



TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch – Fall 2016



MTO approves Morriston bypass

After years of lobbying, the Ministry of Transportation has finally approved the Highway 6 Morriston bypass.

“This is great news for our Riding,” Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott said. “The Morriston bypass will improve safety for our residents in Puslinch Township, and it will have long-term economic benefits for a large portion of the province.”

The announcement was made at an event in Aberfoyle at the Puslinch Community Centre on March 29.

Mr. Arnott expressed thanks to the Government of Ontario and the Township of Puslinch Council.

“I wish to thank the Minister, as well as MPPs on both sides of the House who offered their support,” Mr. Arnott added.

Highway 6 is an important economic corridor which links Wellington County and the 401 to the Hamilton/Niagara Region, as well as to the U.S. border. There is currently a bottleneck through the community of Morriston with traffic jams that often extend for several kilometres.

The project will realign Highway 6 south of the 401 to bypass the congested two lane section through Morriston and provide an improved connection to the 401 and the Hanlon Expressway in Guelph.

Highway 401 will also be widened from six to ten lanes and include future High Occupancy Vehicle lanes. The project will also include the construction

of three new interchanges with improvements made to Highway 401 and existing Highway 6 interchanges, 11 new structures and construction of a local connection road.

Mr. Arnott has been pushing for the project for many years, working with Township of Puslinch Mayor Dennis Lever and Township Council, as well as other area partners.

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MORRISTON BYPASS – Rory McAlpine of the Morriston Bypass Coalition presents Certificates of Appreciation to Puslinch Mayor Dennis Lever and Ted Arnott during a Puslinch Council meeting on June 15 to thank them for their work in securing the approval of the Highway 6 Morriston bypass. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)

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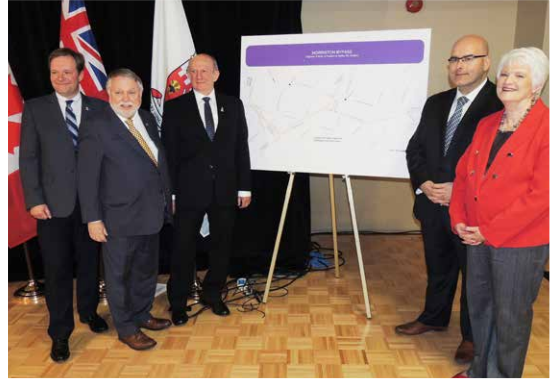
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MTO approves Morriston bypass

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“When my Riding boundaries changed in 2007, I was once again privileged to represent the Township of Puslinch. Approval of the Highway 6 Morriston bypass project was identified as priority,” Mr. Arnott said. “Together, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work.”

MORRISTON BYPASS APPROVED – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott joins Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Ted McMeekin, Puslinch Mayor Dennis Lever, Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, and Education Minister Liz Sandals at the Puslinch Community Centre on March 29 to announce the approval of the Highway 6 Morriston bypass.
(Photo courtesy of the Puslinch Pioneer)



Canada Day message, 2016

By: Ted Arnott, MPP

On July 1st, we celebrated Canada's 149th birthday: our proud history and heritage, our people, and all that we have accomplished and built together.

Carving out a nation on the northern portion of the continent, our climate helped to nurture a desire for collective well-being, not just individual success.

While we will always have our differences, Canadians have lived together side by side, coast to coast to coast, in relative harmony.

Our individual freedoms are spelled out in our Charter of Rights, and they are implicitly balanced with our collective responsibility to give back.

We have our democratic political institutions which seek fairness, and our legal system which seeks justice: the rule of law, not the rule of man.

Peace, order, and if not always good government, at least we have government we can change when necessary through a free election.

Our talented artists have nourished a distinct Canadian culture.

In the realm of sport, we are ferociously competitive, but we play by the rules.

From abroad, observers see in us a compassionate spirit of community and tolerance.

Canada is viewed as a beacon of light and hope in an increasingly troubled world.

May we always be so blessed.



CANADA DAY – Each year, Ted attends numerous Canada Day events in communities across Wellington-Halton Hills. Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillor Jon Hurst, and Regional Councillor Clark Somerville join Ted and MP Mike Chong in Acton last year.

(Photo courtesy of the Independent & Free Press)

MPP Arnott raises Halton Hills transportation priorities in Legislature

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott rose in Question Period on June 8 seeking answers on local transportation concerns in the Town of Halton Hills.

In his questions to Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, Mr. Arnott asked for an update on the status of the GTA West Corridor Study, which was put on hold by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) in December.

“The uncertainty surrounding the GTA West Corridor Study is impacting the ability of the Town of Halton Hills to plan for the future. Our Riding was opposed to Alternative 4-3 and we need to know where this is going,” Mr. Arnott said. “Will the Minister explain the holdup, inform the House of the status of the GTA West Corridor Study, and tell us when he is going to be making a public announcement of what’s going to happen next?”

Mr. Arnott pointed out that when he, Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Town staff, and Regional Chair Gary Carr met with the Minister in January, the Minister promised that he would have an update on the status of the project “soon.”

“I remember that meeting that he asked for with partners from municipalities in his particular area,” the Minister replied. “It was a great meeting; in fact, not the first meeting that I have had the privilege to take part in with that particular Member who is a very strong advocate, I will admit, of course, for his community... As soon as we have completed the review internally that’s

being undertaken currently, we will provide a public update.”

In a follow up question, Mr. Arnott reiterated the need to find a solution to the problem of truck traffic along Highway 7 through the Town of Halton Hills.

“There are serious concerns which have been expressed by Town Council and residents about the ever-increasing truck traffic along Highway 7 in Acton, as well as in Georgetown and Norval,” said Mr. Arnott. “I share those concerns and I tabled a resolution in the House last fall to draw attention to the problem. It’s still on the Order Paper.”

Mr. Arnott reminded the Minister that the Town of Halton Hills has asked the MTO to partner with the Town on a study to examine the problem, and even offered to cover half the cost of the study.

“Will the Minister commit to partnering with the Town of Halton Hills to carry out this study and work

together with us to find a long-term solution?” Mr. Arnott asked.

“We’re still having an internal discussion about that very specific funding support request from Halton Hills,” the Minister replied. “Again, as soon as we have an update with respect to that particular item, we’re happy to share it.”

Later that week, Mr. Arnott’s office received a letter from the Minister addressed to Mayor Bonnette, dated the same day Mr. Arnott asked the question, indicating that the Ministry would offer to assist the Town in drafting the terms of reference for the bypass study by providing comments on the draft and agree to be an active stakeholder when the study commences in 2016.

“The Government boasts that they are going to spend more than \$160 billion on infrastructure over the next 12 years,” Mr. Arnott said afterward. “If they are going to spend that money, we in Wellington-Halton Hills deserve our fair share.”



SCHOOL TOUR – Ted Arnott welcomes students from John Black Public School in West Garafraxa to Queen’s Park on June 14.

Keeping in Touch – Fall 2016



COTTONTAIL TRAIL – Ted Arnott attends the opening of the Cottontail Trail in Elora on June 17. The Cottontail Trail links the Elora Cataract Trailway with the Kissing Bridge Trail to complete the Trans Canada Trail through Wellington County.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



FROM THE ARCHIVES – Ted Arnott and his son Phillip, then four years old, join Elora Cataract Trailway Association President Tom Skimson and Ontario Trillium Foundation Board Member Jim Gibbons on April 17, 2002 as the trail group received \$74,800 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Progress made on planning for a new Halton courthouse

Progress is being made towards a much needed new courthouse in Halton Region.

In June, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, as well as other local courthouse advocates, received letters from then-Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur announcing that Infrastructure Ontario will soon be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a functional programming consultant to begin planning for a new Halton courthouse.

The RFP was released on June 13.

According to the letters, "...this work will involve a series of consultations to review existing business processes and explore opportunities for innovations that would help enhance access to justice in Halton Region. The results of this work will inform further planning, such as project design and scope."

The letters were dated May 31, the same day Mr. Arnott again raised the need for a new Halton courthouse with the Attorney General during the

morning Question Period.

"I'm hopeful. This appears to be a positive step forward," Mr. Arnott said. "While this isn't the final approval that we've been seeking for a new courthouse, it appears to be progress towards that goal."

A new courthouse is needed to replace the existing facility in Milton, which is aging, overcrowded and has serious security and privacy concerns. According to the Halton County Law Association, litigants are often required to travel to Brampton and Guelph because the current Courthouse simply cannot handle the volume of cases.

"I want to acknowledge Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr and Regional Council, Paul Stunt, Ken Kelertas, Clarke Melville, and the many others who have helped bring attention to the need for a new courthouse," Mr. Arnott said. "Working together, we're making progress. We're going to continue to push for this until it gets done."

Mr. Arnott has raised the need for a new courthouse repeatedly, not only in debate in the Legislature and in Question Period, but also in private conversations and letters to the Attorney General. Last year, he initiated a meeting with the Attorney General, Halton-area MPPs, and local lawyer Paul Stunt to discuss the issue.

According to page 285 of the Government's 2016 Budget Papers document, the Ministry of the Attorney General plans to spend \$255 million on justice infrastructure this year.

The Attorney General stated in the Legislature as recently as May 31 that "the Milton Courthouse is still our number one priority in our Ministry," in response to Mr. Arnott's question on the subject.

A new Attorney General, the Hon. Yasir Naqvi, was appointed on June 13. Within days of his appointment, Mr. Arnott brought the need for a new Halton Courthouse to his personal attention.

Groves releases RFP for new hospital

Infrastructure Ontario and Groves Memorial Community Hospital have released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to design, build, and finance the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington.

GMCH Partnership, EllisDon Infrastructure Healthcare, and PCL Constructors Canada will have approximately 6 months from when the RFP was released in June to submit their proposals, after being shortlisted during the pre-qualification process in September 2015. Once the RFPs have been submitted, Groves and Infrastructure Ontario will evaluate the proposals in order to select a preferred bidder.

The new hospital is expected to be completed in 2019.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomed the news as yet another exciting step forward for Groves.

“With each new step forward in the Ministry’s approval process, we move a bit closer to realizing our vision for a new Groves hospital,” he said.

Mr. Arnott expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in the Groves project.

“I want to thank the Minister of Health for his continued interest and support for Groves,” said Mr. Arnott. “I also want to recognize the hard work of Groves staff, County of Wellington and Township of Centre Wellington Councils and staff, as well as the many donors and volunteers, without whom none of this would be possible.”

During his 26 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 pushing for the new hospital project. He has raised it numerous times in speeches in the Legislature, letters to Ministers, and in private conversations, meetings, and phone calls with successive Ministers of Health and Ministry staff.

“Our new Groves hospital is absolutely vital to the future of our community. I will continue to monitor the hospital project as it moves forward and do whatever I can to help,” Mr. Arnott concluded.

According to page 285 of the 2016 Ontario Budget Papers, the Ontario Government plans to spend almost \$2.9 billion on hospital infrastructure in the 2016/17 fiscal year.



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE – An architect’s depiction of what the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital may look like.
(Photo courtesy of the Groves Hospital Foundation)



GEORGETOWN FALL FAIR – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott takes in the Georgetown Fall Fair. Each year, Mr. Arnott attends fall fairs across the Riding. (Photo by Lisa Arnott)



HALTON COUNTY PLOWING MATCH – Ted Arnott drives a ‘50s era Massey-Harris tractor at the Halton County Plowing Match on August 19. The Plowing Match was held at the farm of Town of Halton Hills Councillor Ted Brown. (Photo by Councillor Bryan Lewis)

Ministry of Environment releases proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework

In January, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change released a new proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework for 60 days of public consultation, to ensure that fill being dumped in rural Ontario is safe.

The problem of compromised soil has been a big issue in Wellington-Halton Hills and other rural communities surrounding the GTA in recent years. Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott has been raising the need for a new comprehensive province-wide policy to address the problem for more than four years, working with local government leaders.

Mr. Arnott first wrote to the Minister of the Environment in February 2012, asking him to establish an Interministerial Committee to develop solutions for the effective regulation of the dumping of fill.

The proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework is the result of a review that was launched by the Ministry of the Environment in January 2014 in response to an Application for Review which Mr. Arnott submitted to Ontario's Environmental Commissioner. In his submission, Mr. Arnott called on the Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the Province's policies related to the handling of the disposal of fill and compromised soil.

The release of the Excess Soil Management Policy Framework appears to be a positive step forward, but Mr. Arnott questioned why it took so long.

"The proposed Policy Framework is clearly an acknowledgement by the Government that the current

system isn't good enough," Mr. Arnott said. "I'm glad they've finally responded in a comprehensive manner, but it shouldn't have taken them four years to reach that conclusion."

Mr. Arnott pointed out that there is currently no province-wide policy regulating the disposal of fill. Individual municipalities are responsible for providing oversight since there is no provincial process in place.

"Given the volume of fill that is being trucked out of the city and dumped in rural Ontario, we have a responsibility to ensure that this fill is safe and that the health of local residents and the safety of our water supply aren't being put at risk," Mr. Arnott argued.

Among the areas for improvement identified by the Proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework are the need for greater responsibility by owners of the source sites that generate excess soil to ensure that the soil reaches appropriate receiving sites, better oversight of receiving sites, protection of sensitive areas of provincial and local interest, and encouraging better planning for the reuse of soil.

"The proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework appears to be a comprehensive response to the problem," Mr. Arnott concluded. "I hope this report is taken seriously, and doesn't just gather dust on a shelf."

The consultation period for the proposed policy framework came to an end on March 26. Mr. Arnott plans to continue to monitor the situation, and push for action.

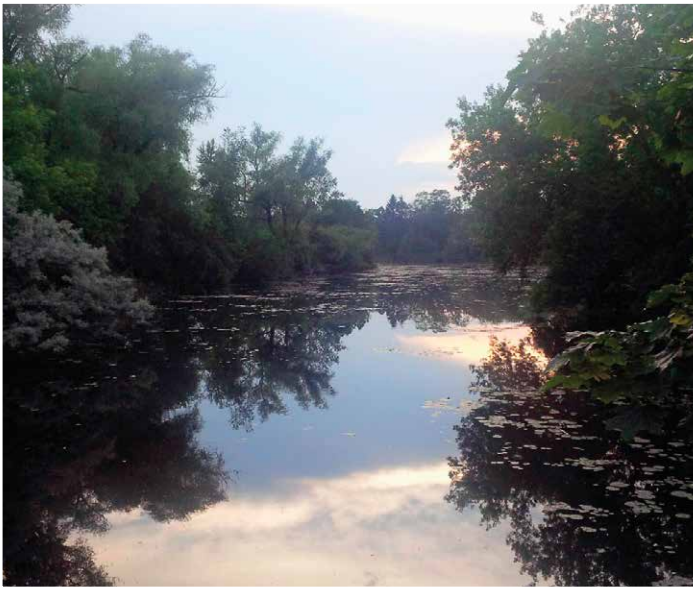


FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT –

The Erin Citizens' Climate Lobby met with Ted Arnott in April to talk about the environment. From left are Gord Cumming, Sue Braiden, Ron Moore, Ted Arnott, Gerry Walsh, Liz Armstrong, and Cathy Hansen.

(Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



CHARLES STREET – A gorgeous sunset on Charles Street in Erin.
(Photo by Ted Arnott)



EDEN MILLS WRITERS' FESTIVAL – Ted Arnott attends the official opening of Rivermead, the permanent home of the Eden Mills Writers' Festival in May. Founded in 1989 by Governor General Award winner Leon Rooke, the Eden Mills Writers' Festival has been hosting a literary celebration on the banks of the Eramosa River for over 25 years. (Photo courtesy of the Ontario Trillium Foundation)

Government should support new Laurier campus in Milton, says MPP Arnott

Wilfrid Laurier University's proposal for a new campus in Milton merits the Provincial Government's support, says Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

"On March 18, I met with representatives from Wilfrid Laurier University, including its President, Dr. Max Blouw, to discuss Laurier's proposal for a new campus in Milton," Mr. Arnott told MPPs in a statement in the Ontario Legislature on April 7.

Laurier's vision includes a 400 acre Milton Education Village, which would be a purpose-built, fully integrated urban community of education, research, and commercialization, with complementary residential and commercial development and amenities.

Mr. Arnott pointed out that Milton's location makes it ideally suited for a new university campus.

"A new Laurier campus in Milton would go a long way towards improving access to post-secondary education in our area," he said.

"As a neighbouring community to the Town of Halton Hills, Milton is also located close to Guelph and Wellington County, Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Brampton, and Hamilton."

Milton is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. By 2031, the population of Milton is expected to grow to 228,000, up from 54,000 in 2006.

"The population of Halton Region is expected to exceed one million people by 2041, underscoring the

need for new, local postsecondary education opportunities," Mr. Arnott argued. "What better place to locate a new university campus?"

Mr. Arnott noted that the Region of Halton has identified the Laurier Milton campus as one of its top priorities for Provincial Government action and that the Town of Halton Hills Council was also enthusiastic.

"As a Laurier alumnus, I share their excitement and fully support their proposal. I urge the Government to get behind it as well," Mr. Arnott concluded.

According to page 285 of the 2016 Ontario Budget Papers, the Ontario Government plans to spend \$187 million on university infrastructure in the 2016/17 fiscal year.

Highway 7 improvements coming to Guelph/Eramosa

In May, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) announced that it was calling for tenders for work on Highway 7 through the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.

The contract will be for the construction of a new roundabout on Highway 7 at Jones Baseline. The project also includes culvert replacement, construction of storm sewers, and lighting.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott and Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White were pleased to comment on the news.

“I am very happy to see this important safety improvement in our community and I want to thank Minister Del Duca and our MPP Ted Arnott for moving this forward,” said Mayor White.

“I’m glad the Government is investing in improving our transportation infrastructure in Wellington-Halton Hills,” Mr. Arnott said. “Highway 7 is a critical transportation link through our Riding.”

After being advised of the project in a letter from the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Arnott reached out to MTO staff to seek more information. He was told that the MTO opted for a roundabout at the intersection instead of traffic signals because of the steep grade on the southbound approach on Jones Baseline. The MTO maintains that roundabouts reduce collisions, keep traffic moving, and reduce noise and air pollution, and fuel consumption.

“While I recognize that roundabouts have been shown in studies to reduce collisions at intersections, I think the Ministry needs to do more to ensure that our motorists understand how to use them safely,” Mr. Arnott pointed out. “There is more information on www.ontario.ca/roundabout and if people have questions, I will be bringing them to the Minister’s attention.”

Construction was expected to begin this summer, with a target completion date for late spring 2017.

Town of Halton Hills to receive \$675,000 in funding for Highway 7 upgrades

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has announced that the Town of Halton Hills will receive \$675,000 in Connecting Links funding for work on Highway 7.

The project, which was announced in April, includes resurfacing 500 metres of Main Street from Knox Street northerly on the Town’s Highway 7 connecting link in Acton.

“I’m glad that the Ministry is working with the Town to address our transportation needs,” Mr. Arnott said. “Mayor Rick Bonnette, Town Council, and staff all deserve credit for making the case for the need for this project.”

The news was also welcomed by Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

“This is great news. The funding from the Province will assist in maintaining the Highway 7 connecting link on Main Street,” said Mayor Bonnette. “I thank Minister Del Duca for this assistance and look forward to continuing to work with the Minister to find a long term solution to truck traffic along Highway 7 in Halton Hills.”

The Connecting Links program provides funding to municipalities to help cover up to 90% of the cost of necessary road and bridge repairs on provincial highways passing through built up areas.

The program was first established in the 1920s, but was abruptly cancelled by the Government without consultation in 2013.

At the time of the cancellation, the Town of Halton Hills had \$9.4 million in planned construction work over a 5 year period on connecting link roadways.

Opposition MPPs, including Mr. Arnott, repeatedly pushed the Government to restore the program. In April 2015, the Government announced that it was reviving the program.

“The cancellation of the original Connecting Link program created huge problems for municipalities like the Town of Halton Hills, and I’m glad the Government recognized that they had made a mistake and restored the program,” Mr. Arnott said.

Township of Centre Wellington to receive \$2.2 million to replace St. David Street Bridge

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has announced \$2.2 million in funding to rehabilitate the St. David Street Bridge in Fergus.

“This is great news,” said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott. “I want to thank the Ministry of Transportation for recognizing the need to partner with the Township of Centre Wellington on this project.”

Crossing the Grand River on Highway 6 in downtown Fergus, the St. David Street Bridge is in urgent need of replacement due to its age and deteriorating condition. The Township of Centre Wellington had cautioned that if the bridge is not replaced in the next two or three years, there might be no choice but to place load restrictions on it for safety reasons, causing ongoing traffic chaos.

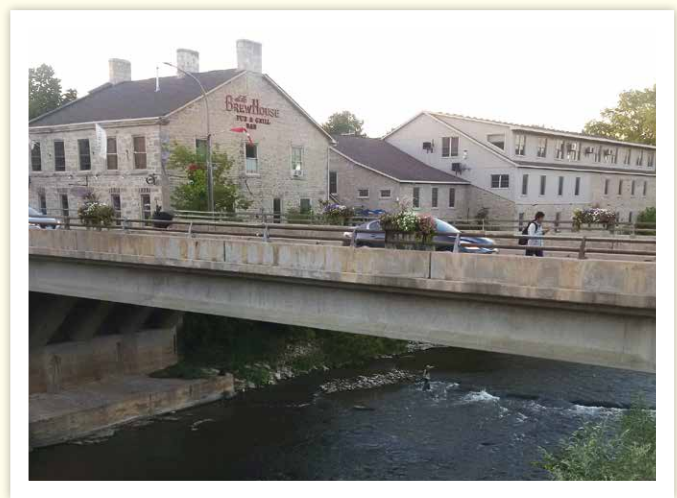
“Mayor Kelly Linton, Council, and staff deserve credit for their efforts in securing this funding,” Mr. Arnott said. “They put together a strong, thorough application and their work has paid off.”

After the Township submitted its application earlier this year, Mr. Arnott approached the Minister of Transportation in the Legislature on February 18 to discuss the importance of the project with him and personally gave him a letter in support of the project.

The Ministry of Transportation has committed to contribute about \$2.28 million of the total construction

cost of \$2.53 million. This funding will come through the Ministry of Transportation’s Connecting Links Program, which provides funding to municipalities to help cover up to 90% of the cost of necessary road and bridge repairs on provincial highways passing through built up areas.

The Township expects the reconstruction of the St. David Street Bridge to begin in 2018.



ST. DAVID STREET BRIDGE – The St. David Street Bridge in Fergus is in urgent need of replacement due to its age and deteriorating condition. The Ministry of Transportation announced \$2.2 million in funding to rehabilitate the bridge.

(Photo by Ted Arnott)



This winter, Ted and Lisa invite you to join them for Family Skates in:

Georgetown

Sunday, January 8, 2017
from 2:15 - 3:45 pm

Acton

Sunday, January 15, 2017
from 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Erin

Sunday, January 22, 2017
from 12:00 - 1:30 pm



FAMILY SKATES – Each January, Ted and Lisa Arnott host family skates in communities across Wellington-Halton Hills. (left) Ted and Lisa welcome guests to the Aberfoyle rink in January while (right) people enjoy time on the ice in Acton.

Keeping in Touch – Fall 2016



TOYOTA – Ted Arnott is shown around the Toyota plant in Cambridge by Scott MacKenzie, Manager of Business Planning and Government Affairs and Pat Clement, Assistant Manager of Government Affairs in April. Beside them is the very first Lexus assembled outside of Japan. While serving as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development during the late 1990s, Ted was involved in bringing a number of auto parts plants to our area, which created hundreds of long-term jobs.

(Photo by Jack Arnott)



SPIRIT OF THE HILLS – People pack downtown Hillsburgh to enjoy Spirit of the Hills Family Fun Day, held annually in August.

(Photo by Ted Arnott)

High-speed internet important for rural communities, says MPP Arnott

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is welcoming news that the Federal and Provincial Governments are finally partnering to expand access to high-speed internet in southwestern Ontario.

On July 26, the Ontario Government announced that it is partnering with the Government of Canada to expand access to broadband internet in southwestern Ontario by delivering fibre-optic coverage to over 300 communities. Both the Ontario and the Federal Governments have promised to provide \$90 million toward the project, which is part of the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project.

“This is welcome news,” Mr. Arnott said. “Lack of access to affordable high-speed internet in some parts of rural Ontario is holding us back.”

The veteran MPP has been advocating for the expansion of

access to high-speed internet for some time. In July 2014, he tabled a Private Member’s Resolution in the Ontario Legislature calling on the Government to develop a strategy to ensure that all Ontarians have access to affordable, reliable, high speed internet. His resolution called on the Government to work with the Western Ontario Warden’s Caucus and the Federal Government to achieve this goal through the development of public/private partnerships. It was tabled on the very first day the House resumed following the June 2014 election and is still one of the first items on the Legislature’s Order Paper.

“I’m glad to see that the Government finally appears to be listening to what we’ve been saying,” Mr. Arnott said.

He pointed out that expanding access to high-speed internet in rural Ontario will have significant economic benefits.

“Access to reliable and affordable high speed internet is essential in today’s economy,” Mr. Arnott argued. “It would help our local businesses grow and attract new investment in our rural communities.”

While Mr. Arnott is hopeful that this is a positive step forward, he noted that the announcement is short on details.

“Unfortunately, the Government’s news release did not indicate a firm time frame for the actual launch of the improved internet service or a complete list of the communities which would benefit from it,” Mr. Arnott said. “I hope to raise this issue in the Legislature when it resumes sitting in September.”

Over his 26 years in the Ontario Legislature, many of Mr. Arnott’s Private Member’s Bills and resolutions have been passed into law or adopted as Government policy.

MPP Arnott presents hydro petitions in Legislature

In response to the ever-increasing cost of electricity in Ontario, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott launched a petition in January calling on the Government to take immediate action to stabilize hydro rates.

On February 16, the very first day the Legislature resumed after the Christmas break, Mr. Arnott was in the House to begin petitioning the Provincial Government. He continued to present petitions on the high cost of hydro throughout the sitting until the House rose in June.

“We launched the petition earlier this year to give people an easy way to speak out against the rising cost of electricity in our province,” Mr. Arnott said. “We’ve gotten a great response from people across Wellington-Halton Hills. I want to thank everyone who has helped

distribute the petition and gather signatures.”

So far the petition has been signed by more than 2000 people.

Mr. Arnott stressed that our local hydro utilities such as Halton Hills Hydro and Centre Wellington Hydro are not to blame for rising hydro rates. “They do a great job,” he said.

The petition points out that the cancellation of the Oakville and Mississauga gas plants costing \$1.1 billion, feed-in-tariff (FIT) contracts with wind and solar companies, the sale of surplus energy to neighbouring jurisdictions at a loss, the Debt Retirement Charge, the Global Adjustment, and Smart Meters that haven’t met their conservation targets have all put upward pressure on hydro bills. The sale of 60% of Hydro One will likely only exacerbate the problem.

“Hydro rates are being driven up by the deliberate and conscious policy decisions of the Ontario Government over the past decade,” Mr. Arnott added.

The Auditor General’s 2015 report found that Ontarians overpaid for electricity by \$37 billion over the past 8 years. The Auditor General estimates that Ontarians will overpay by an additional \$133 billion over the next 18 years, if nothing changes.

Anyone interested in adding their signature to the petition can print off a copy from Mr. Arnott’s website at www.tedarnottmpp.com or contact Mr. Arnott’s Riding Office at 1-800-265-2366 or ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org.

“I intend to continue to present the petitions as they come in once the House resumes in the fall,” Mr. Arnott concluded.

EMANCIPATION

DAY – Ted Arnott and Rosemary Sadlier, past President of the Ontario Black History Society celebrate Emancipation Day at an event at Queen’s Park in early August. In 2008, Ted and then-Liberal MPP Maria Van Bommel worked together to co-sponsor the Emancipation Day Act, proclaiming August

1 as Emancipation Day in Ontario, in recognition of the day that slavery was ended in the British Empire. The Emancipation Day Act also has the distinction of being the very first bill to be introduced, which was co-sponsored by MPPs from different parties.



GREEN LEGACY – Ted Arnott and County of Wellington Green Legacy staff meet with senior staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at Ted’s Queen’s Park office in April. Mr. Arnott is continuing to push the Provincial Government to get behind the idea of an Ontario Green Legacy Programme, with the goal of planting 150 million trees across the province beginning in 2017.

The riding of Wellington-Halton Hills

In 2013, the Government of Canada completed its process to redistribute the federal riding boundaries for seats in the House of Commons in Ottawa. This work was carried out by an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission.

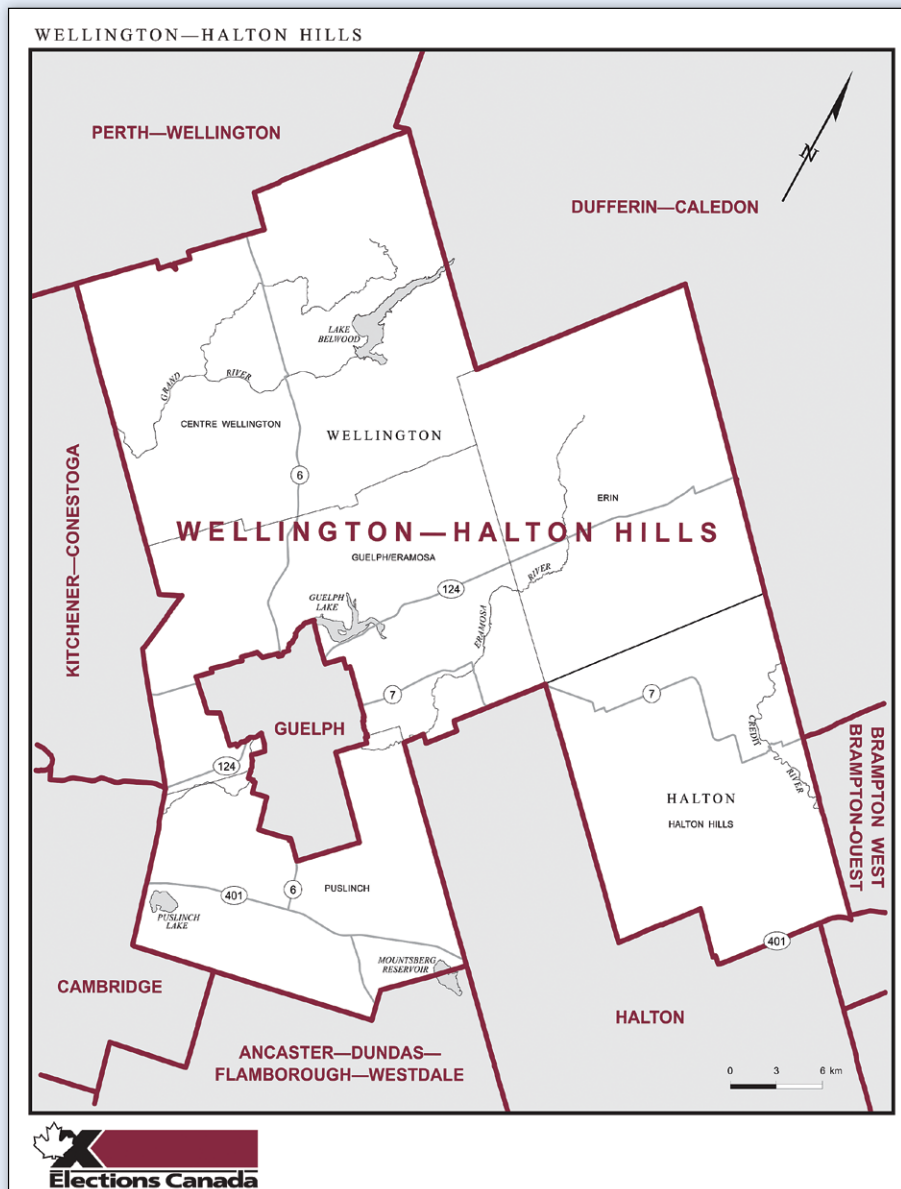
As a result of this process, Ontario received an additional 15 seats in the House of Commons in the 2015 federal election and new riding boundaries were established for many ridings.

However, the boundaries of Wellington-Halton Hills, represented in Ottawa by MP Michael Chong since 2004, did not change.

In December 2015, the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 115, Electoral Boundaries Act, 2015, which will 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. These changes will take effect in time for the next provincial election, which is expected in 2018.

This means the provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills, represented in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Ted Arnott since 2007, will 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, so as to earn and deserve your trust.”



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

- The Township of Centre Wellington (including Fergus, Elora and Belwood)
- The Town of Erin (including Erin and Hillsburgh)
- The Township of Guelph/Eramosa (including Rockwood and Eden Mills)
- The Town of Halton Hills (including Georgetown and Acton)
- The Township of Puslinch (including Aberfoyle and Morriston)