



TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch – Update 2016



Wellington County's Green Legacy Programme should go province-wide

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott's proposal to establish an Ontario Green Legacy Programme to mark Ontario's 150th anniversary within Canada has been endorsed by the Ontario Legislature.

On October 22, the Legislature voted unanimously to pass Mr. Arnott's Private Member's Resolution calling on the Government to take Wellington County's Green Legacy Programme province-wide by planting 150 million trees beginning in 2017.

"An Ontario Green Legacy Programme could be a legacy that all of us in this House can claim as our collective gift to the generations to come," Mr. Arnott said during his closing remarks in the debate.

With Wellington County CAO Scott Wilson, Green Legacy Committee Chair

Mark Van Patter, and Green Legacy Nursery Manager Rob Johnson on hand to watch the debate, Mr. Arnott acknowledged the work of County officials.



GREEN LEGACY PROGRAMME – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is pushing to take Wellington County's Green Legacy Programme province-wide to mark Ontario's 150th Anniversary as a province within Confederation. Ted and his son Dean are pictured attending a tree planting workshop in 2004, the year Wellington County launched the programme. *(Photo courtesy of the Fergus-Elora News Express)*

"I want to once again express my admiration for the County of Wellington, for the outstanding leadership they have shown in launching their Green Legacy Programme and maintaining it on an ongoing basis, such that it has grown into the largest municipal tree planting programme in North America," Mr. Arnott told the House. "They have shown us the way."

"When the County of Wellington first started down this road, it was a large challenge. But we found that we could succeed with the involvement of the community. With the support of the House and Mr. Arnott's Resolution, I find that I am hopeful and know that we in the Province can succeed," said Mr. Van Patter.

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Wellington County's Green Legacy Programme should go province-wide

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The Ontario Green Legacy idea has also been endorsed by the David Suzuki Foundation, NeighbourWoods on the Grand, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, the Professional Foresters Association, as well as Halton Hills community leader Laurent Thibault.

Mr. Arnott intends to continue to follow up with the Minister of Natural Resources to see that the Government follows through.

“Passing my resolution today was the first step towards an Ontario Green Legacy Programme,” Mr. Arnott said afterwards.

“Now we need to see a positive response from the Government. I intend to continue to raise this with them until they commit to making Ontario Green Legacy a reality.”



RFQ issued for new Groves hospital

The new Groves hospital project is taking yet another step forward.

In September, Infrastructure Ontario and Groves Memorial Community Hospital announced that they have issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a consortium to design, build, and finance a new hospital to replace the existing Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington.

“This is great news for our community,” Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott said. “It’s exciting to be involved, and see the progress towards our new hospital. With this announcement, we’re again one step closer to seeing the new hospital open its doors.”

The RFQ is the first step in the process of selecting a team to build the new hospital. Once submissions are completed, qualified applicants will be shortlisted. The Hospital anticipates that a Request for Proposals could be issued as early as the middle of next year.

“I spoke to Infrastructure Minister Brad Duguid in the Legislature the day the RFQ was issued. I wanted to thank the Government for their support. Working together, we continue to make progress,” added Mr. Arnott.

Mr. Arnott also recognized the contributions of local officials and residents.

“Our community has been working hard towards the goal of a new hospital for many years,” Mr. Arnott said. “I want to once again thank the many people involved – Groves staff, volunteers, the County, the Township, and the many supporters across our community. Without their efforts, we would not be where we are today.”

During his 25 years at Queen’s Park, Mr. Arnott has been a strong advocate for the Groves Memorial Community Hospital. For more than a decade, he has been helping to push for the new hospital project. He has raised it numerous times in speeches in the Legislature, in letters to Ministers, and in private conversations, meetings, and phone calls with successive Health Ministers and Ministry staff.

“As the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, I intend to continue to monitor the progress being made at Groves hospital, with a view to making sure that we continue to move forward toward our vision of a new, state-of-the-art hospital in Centre Wellington,” he said.

For more information on the Groves hospital project, visit the Hospital Foundation's website at:
<http://www.grovesfoundation.com/>



TERRY FOX RUN – Town of Halton Hills Councillor Jon Hurst and Ted Arnott help kick off the annual Acton Terry Fox Run on September 20 at the Acton High School. Each year there are numerous Terry Fox Runs held in communities across Wellington-Halton Hills.

(Photo courtesy of the Independent & Free Press)

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



FAMILY SKATE – Each year Ted and Lisa host their annual family skates in Wellington-Halton Hills. Everyone is welcome. This winter, the family skates will be in Georgetown (January 10), Acton (January 17), and Aberfoyle (January 24).

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



CELEBRATING CANADA – Canada's 148th Birthday celebrations were held in Erin on July 1. This past year, Ted also attended Canada Day festivities in Elora, Aberfoyle, Glen Williams, Fergus, and Acton.

(Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)

Attorney General says new Halton Courthouse a “priority”

Ontario's Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur says that a new Halton Courthouse is a “priority” for her Ministry.

The Attorney General first publicly identified the Halton Courthouse as a priority in Question Period on March 24, in response to a Question from Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

She later repeated the statement in a meeting on September 8 with Mr. Arnott, Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, Burlington MPP Eleanor McMahon, and local lawyer Paul Stunt, which Mr. Arnott had arranged.

“It’s encouraging that the Attorney General appears to recognize the need for a new courthouse in Halton Region,” Mr. Arnott said. “I’ve toured the existing courthouse, and it is simply inadequate to meet the needs of Halton Region.”

Halton Region is one of the fastest growing communities in the country. However, when the

current courthouse was built in 1962, it served a population of approximately 190,230. While there was an addition in 1979, it now serves approximately 550,000 people. With the population of Halton Region exploding in recent years, that number is expected to climb to 565,000 by next year alone, and Halton Region forecasts that its population will grow to over 750,000 by 2031.

Mr. Arnott has worked across party lines to push for this needed project, reaching out to the three other Halton-area MPPs and working with them cooperatively.

“I have always been willing and prepared to work with MPPs from other parties to get the job done for our community,” Mr. Arnott said. “This is an issue that affects our entire Region and people expect us to set party differences aside and make progress towards our goal.”

Since Mr. Arnott first learned about the need for a new courthouse, he

has worked hard to raise awareness of the need at Queen’s Park.

He asked for a tour of the Courthouse and has raised the issue in Question Period, as well as in debate in the Legislature. He has also spoken to the Attorney General on numerous occasions, including initiating the September 8 meeting with her and all the Halton-area MPPs or their representatives.

On October 27, Mr. Arnott approached Finance Minister Charles Sousa after Question Period to speak to him about the need for the new Courthouse. He gave the Minister a letter outlining the importance of the project. On November 18, he followed up in the same manner with Deputy Premier Deb Matthews.

“Now that the Attorney General has said a new Halton Courthouse is a priority, we need the Government to commit to the project in the 2016/17 provincial budget.”

- MPP Ted Arnott

Georgetown Hospital walk a big success

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott spoke in the Ontario Legislature on September 29 to highlight the annual Georgetown Hospital walk fundraiser.

“Yesterday after Question Period, I was very glad to tell the Minister of Health about the very successful Walk or Run for Georgetown Hospital, which my wife Lisa and I attended this past Sunday morning,” Mr. Arnott informed the Legislature. “This annual walk is a great community event and this year it raised \$37,000 for the Georgetown Hospital.

The money raised by the Hospital Foundation goes towards improving health care services at the Georgetown Hospital through the purchase of medical equipment, as well as enhancing the hospital’s

programs and facilities.

“I try to attend the Walk every year, and I was glad to see Halton Hills Regional Councillor Jane Fogal and Town Councillor Jon Hurst there as well,” Mr. Arnott said.

Mr. Arnott also took the opportunity to thank the many staff and volunteers whose efforts make the event possible.

“Our Georgetown Hospital Foundation staff and volunteers do an amazing job,” said Mr. Arnott. “I especially want to thank Jennifer McNally, the Foundation’s manager for annual giving and special events.”

Over the years, Mr. Arnott has been an enthusiastic advocate for the Georgetown Hospital at Queen’s Park.

“In 2011, I was glad to help secure

a promise from the Government of up to \$2.6 million to support needed renovations at the Hospital,” he noted. “In addition to the Province’s commitment, money raised in the community paid for most of the project. After working together, we now have a new emergency room, CT Scanner, and upgrades to the diagnostic imaging department – better health care, closer to home.”

“Someday, we’ll need a brand new Georgetown Hospital. It goes without saying that I would want to support whatever redevelopment project our community submits to the Ministry,” Mr. Arnott concluded.

For more information on the work of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation visit: <http://www.georgetownhospitalfoundation.ca/>



SUPPORTING THE HOSPITAL – Participants run in the annual Walk or Run for Georgetown Hospital on September 27. Ted and Lisa Arnott were glad to attend again this past year. The event raised \$37,000 for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation. All the money the foundation raises goes towards improving health care services at Georgetown Hospital through the purchase of medical equipment, as well as enhancing the hospital’s programs and facilities.

(Photo courtesy of the Independent & Free Press)



ELORA DAIRY RESEARCH FACILITY – Ted Arnott and Bill Baxter tour the new Livestock Research and Innovation Centre in Elora. The facility is a joint initiative between the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario, the University of Guelph, and the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. According to OMAFRA, the dairy industry is the second largest sector in Ontario agriculture and produces 2.5 billion litres of milk each year.

(Photo by Dr. Bronwynne Wilton)

Minister of Transportation Visits Morriston

On July 23, Ontario's Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca came to Morriston to listen to local elected officials and business leaders make the case for the Highway 6 Morriston bypass, and view the traffic logjam first hand in that community.

"I'm glad that the Minister of Transportation accepted our invitation to visit and was able to come to Morriston to see the issues that motorists and local residents experience every day," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott. "We continue to push to have the Highway 6 Morriston bypass placed on the Ministry of Transportation's 5 year plan for new highway construction."

The Minister's visit to Morriston followed a June 23 meeting at the Minister's office at Queen's Park, which Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott arranged. In attendance were Township of Puslinch Mayor Dennis Lever, Councillor Sue Fielding, Mr. Arnott, and representatives of the Morriston Bypass Coalition.

The Highway 6 Morriston bypass project has strong support throughout the area. The Morriston Bypass Coalition includes the Township of Puslinch, the County

of Wellington, the City of Guelph, the City of Hamilton, both the Guelph and Hamilton Chambers of Commerce, as well as prominent businesses such as Tim Hortons, Maple Leaf Foods, Nestlé Waters, Canada Bread, and Cargill.

"Mayor Dennis Lever and the Council of the Township of Puslinch, the County of Wellington, and the Morriston Bypass Coalition have together made a strong economic case for the Morriston bypass, and I want to thank them for their efforts," Mr. Arnott said.

"The Morriston bypass has been talked about for a generation. The time for talk is over. Let's get this done."

- MPP Ted Arnott

MPP Arnott highlights two new schools in Rockwood

With a new school officially opened and another in the works, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott rose in the Ontario Legislature last May to highlight the exciting developments being made in education in Rockwood:

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the current uncertainty in our schools in Ontario, last Monday was a momentous day for education in the community of Rockwood in Wellington-Halton Hills. That morning, the ground breaking of the new Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School took place, and in the evening, the official opening of École Harris Mill Public School was celebrated-both in Rockwood.

École Harris Mill Public School, which first opened its doors to students this past September, is a dual-track school with both English and French immersion from JK to grade 5. And when it opens its doors in September 2016, Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School will be home to over 270 students from JK to grade 8. It will become the first new school to open in the Wellington Catholic District School Board since 2010.

With a safe and inspiring teaching and learning environment, I know that students at both these schools will receive an outstanding educational experience, leading to achievement and success. I've always believed that learning is lifelong

and that our teachers are caring, dedicated professionals. With the positive support of parents, community and government working together in the best interests of our students, our schools are second to none in Canada.

As the member of provincial Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, I want to extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Upper Grand District School Board, the Wellington Catholic District School Board as well as all the parents, students, teachers and staff who are involved in these new schools. Together, we can work to give our students the finest education possible. We owe them nothing less.

Source: Ontario Hansard, May 11, 2015

New Connecting Link program falls short

More than two years after blindsiding municipalities by canceling the Connecting Link program without warning or consultation, the Ontario Government reversed course in April and said that the program would be restored in some form.

However, now that more details have been disclosed, Ontario municipalities are saying that the new program falls short of what is needed.

The Government announced that it is committing \$15 million annually to a new Connecting Link program to help 77 Ontario municipalities cover the cost of construction on connecting link roadways – provincial highways that pass through built up areas. The program will be application-based, and it is likely that some municipalities will receive nothing.

“\$15 million spread across 77 municipalities simply isn’t going to go very far,” Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott pointed out.

Prior to the cancellation of the original program, the Government allocated \$25.3 million in 2007/08 and \$24.3 million in 2009/10 in Connecting Link funding.

“This only amounts to roughly 60% of the funding that was in place previously,” Mr. Arnott noted.

Before its cancellation, the original Connecting Link program had provided municipalities with a stable source of funding for up to 90% of the cost of necessary road and bridge repairs on connecting link roadways. The partnership between the Province and municipalities had been in place since the 1920s.

The cancellation of the Connecting Link program had a huge impact on both the Town of Halton Hills and the Township of Centre Wellington. The Township of Centre Wellington had been planning to repair the St. David St. Bridge in Fergus at an estimated cost of \$2.6 million, as well as carry out an additional \$1.2 million of work on St. David Street. Similarly, the Town of Halton Hills had been planning \$9.3 million of work on Connecting Link roadways over a 5 year period. Both municipalities had been expecting the Province to cover up to 90% of these costs.

“I want to thank our municipal leaders for speaking up,” Mr. Arnott said. “Many of our elected Mayors and Councillors in Wellington-Halton Hills have been persistently vocal about the continuing need for the Connecting Link program.”

Since the Connecting Link program was cancelled in January 2013, Mr. Arnott had repeatedly raised the issue with the Government, urging them to reconsider their decision.

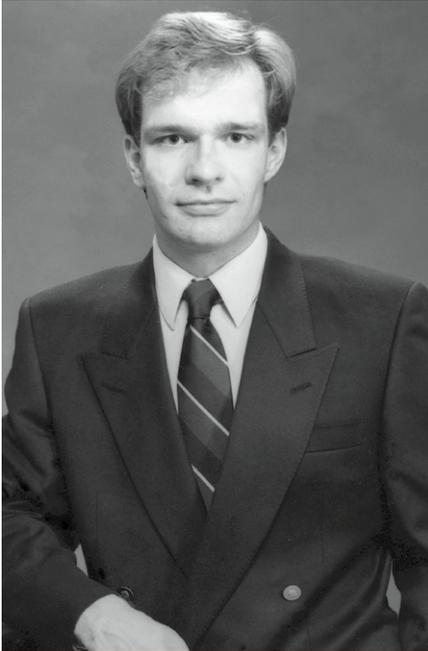


HONOURING JACK JOHNSON – On September 25, Highway 6 from Mount Forest to Guelph was renamed the Jack Johnson Memorial Highway in honour of former MPP Jack Johnson, who served in the Ontario Legislature from 1975 to 1990. Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece, and Wellington County Warden George Bridge help unveil the sign alongside the Johnson family.



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott and Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette pose with Elora Eng in front of a new Blind Child sign in Norval. Mr. Arnott and Mayor Bonnette worked together with Kathy Gastle and the Norval Community Association to have the Ministry of Transportation install the signs to protect Elora. The signs are believed to be the first Blind Child signs erected on a Provincial Highway in Ontario.

(Photo courtesy of the Independent & Free Press)



MARKING 25 YEARS AS AN MPP
– Ted Arnott was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1990, representing the Riding of Wellington.

25 years of elected public service

This past September 6 was the 25th anniversary of Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott’s first election to the Ontario Legislature.

Over the years, Mr. Arnott has represented the Ridings of Wellington-Halton Hills (2007-present), Waterloo-Wellington (1999-2007), and Wellington (1990-1999).

“It’s been an enormous honour and privilege to have had the chance to serve people in Wellington County and the Regions of Waterloo and Halton,” said Mr. Arnott. “I want to express my special thanks to my family and friends, my outstanding staff, and all who have supported us through the years.”

To mark the anniversary of his first election, Mr. Arnott wrote a new mission statement which now hangs in the

Wellington-Halton Hills Riding Office. It reads:

Mission Statement

We will represent the people of Wellington-Halton Hills, with honesty and dedication, to the very best of our ability.

We will serve everyone in the Riding, no matter which political party they may have supported in the past.

We will listen, gather the facts, apply our experience, then act on behalf of our constituents on concerns relating to the Provincial Government.

Every working day, we will strive to be the very best Provincial Riding Office in Ontario.

About Ted Arnott

Born in Fergus in 1963, Ted Arnott was raised in Arthur, where his family was in the heavy construction business.

Ted worked part-time and summers while attending school: he was a retail store clerk, a construction labourer, and a factory worker.

After graduating from Wilfrid Laurier University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma in Business Administration, Ted worked as Executive Assistant to Jack Johnson, MPP.

Ted was the youngest Member of the Ontario PC Caucus when he was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1990, at the age of 27. He has been re-elected ever since, and Ted is now one of the longest serving MPPs in the Legislative Assembly.

Always putting his constituents first, Ted stands up for our interests and values. He reaches across party lines to get things done, and makes no promises except his best

efforts. This is a promise he has always kept.

Ted is married to Lisa Arnott, a French immersion teacher. They have three sons, and live in Fergus.



THE ARNOTT FAMILY – Ted and Lisa Arnott with their sons Jack, Phill, and Dean.

The riding of Wellington-Halton Hills

Recently, the Federal Government undertook a process of planning the redistribution of the federal riding boundaries for seats in the House of Commons in Ottawa. This work was done by an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission.

As a result of this process, Ontario received an additional 15 seats in the recent federal election.

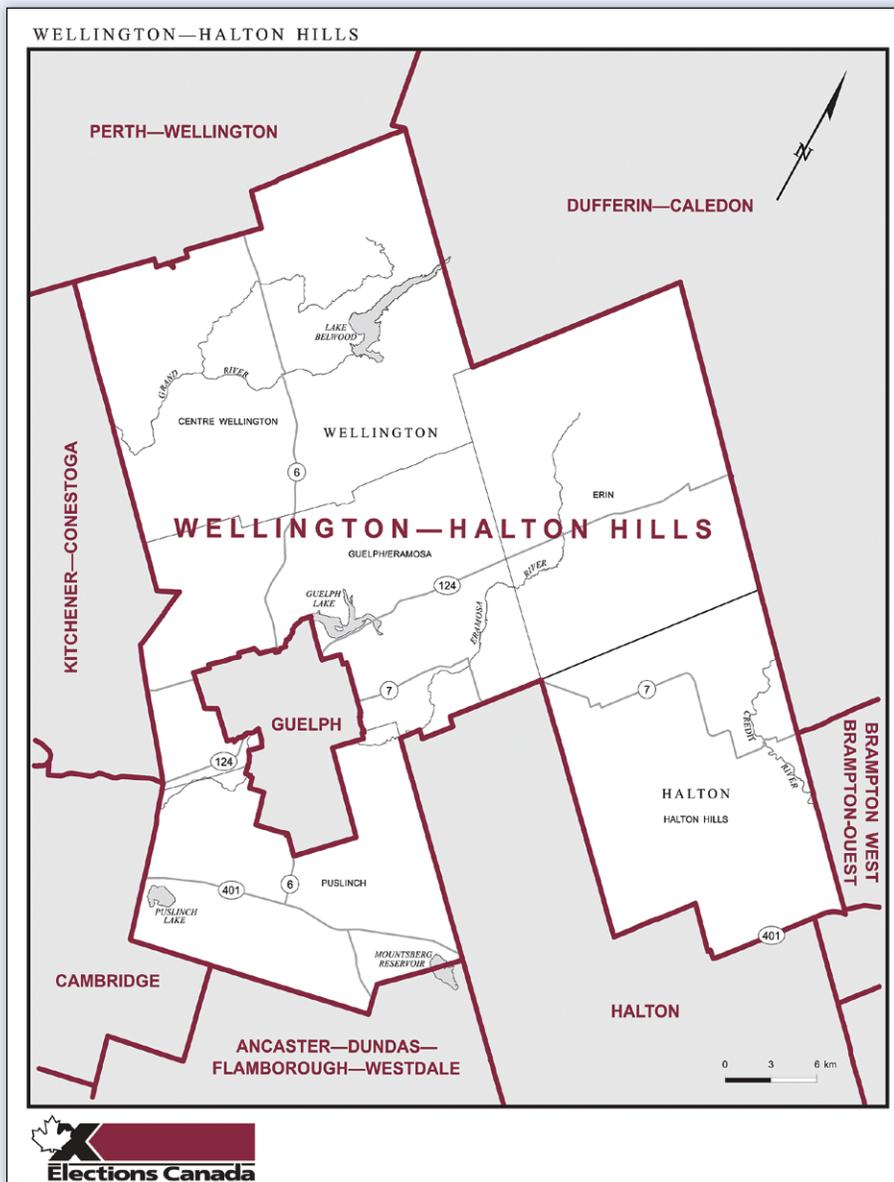
New riding boundaries were established for many ridings. However, the boundaries of the federal riding

of Wellington-Halton Hills, represented in Ottawa by MP Michael Chong since 2004, remained unchanged.

In June, Ontario's Attorney General, Madeleine Meilleur, introduced Bill 115, Electoral Boundaries Act, 2015, which would expand the number of seats in the Ontario Legislature from 107 to 122, so that the provincial ridings in southern Ontario will continue to mirror their federal counterparts. Bill 115 was passed into law in December. As such, these changes will take effect in time for the next provincial election, which is expected in 2018.

This would mean the provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills, represented in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Ted Arnott since 2007, would remain intact for the next provincial election.

"It's an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Wellington-Halton Hills in the Ontario Legislature," said Mr. Arnott. "I will continue my best efforts to represent our Riding and ensure that our concerns are addressed."



The riding of Wellington-Halton Hills is composed of the municipalities of:

- The Township of Centre Wellington
- The Town of Erin
- The Township of Guelph/Eramosa
- The Town of Halton Hills
- The Township of Puslinch