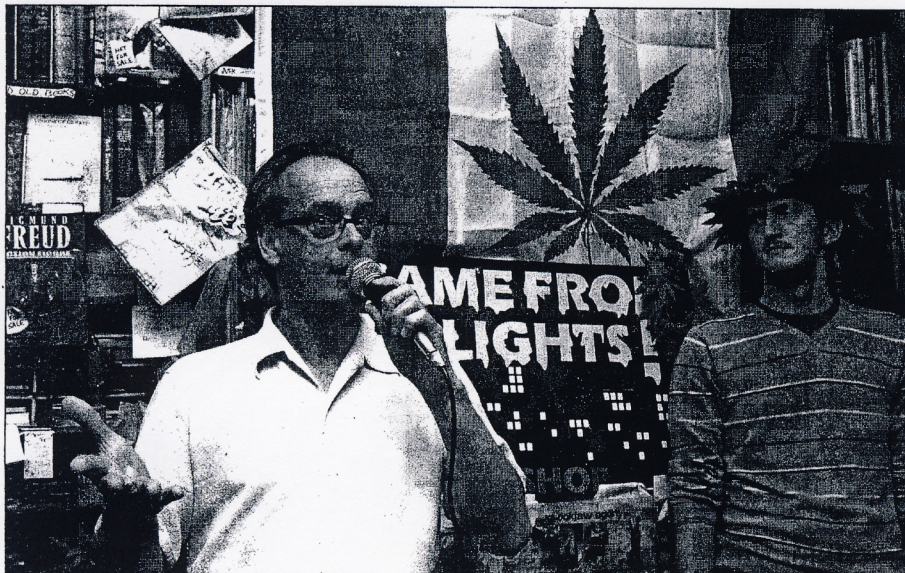
NOT POT, BUT POLITICS

However, the reasons for his incarceration south of the border are highly dubious, given the incredible number of online sites doing the same thing for which he is being imprisoned, and with many other so-called 'compassion' websites selling marijuana itself (not just seeds), both in Canada and in several American states. According to a recent *CNN* report, 'compassion' sites selling cannabis 'legally' have sales figures exceeding multi-billion dollar amounts annually --- in the state of California alone.

What makes him unique as a so-called 'drug kingpin,'

[EMERY... - cont'd on next page]

■ **JUSTICE:** Visiting the bookstore he founded in 1975, former Londoner is undaunted at the prospect of serving a U.S. prison term



SUE REEVE sue.reeve@sunmedia.ca

Marc Emery, known as the prince of pot, talked to a crowd at City Lights Bookshop yesterday. At right is Tyler Smith, a store employee.

'Canada owes me', Emery says

RANDY RICHMOND
The London Free Press

Canada's self-proclaimed prince of pot, Marc Emery, says he's not afraid to go to a U.S. federal penitentiary in a few months.

But he still asked Londoners to push for his transfer back to Canada and Americans for an outright pardon.

"I'm not scared. I've never been scared of anything. That might be foolish. It's not that I'm courageous. It's just a state of being. It's how I am," Emery told a supportive crowd at the Richmond Street bookstore he founded 34 years ago, City Lights.

"I'm hoping you can help me out," Emery told a couple dozen supporters. "Everybody has to lobby the federal government to bring Marc Emery back to Canada or even better yet, free

Marc Emery."

Emery returned to London yesterday to say goodbye to family, friends and supporters. After pleading guilty in August, he expects to be sentenced in September to as much as eight years in a U.S. prison.

"I just know this is something I'm prepared to do. I'm going to miss everybody. I'm going to miss my wife Jodie for sure," he said as she looked on.

The long-time marijuana activist is facing three charges dating back to 2005 for selling pot seeds to U.S. and Canadian customers via his Vancouver mail order business.

He had been fighting extradition to the U.S. on those charges, but says now his lawyer is negotiating a deal with U.S. authorities.

Canada has never fought a U.S. extradition order and the Stephen Harper government,

which is toughening anti-marijuana laws, would hardly go to the mat for him, Emery said.

So instead, he's hoping to strike a deal with the U.S. district attorney by pleading guilty to the lesser charge of distributing marijuana.

In exchange, the U.S. will drop the more serious charges of manufacturing marijuana and money laundering, which could lead to a life sentence, Emery said.

"I'm 51 years old. Anything over 12 or 13 years is kind of a life sentence because the average person dies in a U.S. federal prison around the age of 65."

Emery noted he's been fighting laws and bylaws for decades, ever since he opened City Lights, a used bookstore, on Richmond Street in 1975. Among his targets: Sunday shopping, mandatory fees for downtown merchants to

beautify the core, laws against selling books about marijuana and obscenity laws.

In 1992, he sold the book store and lived for a while in Indonesia. He resurfaced in Vancouver and continued to fight against marijuana laws, firing up an oversized joint outside the London police station in 2003.

"Sometimes I think I've failed at this mission I've had to make marijuana legal, to end the prohibition," he said yesterday.

But he remained undaunted by the long mission or the prospect of eight years behind bars, saying he'll use the time to learn French and prepare for his next career.

"I put out for this country for 30 years and Canada owes me. They owe me to be elected to the federal parliament and make me justice minister so finally I can repeal this awful terrible prohibition we have in this country."

Above: - from the London Free Press, June 12/09: Since his run-in with the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), media attention has focused on Emery himself, eclipsing the issue about which he is so passionate. His unique status as a political activist has made him a high priority for the DEA, which actually maintains offices and exercises its authority within Canada.



[...EMERY - cont'd from previous page]

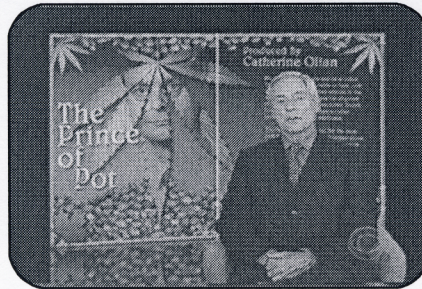
and what makes him a priority target for America's DEA, is Marc Emery's role as a political activist. Were it not for his high profile and his political activism, Emery would be of little or no interest to the DEA. This is no mere speculation on our part, as the DEA itself made this point explicit in its legal submissions for extradition to both the Canadian government and to Emery's legal counsel.

Fp president **Robert Metz**, on his November 1, 2007 CHRW radio broadcast from London Ontario, devoted a whole hour presenting evidence to demonstrate that Emery was being extradited primarily as a *political* prisoner, not a criminal one, with his special focus called: *Citizen Marc Goes To Washington: Marc Emery Breaks The Law* (Just Right #29 - available online at: www.justrightmedia.org.) Now that his extradition is no longer an issue, the context of Emery's *Canadian political persona* pending imprisonment in a *foreign* jurisdiction will tragically be lost.

For both Emery and his cause, things have gotten much worse, not better, since Metz's 2007 broadcast. Emery himself has become the exclusive focus of all his recent media attention, while attention to the broader issues of cannabis prohibition and the gross injustice of imprisoning people for its use have all but receded from view entirely. In Canada, the Conservative Harper government has introduced legislation (*Bill C15*), now passed in the House of Commons and awaiting Senate approval, which mandates minimum sentencing for extraordinarily minor drug violations.

ARROGANCE?

There's no denying that Emery's activities as the 'Prince of Pot' have made him notorious. From the *Wall Street Journal* to the *National Enquirer*, the media have marvelled at his brashness and at the millions of dollars he has given away to charitable



Above, Top Left & Right: -from the 1992 television documentary, 'Messing Up The System' by Chris Doty: Top Left: Fp president Robert Metz (left) and Marc Emery(right) in 1984; Top Right: Fp Action Director Marc Emery appearing on a local television talk show.

Above, Bottom Left & Right: On its March 5, 2006 broadcast, Emery as the Prince of Pot is featured on CBS' 60 Minutes in the United States.

and political causes. The big question now is whether Emery's actions to end the injustice of prohibition have been (or will be) successful, or whether they have proven counter-productive. Principle, logic, and evidence suggest the latter. Even Emery himself, as quoted in the accompanying *London Free Press* article, has expressed serious doubts about his effect.

On June 15, 2009, CJBK AM1290 radio talk show host **Shauna Rae** got straight to the point during her phone interview with Emery when she asked: "Some people suggest that the one barrier between you and your goal is your own arrogance. Have you been told that before?"

"Well, you know, I *am* arrogant," promptly replied Emery. "There's no doubt about that. And it's probably why the United States even targeted me --- because I'm mouthy and arrogant --- and I heckled the drug czar when he came to Vancouver. He went on and on about my magazine, about my support of legalization groups, which by the way indicates it's a fairly political prosecution when you analyze

the things that have happened to me in regards to my extradition. I managed to offend the very top people in the US government administration in regards to the Drug War. I'm pretty proud of that. So I *am* arrogant, I guess. But you need to be arrogant and you need to have a certain degree of irrational confidence, it might be said, in order to follow through with these things where you're attacking a monolith like the United States government for the benefit of people like me and people who smoke marijuana and lead a decent honest life. They're being persecuted. I think I've drawn a lot of attention to this injustice."

Emery is hoping that Canadians will help accelerate the process of repatriation so he can serve most of his jail sentence in a Canadian jail.

"The United States government has already agreed not to oppose my transfer to a Canadian jail. But the Canadian government under the Conservatives has stopped repatriating (Canadian) prisoners in the United States, calling them threats to domestic

[EMERY... - cont'd on next page]

'Farewell Tour' Reactions...

'HOMETOWN' LONDON RADIO TALK SHOW PERSONALITIES - on MARC EMERY

Jim Chapman - AM980 - June 12/09

"I don't think we should allow the Americans to extradite Emery. But at the same time I do believe that we have to honour the international agreements we've made, and we have international agreements that will allow them to extradite Marc Emery and put him in jail. I think it's an absolute travesty and a misuse of those rules. I don't think the intention should ever have been to take someone like him and put him in jail.

"Marc and I don't agree politically. He's a lefty who used to discuss issues with me years and years ago and we don't agree on anything. I don't think he's been as effective in his role as a marijuana crusader as he would have liked, nor as he might have been had he been a little less confrontational.

At the same time, he did what he thought was right, and there aren't too many people in our society today who are willing to do that. I think Marc Emery will be remembered as someone who stood up and said 'This is wrong.' I think that the government needs to recognize that this is wrong in this country. The only reason pot has not been legalized in this country is because of the Americans."

Andy Oudman - CJBK 1290 - June 15/09

"Emery is a brilliant man and there are moments when I was ready to vote for him for whatever he was running for, but pushing drugs is not my 'schtick'."

Jeff McArthur - AM980 - July 15/09

"The one thing that kind of stuck out to me, that I can't wholeheartedly agree with, is removing what (Emery) calls prohibitions against all activities. And while I think you can make an argument for the legalization of marijuana, I think organized society needs a set of rules. It just can't be 'anything goes.'

"Government has too much of a role in our lives, whether steering us towards electric cars, or telling us that sitting in our car for more than two minutes with the engine running is too much time. I think we're all tired of big government seemingly getting into every nook and cranny of our lives here. I'm really uncomfortable with releasing the prohibition, (again, Marc's words), on guns, for example. I don't think that's necessarily a great idea. But marijuana? Sure. The legalization of marijuana makes a lot of sense. I think that government is failing to recognize a self-evident truth that the use of marijuana is becoming more mainstream.

"There are very few people I know who are so passionate and believe in something that they're actually willing to do hard time in jail for. And whether you agree with him, or whether he's right or wrong, you've gotta respect that."

[...EMERY - cont'd from previous page]

security, and implying that they're even terrorists of sorts. The Conservative government has gotten very reluctant to bring Canadian prisoners back to Canada and that is something we'll have to lobby them to do."

SEEDS OF ANARCHY:

Although Emery has been campaigning on the single issue of marijuana prohibition, when asked by Shauna Rae what was central to the debate, Emery replied: "It's all about the ideology of the United States versus my ideology."

This clearly led the interviewer into her next question, which assumed that Canada was far ahead of the United States in moving towards the legalization of pot. But surprisingly, when asked how far ahead of America Canada was regarding legalization, Emery replied:

"I think America, unfortunately, is moving ahead of Canada. In California and Massachusetts they have bills to legalize marijuana at the state level. Marijuana is produced in abundance now under the legal marijuana pro-

[EMERY... - cont'd on next page]

Below: - From the Londoner, June 17/09: Is Marc Emery's arrogance an asset --- or a liability? Both, says Sheryl Rooth in this local column.

Columns

Is Marc Emery's political career up in smoke?



SHERYL ROOTH
Rants & Reasonings

Sheryl Rooth is a London wife, mother and creative writer. You can reach her at rsrooth@sympatico.ca

In Canada, if you stand up for something you believe in, does the country owe you anything?
And if the consequences for your actions means spending several years in a US prison, do Canadians owe you anything?
Marc Emery, the self-proclaimed 'Prince of Pot' believes we do.
Nearly four years ago, I wrote a column

about Marc's arrest by US authorities for selling marijuana seeds to US customers through his mail order business, in addition to charges for money laundering and manufacturing marijuana.

My point then was that we should not feel sorry for him having to suffer the consequences when he chose to break the law. Believing in your cause doesn't mean there aren't always consequences. No one forced him to do what he did. It was his choice to flaunt the law to continue with his mission to supply marijuana seeds to anyone who wished to purchase them. And business was good.

The emails I received following that column ranged from informative and educated to frightfully ridiculous including a few death threats from folks whose email names were "Stonedallday" and "Doo-bielover". People either agreed with my opinion or they didn't, vehemently. There was no gray area. Just like people's opinions of Marc. People either like him or they don't. By far however, the most

interesting was the very long and detailed email I received from Marc himself, explaining his stance.

Make no mistake about it, this is a very smart man. He's fought against laws and by-laws ever since his early days here in London. And you have to have respect for someone who is willing to put it all on the line for a cause he believes in, even if you don't believe in it. But does that mean we owe him? I don't think so.

Every day people sacrifice to make this country a wonderful place to live. Obviously, the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the various policing services come to mind first.

You just need to open a newspaper from any large city or small town across this country to see what they are willing to give up in order for us to keep our freedoms. They know what they're getting in to when they sign their name to service. But there are other ways that people sacrifice, with time, pain and perseverance. And yet I've never heard anyone come

forward to say that we as a country owe them for their cause.

Are laws regarding the growth, use and sale of marijuana as archaic as some believe? It's possible as some believe that all of the problems stem to it being an illegal substance. And should it be legal, we wouldn't have the grow ops and the drug dealers in family neighbourhoods. I disagree. You'd still have grow-ops, drug dealers and weapon caches. When there is an opportunity for income, people will take it. And if it's tax free, so much the better.

So what does Marc Emery believe we owe him for his 30 years of self-induced sacrifice? To be elected to federal parliament and be made a justice minister so that he may appeal marijuana prohibition. It's too bad he didn't take this route into politics before his raft of charges, because in all likelihood, he probably would have made it to his goal.

It's Marc's arrogance and confidence that would make him a great politician. Unfortunately, it's also his biggest liability.

[...EMERY - cont'd from previous page]

gram in California. There are half a million people with a card. They have 600 dispensaries in Los Angeles alone. At this point in California it's already *de facto* legal."

It was a theme repeated by Emery many times in several venues across the country. Yet Emery's contempt for America and its government appears grossly inconsistent with his statements regarding that country's political movement on the pot issue.

In an exclusive **CHRW Radio 94.9 FM** taping [recorded and provided to us by Alicks Girowski] of Emery's 'Farewell Tour' speech while in London, he reiterated:

"At least there are 70 Congressmen in the United States willing to put forward a bill in the Congress this year that legalizes marijuana. 70 out of 535 is still only one in six, so it's not going to pass. But there's not a *single* MP in our 308 member parliament that's getting up and saying 'Mr. Speaker... I propose we should end the prohibition of marijuana!' No. Not a single MP has ever gotten up and said that. Not a one. Even though all the evidence is that prohibition is nothing but a disaster." [July 8, 2009]

But Emery's anti-American sentiment remains palpable, and can be traced back as far as his split with Metz and the *Freedom Party of Ontario* in 1991. It was then, and over America's involvement in global conflicts, that the public saw Metz and Emery on opposite sides for the first time.

"I was described as the most significant threat to the United States of anyone in Canada. I don't know about the United States, but I *hope* I'm the most significant threat to the United States *government* that there is in Canada. That's for sure," Emery boasted before a cheering London crowd.

Yet it is to that very government that anti-prohibitionists must appeal in order to 'legalize' anything.

BLAME LONDON: A 'DEVIL MADE HIM DO IT' PRODUCT OF HIS ENVIRONMENT:

More ominous is the mixed message that results when Emery articulately emphasizes individual responsibility on the one hand, while on the other, suggests that he is being punished simply for being a product of his environment:

"And to think (that) all of this was nurtured by my very growing up here in this town of London Ontario. So blame comic books, blame London Ontario for producing one of the top fifty most wanted in the world."

He can be seen 'preaching' this theme on various *YouTube* videos such as *Sharing A Piece Of Marc Emery's Legacy* which was found at:

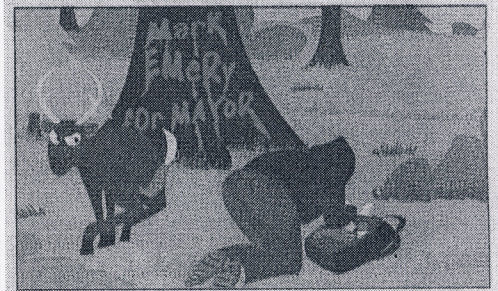
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2BZ5MxY12A]

Except for church and pulpit, Emery comes across just like a Sunday morning preacher, even to the point of quoting the Bible as his source of authority and inspiration:

"Get out there and take your cuttings and your seeds and plant plant plant! After all, you know what I learned in kindergarten? I learned the song 'Give us a place to stand, give us a place to grow, and we will call this province Ontariari-o.' They taught me that in school. I went to Sunday school where they taught me that it was God's gift that we should use everything He gave us. In Sunday school they taught me to plant seeds. Genesis 1:29. In kindergarten they told me it was my provincial responsibility to plant seeds. This is the place to grow. I'm only doing what my parents taught me, my Sunday school teacher taught me, my teachers taught me, *so don't blame me* for how I turned out. Blame the system!"

BEGINNING OR END?

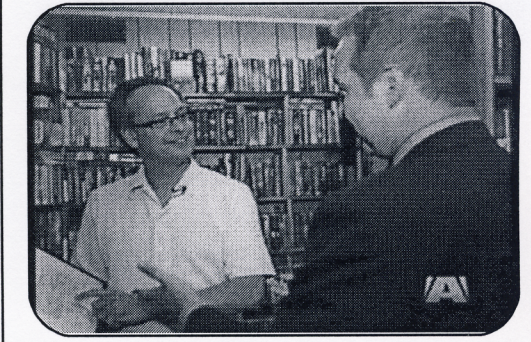
On June 11, 2009, **Janaya Fuller-Evans**, of the **Vancouver Courier** reported that Emery expects to continue operating his *B.C. Marijuana Party* from prison.



Special to Sun Media
London Coun. Nancy Branscombe plans to release a new video poking fun at London municipal politics after Labour Day.

Above: - from the *London Free Press*, August 24, 2009: Referring to London city councillor Nancy Branscombe's upcoming *YouTube* release on London civic politics, it's no surprise that Marc Emery's name should arise: "(Branscombe's video) will also take a few jabs at other issues and personalities --- including former Londoner, current pot king and future convict Marc Emery."

Below: - During his 'Farewell Tour' in London, Emery appears on *A Channel* (June 11/09) and reminisces about his earlier days at *City Lights* where he became the only retailer jailed under Ontario's Sunday shopping prohibitions (see page 11).



"Marc Emery will stay on as president of the *B.C. Marijuana Party* while in prison. Despite the possibility that he'll be in prison for anywhere for three to six years, Emery said he can continue to run the marijuana party.

"It'll be affected by my absence but I'll still be president and party leader," Emery said. He said the party will keep on as it has, supporting the *Green Party* at the provincial level and supporting *Green Party* and *NDP* candidates in the next federal election."

For more insight and information on Marc Emery's journey from right to left, visit: www.justrightmedia.org and watch for future updates and announcements in this publication. [end]



Just Write! - to Freedom Party!
feedback@freedomparty.org

We Get Mail...

Paul,
I stumbled across one of your videos one morning after watching Yaron Brook discuss the new dogma (i.e., baying at the phantom freedom in our markets), and was pleasantly surprised. The first of your videos I saw (dealt with) your assertion that objectivism and situational ethics are incompatible. My main surprise was not the way you assessed the irrationality of the notion that 'ethics don't apply', but the fact that you are a Canadian who has stayed in Canada! (I am aware that the *Atlas Society's* Bradley Doucet posts his blogs from Montreal, so that's admittedly a little overblown).

Subsequent viewings of your posts on YouTube have been quite enthralling, and have gone some way to help me distill some of my own ideas.

More to the point is the matter of the political party you represent. I am always hesitant to prematurely throw support behind one party or another, but you seem to be the most principled, consistent political leader (at least rhetorically) on the Canadian political scene -- which might go some ways to explaining your party's unfortunate lack of popularity. However, I live in one of those 'safe' ridings -- you know the ones to which I refer -- the ones in which partisanship is honed to such an exacting science that any semblance of coherence in the word 'democracy' is all but gone. I live in Jack Layton's riding (Toronto-Danforth), and if ever there is a

...on gratitude

worthy candidate running under your banner in a federal or provincial election, I will do my utmost to help propagate your party's message.

I write also to express my gratitude for your apparent lack of cynicism, and I make no apologies for taking intellectual nourishment from promoting the twin causes of liberty and reason that you, both sides of the Objectivist Schism, and others like you are providing over the internet, the key to a new renaissance.

Keep up the good work

Adam Clancy Barbieri - Toronto, Canada

Hi Bob!

Great interview with Kathy Shaidle. Thanks for doing that, I really enjoyed it.

Mike Davidson - Wellington, New Zealand

Robert,

I became aware of your program, *Just Right*, through a Mark Steyn link. I've listened to a number of your past shows and agree with most of what you've said. The welfare issue is difficult but I do feel that the instinctive desire to help by throwing money at it is probably misguided and merely exacerbates the problem. I do have a gut feeling though that a person who gives what he can afford to a worthwhile charity is better than a person who doesn't.

...on welfare

With welfare as with the present economy, I'm sure there are positive steps that governments could take, apart from doing nothing, but I'm also sure that no one knows what those steps are.

...on Freedom Party's 'New Renaissance'

...on pragmatism

I was impressed by your show on pragmatism. My understanding from years ago is that Pierce had the idea that if it is true it works and James interpreted that as to mean if it works it's true.

It's not important but you talked about Bill Gates and he is a problematic figure. More of an extremely talented opportunist, to be diplomatic, than anything else.

Good luck, you have a great program.

Kolu Koleff

Hi Bob,

I just listened to both of your shows on the idling by-law.

The clips from *Star Trek* really caught my attention because I (had just) watched *Nineteen-Eighty-Four* on-line as I was pondering free speech and HRC's.

Nineteen-Eighty-Four was depressing and painful to watch, particularly the torture scene near the end as they tried to make Winston see reality as they needed him to see it, rather than as it was. The scene that was particularly telling occurs when O'Brien says, on the issue of Winston's confusion about how many fingers he sees: "Sometimes there are five, sometimes there are three, sometimes they're all of them at once. Neither the past, nor the present, nor the future exists in its own right, Winston. Reality is in the human mind, not in the individual mind, which makes mistakes and soon perishes, but in the mind of the party, which is collective and immortal."

...on reality

Scary that we have come to this place where so many have accepted the reality of the party and have stopped believing their own eyes and ears.

Great work on the shows by the way.

Mary Lou Ambrogio - London Canada

Hello Mr. Metz,

Just a quick note here from Italy. Thank you for putting your excellent show on line. I downloaded most shows to my iPod and now enjoy listening to it in my car while I drive through town every day. 'Just right' indeed, and thank you for sharing your valuable work in this way.

Many greetings and keep up the voice of reason.

Ralf Wilmes - Torino, Italy

Hi Bob,

My name is Rob and I am a listener. I am writing to tell you that I enjoy your show. It is particularly refreshing to me how you systematically and objectively dismantle socialist behaviour and left wing politics while effectively illustrating their absurdities. Thank you.

Rob Small

Marvelous stuff Paul.

Watched your Defence of Ayn Rand video.

Molyneux's break with Objectivism on this front was the beginning of the end for me with him. I shared your wonderment at his summary dismissal of life as the (standard of) value and happiness as the goal (I think I captured it right).

I watched the video again this morning. Really would like to offer my appreciation once again. I even took some notes. I have read most of Rand and have read *Atlas Shrugged* multiple times. Your analysis is simultaneously insightful, focused and easy to follow. One of the compliments of Rand was that she could take a problem of morality, politics, ethics or philosophy and explain it as if she were explaining a chair or some other simple physical object. It was the ultimate compliment. Her command of the subject and her genius was enough to allow her to see the complex and make it, if not simple, at least understandable to someone with a modicum of intellect.

...on the new intellectual

The video you put forth, has the same flavor. She wrote in *For the New Intellectual* that it was the job of the Intellectual to explain and carry forward her philosophy. You are who Rand was speaking of. I admire your ability and alacrity in discussing Rand's writings and philosophy. Particularly when Molyneux is destroying it with his intellectually vapid discussions of it.

Really enjoyed your analysis.

Really enjoyed your analysis.

David Crimmins - Hatfield, Pa., U.S.A.

Just Write! - to Freedom Party!
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Fp YouTube Channels

www.youtube.com/fpinternational

www.youtube.com/paulmckeever

www.youtube.com/fpontario

www.youtube.com/fpcanada

St. Paul's Provincial By-election...

'REPEAL FORCED RETAIL CLOSINGS'

...Famed Toronto Furrier Paul Magder Praises Freedom Party Proposal

TORONTO, Ontario - September 3, 2009 - As

Ontario headed toward Labour Day weekend and Jewish and Muslim high holidays, St. Paul's Freedom Party by-election candidate Paul McKeever announced that, if elected, he would work to repeal what is left of the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"This backward old law --- which targets only retail businesses --- was unjust to retailers and never fair to shoppers", said McKeever.

"Good!", responded Toronto furrier Paul Magder, who became infamous for the number of times he was charged for opening his store on Sundays during the late '80s and early '90s. [See Toronto Star reproduction, below.] "It's about time it was repealed. This law is terrorism against the small business person who is just trying to make a living. It violates the Charter. We're supposed to have rights in this country, but we don't. We're supposed to be equal."

"The Employment Standards Act, 2000 also imposes holiday regulations", noted McKeever. "However, I am speaking only about the forced closure of retail stores. There is no just reason for prohibiting retail shopping. Not on religious holy days. Not on any day.

"Quite properly, we do not force retailers to close their stores for Rosh Hashanah or Eid, and there is no justification for forcing closures for the Christian holidays of Christmas, Easter, and Good Friday either. The same goes for secular holidays listed in the Act. This Labour Day, Ontarians will be free to buy pornography and cigarettes, but it will be illegal for the Magders to sell them a fur coat! The law makes no sense.

--- BACKGROUND ---

The *Retail Business Holidays Act* was initially passed into law in 1975 by the Progressive Conservative government of Bill Davis. Until June of 1992, the Act prohibited retail stores from opening their doors on Sundays and various holidays. Until 1996, the Act prohibited shopping on Boxing Day. With numerous exemptions for various types of retailers (e.g., book stores) and for designated tourist areas, the Act now only prohibits some retailers from opening on 8 days of the year: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Easter Sunday.

Under the Act, Toronto furrier Paul Magder was charged over 600 times for opening on Sundays, amassing fines and legal fees exceeding \$900,000.00. Although the Sunday shopping prohibition was lifted by the government of Premier Bob Rae in June of 1992 (largely thanks to Magder's efforts, and despite howls of protest from Rae's own party and caucus), the Ontario government petitioned Magder into bankruptcy in the years that followed.

Under the same Act, London bookstore owner Marc Emery (then Action Director for Freedom Party) was jailed for four days for refusing to pay a fine for having four people work in his store on Sunday, instead of the maximum of three provided by the Act.

Magder was the guest of honour at Freedom Party's April 21, 1987 "Magder Dinner" in Toronto, which attracted 110 attendees to the \$50 per plate event. Magder's son, Glen Magder, who now operates Paul & Glen Magder Furs with his brother, Paul, was a Freedom Party candidate in 1987.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

"This law violates property rights," explained McKeever in a by-election media release. "It simply is not the government's job to tell retailers and their customers when they can and cannot trade with one another. This vestigial left-over from a 20th century relic of law - this discriminatory and backward old Progressive Conservative assault on freedom and commerce - needs to go. If elected the MPP for St. Paul's I will most certainly work to give it the burial it deserves next to the old, unconstitutional, Lord's Day Act."

Voting day is September 17.

[end]

10 Thursday, August 20, 1992 THE TORONTO STAR

Appeal process now only hope, Magder says

By Andrew Duffy
TORONTO STAR

Furrier Paul Magder says his only hope of avoiding bankruptcy is to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada after he was ordered yesterday to pay about \$260,000 in fines for opening his store on Sundays.

Even if unsuccessful, the appeal process might allow enough time to win his main appeal against a finding that he was in contempt of court by opening Sundays, Magder said from Montreal, where he is on a business trip.

grant and the breaches of the order, so persistent, it should be relieved of the payment of fines because the amount due is so large.

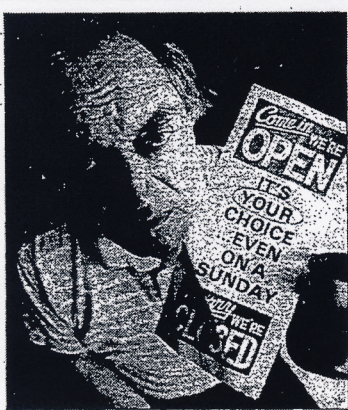
The NDP government's decision to allow wide-open Sunday shopping and suspend prosecutions is "completely irrelevant" to the Magder case, Dublin added.

Rather, the case is about contempt of court and the furrier's open defiance of the law. "It (the case) is one which strikes at the very heart of the administration of justice in this country and in this province," Dublin wrote.

Magder's lawyer, Tim Danson, said his client owes him \$300,000 for legal work over the past three years, noting "Magder simply cannot afford to pay these fines."

It will be up to the province to decide whether to pursue Magder for payment or put him out of business, he added.

"If they try to enforce these fines, it's being vindictive," Danson said. "Magder has fought this issue on behalf of everybody and now that he's been vindicated politically, they are going to put him out of business?"



SUNDAY TROOPER: Furrier Paul Magder, in Montreal yesterday on business, holds pamphlet on Sunday shopping laws and the Charter of Rights.

"It would be a very hollow victory." Danson said he has offered to drop all appeals if the attorney-general agrees to forgo the fines against his client. In December, 1989, Judge James Parley ordered Magder to close his Spadina Ave. store in compliance with the Retail Business Holidays Act. A year later, Magder was found in contempt of Parley's order by Mr. Justice Daniel Chilcott of the Ontario Court of Appeal. The flamboyant furrier was fined \$30,000 and warned that any further breaches of the act would cost him \$5,000 each.

At Left: - from the archives of the Toronto Star, August 20, 1992: Toronto furrier Paul Magder can be seen holding Freedom Party's Sunday shopping pamphlet '...Even On A Sunday!' as he neared the end of a long court battle with the province. Accompanied by full-page newspaper ads in southern Ontario, Fp's campaign favouring freedom of choice in Sunday shopping played a major role in shifting both public opinion and the political pragmatism of the day.



Local television programming...

McKEEVER REJECTS SUPPORT FOR ALL CHANNELS

...CRTC-mandated cable fee increase actually a tax!

LONDON, Ontario - March 6, 2009 - Calling it "both morally and economically objectionable," Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever was cited by the *London Free Press* [see below] as the lone voice opposed to private broadcast stations receiving government money. While statist proponents of the other parties insisted that they were not advocating taxes or

subsidies, a CRTC-forced cable fee increase is, both in theory and in practice, a tax.

If, as Liberal MP Glen Pearson suggests, loss of local television programming is a "serious concern," in light of this country's deteriorating health care and infrastructure (two direct responsibilities assumed by

government), then what's trivial enough to *not be* a 'serious' concern?

On his March 12, 2009 broadcast of *Just Right*, Fp president Robert Metz argued that "A Channel is just 'a channel,'" and that the source of the whole broadcasting problem is the CRTC itself. Check it out on line at: www.justrightmedia.org. [end]

A6|LOCAL

THE LONDON FREE PRESS

■ MEDIA: London-North-Centre Liberal Glen Pearson says the threatened loss of local television programming is a serious concern

MPs seek support for A Channel

MAR 6 2009

BY KATHY RUMLESKI

kathy.rumleski@sunmedia.ca

Spurred by fears London might lose its TV station, a Liberal MP is pressing Ottawa for stimulus package money to keep the cameras rolling at A.

London-North-Centre MP Glen Pearson said he's not seeking a bailout for TV stations, but "putting money toward innovative" programs.

"When community groups lose their local programming, then they're in serious trouble," Pearson said yesterday.

He said he will ask Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to put aside money in his economic stimulus package to invest in local news programming.

At least one political observer expressed outrage at the thought private stations

might get government money. "It's both morally and economically objectionable," said Paul McKeever, leader of the London-based Freedom Party of Ontario.

Saying the revenue model for conventional television is "broken," corporate parent CTV is cutting 48 jobs in the London area in a move that also ended the morning show on London's A station.

The problem goes beyond the station, said Pearson, who said all media should be supported.

"(Media) is essential to community life. Government should be funding programming to empower citizens to take a deeper part in the political process," he said.

"The money hasn't gone out yet and also there will be a second generation of funding at some point."



Ed Holder

Glen Pearson

The government unveiled a \$32-billion economic stimulus package in January.

Pearson isn't the only London MP looking for solutions.

London West Conservative MP Ed Holder and London-Fanshawe NDP MP Irene Mathysen along with Pearson are asking the community to rally by e-mailing and calling their offices to express support for the station.

Holder will appeal to Industry Minister Tony Clement.

"My best sense of this issue is it's about revenues and how stations and various media outlets are able to draw their revenues," Holder said.

"We're taking it at different angles. That's a pretty good way to do it. We're all trying to find the same resolve."

The London of Chamber of Commerce is also considering contacting the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, the federal broadcast regulator, to voice concern about what's happening to the station.

"If we can show we're working together, that sends a signal to the government," Pearson said.

TV station employees facing unemployment were bolstered by the show of support by politicians and

viewers, who have started a Facebook group, Save A Channel in London.

"I'm glad to see everyone pouring their hearts into trying to save this," said sportscaster Brent Hale, who will be out of work Aug. 31.

Unionized employees given severance packages are deciding this week whether to leave or exercise bumping rights based on seniority.

Bob Smith, the newscaster for A Morning, had 29 years of service at the station and said he will leave rather than bump.

"I think I'll take it and run. There are 42 other people with less seniority and fewer options than I have," Smith said.

"I feel badly for that."

Kathy Rumleski is a Free Press reporter.

Above: - from the London Free Press, March 6, 2009: Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever stands alone as the only principled objector to government subsidies of local television news productions. With Conservative, Liberal, and New Democrat MPs all acting in unison, small wonder that cable subscribers had no chance to fight the CRTC-mandated increase in cable fees now being forced on them.



www.freedomparty.org

"Some things are black and white."

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Freedom Party is founded on the principle that: "Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property." Freedom Party advocates capitalism solely because it is the only system compatible with reality, reason, and the pursuit of one's own happiness.

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