



By Andrej Ivanov

Fiery crash

“There were no injuries,” said fire prevention officer Kevin Duncan. “The cause of the fire was not determined because they burn so fast,” said Duncan. “There are lots of car fires on the 401,” he said.

Keeping safe behind the wheel

By Jonathan Ludlow

Tires sliding. Loss of control. Panic. Metal cracking. Glass breaking. Sirens blaring.

Whenever you are in a vehicle, there is an inherent danger. Something we can take for granted without realizing,

is that when you step into a vehicle, suddenly you are wielding a thousand-pound weapon. You are now shouldering the responsibility for the safety of yourself and everyone around you.

When you sit behind the wheel, you should have the confidence in yourself to know what you're doing and know that you

can handle a situation thrown your way.

When the snow falls, that confidence can quickly become fool-hardiness.

The second that first snow falls, the conditions you drive in take a drastic turn, and you need to adapt.

On the surface, it would seem to be common sense.

So why is that nearly every day in the winter, you hear there has been an accident. Someone lost control. Taken to the hospital for injuries. Passed away.

Gary Magwood, a former professional race car driver and driving instructor, who lives in the Quinte area, believes a vast majority of accidents can be avoided

if people learn to “unlock their eyes.”

He mentions that when we are confronted with a threat to our well-being, our natural instinct is to stare directly at the threat and keep our eyes locked on to it. And when our eyes are locked onto that threat, we subconsciously deviate towards it.

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Running for leader too financially risky for MPP Todd Smith

By Cassie Gibbons

Prince Edward Hastings MPP Todd Smith is making waves in the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario's leadership race.

Despite strong early local support for his campaign, Smith announced recently that he would not be running for leadership of the Ontario PC party “at this time” in a Facebook post citing a number of reasons. Not the least of which is the steep \$125,000 entry fee.

The fee is broken down into three sections, a \$75,000 flat fee, plus \$25,000 to access the party membership list, and a \$25,000 compliance deposit.

“The potential risk financially was too much to take on at this time. It's also an unprecedented timeline, I only had a week to gather the funds,” says Smith.

The leadership race comes at a time of change for Smith and his family, with Smith's daughter preparing to attend college next year. Although the fee was not the only reason Smith opted to forgo the election, he feels it presents a significant roadblock to other members who wish to run.

“I feel the fees unfortunately excluded some of the Progressive Conservative party's most experienced caucus members,” says Smith.

Despite rescinding his interest in party leadership, Smith, a resident of the Quinte area for over 20 years and a Loyalist College graduate, says he remains dedicated to his constituency.

“I'm still the MPP for Prince Edward Hastings, that hasn't changed,” says Smith of his position.

Although not seeking leadership himself, Smith doesn't plan on sitting idly by during this election, choosing instead to support his colleague

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MPP Todd Smith

and leadership candidate, Christine Elliott. Elliott announced her candidacy by tweeting “I'm in!” on Feb 1, 2018.

Elliott would resign her position as Ontario's first ever Patient Ombudsmen that same day. Elliott, former MPP for Whitby Oshawa, is no stranger to leadership races, having run twice before in both the 2009 and 2015, although unsuccessfully.

“I plan on throwing my support behind Christine Elliott. I'll be working with her as her campaign co-chair,” exclaims Smith.

Smith officially announced his campaign co-chair position in a tweet on Tuesday afternoon, stating Elliott is “ready to be Premier on day one.”

This is not the first time Smith has supported one of Elliott's campaigns, having supported her throughout her 2015 bid for leadership. Elliott would eventually lose that campaign to Patrick Brown, now the former leader of the Ontario PC party.

With Caroline Mulroney, daughter of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Doug Ford, former Toronto city councillor and brother of former Toronto mayor Rob Ford, also announcing their candidacies for PC leadership, it is likely Elliott and Smith have their work cut out for them.



Photo by Abigail Paquin

Flag Day pride

Claudia Goncalves has lived in Canada for a year and a half and is originally from New York City. “I think the biggest change for me was having a change in attitude, a change in my day to day so it's really not a cliché (about nice Canadians). It really is a kinder, more generous personality. That was it means to me, to be Canadian,” she said. February 15 is Flag Day.