

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT

Acton GO train station opens

On January 7, after a nearly 20 year absence, GO train service resumed in Acton when the 6:28 am train arrived on its way to Union Station in Toronto.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott was on hand to join the community celebration and, along with Mayor Rick Bonnette, boarded the first train on his way to Queen's Park.

GO Transit reports to Metrolinx, a provincially funded agency which was created to coordinate and integrate public transit in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

"It was a great day for Acton and I want to congratulate the entire community," said Mr. Arnott.

Mr. Arnott recognized the important role played by all orders of government in moving the project forward.

"The Mayor and Town of Halton Hills Council and staff have worked hard on this project and they deserve a lot of credit," said Mr. Arnott. "Regional Chair Gary Carr, Halton Regional Council, our federal MP Michael Chong, and community organizations have also been very supportive."

For several years, Mr. Arnott has been advocating for the extension of GO train service to Acton, Guelph,

and Kitchener. He raised the issue in the Ontario Legislature multiple times, had discussions with the Minister of Transportation, and arranged meetings in Toronto. 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.

"This again demonstrates what we can accomplish when we work together," said Mr. Arnott.



ALL ABOARD – Ted Arnott and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette board the first GO train to pick up passengers in Acton in almost 20 years. The Acton GO train station reopened on January 7.

(Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent & Free Press)



WORKING TOGETHER TO MOVE GROVES FORWARD
Ted Arnott welcomes Health Minister Deb Matthews to Centre Wellington to unveil the sign to mark the location of the planned new Groves Memorial Community Hospital. County of Wellington Warden Chris White and Centre Wellington Township Mayor Joanne Ross-Zuj were present as well. Mr. Arnott has repeatedly sought to reach across party lines to move both the Groves and Georgetown Hospital projects forward.

(Photo courtesy of Fergus-Elora News Express)

Keeping in Touch – Update 2013



County of Wellington launches Economic Development Strategy

In recognition of the need to be proactive in supporting business and in accommodating new residential and employment growth, the County of Wellington has adopted its first ever Economic Development Strategy.

The plan was developed in consultation with over 550 entrepreneurs, residents and partner agencies in Wellington County.

As part of the strategy, the County of Wellington plans to undertake a number of initiatives in 2013. These include:

- A cultural mapping exercise to identify the County's creative assets and employers and how to develop and promote this growing sector.

- An online comprehensive business directory for Wellington County.
- A Community Investment Profile showing all the reasons why Wellington is a great place to live, invest, and work
- An economic development online presence for our County providing access to socio-economic information, business resources, available spaces, and contacts.
- A branding study for Wellington to promote the County's unique strengths.

"County Council and staff are providing strong leadership to encourage the creation of new jobs in our communities," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott. "I want to do whatever I can to help."

The new Family Health Information Line

Did you know that you can talk directly with a local public health nurse any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.? The Halton Region Health Department now offers the Family Health Information Line (FHIL) where nurses will provide you with comprehensive, research-based information, support and counselling.

These nurses also service the telephone support for Halton Parents, where local parents can get advice and support. HaltonParents public health nurses also offer support to parents online through the website <http://www.haltonparents.ca/>, Twitter [@HaltonParents](http://www.twitter.com/haltonparents), and a parenting blog <http://haltonparents.wordpress.com/>, with Facebook soon to come. To access the Family Health Information Line, simply dial 311 or 905-825-6000 and ask for the Family Health Information Line. You can also email one of the nurses at familyhealthinfo@halton.ca

"Through this program, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, and Regional Council and staff have made public health more accessible to our local residents," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.



WORKING FOR WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS
Despite the prorogation of the Legislature, Ted has continued to represent the people of Wellington-Halton Hills. He is pictured here in his Queen's Park office on November 29, 2012.



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS
Ted performs a solo rendition of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer at Ted Flanagan's Olde Fashioned Christmas Special at St. John's United Church in Georgetown. The event was hosted by the Georgetown BIA. *(Photo courtesy of Ted Flanagan)*

TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Keeping in Touch – Update 2013



Leadership needed on provincial debt and deficit

By Ted Arnott, MPP

The Provincial Government's fall economic statement is traditionally one of the most important speeches that the Minister of Finance delivers in the Ontario Legislature. The "2012 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review" was presented on October 15th. That was the very same day that Premier McGuinty announced he was proroguing the House, and resigning as Premier of Ontario.

Clearly the timing was no coincidence. No doubt the Government hoped that the surprise of the Premier's departure would ensure that no one would notice the precarious state of the Province's finances.

In my previous newsletter, I wrote that paying down the debt should be a top priority of the Provincial Government, once the budget is balanced. I continue to advocate this idea.

The Government can no longer ignore the growing debt problem. It cannot be wished away.

Every year they continue to pretend the debt isn't an issue, they delay the inevitable, and they simply dig the hole even deeper.

Pages 104-105 of the fall economic statement's Background Papers neatly summarize the economic record of the Provincial Government for the past 10 years.

Over the past 10 years, the Province's net debt has grown from \$138.8 billion to \$257.6 billion.

Over the past 10 years, the Province's annual spending has gone from \$80 billion to \$126.4 billion.

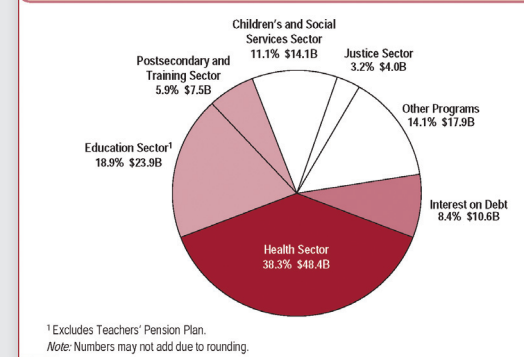
Over the past 10 years, the Province's deficit has gone from \$5.5 billion to \$14.4 billion. In effect, they are now borrowing \$1.6 million an hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Over the past 10 years, the Province's net debt per capita (in effect, the amount each of us owes because of the provincial debt) has risen from \$11,339 to \$19,075.

This year, the Province will pay \$10.6 billion in interest on the debt. This is the third largest item in the budget (only the health and education ministry budgets are larger).

Strong leadership is needed. We must prioritize, by focusing on essential services we all value, like health and our schools. We need to root out wasteful spending, and stop it. At the same time, we need to encourage businesses to create jobs.

CHART 2.27 Composition of Total Expense, 2012-13



Source: 2012 Ontario Budget

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Five points about the Government's dispute with Ontario's teachers' union leaders

By Ted Arnott, MPP

1 The vast majority of teachers are caring and dedicated professionals, who just want to teach. They have the important task of providing our children with the skills and knowledge they will need, while fostering a love of learning that needs to be lifelong.

2 The future of our province is dependent upon success in our schools, and this is why the Ontario Legislature must encourage a culture of continuous improvement in our schools, working in collaboration with teachers and parents. But most importantly, we must always put the needs of our students first.

3 Faced with a deficit of \$14 billion, rising debt interest costs of \$10 billion, a stagnating revenue outlook,

and the prospect of more credit downgrades, last year the provincial Government finally woke up to the fact that Ontario was on a downward spiral towards a fiscal crisis. Bill 115 was drafted in this context.

4 Bill 115 was far from perfect, but it was a necessary first step towards controlling the costs of the government payroll.

5 In the 2012 Provincial Budget, it was announced that the pay of Ontario MPPs would be frozen for the next two years. This follows up the current pay freeze for MPPs, which was instituted 3 years ago. It's also interesting to note that the MPP defined benefit pension plan was scrapped in 1996 and replaced with a defined contribution retirement savings plan.



DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS – Ted Arnott and Township of Puslinch Mayor Dennis Lever present Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals to Puslinch residents Marjorie Clark and Matthew Bulmer for their work in the community. Mr. Arnott worked with local municipal councils to select deserving recipients from across Wellington-Halton Hills for the honour.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



CELEBRATING A GREAT CAREER – Ted Arnott delivers a scroll congratulating Barb White of Orton on her retirement from Canada Post after 61 years of delivering mail.

(Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)



WALK FOR GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL – Ted and his son join John Duncan and his grandson at the Walk for Georgetown Hospital in September. The walk raised \$150,000 for the Hospital redevelopment project.

(Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation)

What does redistribution mean for provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills?

By Ted Arnott, MPP

In recent months, there has been discussion about the possibility of boundary changes to our federal riding of Wellington-Halton Hills.

The federal commission studying riding redistribution initially recommended leaving Wellington-Halton Hills unchanged. However, a subsequent proposal floated the idea of splitting the riding in two.

The process for reviewing federal riding boundaries is intended to be non-partisan and community based, and will continue into 2013.

Since 1999, the Ontario Legislature has accepted the same riding boundaries in Southern Ontario as the boundaries established for the federal House of Commons.

However, this is not set in stone. Going forward, the Ontario Legislature may accept or reject the new federal ridings, or possibly even create its own redistribution commission for new provincial riding boundaries.

Time will tell, and the process takes time.

In the recent past, even when the provincial Legislature has accepted the new federal riding boundaries, it has taken up to three years before they have been established as provincial ridings (*federal and provincial elections rarely coincide in the same year*).

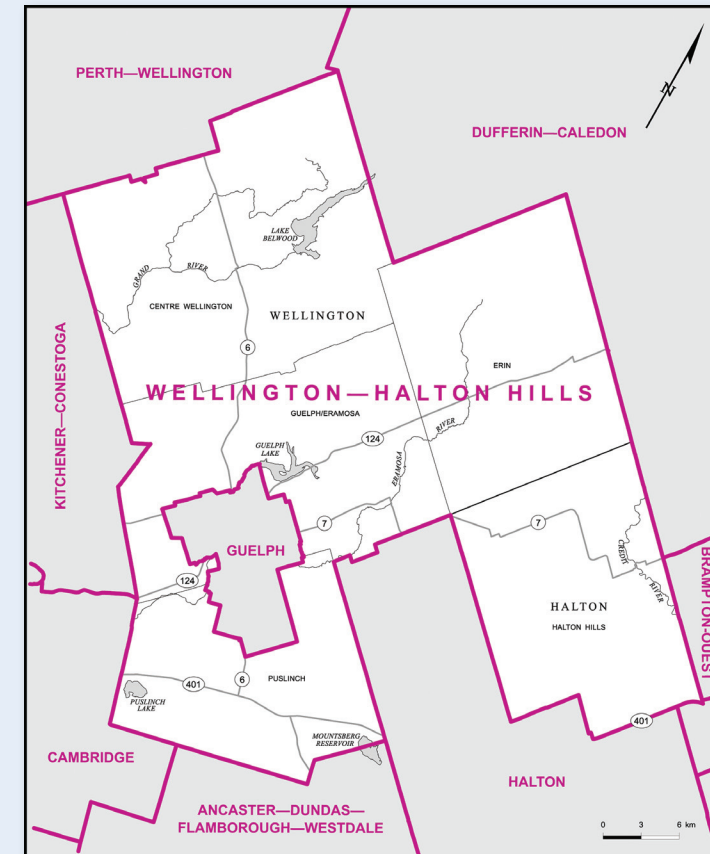
Most likely, the current boundaries for the provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills will remain intact for the next provincial election, and possibly for several years after that.

It has been my honour to serve in the Ontario Legislature for more than 22 years.

Since 2007, I have been privileged to represent all the people of Wellington-Halton Hills. During that time, I cannot recall a single instance where the interests of the Wellington side of the riding conflicted with the Halton Hills side. Our communities have much in common.

It is a pleasure to serve you. Thank you for your support.

For more information on the federal redistribution process, visit: <http://www.redecoupage-federal-redistribution.ca/content.asp?document=home>



GIVING TO A GOOD CAUSE – Ted Arnott and Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong join Kettle Campaign Coordinator Reg Marsh and Major Sam Roberts from the Salvation Army to kick off the Salvation Army's annual Christmas Kettle campaign in Acton.

(Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent & Free Press)

Small Business Survey Launched

In December, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott launched a small business survey in order to reach out to small business people across the riding.

"I want to listen to people in small business and take their ideas and concerns back with me to Queen's Park," said Mr. Arnott.

Mr. Arnott stressed the importance of small business to the local economy.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They are the most dynamic and flexible job creator that we have," he argued.

"If small businesses are thriving and making money, profits mean that pay raises for employees are possible," continued Mr. Arnott. "New opportunities mean new jobs are created. Reinvested profits strengthen productivity and build for tomorrow."

In the coming months, Mr. Arnott hopes to visit small businesses across the riding to hear their ideas and concerns.

A copy of the survey is available on Mr. Arnott's website at www.tedarnottmpp.com.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Ted talks with Roberta Scarrow, General Manager of the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce, and Councillor Fred Morris at the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce Christmas open house in Fergus.

(Photo courtesy of Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce)

Auditor General's report shows need for better oversight

Ontario Auditor General Jim McCarter released his 2012 Annual Report in December.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott noted that the Auditor General's report outlined a recurring pattern of overspending, mismanagement, and a lack of oversight by the Government at Queen's Park.

Among the problems identified by the Auditor General were:

- The introduction of Metrolinx's PRESTO card system. Intended to create an integrated regional transit fare system, it may end up costing more than \$700 million. This would make it one of the most expensive fare-card systems in the world.
- The Ministry of Finance estimates that it may need to write off \$1.4 billion in unpaid taxes. Mr. Arnott points out that this represents approximately 10% of the provincial deficit this year. The Auditor General found that more timely and aggressive action could have been taken to ensure that these taxes were collected.
- The Auditor General demonstrated that the number of crown attorneys in Ontario has more than doubled over the past decade, while the total number of criminal cases has remained about the same.
- The total expenditures of the Youth Justice Service Program have increased by more than 25% over the past 5 years, even though the number of youth served has risen by only 4% over the same period.

The Auditor General's full report can be found at: http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/reports_2012_en.htm