

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT

Never break faith, never forget

Ted spoke at the April 10th District "B" Convention of the Acton Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 197. The following is an excerpt of his remarks:

Good afternoon, comrades, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a real honour for me, as MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, and as an Associate Member of the Royal Canadian Legion of some 16 years, to join with you today along with my colleagues in elected public service, Rick Bonnette and Clark Somerville, at your District "B" Convention.

I look forward to spending the next hour or so with you here, and then returning tomorrow for the parade and service.

We meet this weekend, a day after Vimy Ridge Day, in the year 2010, which will always be known as the end of an era, when our last known Canadian veteran of the Great War, John Babcock, passed away.

We meet this weekend, remembering all who served in a Canadian uniform, those who died, those who were injured, those who were psychologically scarred, and those who came home safe, by the grace of God.

And we meet this weekend, thinking and praying for those who serve today in Canadian uniform, especially those in Afghanistan, bringing security, civilization and hope to that troubled country.

This is the mandate of the Legion—a mandate you claimed years ago as a covenant with our valiant dead, accepting Colonel John McCrae's eloquent challenge: that we never break faith, that we never forget.

But this weekend is also a time for comradeship and fun, as we catch up with each other, remembering good times.

So on behalf of the Province of Ontario, please accept my sincere thanks for your service, your commitment, your leadership and your caring, for all that you do to strengthen your community, province and country, and my best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention here in Acton, where it's "always worth the drive."

FALL UPDATE 2010 - TED ARNOTT, MPP

Thanking those who serve, keeping us safe

Ted attended the May 14th Groundbreaking Ceremony of the County of Wellington O.P.P. Operations Centre, located in Centre Wellington. He delivered the following remarks:

Good morning everyone.

It's great to be here, and I'm glad to join with members of County Council and staff, and members of local Council and staff, as we turn the ground to launch another exciting project here in the County of Wellington.

Today we celebrate our Wellington County O.P.P., and the new Operations Centre, which will soon house their activities. We celebrate the work they do, to keep our communities, our homes, our businesses, our farms, and our families, safe.

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, and privileged to serve in the Ontario Legislature, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all in our Ontario Provincial Police, for your professionalism, your team work, and most of all, your courage.

Your job is always challenging, but occasionally thankless, and sometimes dangerous.

Therefore we shouldn't miss a chance to show our gratitude, so that the pride you demonstrate each time you put on the uniform, is returned in

equal measure with the public respect you have earned, and so richly deserve.



CONGRATULATIONS – Ted presents a certificate of congratulations to Wellington County OPP Inspector Scott Smith for his role in the new operations centre. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



PREPARING FOR DUTY – Work begins on the new Centre Wellington OPP operations centre. Ted joined Warden Joanne Ross-Zuj, Police Services Board Chair Lynda White, staff and other representatives from Wellington County at the groundbreaking event held May 14th. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)

TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Fall Update 2010



Out-of-control government spending = higher taxes

The HST. Eco fees. Health care "premiums." Higher taxes on energy, electronics and plastic bags. These are some of the significant tax and fee increases imposed on the people of Ontario since 2003.

But these new taxes and fees originate from the same problem—out of control government spending.

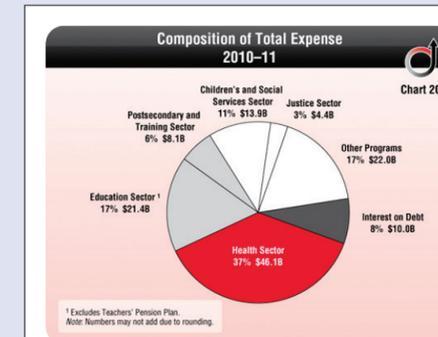
In fact, this year's Ontario deficit is estimated to be \$19.7 billion—one of the largest in our history.

To put this in perspective, the government is still borrowing \$2 million an hour more than they're

taking in, every hour of every day. Notwithstanding promises to restrain spending, overall spending continues to go up—even as taxpayers' ability to pay has gone down.

Similarly, total government debt continues to spiral upward.

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SPENDING YOUR TAX DOLLARS – This year, the Government of Ontario is spending \$10 billion on interest payments on our provincial debt. That's more than it invests in our entire postsecondary education and training system.

(Source for numbers referenced above: 2010 Ontario Budget Papers)

HST hits your family budget

This year on Canada Day, we began paying the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). This new tax combines the former GST and PST into a single 13-percent sales tax.

The HST represents a tax increase on a wide variety of products and services previously free of provincial sales tax. The HST adds an extra 8 percent tax on many everyday essentials, including gasoline, home heating, hydro, haircuts and internet service.

On gasoline alone, it's estimated that an average family with a car will pay at least \$250 more, every year. Even funeral services will become more expensive, typically by hundreds of dollars.

Ted Arnott voted against the HST and has received hundreds of messages in opposition to this new tax. Many people are asking how long this new tax will be in effect, and whether it may, at some point, be reduced or eliminated. Mr. Arnott hopes it will be possible to reduce the HST over time—but it won't be easy.

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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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HST hits your family budget

To introduce the HST, the Ontario Government signed an agreement with the Government of Canada.

If Ontario were to cancel the HST, that agreement would appear to require Ontario to pay a penalty of \$4.3 billion—money that would have to be repaid to the federal government.

That same deal would also appear to compel the next government to lock in the HST at its current 13-percent rate until at least 2012.

Sustained tax relief is only possible, says Mr. Arnott, when the economy is growing and overall spending is controlled over time. Since taking office in 2003, the current provincial government has raised total spending by an average of 7 percent per year, according to published reports.



MARRIAGE OF TAXES –
In Niagara Falls in June, Ted discussed the HST as it affects the cost of weddings. Newlyweds are now paying 8 percent more for services such as wedding planners, hall rentals, decorators, DJs and bands, photographers and hotels, to name just a few. New homes are also more expensive.

Small business creating jobs, driving recovery

Coming out of an economic downturn, up to 80 percent of new jobs created are in small business—that most innovative, dynamic and spirited sector of our economy.

Ted Arnott noted this fact on June 16th, when he spoke to members and friends of the Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre at the organization's annual board meeting.

“Governments at every level need to understand this,” said Mr. Arnott, pointing out that every big business started small. “We must always remember the single proprietor and the smallest of family businesses, where many owners don't pay themselves minimum wage, when they factor in the hours they put in, and the little they take out,” he added.

Mr. Arnott continued:

“Our small business sector provides the jobs that sustain our families and strengthen our communities, lending dignity for today and hope for a better future for all of us.”

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Out-of-control government spending = higher taxes

According to figures from the Ministry of Finance, the current provincial Government is on track to double the provincial debt by 2013, as compared to the debt level when it took office in 2003.

As of March 31, 2010, the Ministry of Finance projected total government debt at \$212.4 billion—as compared to \$176.9 billion from just a year earlier.

Unless we change course, this will almost certainly lead to one thing—even higher taxes.

Ontarians have another choice: to insist that their provincial Government stop wasting taxpayers' money and reduce spending to levels we can afford. Only then will sustained tax relief be possible.

Arnott calls for attention to agriculture

The provincial government is still paying far too little attention to the crisis in agriculture, says Ted Arnott.

“We've long known that many farmers are facing challenging times,” said Mr. Arnott. “There's no excuse for failing to act.”

Mr. Arnott wrote to the Premier in December 2009 urging action on insufficient safety net programs, a risk management program that must be fixed and extended, poor weather and growing conditions, escalating input costs and excessive government regulation.

Not at all satisfied with the government's response since that time, Mr. Arnott wrote a second, highly critical letter to the Premier on May 17th. He disputed claims that the federal government is to blame for the province's rejection of continued risk management programming.

In a June 1st letter to MPPs, the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition called the future of farming in Ontario “very bleak” without risk management programming.

Mr. Arnott believes some of this money should be spent on the Highway 6 project.



Arnott continues drive to fix Highway 6

The only thing more clogged than Highway 6 through Puslinch Township is the political will to fix that busy road, says MPP Ted Arnott.

“We've talked about [the Morriston bypass] project for decades, literally,” said Mr. Arnott in an April 19th statement in the Ontario Legislature. “I have to say we are sick and tired of this government's continued excuses for delay.”

The project would realign Highway 6, south of Highway 401, to bypass

the congested two-lane section through the town of Morriston. Traffic jams through Puslinch Township often stretch for several kilometres.

Present in the Legislature for Mr. Arnott's statement were Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation, and her parliamentary assistant at the time, Liz Sandals. Mr. Arnott called on Ms. Sandals, who is also the MPP for Guelph, to advocate for the project.

“We need MPPs to help push it forward,” Mr. Arnott said later.

This year, the Ministry of Transportation plans to spend over \$3 billion on highway expansion, highway and bridge rehabilitation and other transportation infrastructure. Mr. Arnott believes some of this money should be spent on the Highway 6 project.



Voicing his constituents' concerns

On issues ranging from the debt to the HST to health care, people in Wellington-Halton Hills are speaking up. MPP Ted Arnott brought some of his constituents' concerns to the floor of the Ontario Legislature in debate on April 19th.

Mr. Arnott quoted directly from constituents who responded to the survey in his Spring 2010 annual report.

“People are concerned about a variety of issues, but in particular the rising cost of living,” observed Mr.

Arnott. “Judging from the replies I've read so far, many of my constituents believe this government is on the wrong track, especially when it comes to the HST.”

“It was a great opportunity to bring many of their responses directly to the floor of the legislature,” he continued. “I want to thank everyone who replied.”

Mr. Arnott brought forward the survey responses during debate on the government's budget bill.

Working together to improve local health care

Ted Arnott believes the health care system must be there for our families when we need it.

He says the provincial government needs to provide the necessary leadership, ensuring the system is properly managed. The province also needs to provide the necessary resources, ensuring accessibility and the highest possible standard of care.

Mr. Arnott continues to advocate for hospital redevelopment in Wellington-Halton Hills. He is calling for a fair and honest provincial hospital redevelopment planning process, which allows communities to move forward without manipulating their expectations or giving them the run-around.

Local health care providers deserve high praise, he adds.

“I want to express my thanks to everyone involved in health care in Wellington-Halton Hills,” said Mr. Arnott. “Your compassion and professionalism are at the heart of our system.”

He singled out the Georgetown Hospital and the Groves Memorial Community Hospital Volunteer Associations.

“Both of our Hospital Volunteer Associations deserve special mention and credit for the money they raise for hospital equipment and improvements the Ministry of Health is unable to fund,” he concluded.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PHARMACIES –
In response to the provincial government's cuts affecting community pharmacies, Young's Pharmacy in Georgetown participated in the “Stop the Cuts” campaign to preserve patient services. As in many pharmacies across Ontario, customers signed petitions to the Legislative Assembly. Ted visited the pharmacy on May 3rd to discuss the issue. From left: Brenda Garbutt, Amy Garbutt, Sarah King, Lorraine Holland, Paulette Thibault, and Ted Arnott.

Check out Ted's new website

www.tedarnottmpp.com