

GREENPRINT

Spring/Summer

2009

Ms. May Visits The Peg



“I’m greening my life, I’m greening my neighbourhood, I’m kicking ass and I’m voting Green!” exclaimed Ms. May, Leader of GPC, as she punctuated the point by stamping her foot to conclude her speech at the Dandelion Eatery on April 18, 2009.

You could feel the election fever building in the air. The crowd cheered as Ms. May stomped her foot. The small restaurant was packed with Green supporters who came to enjoy the elegant evening and mingle with Ms. May and other Greens while helping to support the Winnipeg South Centre EDA.

May spoke for about ten minutes on various topics, including the need to reduce green house gases, the Harper governments erosion of democracy, and how she looks forward to working closer with the GPM in the future

May urged Greens to get involved by becoming candidates, official agents, campaigners, in anticipation of a federal election that could be called as early as this summer.

Leader's Message:

I want to be pesticide free!

It is clear which way the wind is blowing, and it is even more apparent that we do not want to be downwind in a gust of pesticide fumes.

A world free of the pesticide dependence is possible. [Read More on reverse: see “Pesticide-Free”]

Elmwood By-Election

How do we reach the apathetic voter? Eight-hundred voters disappeared from the voters registry? This means that 800 people did not even feel that it was worth their time to register to vote, let alone show up to the polls. What does this say about the state of our democracy? [Read More on reverse: see “Elmwood”]

Thank-you for your donation!

- It is a sad state of affairs but running an active party costs money.
- We estimate that we will need a minimum of \$120,000 in the two year lead up to the next election in 2011
- We can achieve this goal, but we need your help! Please donate today. Every little bit helps and you receive up to a 75% tax credit.
- Renew (or join) your membership in GPM today, and be entered to win an iPod Nano at this years Annual Fall Dinner. Details TBA
- Please see enclosed membership/donor form

Pesticide Free (cont'd)

On April 19, GPM Food Security Advocate Larry Powell and myself called upon the Doer government to follow the lead of Quebec and Ontario in immediately banning the cosmetic use of pesticides.

This is a simple and logical first step.

Chemical pesticides have been linked with cancers, neurological disorders and reproductive health abnormalities.

As leader I implore you as a member of the GPM to become more actively involved!

Actions can start with small steps. Today I urge you to write a letter to Conservation Minister Stan Struthers at

330 Legislative Building, 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

or e-mail: mincon@leg.gov.mb.ca

urging for a ban on the use of chemical pesticides.

It is all of our health at stake! It is all of our duty to act!

--Leader James R. Beddome

Not just a face in the crowd!

If you would like to become an active member of the Green Party, please consider helping to form a constituency association where you live, volunteering to help with election planning, or contacting our Volunteer Coordinator, Cathie Turner, to find out where you can put your interests to work for the party. You can email Cathie at volunteer@greenparty.mb.ca.

If you'd like to find out more about membership, email Ardythe Basham at membership@greenparty.mb.ca.

If you'd like to contribute to our internal research blogs e-mail Les Mundwiler at highbrow@prairie.ca.

We need YOU to stand out!"

Elmwood (cont'd)

The GPM received 4.8% of the vote with 210 votes in the March by-election.

The NDP elected Blaikie but saw a 7.3% drop in their popular support over the last election.

Having never run in Elmwood before the Greens received the largest portion of this decline in NDP support.

"Having knocked on countless doorsteps I was dismayed to hear people tell me that they felt that there was no point even registering to vote let alone casting a ballot. As a politician this pains me. I do not enjoy watching democracy erode before my eyes." commented GPM Leader and Elmwood Candidate, James Beddome.

"Going forward the Green Party needs to push for electoral reform. Perhaps if we had a more fair system--one whereby the seats awarded

were proportional to the number of votes earned-- more people would be engaged in the political process, both by voting and by becoming actively politically involved."

"We cannot allow the unfavorable referendum results in B.C. to slow us down. Mr. Blaikie was very vocal in his support of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) and proportional representation while in opposition in Ottawa. Let's see how he reacts while on the government side. Doesn't equity dictate the the number of seats a party receives should be proportional to the proportion of votes received?"

In the midst of a blizzard, is it any wonder that just over a third of registered voters came out in the Elmwood-by-election? Why fight the weather when your vote doesn't seem to count anyways. Right?

These are the people that the GPM needs to reach.