

FP NEWS

& Commentary - 35



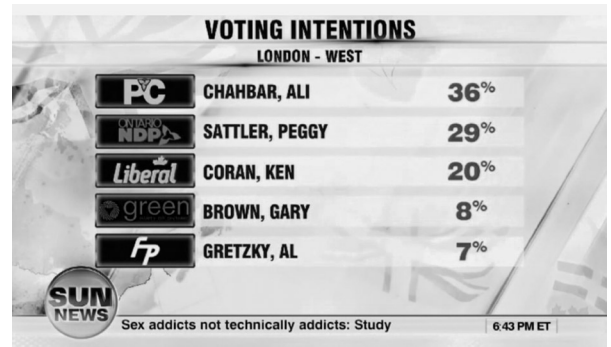
July 2013 - #6

ONTARIO BY-ELECTION SPECIAL

GRETZKY BREAKS BARRIERS!

LONDON - July 3, 2013 - Freedom Party's London West Ontario by-election candidate, **Al Gretzky**, has made coast-to-coast media news coverage and skewed the election polls in the riding. Ever since voters there have become aware that he is on the ballot, the measurable trend of poll respondents looking in his direction has made the news everywhere. Everywhere that is, except in the City of London's daily newspaper, the *London Free Press* - whose editorial staff have publicly gone on record with their opposition to giving any **Freedom Party** candidate balanced coverage within its pages. (See story, page 2.) Nevertheless, only one day after nominations closed on July 18, Gretzky began showing up on electoral polls, despite the disadvantage forced upon the great majority of voters whose only source of news is the daily print paper. Already showing at 7% on a *Sun News* poll released Friday July 19 (see below right), Gretzky appears to be a sure factor in the election's outcome on **August 1**, regardless of which candidate wins. More news and updates inside. {end}

AT RIGHT: In the *Sun News* by-election poll broadcast on Friday July 12, Freedom Party's London West candidate Al Gretzky suddenly appears at 7%. Already, the 7% equals the gap between the two leading candidates, and with two weeks to go to election day as of this writing, Gretzky could well narrow the gap enough to upset expectations.

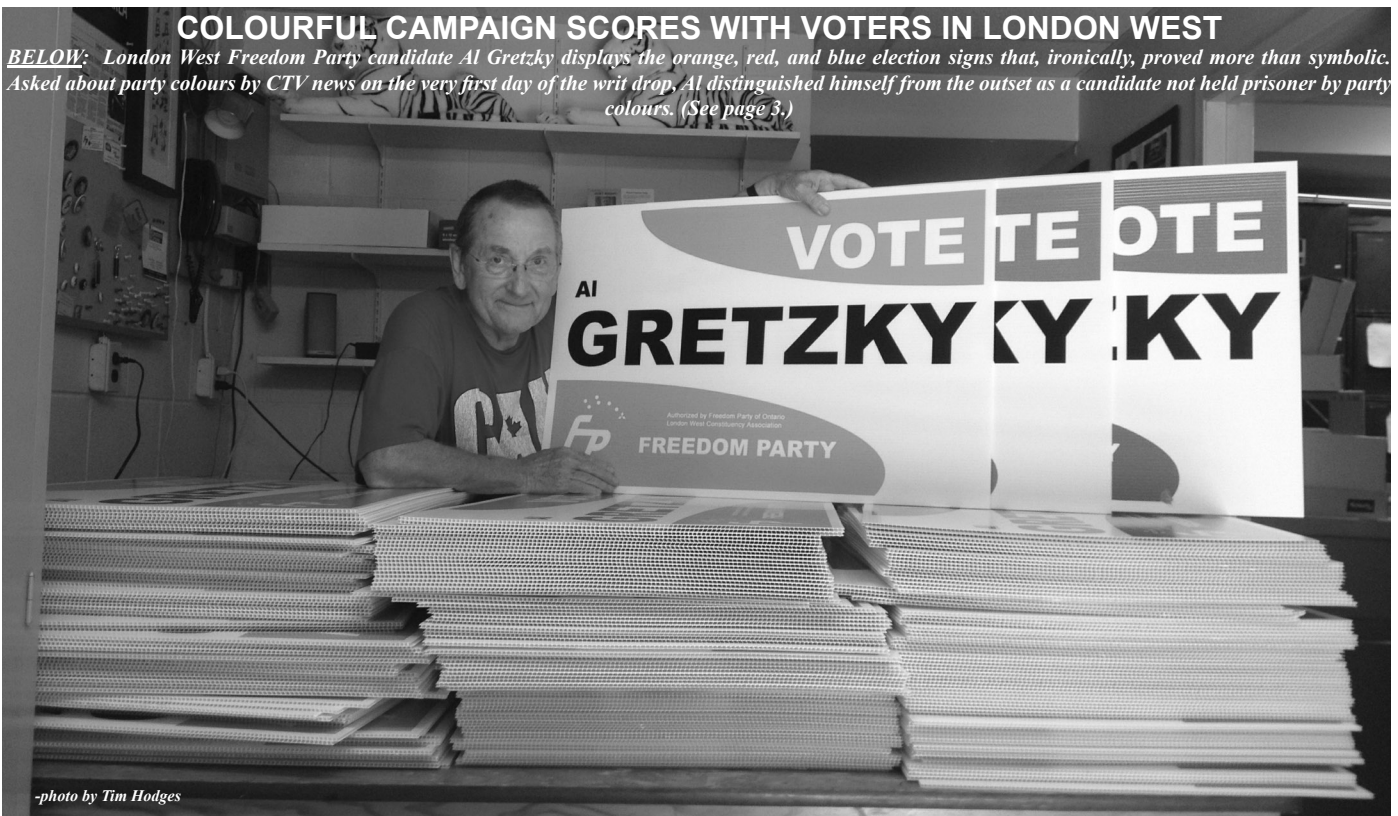


Multiple Campaign Colours A First! - below, page 3
First Freedom Party Radio Commercials! - page 3
First FP Poll Inclusion - And Poll Results! - at right >>>
First Provincial Campaign For Al Gretzky!

(More firsts inside!)

COLOURFUL CAMPAIGN SCORES WITH VOTERS IN LONDON WEST

BELOW: London West Freedom Party candidate Al Gretzky displays the orange, red, and blue election signs that, ironically, proved more than symbolic. Asked about party colours by CTV news on the very first day of the writ drop, Al distinguished himself from the outset as a candidate not held prisoner by party colours. (See page 3.)



-photo by Tim Hodges

LONDON FREE of PRESS about GRETZKY

LONDON - July 22, 2013 - To those Londoners who wonder why their local daily paper, the **London Free Press**, isn't covering **Al Gretzky's** London West campaign, wonder no longer. It's a long story whose history can be found on **Freedom Party's** web site archive, but the current chapter in the story begins like this:

After printing a false comment in the *London Free Press* on July 6, 2013 about: "Freedom party's Al Gretzky (Wayne's uncle) ripping Chahbar over the photo's implications, but not mentioning he himself was a Conservative candidate in 2006 before joining the fringe party," *Free Press* reporter **Patrick Maloney** was asked for a correction or retraction, neither of which has yet to appear in print. In actual fact, Al Gretzky has never "ripped Chahbar" about any photo implications, but more unavoidably, almost every media release announcing Gretzky's **Freedom Party** candidacy has emphasized to the point of redundancy the fact that Gretzky received 21,690 votes running in the same riding for the federal *Conservatives* in 2006.

Beyond failing to offer a retraction or correction, Maloney instead 'tweeted' to a *Free Press* reader frustrated with the lack of information about alternate candidates that "Journalists who treat fringe candidates like ones with a chance to win are embarrassing and do a disservice to voters. It's not our job to build up fringe parties. It's theirs. Give me a break."

Maloney's comment was echoed by another *London Free Press* reporter, **Greg Van Moorsel**, who subsequently wrote in the pages of the same paper on July 9: "Besides the Big Three, Ontario has at least 18 smaller parties - vegans and communists among them. Some are back for the by-elections, including the Greens who won nearly 3% of the popular vote in the last election. But the numbers fall off fast after that. The next-biggest winners, the Family Coalition and Freedom parties, finished with just more than two-tenths of a percent of the popular vote. The aptly named Pauper Party managed only 140 votes. For alternative parties, the obvious question is, "Yeah, but what's the point." (Sic) greg.vanmoorsel@sunmedia.ca

One would be justified in concluding that Van Moorsel's column was specifically aimed at **Freedom Party's** Al Gretzky, since the paper has reported and does indeed report on other parties and candidates. (A large feature on London West *Green Party* candidate Gary Brown appeared July 11 - *Brown on Green*, by Brent Boles.) A near-comical effort to cut **Freedom Party** president **Robert Metz** out of the July 18 all candidates' debate coverage in the subsequent day's paper by **Jennifer O'Brien** (July 19 - *Candidates all give and take their shots*) drew howls of derision, sarcasm, and laughter from those in the know.

Said **FP** London West campaign manager, **Tim Hodges**, after viewing the 22 minute video of the debate - which he attended - as it was posted by

the *London Free Press* on its web site: "They did the minimum courtesy of not blurring out Bob's face when the camera pans and he is in frame."

While the *Free Press* did report Gretzky's absence from the July 18 all candidates' debate, it did not report the *reason* for his absence, which was what constituted Metz's opening remarks: "For those of you who are wondering why I am here in Al Gretzky's place, strange as it may sound, it's for the very quality that most voters are seeking in their elected representatives: Al is a person who keeps his word and follows through on his promises."

Al would love to be here but made a promise to his wife Marilyn, many months ago, to attend a

Gretzky family event that happens to coincide with our debate schedule tonight. Al was already away by the time the invitation to tonight's debate went out, and I myself only found out I would be here in his stead just a few hours ago."

Metz's comments spoke to the issue of character and trust, two qualities that give Gretzky a real edge in the election race. Shame on the *London Free Press* for failing to report this, after printing a purely manufactured story attacking those very qualities in the person of Al Gretzky - without apology or retraction. It is an injustice that transcends mere journalistic inadequacy or lack of balance in reporting.

Still waiting.

{end}

...as GRETZKY HEADLINES NEWS on SUN, CTV, RADIO...

LONDON - July 3 - 19, 2013 - In stark contrast to the editorial stance against London West **FP** candidate **Al Gretzky** adopted by the **London Free Press**, other print media as well as all local and some national electronic media appear to see Gretzky's candidacy as a big story, often the lead news story of the broadcast. What is seen in this newsletter is but a small sampling of the interest that has been generated.

Gretzky's campaign became the lead news story two days in a row on **Sun News Network's Battleground** (see page 3), with the network's interest and attention sustained to the date of this writing (see below). Gretzky made his mark on the first day of the writ drop on **CTV** in London (page 3), and was featured extensively on **CJBK** radio and **am980** radio talk shows. And of course, congratulations are in order for Al's having received the endorsement of the **Londoner's Clay Powell** (see back cover), the paper having a circulation of over 100,000 in the London area. For the time being, it appears it will be left for those voters exposed to the informative media, to help with the task of filling the gap left by the city's major daily paper.

{end}



AT LEFT: July 9, 2013 - London West *Freedom Party* candidate Al Gretzky appears live-in-studio with *Ottawa Sun News* Byline host Brian Lilley. "After you hear what Al has to say, you might be a bigger fan of his than Wayne's," opened Lilley. During the course of the interview, Al clearly distinguished himself from the other candidates in the riding: "You can choose to tell the politicians that you are sick and tired of being lied to, cheated, and ignored - that the choice between Liberal left, NDP left, and Conservative almost-left is really no choice

at all." Calling for a balanced budget, an end to deficit spending, the cancellation of the green energy plan, Gretzky promised voters in London West that he would be "their voice, something they haven't had for a long time."

AT RIGHT: July 19, 2013 - *FP* leader Paul McKeever appears on *Sun News Network's* live supper-hour news show *Battleground* with Daniel Proussalidis on the prospects of a Gretzky score in London West and on *Freedom Party's* Opposition Budget. This very challenging and informative interview can be found on *Freedom Party's* YouTube channel, and goes a long way towards establishing the credibility of both *FP* leader Paul McKeever and of *Freedom Party's* plans to balance the budget.



Topics covered included: differences between the *FP* and *PC* budgetary stances; the turning of *OHIP* into a crown corporation with income, corporate, and income taxes eliminated; government revenue without production taxes. McKeever easily breezed through the challenging concerns raised, with clear, easy-to-understand explanations of how and why *Freedom Party's* proposals would work.

Multiple Campaign Colours A First!

ORANGE, RED, BLUE ELECTION SIGNS CHALLENGE POLITICAL COLOUR BARRIERS



LONDON - July 3, 2013 - After questioning **London West PC** candidate **Ali Chahbar** about his associations with the *Liberal Party* in the past, and then pointing to *Liberal Party* candidate **Ken Coran** having only recently put his support behind the *New Democrats* and **Peggy Sattler**, **CTV** reporter **Daryl Newcombe** raised a question that seemed to have been a psychic prediction of what was to come regarding **Freedom Party's** election sign message. 'Psychic', because no **Freedom Party** signs had been erected yet so there was no way for any member of the media to know about it.

Presenting each of the **London West** candidates with a literal set of paint colour charts with shades of colour generally ranging from orange to dark blue, each was asked where he/she stood on the colour scale. Predictably, each expressed a true loyalty to party colour, with **Coran** choosing red, **Sattler** choosing orange, and **Chahbar** choosing blue.

"But Gretzky rejected picking any colours," reported **Newcombe** in the station's lead 6 pm story, "arguing that voters in **London West** should choose candidates based on other qualities. **Freedom Party** candidate **Al Gretzky** says voters are being distracted by party colours and need to focus on unemployment, health care, education, and the debt."

"They've made themselves the issue, as opposed to talking about real issues," said **Gretzky** on the supper hour broadcast. "We don't care who you voted for last time. You shouldn't be labelled, you don't belong to anybody..."

The first of **FP's** **London West** election signs began showing up on the landscape on July 6, shortly after the photo on the front cover was taken. Election signs play a greater role than simply displaying a voter option; they, like all election signs, have always proven to be the most effective means to alert voters that there even is an election going on. This is one election that, thanks to **Gretzky**, won't be an easy one to ignore, though some efforts are being made to do so. {end}



ABOVE LEFT AND ABOVE: *FP London West candidate Al Gretzky explains why he rejects any single colour as being representative of voters or FP to CTV reporter Daryl Newcombe.*

FIVE BY-ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AUGUST 1

OTTAWA-TORONTO-LONDON-WINDSOR - July 3, 2013 - Ontario premier **Kathleen Wynne** dropped the long-awaited writ for all five pending Ontario byelections, each made necessary due to the resignations of all five *Liberal* MPPs, including former premier **Dalton McGuinty** in **Ottawa South**, and **Chris Bentley** in **London West**. With voters going to the polls on August 1, **Freedom Party** is represented in each of the five ridings by: **David McGruer** in **Ottawa-South**, **Wayne Simmons** in **Etobicoke-Lakeshore**, **Matthew Oliver** in **Scarborough-Guildwood**, **Al Gretzky** in **London West**, and **Andrew Brannan** in **Windsor-Tecumseh**.

Photos of each of the candidates appear on the back cover, with bios and personal messages from each candidate available on line, either directly, via each candidate's web site, or through **FP's** site at: www.freedomparty.on.ca

Called in mid-summer, when both voters and candidates have holidays scheduled and many are away, timing of the election has been viewed by many as an opportunistic attempt by the **Wynne** government to minimize its expected electoral losses. So far, polls appear to indicate that the strategy is not working. {end}

FREEDOM PARTY RADIO MESSAGE HITS HOME AS FP SCORES FIRST STRIKE IN BY-ELECTION BATTLE



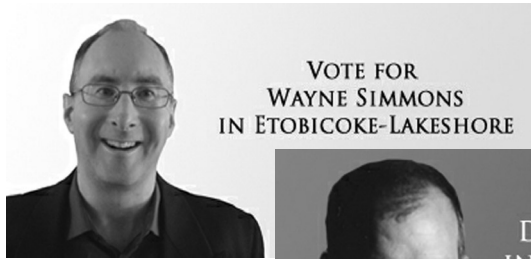
LONDON - July 3, 2013 - Launched only hours before Ontario premier **Kathleen Wynne** dropped the writ, **Freedom Party's** radio commercial for **FP** candidate **Al Gretzky** in **London West** made it to air just in time to beat the mandatory one week black-out period for commercial advertising.

The impact was immediate and measurable, taking **Gretzky** from a relatively unknown option in the election, to a credible alternative. The ads, run on the AM radio talk-show stations, featured audio clips of **Wynne** repeatedly saying "I'm sorry, That's what I have to offer..." {end}



AT LEFT: *Two scenes from the on-line video version of Freedom Party's radio election ads running in the London West riding as aired on Sun News Network's Battleground. ABOVE RIGHT:* *Battleground host David Akin discusses the Gretzky commercial with Chris Foggatt (National Public Relations and past senior political staffer to conservative politicians in Queens Park) who commented: "It was great! Very broad appeal. It speaks to the issues that people are concerned about. The premier has obviously gone on the record saying 'I'm sorry' quite a lot, and she has a lot to be sorry for."*

2013 Ontario By-elections Freedom Party Candidates



At Left, Below: Freedom Party's 'full slate' of candidates in the 2013 Ontario byelections. Bios and further information on the candidates can be found on line at: www.freedomparty.on.ca



Clay Powell

Behind the bar

Gretzky the reasonable choice?

Last week, I promised to make a serious effort to review the upcoming by-election and give you my opinion on who would be the best person to represent the riding of London West at Queen's Park.

After careful consideration, I believe that candidate to be Al Gretzky, who is running as a member of the Freedom Party, but who I consider to be an independent. I am not knocking the Freedom Party but, quite frankly, I don't have much time for any of Ontario's political parties right now. Or Canada's, for that matter.

In fact, I would rather vote for my dog, Bill the Greyhound, than anyone representing one of the Big Three parties in this London West by-election. At least Bill, who was a total failure on the California race-tracks, would make an honest effort to run in our best interests.

The term 'honest' comes to mind because I believe the provincial Liberal party has treated the citizens of Ontario as ignorant clowns. And I, for one, resent being treated like a fool. If winning a majority in the last election was so important to the McGuinty Liberals that they would spend untold millions of OUR dollars to move two power plants, then a pox on their house. Let them sit in the opposition bench for a few years and rethink their priorities.

The PC's are another problem for me. If Prime Minister Harper has little or no respect for his own back bench members, what must he think about you and me? And I get the feeling that Mr. Hudak is another Harper in the making. And therein lies the problem. Whether we talk of Harper or McGuinty, we are talking of electing people who want absolute power because they think (and probably believe) that they are smarter than the rest of us.

Sorry guys, you're not. We didn't appoint Mr. Duffy to the Senate or slip him \$92,000 under the table to cover things up. Nor did we toss several hundred million dollars in the air to secure a couple of extra seats in the last provincial election.

As for the NDP, their support of the Liberal government's budget at Queen's Park is nothing short of appalling. The fact that the local Liberal candidate, Ken Caron, would boast about bringing the Liberals to their knees during the teachers' strike, and then join these self-same Liberals to run in London West against his former NDP teacher supporters, says it all.

It seems probable that after the next general provincial election, we'll end up with the same Liberal-NDP coalition. The Hudak-led Tories won't stand a chance as long as Harper holds the Throne.

But here in London West, I am confident that Al Gretzky will be a strong and vocal member of the Legislature and make us all proud that he's our man at Queen's Park. I am sure Al Gretzky will never sell us out for his own self interest.



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Clay Powell, QC, is a London lawyer.

ABOVE: -from the LONDONER, July 18, 2013. Popular columnist Clay Powell endorses Freedom Party's Al Gretzky in London West.

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Written and Edited by: Robert Metz

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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