

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



SUNRISE RIDING AND LEARNING CENTRE – Ted participates in the ceremonial ribbon cutting at the Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre in Puslinch Township. Held June 29th, the event marked the opening of the organization's four new facilities. For more than 28 years, Sunrise staff and volunteers have been empowering those with physical and intellectual disabilities. Adults from left: Sunrise President Scott vanEngen, MPP Ted Arnott, Honourary Sunrise Director Tommy Hunter, and Sunrise Executive Director Ann Caine. Children from left: Sunrise Riders Haley Veit and Bradley Maillette.

(Photo courtesy of Troy Bridgeman for the Guelph Mercury)

Supporting our local hospitals



Ted Arnott will continue fighting for one of our highest priorities: meeting the health care needs of the residents of Wellington-Halton Hills, both today and into the future.

In an October 26 question to the Premier, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott asked when the government would release its long-promised 10-year plan for hospital capital projects.

“Hospitals need to know where they are on the list so that they can plan their projects,” Mr. Arnott told the Legislature. He again informed MPPs that the Groves Hospital needs permission from the Minister of Health to move forward to the next stage of planning for its new hospital, and that the Georgetown Hospital requires a small capital grant.

In reply to Mr. Arnott's constructive questioning—in what was his second consecutive day posing questions on the issue—the Premier responded favourably.

“If [Mr. Arnott] has any specific advice with respect to his community, obviously, that's the kind of thing that we want to consider,” said the Premier.

When Question Period concluded, Mr. Arnott

followed up by speaking personally with the Premier.

“Our conversation was very cordial,” reported Mr. Arnott. “It was a helpful opportunity to reiterate the importance of these projects to the people of our communities.”

On October 21, the Legislature debated Mr. Arnott's resolution on the issue. It called on the Minister of Health to immediately allow Groves Memorial Community Hospital to move forward to the next stage of planning and approve the planning grant that goes with it.

His resolution also sought approval for a small project capital grant for the Georgetown Hospital, allowing it to proceed with its needed emergency room addition and diagnostic imaging renovation project.

In spite of the governing majority voting to defeat Mr. Arnott's resolution, he has no intention of giving up.

“The government is planning to spend more than \$2 billion on hospital infrastructure projects this year,” Mr. Arnott concluded. “All we're asking for is our fair share.”

KEEPING IN TOUCH – UPDATE 2011

Have faith in Ontario's farm families

Have faith in Ontario farmers. That's the message Ted Arnott brought to the Ontario Legislature in a November speech.

“In farming, as in so many industries, the future is always uncertain,” Mr. Arnott observed. “But I have faith in the future—and we should all have faith.” We have good reason, he said, adding that Ontario has the best farmers in the world.

Highlighting policies that have helped farmers achieve that success, Mr. Arnott mentioned several important ones.

“Together, we in Wellington-Halton Hills have always supported supply management, better safety net programs,

sensible environmental protection, an emphasis on research and bringing new methods and technology to the farm.”

Farmers are most effective, said Mr. Arnott, when they speak with one voice. For doing that, he credited the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) for its good work.

“Farming is big business,” noted Mr. Arnott. “But it's individual farmers and farm families who work hard to make it so.”

Mr. Arnott's statement in the Legislature followed remarks he delivered at the 70th annual meeting of the Wellington Federation of Agriculture.



PLOWING MATCH – Ted joins his colleagues in celebrating rural Ontario at the International Plowing Match. Ted frequently calls attention to the need to support farm families and respond to the challenges facing agriculture.



RECOGNIZING OUR NURSES – Ted visits the Georgetown Hospital this past May for “Take Your MPP to Work Day” with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.



A FAMILY SKATE – Ted and Lisa Arnott and their three sons enjoy some time together at last year's annual family skate.

TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Keeping in Touch – Update 2011



Hydro costs going through the roof

Skyrocketing hydro rates are becoming a serious hardship for many Ontario families. Under the government's current plan, it's about to get even worse, Ted Arnott is warning.

According to Ministry of Finance projections, residential electricity prices are expected to rise by 46 percent over the next five years—an average annual rate of about 8 percent.

Recently the government introduced its “Ontario Clean Energy Benefit,” which it claims will lead to a 10-percent rate cut. But Mr. Arnott is unconvinced.

“After the massive increases we've already seen, who will believe their hydro rates are actually going down?” he asked.

“In our area alone, there are thousands of families who already can't

afford their hydro bills,” Mr. Arnott added. “One constituent told me she has to choose between paying her hydro bill and paying for her groceries.”

Among the factors pushing up the cost of hydro are the HST, time-of-use pricing through so-called “smart meters,” and questionable energy contracts.



Rising cost of living drains family budgets

The Ontario government must pay more attention to the pressures facing family budgets, Ted Arnott says.

“Families, seniors and students can't afford to keep paying for every questionable idea or misplaced priority the government comes up with,” he said.

Because of the provincial government's HST, we face higher taxes on products and services previously free of provincial sales tax: fuel, hydro, home heating fuel, natural gas, haircuts, and home renovations and repairs, among many others.

Hydro and auto insurance have also become more expensive due to other provincial policies.

“We need this government to understand the real effect of its high spending and other policies affecting our pocketbooks,” said Mr. Arnott. “People have had enough when it comes to new taxes, new fees, and higher costs on the essentials.”

Prior to the 2003 provincial election, the Premier signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge—promising in writing not to raise taxes without the explicit consent of Ontario voters.

Since that time, Mr. Arnott noted, the government has brought in the HST, the health tax, what amounts to a backdoor energy tax, and so-called “eco fees” on electronics and plastic bags.

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Debt, deficit out of control, says Ted Arnott

The Government of Ontario continues on an unsustainable economic path, with no credible plan to pay down the provincial debt and deficit.

“Even after imposing countless new taxes and fees, this government has presided over record deficits,” Ted Arnott said.

He denounced recent spending scandals, including eHealth and other improper uses of our health care dollars, which the Auditor General uncovered. Such disregard for taxpayers’ money, he said, is helping to drive up the deficit.

The Minister of Finance announced that this year’s deficit projection stands at \$18.7 billion—down only slightly from last year’s

stratospheric high of \$19.3 billion.

Just as concerning to Mr. Arnott is the mounting debt. The current government is on track to double the provincial debt by 2012 since taking office in 2003.

“Every year we add to the debt, we dig the hole deeper and make it harder for us to get out,” Mr. Arnott said.

He added: “This mountain of additional debt means our children and grandchildren will pay even higher taxes than we do today, and will likely receive less in the way of government services.”

Today the Government of Ontario is borrowing more than \$2 million an hour, every hour of every day.



HOSPICE WELLINGTON – Ted speaks at the June 24th official opening ceremony for the new Hospice Wellington. Ted congratulated Wellington County Council and staff, those involved in Hospice since its inception, and the Hospice Board, staff and volunteers.
(Photo courtesy of Hospice Wellington)



LIMEHOUSE KILN SOCIETY – Mary Shier, President of the Limehouse Kiln Society, explains the restoration of the draw kiln project to Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong and MPP Ted Arnott. In June, volunteers from the Kiln Society, the Town of Halton Hills and Credit Valley Conservation celebrated the restoration project.
(Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent & Free Press)



APPRECIATING OUR HEROES – Ted congratulates Ivan Fair for his 50 years’ voluntary service with the Arthur Fire Department. Mr. Fair was publicly recognized at a February 2, 2010 event. For his work on behalf of firefighters, Ted was recently named an honorary member of the Firefighters’ Association of Ontario.
(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Dorothy Fair)

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO FIREFIGHTERS

Ted Arnott spoke in Elora on Sunday, October 24, 2010 – the Centre Wellington Fire and Rescue Appreciation Day. The following is an excerpt of his remarks:

I feel very honoured to be the one who gets to say thank you, on behalf of the Province of Ontario.

But finding the right words isn’t easy; such is the extent of our gratitude.

My own feelings of appreciation go back about 37 years, when I was growing up in Arthur – on a Saturday night in January, during a nasty ice storm.

Some kind of electrical short started a fire in our basement, which quickly spread to the main floor. I think I was about 10 years old at the time.



We quickly put on winter coats over pyjamas and winter boots too, and took refuge at our next-door neighbours. We used their phone to call the Arthur Fire Department.

Our fire chief, Howard White, lived just one street over, and he was the first on the scene, soon followed by the trucks, the crew, and their equipment.

We watched from the safety of our next-door neighbour’s window, and through the eyes of a ten year old boy, it all seemed like an exciting adventure unfolding before me.

These heroic figures had arrived to battle the fire, save our house—just in time, I remember thinking—just like Spiderman.

It was only many years later that I learned how close we came to losing the whole house, and how heroic those firemen really were.

So, my gratitude is not just official. It is also personal, to the fire service as a whole, and to the generations of firefighters who came before you, and especially today to all of you and your spouses and families as well. They should be acknowledged for the support they give you, enabling you to do the job, year after year.

It has been a real pleasure to work with you, and the Fire Fighters’ Association of Ontario, and the Chiefs Association on so many provincial issues, through the last 20 years.

As long as I’m in the Legislature, I will take your side, I will push for what you need and deserve from the Provincial Government, and I will fight for you.

Just like you, I’m just a call away.

So please accept our sincere thanks for your service, and congratulations on your accomplishments.

And as you plan, as you train, as you prepare, and as you respond, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you always, and we as a community have a debt of gratitude to you, that can never be fully discharged.

Former MPP Jack Johnson remembered

Public servant. Mentor. Honest. Champion. Friend. This was how the late John McLellan “Jack” Johnson, former MPP for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, was remembered in September in the Ontario Legislature.

Jack Johnson served his constituents in that legislature from 1975 to 1990, and passed away in June 2009. The people he represented were, by all accounts, extremely fortunate to have what MPP Jim Bradley called “the ultimate constituency person.”

“He was an individual who saw no problem as being too small a problem for his constituents to bring that problem to Queen’s Park,” said Mr. Bradley during a tribute held September 15, 2010.

Mr. Bradley’s remarks echoed those of MPP Gilles Bisson.

“He was one of those rare individual politicians who happen to come along and understand that, at the end of the day, it’s not just about serving your constituents but sometimes being civil to each

other,” offered Mr. Bisson.

Long-serving MPPs Norm Sterling and Ted Arnott remembered Mr. Johnson’s tireless work for his community, as well as his character and friendship.

“He was a great man for all of us,” recalled Mr. Sterling.

“He was very much my mentor,” said Mr. Arnott. “[He was] a real political hero for the man who he was, and the way he approached his responsibilities.”

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SURVEY

1. Is the Province of Ontario is on the right track?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
2. Are you satisfied with the Provincial Government’s response to our recent economic challenges?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
3. Is the Provincial Government doing enough to address the rising cost of living?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____