

TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Keeping in Touch – Fall 2012



Debt reduction should be a top priority: MPP Arnott

Debt reduction should be a top priority for the Provincial Government, says Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

On March 28, Mr. Arnott tabled a resolution in the Ontario Legislature, calling upon the Government to commit to begin paying down the provincial debt once the budget is balanced. The resolution reads:

“That in the opinion of this House, after the provincial budget is balanced, the Government should begin paying down the provincial debt by creating a new line item in the budget, committing to making a payment on the principal of the provincial debt of at least 2.5 percent of the program spending of that fiscal year.”

“Paying interest on the debt is currently the third highest provincial expenditure. We will be paying \$10.6 billion in interest this year alone,” Mr. Arnott noted. “That number does not even begin to pay down the principal of the debt.”

In its budget, the Government projected that the net debt per capita – in effect, the amount of Provincial debt that each Ontarian owes – will rise from \$17,766 to \$19,243, this year to next. It was \$11,339 in 2003.

Page 199 of the Ontario Budget Papers shows that over the next year, the net provincial debt will rise from \$237.6 billion to \$260.4 billion. The debt was \$138.8 billion in 2003.

While Mr. Arnott’s motion was

defeated by the Liberals in a vote on April 19, he intends to continue to highlight the importance of the issue.

“I believe this is an issue of fundamental importance and I’m going to keep raising it,” Mr. Arnott concluded. “We simply can’t continue to spend money that we don’t have and leave the bill for future generations.”

In his 22 years in the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Arnott has often raised alarm bells about the provincial debt. It was the focus of his maiden speech in the Legislature as an MPP in 1990 and the subject of two motions he introduced in 1997 and 2003 which preceded his 2012 debt retirement motion.

Worth Repeating

“Many people seem to have developed a tolerance to governments accumulating mammoth debts, but this is a dangerous attitude because the payment of the accumulated debt and its interest costs will ultimately come from taxpayers’ pockets. Today’s deficits and accumulated debts are tomorrow’s taxes. It is absolutely essential that the Government learns to live within its means and stop adding to the debt, otherwise the future standard of living of our children and grandchildren will be jeopardized.”

– Ted Arnott, MPP, December 1992, Newsletter to Constituents

“I know that some people over the years have advocated in favour of deficit financing year after year... However, this kind of thinking ignored the serious long term consequences to our economy and the debt.”

– Ted Arnott, MPP, October 9, 1997 in the Ontario Legislature

Contact Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott

Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office

181 St. Andrew St. East, 2nd Floor
Fergus, Ontario N1M 1P9
Tel. (519) 787-5247 • Fax (519) 787-5249
Toll Free Call: 1-800-265-2366
Email: ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org

Queen’s Park Office

Room 420, Legislative Building
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A8
Tel. (416) 325-3880 • Fax (416) 325-6649
Email: ted.arnott@pc.ola.org

Visit us on the web: www.tedarnottmpp.com

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STATION ROAD BRIDGE – Ted Arnott views the Station Road bridge in Hillsburgh. Ted has been working with the Town of Erin to encourage the Ministry of Natural Resources to allow the Town to move forward with the reopening of the road.



HIGHLAND GAMES – (From left) Halton Regional Councillor Clark Somerville, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, Ted Arnott, and Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong attended the Georgetown Highland Games in June. This year marked the first time that representatives from all four orders of Government were on stage.

(Photo courtesy of Clark Somerville)

GTA West Corridor Study's "Alternative 4-3" shelved

On May 17, 2012, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott took the opportunity to respond in the Ontario Legislature to the news that the Ministry of Transportation was no longer recommending "Alternative 4-3" as part of the GTA West Corridor Study. The following is the text of his remarks taken from Hansard, the official record of debates:

Mr. Ted Arnott: On behalf of the people of Wellington-Halton Hills, I want to thank the Minister of Transportation for his decision to cancel alternative 4-3 of the GTA West Corridor study. Sometimes the wheels of government move slowly, but other times they move at breathtaking speed. On Tuesday, I tabled a resolution calling on the minister to announce that he was ending further consideration of alternative 4-3. Less than 24 hours after that resolution was tabled, the minister decided to deal with the issue, and yesterday he initiated a meeting with the mayor of Halton Hills to deliver the good news.

I want to thank the countless individuals who have worked so tirelessly to bring about this resolution: the town of Halton Hills council, Halton regional council, and members of CRASHH, especially Wendy Bruchal, for all the work that they have done. This victory belongs to them.

For almost a year, my staff and I have worked hard to bring attention to the issue in this House. In September, I outlined a 10-point plan of the steps I wanted to take. One by one, we checked off the points before Christmas. I have raised it on multiple occasions in this House.

I have written and spoken directly to both the Premier and the Minister of Transportation, drafted a petition, and pushed for a briefing with senior staff at the Ministry of Transportation.

Over the past year, we've all worked so hard to bring about this conclusion. I want to congratulate my constituents for working together to put an end to alternative 4-3.

Post Script: In spite of the Government's assurances, Mr. Arnott sought written confirmation of the Government's commitment. He continues to carefully monitor this issue.

MPP Arnott: Government should reconsider position on horse racing industry

In the wake of the Ontario Government's decision to end the Slots at Racetracks program effective March 31, 2013, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is continuing to stand up for the horse racing industry and has asked the Ontario Government to reconsider its decision.

On May 29, Mr. Arnott and Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece, attended a meeting hosted by the County of Wellington to discuss the Government's decision to end the Slots at Racetracks Program.

"I had the opportunity on Tuesday night to attend a big public meeting in Wellington county that was organized by the warden of Wellington county, Chris White, and the county council," Mr. Arnott told the Legislature. "There were hundreds of people there who were very, very concerned about the potential devastation of the equine industry because of the government's decision to end the slots-at-racetracks program."

Mr. Arnott took the opportunity to once again call upon the Government to reconsider its decision and to listen to the concerns of rural Ontario. He has repeatedly

stressed the importance of the horse racing industry to Wellington-Halton Hills.

"I would guess that hundreds – perhaps even thousands – of my constituents are employed in the industry in one way or another, from the farmer to the horse people to the breeder to the veterinarian," Mr. Arnott said. "It's an important component, even a pillar, of the economy of rural Ontario."

While the Government has characterized the program as a subsidy, Mr. Arnott argues that it is in fact a revenue sharing agreement. When slot machines were first installed at racetracks in the late 1990s, there was an agreement that the slots revenue would be shared with the horse racing industry and local municipalities.

In August, Mr. Arnott and Mr. Pettapiece released an economic analysis, obtained through the Freedom of Information process, that was prepared as Confidential Advice to the Cabinet. The document was dated March 14th, 2012, two days after the Government announced it was cancelling the Slots at Racetracks Program. It proves conclusively that the Government did not do its homework prior to making its decision.

The Government has appointed a Transition Panel to advise on the future of horse racing in Ontario. In its interim report, the Panel found that:

- "Without slots revenue or a new revenue stream, the horse racing industry in Ontario will cease to exist."
- "Absent some other new revenue stream, no Ontario racetrack has a viable business plan to continue racing operations after March 31, 2013."
- "The essential ingredients for a viable horse racing industry – tracks, race dates and purses, and products – will dissolve once the slots-at-racetracks program ends."
- "If the industry closes, the panel has received expert advice that provision should be made for the humane dispatch and disposal of 7,500 to 13,000 horses in early 2013."





Remembering Bill Moody

This past spring, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott delivered the following statement in the Ontario Legislature to honour the late Bill Moody:

On May 5, one of my best friends and perhaps the greatest community builder I've ever known passed away.

Bill Moody dedicated his life to making his community a stronger, better, and more caring place.

A teacher by profession, he served as a Town Councillor in Mount Forest.

He was also Canada's representative on the Board of Directors of Lions International, where he represented all the Lions Clubs in our country.

He helped to start and organize countless Lions Clubs throughout North America.

Bill was instrumental in the establishment of the Lions Foundation of Canada's Dog Guides Centre in Oakville. This Centre has trained more than

1700 dog guides for blind, deaf and other special needs men, women and children.

He was also the founding Executive Director of Lions Quest Canada – an organization which has developed drug prevention, violence prevention and anger management programming for students.

Bill also served the larger community of Ontario with distinction as the Chair of the Ontario Film Review Board, which has the important responsibility of classifying films to give parents the information they need, to decide which movies their kids shouldn't see.

I tell my sons that when they grow up, you have three big obligations to fulfill in order to have a full life: You have your family life, your professional life, and your community life. You can't have a full life without all three.

Bill Moody's life taught me that. Through his tireless work, he has left a lasting legacy and made Ontario a better place. I know that I speak for all Members when I offer our condolences to Bill's wife Kaye and the rest of the Moody family.

MPPs Arnott, Pettapiece renew call for wind turbine moratorium

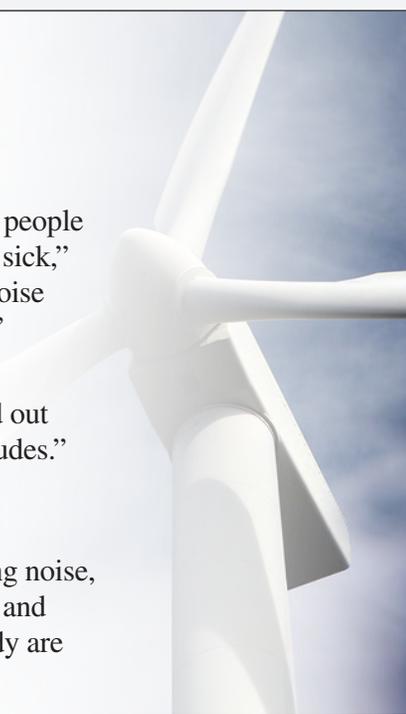
In light of a new study announced by Health Canada in July, MPPs are calling on the McGuinty Government to start listening to concerns about the health effects of wind turbines.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott and Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece have again called on the province to impose an immediate moratorium on new wind turbines. Their demand came after Health Canada announced its new study on the relationship between wind turbine noise and potential health effects, specifically for those living near wind developments.

"For years, we have heard that some people living near wind turbines are getting sick," noted Mr. Arnott. "Low-frequency noise from the turbines may be causing it."

He continued: "Before they build any new wind farms, we need to find out what the Health Canada study concludes."

The Health Canada study is being designed with support from external experts specializing in areas including noise, health assessment, clinical medicine and epidemiology. The results of the study are expected in 2014.



WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Ted and Lisa Arnott help out at the Habitat for Humanity build in Fergus on August 24th.



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE – Ted Arnott with his colleague and friend York-Simcoe MPP Julia Munro. Mrs. Munro brought her Borzoi to the Guelph and District Annual Dog Show in Fergus.

Ground broken on Georgetown Hospital expansion

On May 29, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Georgetown Hospital to mark the start of construction on the hospital expansion project.

The expansion will provide the hospital with a new emergency room and CT Scanner.

Mr. Arnott praised the community for its dedication to the project.

“As I’ve often said, the most eloquent speech in the Legislature touting a community project never amounts to a hill of beans unless the project is a good one, which has a lot of strong community support,” said Mr. Arnott. “The Georgetown Hospital project is a very good one with a lot of strong community support.”

Mr. Arnott recognized the hospital staff, the board, foundation, and volunteer association for their dedication and commitment to advancing the project.

He also gave credit to the Mayor and the Town of Halton Hills Council for their work, which was instrumental in helping to secure a provincial grant of up to \$2.6 million.

Mr. Arnott has repeatedly advocated for the hospital project at Queen’s Park over the past two years, including bringing it to the floor of the Legislature in a private member’s resolution.

It is important to note that the Provincial Government is not covering the entire cost of the project and fundraising efforts are ongoing. More information can be found at: www.georgetownhospitalfoundation.ca

The Provincial Government has announced approval for a new Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington. Mr. Arnott advocated for this project for years. For information on how you can support the fundraising activities of Groves, visit: www.grovesfoundation.com



HOSPITAL GROUNDBREAKING – On May 29, ground was broken on the Georgetown Hospital expansion project. The project will provide the hospital with a much needed new emergency room and CT Scanner.

(Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Hospital)

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BOWL FOR KIDS – Ted and his son Dean enjoy the bowling fundraisers hosted every year by Big Brothers Big Sisters. They attended events in both Guelph and Georgetown on Sunday, February 26.



CELEBRATING ACCESSIBILITY AT ST. ALBAN'S ACTON – The Right Rev. Michael Bird, Anglican Bishop of Niagara cuts the ribbon to celebrate the new accessibility lift and upgrades at St. Alban's Anglican Church in Acton. The Trillium Foundation provided a grant of \$150,000 towards the cost of the project. Members of Town Council and MPP Ted Arnott were there to offer congratulations.



Construction begins on Acton GO train station

On July 26, Metrolinx, the province's transit coordinating agency, announced that construction would begin on the Acton GO train station by the end of the month.

The announcement was welcome news to Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

"The new GO train station in Acton will create greater access to public transportation into Toronto for our residents, and I believe that people in our area will want to use it," Mr. Arnott said.

According to Metrolinx, once the Acton GO Station is completed, it will be serviced by two morning and two evening trains on the Kitchener line. Late last year, GO Transit extended service to Kitchener and Guelph.

"I want to congratulate the Mayor, Council, and staff of the Town of Halton Hills, for their persistence and hard work in helping to get this project moving forward,"

said Mr. Arnott. "In addition, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr has always been extremely supportive of extending the GO trains."

Mr. Arnott also acknowledged Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong for his role in helping to secure federal funding for a new bridge over the Credit River. The new bridge allowed for the installation of a second track, removing a bottleneck and allowing for the expansion of service.

For many years, Mr. Arnott has also been an advocate of extending GO service to Acton, Guelph, and Kitchener. He has raised the issue in the Legislature on several occasions, had discussions with the Minister of Transportation, and arranged meetings in Toronto. Following up in December 2008, he tabled a Private Member's Resolution calling upon the Government to extend GO Transit rail service to include stops in Acton, Guelph, and Kitchener-Waterloo by September 2011.

"I hope that Metrolinx will soon make a specific public commitment as to exactly when the GO trains will begin picking up people in Acton," Mr. Arnott concluded.

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VISIONARY LEADERSHIP ON BIOGAS – Korb Whale of Clovermead Farms gives Ted Arnott and Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece a tour of his family's farm at an event hosted by the Wellington Federation of Agriculture to highlight the potential of biogas energy.



HENDERSON SCORES FOR CANADA – Ted Arnott and his son Phill welcome hockey legend Paul Henderson to the Georgetown Mold-Masters SportsPlex Arena. Henderson was visiting as part of the Henderson Jersey Homecoming Tour, remembering the 1972 Canada-USSR Summit Series.

SURVEY

Please cut along dotted line above and mail to:

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills
Room 420, Legislative Building
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A8

**Ted Arnott needs your feedback.
He intends to personally review each survey returned.**

1. Do you support the McGuinty Government's decision to end the Slots at Racetracks program?

Yes No Unsure

2. Do you think the 2012 Ontario budget was the correct approach to Ontario's fiscal challenges?

Yes No Unsure

3. What do you think the Provincial Government's #1 priority should be today?

Debt and Deficit Reduction Healthcare
 Economy Education Renewable Energy
 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____

MPP Arnott and Puslinch Council push for Morriston bypass

The Morriston bypass is an urgent infrastructure need that would not only benefit residents of Wellington-Halton Hills, but also people across southern Ontario, says Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

On May 29, Mr. Arnott, Puslinch Mayor Dennis Lever, Councillors Ken Roth and Wayne Stokley, and County Councillor Don McKay met with Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli to discuss the need for a bypass around Morriston in the Township of Puslinch.

Mr. Arnott has been advocating for a bypass for years.

The project would realign Highway 6 south of Highway 401 to bypass the congested two lane section through the community of Morriston. The area is currently a bottleneck, with traffic jams that often stretch for several

kilometres.

Highway 6 serves as an important economic corridor, linking the 401 to the Hamilton and Niagara regions, as well as to the U.S. border.

“The Morriston bypass is a project which has clear economic benefits for the whole province,” said Mr. Arnott. “Businesses are looking to locate in areas with a transportation network that allows them to get their goods to the market. This project helps to provide the infrastructure that they need to do that.”

Mr. Arnott and the Township of Puslinch Council are pushing the Ministry of Transportation to put the Morriston bypass onto its 5 year plan.

The Government has budgeted \$2.4 billion for highway infrastructure for the 2012-13 fiscal year.



MORRISTON BYPASS – (From left) County Councillor Don McKay, Councillor Wayne Stokley, Councillor Ken Roth, Ted Arnott, and Mayor Dennis Lever attend a meeting with the Minister of Transportation to push him to put the Morriston bypass on to the Province’s 5 year plan.

Local ALS Walk provides hope

On June 2, hundreds of people gathered at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School in Georgetown for the annual Acton-Georgetown Walk for ALS.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, who attended the walk, delivered a Member’s Statement in the Ontario Legislature on June 5 to thank everyone involved.

“The Acton-Georgetown walk has grown into the biggest ALS walk in Canada. Each year, hundreds of people show up to raise money to support those living with the disease and to fund ALS research,” said Mr. Arnott. “Last year’s walk raised \$180,000. That accounts for almost 13% of the \$1.4 million raised province-wide.”

The Acton-Georgetown Walk has raised over \$600,000 over the last 3 years.

ALS is a rapidly progressive neuromuscular disease. Those suffering with ALS have their muscles slowly degenerate, eventually leaving them unable to move.

According to the ALS Society of Canada, approximately 2,500 to 3,000 Canadians over the age of 18 are currently living with ALS. There is no known cure for the disease, but Mr. Arnott believes that the compassion of our community gives cause for hope.

Mr. Arnott recognized Dr. Jeff Sutherland and Scott Murray, two Georgetown residents who have ALS: “They have done so much work to raise awareness of the disease, and it was amazing to see how many people came out on Saturday to support them and others afflicted with ALS and their families,” he said.

He also thanked the co-chairs of the walk, Mary Jo Knox and Rob Blackburn, and the many other volunteers for their efforts in making the event such a success.



WALK FOR ALS – Ted is pictured with Dr. Jeff Sutherland of Georgetown. Jeff inspires everyone he meets.

(Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent and Free Press)