

TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Keeping in Touch – Update 2012



Getting Things Done in Wellington-Halton Hills

If you're prepared to share the credit and work cooperatively across party lines, a lot more can be accomplished, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott believes.

"We've had a very productive year, working together with elected Councils, local officials, and organizations," Mr. Arnott said.

"I want to thank my outstanding staff, our community-minded supporters, and everyone we've worked with," Mr. Arnott added. "Through a spirit of cooperation and teamwork, we have been able to get a lot done."

Recent highlights in Wellington-Halton Hills include:

- Helping to secure up to \$2.6 million in funding for the Georgetown Hospital's renovation project.
- Obtaining approval for a new Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington.
- Helping PNH patient Lucas Maciesza and his family receive a life-saving medication called Soliris and successfully calling on the government to cover the cost of Soliris for all patients.
- Successfully calling for the temporary suspension of the GTA West Corridor Study, pending a review by the next Minister of Transportation.
- Pushing for interim funding for small nursing homes with low occupancy rates – helping homes like Morriston Park Nursing Home, south of Guelph.
- Receiving recognition at Queen's Park for taking the lead to pass a bill observing Emancipation Day in Ontario – the first bill in Ontario's history to be co-sponsored by MPPs of different parties.
- Receiving Honourary Membership in the Ontario Association of Road Supervisors for working on their behalf. This adds to Mr. Arnott's Honourary Membership in the Fire Fighters' Association of Ontario, for his work to support volunteer firefighters.

Contact Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott

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Economy must be a priority

Ontario's sluggish and uneven economic recovery continues to be a top of mind concern in Wellington-Halton Hills, says MPP Ted Arnett.

"Too many people are still out of work or underemployed, and others are fearful that their jobs are not secure," Mr. Arnett stated. "The provincial Government must do its part to support economic development and job creation, and help to restore faith in the future."

In October, before he was even sworn in for his sixth term in the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Arnett called upon the Government to bring forward a comprehensive jobs plan. He reiterated many suggestions that he and his colleagues have been promoting for years, including reducing the tax burden and improved support for small business and the elimination of red tape.

Mr. Arnett followed up by inviting the new Minister of Economic Development, the Hon. Brad Duguid, to visit Wellington-Halton Hills, in a gesture of non-partisan cooperation.

He also convened a meeting of elected municipal councillors to seek their advice on their local economic development issues, as well as other concerns.

"We all need to work together on this most urgent priority and support small business by addressing their tax and regulation issues where we can," Mr. Arnett added.

"Government can be an obstacle to private sector job creation, or a supporting partner," he concluded. "We need to do all we can to encourage job growth."



FIGHTING FOR GEORGETOWN – Ted Arnett and Whitby-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott visited the Georgetown Hospital to put pressure on the government to come through with funding for the needed renovation project, including a new Emergency Room and CT Scanner. In August, the Government announced a grant of up to \$2.6 million for the project.

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA – Ted Arnett and Kitchener-Waterloo MPP Elizabeth Witmer held a press conference to make the point that the Debt Retirement Charge should be taken off hydro bills.



LISTENING TO SMALL BUSINESS – Tim Hudak visited the area recently to meet with the local business community and listen to their concerns.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



A TALE OF TWO HOSPITALS



Georgetown Hospital

On August 31, the Ontario Government finally agreed to do its part for the planned renovations of Georgetown Hospital. That, says Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, is a major victory for the community.

Health Minister Deb Matthews was on hand in Georgetown to announce the provincial grant. It provides up to \$2.6 million to help fund the hospital's renovation project, which includes a new emergency room and CT Scanner at the hospital.

"We've pushed the government to become a significant funding partner for this project," Mr. Arnott stated. "Hospital administration, staff, and volunteers deserve our thanks and recognition, as do the Town of Halton Hills Council and staff, the Hospital Board Foundation, the Volunteer Association, and all the generous contributors.

They have all worked hard to advance this project and deserve a huge amount of credit for their efforts."

Mr. Arnott had been repeatedly advocating for the hospital in the Legislature for more than a year. His efforts included writing numerous letters, arranging meetings, speaking directly with the Minister of Health and Ministry staff, and even initiating a debate and vote in the Legislature to support the project.

Kitchener-Waterloo MPP and former Minister of Health Elizabeth Witmer praised Mr. Arnott's work on behalf of the Georgetown Hospital: "Ted is tenacious on issues like this, and he never gives up," Mrs. Witmer said. "This announcement would never have happened without the work he did."

While the announcement is welcome news, the Provincial Government is not covering the entire cost of the project and local fundraising efforts are ongoing. For more information visit <http://www.georgetownhospitalfoundation.ca/>.

Groves Memorial Community Hospital

Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington has finally been given the green light to proceed with the development of its long awaited new facility.

The announcement was made on August 25 and was the culmination of many years of work on the issue.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott expressed appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved: "Persistence and doing your homework always pays off. For that, the County of Wellington, the Township of Centre Wellington, the hospital board, the foundation, staff, and volunteers deserve our thanks and congratulations. This would not have happened without all their hard work and support."

John Wilkinson, the former Minister of the Environment, acknowledged Mr. Arnott's work:

"Ted has been relentless as your representative. It's important that you have an MPP in your corner. Ted was able to get me as an ally to the cause."

However, while the government has committed funding, local residents should remain vigilant.

"I will hold the government to the commitments it made to both Groves and Georgetown hospitals," Mr. Arnott said. "These projects are of vital importance to our community and until the shovels are in the ground, we must keep up the pressure to ensure that the government follows through on its promises."

Despite the government's commitment, there is always a need for local fundraising. The Groves Foundation continues its fundraising efforts and its Get Real Campaign is currently underway to raise funds for OR and ER equipment. For more information visit <http://www.grovesfoundation.com/>

Government Pressured to Abandon Alternative 4-3

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is continuing his campaign to exert pressure on the Provincial Government over the GTA West Corridor Study. During the December sitting of the Legislature, Mr. Arnott rose in Question Period to challenge Premier Dalton McGuinty to permanently shelve Alternative 4-3.

“Now is not the time for more dithering on this issue,” declared Mr. Arnott. “We need a clear and unequivocal answer. Will the Premier assure my constituents that he will put an end to Alternative 4-3 once and for all?”

Alternative 4-3 is one of the options being examined by the Ministry of Transportation as part of its plan to manage future transportation growth in the GTA. It proposes the development of a new highway across southern Halton Hills, connecting the 401 to the 400. It has been met with strong opposition from local residents.

Alternative 4-3 has the potential to have long term, adverse affects on Halton Hills,” Mr. Arnott told the Legislature. “A new highway built along the Alternative 4-3 route would cut our community in half, destroy farmland and heritage sites, and have a negative impact on our local environment.”

Mr. Arnott has worked hard to raise awareness of this issue in the Legislature. In addition to his question to the Premier, steps that Mr. Arnott has taken include delivering a Member’s Statement outlining local concerns, writing and speaking directly to both the Minister of Transportation and the Premier, and attending a briefing with senior officials at the Ministry of Transportation.

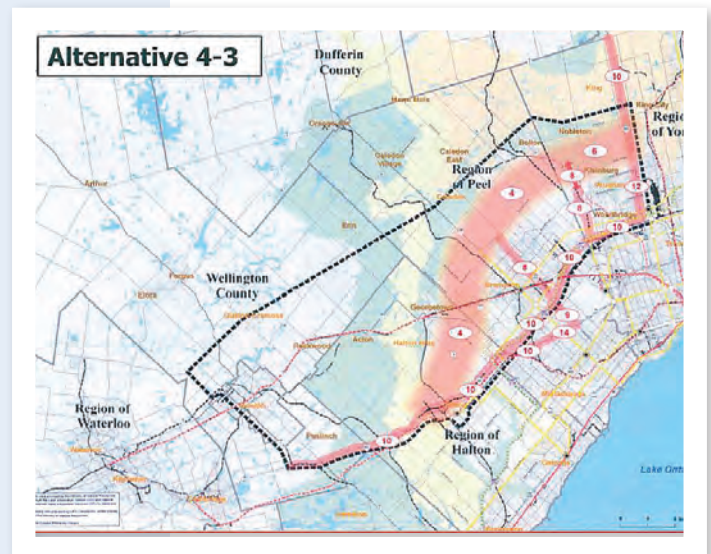
The Town of Halton Hills and the Region of Halton have also been very vocal in their opposition to the highway. Mr. Arnott singled out Mayor Rick Bonnette, Regional Chair Gary Carr, and CRASHH founder Wendy Bruchal, for their leadership and hard work: “They have been campaigning tirelessly to bring attention to this issue and I look forward to continuing to work with them.”

Mr. Arnott has also launched a petition to allow residents to further pressure the government. “I would encourage as many people as possible to sign the petition and send a strong message to the Government that our community does not want this highway,” said Mr. Arnott. “It is important that we continue to make our voice heard.”

A copy of the petition is included in this newsletter. Additional copies can be downloaded from Mr. Arnott’s website.



GTA WEST CORRIDOR STUDY –Ted Arnott and CRASHH founder Wendy Bruchal on their way to a briefing with officials from the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the GTA West Corridor Study project.



ALTERNATIVE 4-3—Alternative 4-3 of the GTA West Corridor Study may mean the development of a new highway across southern Halton Hills. Ted Arnott has brought the concerns of the community to the Legislature.

(Map courtesy of the Ministry of Transportation)

PETITION

TO the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS the McGuinty Government has initiated the GTA West Corridor Study, and

The study has identified a possible route for a new highway through the Town of Halton Hills, which is known as Alternative 4-3, and

The Province of Ontario has a total debt of at least \$236.3 billion, and a deficit this year of at least \$16 billion, and a diminished financial capacity to build new highways like this one, and

The Councils of the Town of Halton Hills and the Region of Halton have formally expressed serious concerns about Alternative 4-3, and

Many Halton Hills residents have objected in writing to Alternative 4-3, because of the impact it would have on our local environment, heritage and historical sites, good quality farmland, community identify, and property values.

WE the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

That the Minister of Transportation should announce that Alternative 4-3 of the GTA West Corridor Study has been removed from further consideration.

Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature

Please send to Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills,
Room 420, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A8

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



MORRISTON BYPASS –Ted visits Morriston to raise awareness for the need for a bypass around the town. He has repeatedly called on the government to move forward with the bypass to relieve traffic congestion in the area.

(Photo by Dean Arnett, age 12, award winning photographer, Fergus Fall Fair)

FIGHTING FOR GROVES –Ted Arnett and Whitby-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott listen to Jerome Quenneville, President and CEO of the Wellington Health Care Alliance, outline plans for the future of Groves Memorial Community Hospital.



DISCUSSING AGRICULTURE – Ted Arnett and Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece meet with representatives from the Wellington Federation of Agriculture to discuss issues facing Ontario's agricultural industry.



Auditor General Critical of Provincial Government Mismanagement

In December, the latest Auditor General's report was released. The report was highly critical of a number of the Provincial Government's signature policies. Some of the report's highlights include:

- The Ontario Government has proceeded to make a massive investment in renewable energy while failing to conduct an in-depth evaluation of its economic and environmental effects.
- Reports indicate that for every green energy job created, 2-4 jobs are lost in other sectors of the economy due to higher electricity prices.
- The \$7 billion Samsung deal was completed with little or no due diligence to determine if it was economically viable or cost-effective.
- The government has collected \$8.7 billion through the debt retirement change on electricity to pay off a debt that was originally \$7.8 billion.

New Session starts with Throne Speech, Economic Update

A new session of the Provincial Parliament began on November 22, 2011, when the Throne Speech was presented to the Ontario Legislature. The Economic Update was presented the following day, on November 23.

The Throne Speech restated the Government's commitment to implement the 30% tuition rebate for post-secondary students, the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit for seniors, and increasing home care services for seniors.

"The Throne Speech is supposed to set the tone and outline the Government's agenda for the upcoming session of Parliament," said Mr. Arnott. "The people of Wellington-Halton Hills were looking for a commitment to action on jobs and the economy and for a concerted effort to identify wasteful government spending in order to get the deficit under control."

Mr. Arnott was also disappointed by the Economic Update.

"In the Economic Update, the Government basically said that it's not going to do anything until the Drummond Report has been released," Mr. Arnott noted. "Instead of facing the budget deficit head on, they just continue to put off the day of reckoning."

The latest projection for this year's provincial deficit is \$16 billion. This means that in effect, the government is borrowing \$1.8 million every hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Arnott has pushed for the Government to show real spending restraint and undertake a full program review. Ontario needs a genuine effort to reduce the size and cost of the provincial government, while protecting healthcare and education.

SURVEY

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

Please cut along dotted line above and mail to:

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

1. If you or a family member needed the healthcare system in the past year, how would you rate the care you received?

☐ Excellent ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Poor ☐ Not Applicable

2. Are you satisfied with the Provincial Government's handling of the economy?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

3. What should be the Provincial Government's #1 priority?

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____

Around Wellington-Halton Hills

FAMILY SKATE –The Arnott family spends time together at Ted's annual family skate held in Acton on January 22. Similar events were also held in Georgetown and Elora.

(Photo courtesy of Glenna Smith)



FOOD BANK –Ted attends the Grand Opening of the new location of the East Wellington Community Services Food Bank in Erin.

(Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)



NEW FIRE TRUCK –(From left) Councillor Fred Morris, Mayor Joanne Ross-Zuj, Fire Chief Brad Patton, Ted Arnott, Councillor Walter Visser, and Fire Safety Officer Tom Mulvey take delivery of a new pumper truck in Elora.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



CUTTING THE RIBBON –Ted attends the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new elevator at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School in Acton.

(Photo courtesy of McKenzie Smith Bennett Public School)