

Guelph EDA - Recent Activities

May 2, 2011 – Over 100 volunteers helped get out the Conservative vote.

June 9-11, 2011 - National Conservative Convention in Ottawa – 3000 attendees, including a contingent from Guelph.

June 18, 2011 – Guelph EDA's Annual General Meeting at the Evergreen Centre.

August 21, 2011 – Guelph EDA's Annual Summer BBQ.

September–October 6, 2011 – Provincial election – many EDA members actively supported the Greg Schirk campaign.

**Guelph EDA - Upcoming Activities****GUELPH EDA'S ANNUAL TURKEY DRIVE!**

For a \$125 donation, you get:

a top quality 15 lb. fresh or frozen turkey from a local Guelph farm for your Christmas dinner!



AND

a \$92 tax receipt to apply to your 2011 taxes!

DETAILS ARE ON THE ENCLOSED FLYER

GREAT NEWS: CANADA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP CONTINUES!

On October 31, 2011, as part of their annual review of Canada, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its support for the Harper Government's plan to return to balanced budgets in the medium-term. This adds to the following accolades: Canada has the strongest job growth in the G-7, with approximately 650,000 new jobs created since July 2009; the World Economic Forum has ranked Canada's banks as the soundest in the world for the fourth consecutive year; Forbes magazine has ranked Canada as the best place in the world to do business. In addition, the IMF and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are forecasting that Canada's economy will be among the strongest in the G-7 this year and next. It's a great time to be Canadian!

**Conservative Party of Canada – Guelph Electoral District Association**

Fall 2011

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The Guelph EDA Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of every month.

The EDA's website is:
www.guelphcp.ca

WHAT DO EDAs DO?

Riding associations like the Guelph EDA are vital to the democratic process in Canada. The Constitution of the Conservative Party of Canada charges each of its 308 riding associations with:

- “Supporting and promoting the principles, objectives, and policies of the Party.
- Providing organizational and financial support for the Party's candidate in an upcoming election.
- Raising and maintaining a fund to support the Association and assist candidates.
- Actively identifying candidates and recruiting new members.
- Encouraging the participation and recruitment of youth.
- Complying with the obligations and benefiting from the rights and privileges of being recognized by National Council.”

**HOW IS THE GUELPH EDA DOING?
SEE INSIDE FOR “THE STATE OF THE GUELPH EDA”!**

Come to the Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner!

Our special guest speaker will be Senator Doug Finley, former director of political operations for the National Party and 2006 & 2008 national campaign manager. The dinner will be at Cutten Fields. Email Laura at sirjohnadinner@guelphcp.ca for tickets.

**HOLD THIS DATE:
FEBRUARY 2, 2012!**

THE STATE OF THE GUELPH EDA

THE GUELPH EDA'S STRENGTHS:

- **Our membership is large and growing.** Following the May 2011 Federal election, we now have the largest membership in our history.
- **Our Board of Directors is active.** We meet monthly. Our board members are diverse and bring a wide range of skills to the association, from accounting to research.
- **We have several well-established and successful annual fundraisers and activities.**
 - √ January – the Sir John A. MacDonald Dinner
 - √ June – Annual General Meeting
 - √ August – Annual BBQ
 - √ November – Annual Turkey Drive
- **Conservative support in Guelph is growing.** The May 2011 election resulted in the highest number of Conservative votes in Guelph since 2003, when the Conservative Party was formed: 19,252 (almost 33% of the votes cast in Guelph).
- **The Guelph Campus Conservatives are a strong, active youth group.** We can count on their support (just as they can count on ours) both during and between elections.

THE GUELPH EDA'S CHALLENGES:

- **We face two key financial challenges, neither of which is due to this year's election.** Our local campaign for the May 2011 election was successful in that donations from PC supporters were great (thank you, Guelph Conservatives!). We still have some unpaid bills, but once Elections Canada rebates us for eligible campaign expenses, this debt will be eliminated.
- **Our first financial challenge is an unanticipated \$20,000 debt that dates back to 2008.** Guelph had both a federal by-election and a general election that year. After many submissions from our EDA (and other EDAs) that ran by-elections in 2008, Elections Canada recently decided that campaign expenses for by-elections are not eligible for rebates.
- **Our second financial challenge is new; the Federal Party is eliminating the only subsidy it gives to its local affiliates.** The Federal Party is no longer going to give a portion of the membership dues that it receives directly to its riding associations. This is to help fund Ottawa's war chest for 2015.
- **Our final challenge is lack of contact information for members and supporters.** We have a responsibility to keep our membership informed and the best, least expensive way to do that is through email.

WE ARE ALREADY LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

1. **Identify potential candidates!** We need to identify potential candidates early, and they need to become part of the EDA's Board of Directors well ahead of the next election to ensure that they understand the local party support structure. If you know someone who would be a good MP candidate, please have him or her contact Ken Morgan at kenneth-morgan@rogers.com or Neal Ruton at nruton@gmail.com.
2. **Donate directly to the EDA!** Attend our events or send your membership dues directly to us so that your financial support benefits the local riding association.
3. **Volunteer!** We're always looking for more Board members. If you're interested, email Ken Morgan at kenneth-morgan@rogers.com. Also, if you have a son or daughter who needs high school volunteer hours, let Ken know. High school students can get volunteer hours credit for helping out at the EDA's fundraisers and activities.
4. **Give us your email address!** Please help us keep you informed about local EDA activities and, at the same time, help us keep down our communication expenses.