

INSIDE QUEEN'S PARK

Vol. 26, No. 25

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

December 19, 2013

AT THE CUTTING EDGE: BEING ACCOUNTABLE FOR CORPORATE COMPENSATION CULTURE

Jan Carr is surely right to question the propriety of the Wynne government's reaching directly into the management structure of Ontario Power Generation to order the firing of three senior executives. And this was done at startling speed because the government did without a drumhead trial and went straight to the execution. As the calm and experienced Carr told the *Globe & Mail* in commenting on the immediate action taken in response to the Auditor General's indictment of riotous spending by OPG: "If the government isn't happy with OPG, it should fire the board, not the executives." It wouldn't surprise this newsletter to hear that Energy minister **Bob Chiarelli** himself had showed up at the utility's head office to change the locks. His predecessor as holder of that portfolio, **Dwight Duncan**, weighed in from his Bay Street perch with a somewhat unhelpfully mixed message: that the beatings should continue until morale improves, so to speak, but that it is "virtually impossible to exercise proper oversight over large entities". We might infer from Duncan's warning of the intractability of OPG and other key ABCs that by extension he has scant confidence in the Wynne government's capacity to run the Province of Ontario – comprised as it is of an array of staggeringly profligate organizations condemned in the strongest terms in the very first annual report tabled by new Auditor-General **Bonnie Lysyk**.

Scrambling to smother the fires at OPG now opens the LIBs to the charge that they failed to exhibit due care and attention – as in the scornful December 11 Question Period attack by NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** reminding Wynne that there had been a LIB premier in charge of all this spending for the last ten years. And that isn't the end of it. The *Toronto Star* quickly followed up the OPG eruption by reporting that the same generous pension contributions were being made at Hydro One.

Then the previous defences of Pan-Am CEO **Ian Toop** over huge bonuses, piddling parking claims and the rest became inoperative (remember that handy Watergate-era term?) because the government reversed course and fired him. Other instances of indefensible spending are sure to emerge. And what of plans to spend anew on transit upgrades, CPP improvements and what have you?

Could it be, ladies and gentlemen, that our ballot question will emerge much sooner than this newsletter's pointy-head expected in the last issue? And that it will more likely revolve around money?

THE LEGISLATURE GOES DARK

MPPs cleared their desks in the pink palace on December 12, per the fixed parliamentary calendar, but in the final couple of weeks the LIB minority government had lost control of legislative business with the PCs and NDP routinely voting down procedural motions advanced by government house leader **John Milloy**. He was able to push through a few significant bills which drew tri-partite backing but the opposition parties' refusal to authorize evening sessions sharply curtailed for debate on many other items. This time, therefore, there was no move to compile a 'programming motion' to secure quick passage of several bundled items – though Milloy got an OK on December 12 to wave through eight government and six Pr bills. In the first category was *Bill 133*, which amends the collective bargaining process governing negotiating for the OPP. The substantive element of that bill contained fewer than two-dozen words – quite possibly a record for statutory brevity?

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

As usual, public hearings are scheduled by legislative committees during the intersession, but with the focus increasingly on the expected spring election, only quite short hearings have been approved. Pre-budget hearings lasting eight days are allocated for the Finance & Economic Affairs committee; the Select Committee on Developmental Services has been given eight days; and the committee on the Legislative Assembly has a scant one day for public hearings and two days for clause-by-clause debate on *Bill 122*, the new collective bargaining regime for the school system.

'PREMIER FUND'

The Ontario NDP has launched another fund-raising vehicle, as it commonly does in the run-up to a provincial election. The latest is called the 'Premier Fund'. The fund's launch party was enlivened by a painstaking poem by newbie **Percy Hatfield** in which he contrived to find rhymes for all of his caucus-mates – no easy task when you are dealing with the likes of Natyshak, Vanthof and Tabuns. Percy did an especially good job of saluting his leader: "Our blue-collar brawler with the million-dollar smile."

THIS DAY IN ONTARIO ELECTORAL HISTORY

December 28, 1886 – Polling day in the 6th provincial election, bringing the province as close as it has ever been to experiencing 'a Christmas election'.

OUTCOMES OF ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTIONS, 2012-13

Kitchener-Waterloo	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2012 by-election # votes	2012 by-election % votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj./plur. 2011	Maj./plur. 2012
PC	21,665	43.77%	14,851	31.83%	(6,814)	(11.94%)	3,828	
LIB	17,837	36.04%	11,194	23.99%	(6,643)	(12.05%)		
NDP	8,250	16.67%	18,599	39.87%	10,349	23.2%		3,748
Other	1,747	3.53%	2,009	4.30%	262	.77%		
Total	49,499		46,653		(2,846)			
Vaughan	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2012 by-election # votes	2012 by-election % votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj/plur 2011	Maj/plur 2012
LIB	26,174	53.02%	16,469	51.37%	(9,705)	(12.05%)	10,754	5,795
PC	15,420	31.24%	10,674	33.29%	(4,746)	(11.94%)		
NDP	5,594	11.33%	3,647	11.64%	(1,947)	23.2%		
Other	2,179	4.41%	1,270	3.97%	(909)	.33%		
Total	49,367		32,060		(17,307)			
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2013 by-election # votes	2013 by-election %votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj/plur 2011	Maj/plur 2013
LIB	22,169	51.02%	14,506	42.30%	(7,663)	(8.72%)	9,464	
PC	12,705	29.24%	16,034	46.75%	3,329	17.51%		1,528
NDP	6,713	15.45%	5,542	7.41%	(1,171)	(8.04%)		
Other	2,861	4.29%	1,213	3.54%	(1,638)	(.075%)		
Total	44,448		37,295		(7,153)			
London West	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2013 by-election # votes	2013 by-election %votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj/plur 2011	Maj/plur 2013
LIB	22,610	45.65%	5,985	15.83%	(16,625)	(29.82%)	8,007	
PC	14,603	29.49%	12,426	32.98%	(2,177)	3.49%		
NDP	10,757	21.72%	15,704	41.68%	4,947	19.96%		3,278
Other	1,525	3.14%	3,581	9.51%	2,056	6.37%		
Total	49,495		37,696		(11,799)			
Ottawa South	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2013 by-election # votes	2013 by-election %votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj/plur 2011	Maj/plur 2013
LIB	21,842	48.86%	14,921	42.33%	(6,921)	(6.53%)	6,897	1,279
PC	14,945	33.43%	13,642	38.70%	(1,303)	5.27%		
NDP	5,988	13.39%	5,042	14.30%	(946)	.91%		
Other	1,932	4.32%	1,643	4.67%	(289)	.35%		
Total	44,707		35,248		(9,459)			
Scarborough-Guildwood	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2013 by-election # votes	2013 by-election %votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj/plur 2011	Maj/plur 2013
LIB	15,607	48.93%	8,852	35.85%	(6,755)	(13.08%)	6,470	1,247
PC	9,137	28.65%	7,605	30.80%	(1,532)	2.14%		
NDP	6,194	19.42%	7,000	28.35%	806	8.93%		
Other	956	3.0%	1,236	5.0%	280	2.0%		
Total	31,894		24,693		(7,201)			
Windsor-Tecumseh	2011 general election # votes	2011 by-election % votes	2013 by-election # votes	2013 by-election %votes	Diff. # votes	Diff. % votes	Maj/plur 2011	Maj/plur 2013
LIB	15,946	42.83%	3,057	11.94%	(12,889)	(30.89%)	3,718	
NDP	112,228	32.84%	15,682	61.27%	3,454	28.43%		10,535
PC	7,751	20.82%	5,147	20.11%	(2,604)	(0.71%)		
Other	1,306	3.51%	1,707	6.68%	401	3.17%		
Total	37,231		25,593		(11,638)			

IQP wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all its subscribers.

IQP: The mast-head of the previous issue of *Inside Queen's Park* says 24 issues have been sent out in its 26th volume. Has *IQP* really been published for well over a quarter of a century?

Murray: Yes, indeed. It first appeared at the start of 1988, beginning its published life as *The GO Report* – denoting both the Government of Ontario and the Gloucester Organization, which put it out. Proprietor of that firm was the admirable **Diana Ferguson**, a chamber of commerce activist who had developed a whole stable of newsletters serving the financial community – financial planning guidance for the customers of Chartered Life Underwriters and the like. Keen to add coverage of Queen's Park, she recruited a senior aide to Premier **David Peterson** to join her company and make her new publication profitable. That plan went south when **Gerald Doucet** was invited to become Ontario's Agent-General in Paris. Nobody in his right mind would pass on the offer of so mouth-watering a patronage position; I certainly wouldn't. So Diana was left high and dry, politics and government being unfamiliar turf.

IQP: When and how did Graham Murray come into the newsletter picture?

Murray: In keeping with the British notion that it is a truly ill wind that blows no poor sod some good, Diana's plight was brought to my attention by journalist and union activist **Wayne Roberts** who introduced the two of us. So in February 1989 my golden prose began to appear in *IQP* on a freelance basis.

IQP: What else were you doing at this time?

Murray: I had got myself fired by the NDP in 1987 which prompted me to set up a government relations consulting business, G.P. Murray Research Ltd., in the expectation that trade unions and progressive organizations would flock to engage my lobbying services, which are quite good, if I do say so myself, and to tap into my substantial knowledge of the pink palace. Socialists can learn a lot from such an encounter with the market-place.

IQP: You stayed with *IQP*, evidently.

Murray: Yes. *IQP* provided a fascinating perch from which to observe Ontario government and politics. And in mid-1993, GPMRL purchased the newsletter. It was my then-partner **Paul Rhodes** who came up with the name the newsletter bears to this day.

IQP: When you took over the newsletter, how did you change its format?

Murray: We kept the first two pages for news analysis, and the third page was reserved for a provincial profile – an interview with someone prominent in the Queen's Park world. Twenty years on, we've done something like 450 of those interviews. We also began to run trivia questions along with a listing of people appointed to

various roles and a For Your Diary segment to publicize fundraisers and other events of interest to people in Queen's Park. We've kept quite strictly to that format: as press-lords go, I am really very conservative.

IQP: Did you undertake this all by yourself or were others involved?

Murray: I'm fortunate to have had good people help me with the page 3 profiles. **Len Scher** was a freelance arts writer and director. This amiable and hard-working writer took care of the *IQP* interviews for many years until his sudden death in 2005. In fact he was carried off by a heart attack after putting the finishing touches to that week's interview. He used to annoy the hell out of me by coming up with his own questions after I'd given him my list. It was particularly galling that his questions often elicited the best answers. He wrote a book, *The Un-Canadians*, to alert us to the tales from the black list era, which had heavily affected his lefty parents. To replace him, **Robert Fisher** recommended an able journalism student, **Chris Brisbane**, and when he recently got a full-time job, I was fortunate to have the admirable **June Chua** take over taping, editing and transcription of interviews. She edits very well and delivers her work with lightning speed.

IQP: Do you do all the writing?

Murray: Most of it nowadays, but formerly my colleagues in the consulting division of GPMRL made strong contributions to pp.1 & 2. Paul Rhodes I have mentioned. **Brian O'Riordan** also carried much of the writing load and the two of them took on the lion's share of work on consulting contracts. Later, **Ed Arundell** did some fine writing, often saving my editorial bacon.

IQP: What of back-office operations, so to speak?

Murray: The newsletter would never reach subscribers without the talented and hard-working people who really run GPMRL, undo the publisher's mangled documents and handle billing, banking and much else besides. **Kim Brown** bore these burdens for an incredible 15 years; **Mital Patel** joined us in 2007; and **Sharyn Chandik** has now been office manager since 2010. Fervent thanks is not enough.

IQP: How does *IQP* fit into the worlds of government relations and public affairs?

Murray: *IQP* has benefited enormously from the kindness of many, many people in those circles. It was very helpful for Graham Murray to be elected President of the Public Affairs Association of Canada (1993-95), and he was very touched in 2007 to be made an Honourary Intern at Queen's Park and to be asked by **Mr. Speaker Levac** to play a role last year in launching the Speaker's Book Award.

IQP: What's coming for your second quarter-century?

Murray: We've made what we are sure you will find to be some very exciting plans. Watch this space!

PEOPLE

Irwin Elman's appointment as the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has been renewed.

Re-elected President of the Public Affairs Association of Canada is **John Capobianco**; other board members are: **Stephen Andrews; Harvey Cooper; Jennifer Dent; Ryan Eikemeir; Robyn Gray; Rick Hall; Robert Hutton; Joe MacDonald; Michelle Wasylyshen; & Paul Yeung.**

Named to the council of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario are: **Salvatore Guerriero, Martial Moreau, Gordon Campbell** and **Philip Schalm.**

Named vice-chair of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation is **David Settington.**

Peter Simpson has been appointed chair to the Labour-Management advisory committee.

Named to the board of Hydro One Inc. are **Catherine Karakatsanis** and **Sandra Pupatello.**

Michael Bryant has been named to chair the Public Accountants Council for the Province of Ontario; named to the council is **William Greenhalgh.**

Named to the board of the Ontario Power Authority are **Susanna Han** and **Deborah Whale.**

Robert Devitt has been appointed to the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment board.

John Herron and **Bernard Lord** have been named to the board of the Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Appointed to the Building Materials Evaluation commission is **Raymond Hachigian**

Rekha Khote has been named to the board of the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre Corporation.

In Memoriam: Alan Robinson, MPP for Scarborough Ellesmere – 1981–1985

FOR YOUR DIARY

Set your calendars for the year 2014

- Jan. 10 Join the Friends of Sir John A. Macdonald to mark his 199th birthday; The Great Hall, Hart House, Toronto; 6:30 p.m. (Period costumes encouraged)
- Jan. 15 “An Evening with Michael Prue, MPP”; Labatt Pub, 207 Queen’s Quay West, Suite 299; Toronto; 6 p.m.
- Jan 21 An Evening with Hon. Tracy MacCharles, MPP with special guest Hon. David Peterson; Oliver & Bocacini Café Grill, 33 Yonge Street, Toronto
- Jan. 24-26 Ontario Liberal Party Annual General Meeting, London Convention Centre, 300 York Street, London
- Feb 14 Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP) presentation and panel discussion on pension security; MaRS Discovery District, Auditorium, 101 College St. Toronto; 3:00-4:30 p.m.; Reception to follow.

TRIVIA # 442: How long has *Inside Queen’s Park* been published?

ANSWER TO TRIVIA # 442: See page 3.

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