

TED ARNOTT, MPP

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch – Update 2019



Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills:

Thank you for your interest in our communities, and for taking the time to read this newsletter, which we call “Update 2019.”

This is my first Riding newsletter since the June 7th provincial election. Much has happened in the Ontario Legislature since Election Day, and I want to express my sincere appreciation for your support and encouragement, as well as your ideas and suggestions.

All of us in elected public office have an obligation to the people we serve: we must listen, apply our experience, then act on behalf of our constituents, and be accountable for the decisions we make.

The people of Ontario deserve honesty and dedication from their elected representatives. You also rightly expect us to work together in the public interest, and debate the issues in a professional and thoughtful manner.

We have a job to do, a responsibility to uphold, and a future to build, on behalf of all the people of the Province.

As always, my experienced staff and I are here to help any way we can on matters involving the Provincial Government. Please don't hesitate to contact our Office if you have an issue or concern.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ted Arnott

COUNCILS AND SCHOOL BOARDS ELECTED FOR 2018-22

On October 22, 2018, we elected new Municipal Councillors and School Board Trustees across Ontario and of course in our communities as well.

Thank you to everyone who put their name forward to contest the recent elections with their willingness to serve on local School Boards and Municipal Councils. Congratulations to those who will serve over the next four years, and thank you to those who have served in the past and have now retired from elected public service.

Running an election campaign is never easy. It requires hard work, dedication, commitment, and perseverance. However, our communities are better off because these good people are willing to step forward and bring their perspectives and experience to our Municipal Councils and School Boards.

Our Councillors and School Board Trustees are accessible, accountable, and focused on the needs of their respective communities. They work hard, and their pay in no way matches their extraordinary contribution to building a better quality of life for all of us.

The great communities we live in don't just “happen.” In large part, they are established and maintained by the local leaders who have stepped up to serve our communities.

I look forward to working with our local elected officials in the coming years as together we seek to build an even better quality of life for our residents in Wellington-Halton Hills.



FROM RAIL TO TRAIL – Local representatives from across Wellington County gather to open the Aboyne Trail, the latest addition to the County's trail system. These trails promote exercise, build an appreciation for the outdoors, and with this particular project, help us to recognize our cultural heritage and the foundations of the community.



HONOURED TO BE BACK – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is pictured at Queen's Park with a colleague on the first day of the 42nd Parliament, July 11, just before the election of the Speaker.

Photo credit: Christopher Katsarov, The Canadian Press



BRINGING LOCAL ISSUES TO QUEEN'S PARK – Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and representatives of the Town met recently at MPP Ted Arnott's Queen's Park Office to discuss local priorities and ideas for reducing red tape, growing the local economy and encouraging job creation.

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GROVES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RAISES ITS ROOF

On October 10, 2018, MPP Ted Arnott attended the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital's "Closing In" event, where he delivered the following remarks:

Dr. Abraham Groves, upon his passing, left his hospital to our community, so many years ago...but he also bequeathed to us his vision of community-based, compassionate and caring health care, animated by the twin values of working together as a team, and always putting patients first.

That vision continues to inspire all of us today, but most of all, it inspires the Staff and Volunteers who are associated with Groves Hospital.

Yesterday, I picked up a new book written by our former Governor General, David Johnston. It just came out. The book is called **"Trust: Twenty Ways to Build a Better Country."** David Johnston writes that trust is the bedrock of democracy, but laments the fact that trust is not thriving in democracies today, including our own. To me, that is an understatement. He tells us that leaders and aspiring leaders must make themselves worthy of trust, must seek to build trust around them, and must work to create a trustworthy and trusted country.

Simple and eloquent concepts, simply and eloquently stated...but why is it that these ideas seem so old fashioned today? Why does an esteemed former Governor General feel it necessary to write a book about this? Why does trust seem so elusive in our world today?

As I was reading the book, it struck me that for the staff and volunteers of Groves Memorial Hospital...trust isn't an issue. Trust has been earned, over the decades.

For Groves, trust is a given.

In Centre Wellington, we've been committed to "health quality indicators" since Dr. Groves started his practice in 1871, even though we didn't call it that.

We've been doing "health care integration" before the Government invented the term.

We were "putting patients first" before anybody used that expression at Queen's Park.

So, in Groves we trust.

And that trust has led us to an absolutely extraordinary community effort: first to advocate for our new hospital, now to support its construction, soon to equip it, and eventually to see it open its doors, and begin to serve patients here, on this new site.

representing all political parties; my colleagues in elected public service at the County of Wellington and the Township of Centre Wellington, and their predecessors; the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network, and the staff of the Ministry of Health and Infrastructure Ontario for their professional assistance; and my own staff at our Riding and Queen's Park offices over the years.

But our deepest gratitude must be extended to the staff of the Groves Memorial Community Hospital, our dedicated and energetic Volunteer Association, the Board, the Foundation, our donors, indeed the entire community, and everyone in our catchment area, for your patience and perseverance, which has brought us to this day.

This morning, we have seen the progress that's been made. Touring the site today, I have been impressed by the innovation, the thoughtfulness, and the collaboration which is evident in every aspect of the design and the construction.

On the weekend, we celebrated Thanksgiving with our families. Today, let us give thanks for our new hospital, soon to be completed, and the amazing community we call home, making it all possible.



OUR NEW HOSPITAL – Ted Arnott joins with local officials, including Centre Wellington Mayor Kelly Linton, MP Mike Chong, and Hospital Board Member Gord Feniak, at the new Groves Hospital site on October 10. The new hospital is set to open in 2020, and the "Closing In" represents an important milestone in its construction.

Photo credit: Groves Memorial Community Hospital

This project was first approved in the fall of 2011, by the former Provincial Government. From the beginning, we refused to allow it to become a political football, because the local health care of our residents is too important for that.

We set partisan politics aside, and worked across party lines to get this done. In the past seven years, since our hospital project was approved, so much has been asked and so much has been accomplished.

There are so many to thank...successive Ministers of Health over many years,



GMCH PROGRESS – You can stay up to date on the progress of the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital and view aerial videos of the building site by visiting www.gmch.ca.

Photo credit: New Groves Hospital Opening 2020 Aerial Video



DIDN'T HURT A BIT – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott receiving his annual flu shot at the Rexall PharmaPlus in Acton on November 8. Mr. Arnott is pictured here with Pharmacist Dina Riad. A recent University of Waterloo study demonstrated that the Ontario Universal Influenza Immunization Program has dramatically reduced the incidence of flu in the Province. Since its inception in 2000, the free flu shot has been a very effective preventative health program in Ontario.



TAKE YOUR MPP TO WORK DAY – MPP Ted Arnott tried out a new career in long-term care with local members of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario as part of their annual "Take your MPP to Work" event.

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



WE REMEMBER – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott lays a wreath on behalf of the Province of Ontario at the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Salem. Each year, Mr. Arnott attends Remembrance Day observances in Wellington-Halton Hills. This past year, Remembrance Day marked 100 years since the Armistice that ended World War One.

Photo credit: Wellington Advertiser



100 YEARS IN FLANDERS FIELDS – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott joins Mayor Allan Ails and Councillor John Brennan at the Erin Cenotaph for a reading of poems by John McCrae in honour of the 100th anniversary of his passing. McCrae was born in Guelph and wrote In Flanders Fields during World War One, where he served as a medical officer.

Photo Credit: Mike Robinson, The Wellington Advertiser

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERISM IN GEORGETOWN

Georgetown’s 2018 Citizen of the Year was Mrs. Gerry Kentner, someone who is very well deserving of this honour. The following excerpt from MPP Ted Arnott’s remarks celebrates Gerry’s achievements and the importance of volunteers to our communities:

All of us know that volunteers are the life-blood of any community, and our volunteers have three things in common:

First, they are organized. They make time to volunteer. Second, they prioritize. They know the difference between what’s inconsequential, and what’s truly important. And third, and most significant: they care.

All of our volunteers have a genuine desire to help others, with no expectation

of public acknowledgement or financial reward.

Most volunteers will tell you that by volunteering, they get more than they give, because the satisfaction of helping others is extraordinary in itself. But we still need more volunteers, so we must continue to inspire others to get involved in their communities.

That is why we celebrate our remarkable volunteers at events such as this.

Gerry Kentner is a perfect example of what it means to volunteer: what it means to be organized, what it means to prioritize, what it means to care, and what it means to be a community leader.



GERRY KENTNER, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – Georgetown Citizen of the Year, Mrs. Gerry Kentner, is presented with a certificate of recognition by MPP Ted Arnott. Gerry has been actively involved in the Georgetown community for decades, most notably for her work establishing the popular Light up the Hills event which first began in 2008.

Photo Credit: The Independent and Free Press

PUSLINCH FIRE AND RESCUE TURNS 50

2018 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Puslinch Fire and Rescue Services. MPP Ted Arnott was pleased to join community members and volunteer firefighters—past and present—to celebrate half a century of exemplary and outstanding community service. MPP Arnott was honoured to speak at the event and deliver these remarks:

It’s appropriate and fitting that we gather to recognize the contributions of our Puslinch firefighters and express our sincere appreciation to all who are involved in our fire protection and emergency response services; to say thanks for your courage and devotion in the execution of your duties, and your caring and commitment to the safety of everyone in our communities.

And, we also need to acknowledge and thank your families: Those who support you, never knowing when the call will come, wait, and worry, and pray, and then embrace you when you walk in the door at home when the job is done.

I want to tell you how deeply I appreciate what you do.

Years ago, when I was about 10 years old and growing up in Arthur, on a Saturday night during an ice storm in January, there was a power surge which caused a fire in our basement, just as my Mother was about to send my sisters and I off to bed.

We quickly put winter coats over pajamas, grabbed the dog, and rushed out into the night, knocking on our neighbours’ door, before calling the Arthur Fire Department.

Our local fire chief was Howard White, a name no doubt familiar to Glenna and Doug Smith, because of their Arthur connections. Howard lived about a block away from our house, and he literally ran to our place to survey the scene, getting there before any of his fire trucks arrived. We couldn’t possibly have had a faster response!

The Arthur Fire Department successfully fought the fire, containing it to the basement and first floor, but of course, there was extensive smoke damage on the upper floors.

They told us afterwards how close we came to losing our home entirely. We counted ourselves blessed, and forever grateful to our local firefighters for what they had done for us.

I relate this story because I know there are literally hundreds of families in our area who feel the same way about what the volunteer firefighters in our communities have meant to them and you can’t hear it often enough.

During my years in the Ontario Legislature, I have had the opportunity to work with you on a number of initiatives to support our volunteer firefighters: The flashing green lights for your personal vehicles, the workers

compensation issues, and of course, the two latter issue, which was first brought to my attention by Chief Doug Smith, and we worked on that together.

One of the highest honours I have received during my years in the Legislature was in 2009 when I was awarded Honourary Membership in the Firefighters’ Association of Ontario. I can’t tell you how much that meant to me, and it gives me a sense of kinship with you and always will.

As your Member of Provincial Parliament, I proudly stand with you.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FIRE SAFETY – Puslinch Township volunteer firefighters and community members celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Puslinch Fire and Rescue Services. With Highway 401 running through the Township, the Puslinch Fire and Rescue Services is one of the busiest volunteer departments in Ontario.

GUEST COLUMN: *Reflections from a Legislative Page, William Oesch*

In the Fall of 2018, local student William Oesch had the opportunity to serve as a Legislative Page at Queen’s Park. He shares his experiences in this edition of Keeping in Touch. You can learn more about the Legislative Page Program at www.ola.org.

It was a truly awesome experience to be part of a 22 member Page team and meet the MPPs and each other, and explore and serve around the House. I lived in Toronto for three weeks and every morning I would take the subway to Queens Park to start my day as a Page. I made good friends with similar interests and we continue our special connection by keeping in touch.

To be accepted you must be in either grade seven or eight and you apply half a term before you will serve. I applied in the spring of my grade seven year and was accepted over the summer to serve in the fall of 2018. My page team session was three weeks, ending just before Thanksgiving.

After I was accepted, I had a few weeks to get ready. Working on the actual Page work involved memorizing all 124 MPP’s names, faces, ridings, parties, and ministries before attending a one-day orientation. During the orientation, we learned about each other, as well as how to get around the house, who to go to, and when and where everything in the Legislature was.

I met so many great people at Queens Park and not just the kids. The two teachers we had while we were there were Mr. Guiterrez (Mr. G) and Ms. Paula. They both took very good care of us. Mr. G was with us every day and Ms. Paula did our behind the scenes work. Also the MPPs were quite knowledgeable and often asked us how our day was going.

A typical day would be getting up and out of the house at about 6:30am so that I could be at Queen’s Park in uniform and ready by approximately 8:00am to do our Page work in the Chamber, like delivering messages

and water for the MPPs. When the Chamber was closed, we really got to know each other and took math classes and learned legislative procedures from Mr. G.

There are a few things that I will remember most about being a Legislative Page. I was lucky because my local MPP is the Speaker of the House. On the day that I was Page Captain, the Speaker welcomed and introduced my family as visitors to the House. I also had lunch with Mr. Arnott and some of his staff and got to ask them questions.

One of the things that really stood out was the atmosphere at Queens Park. As a team we really had a lot of fun and worked together extremely well. All in all, the combination of experiences, learning and the people I met, was incredible. It is something I will keep with me for a long, long time.

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

A few years ago, an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended new federal riding boundaries for the distribution of seats in the House of Commons in Ottawa. As a result of this process, the Province of Ontario received an additional 15 seats in time for the 2015 federal election. Ontario now has 121 Members of Parliament in the House of Commons, and following the June 2018 provincial election, the Ontario Legislature now has 124 seats. While the provincial riding boundaries in northern Ontario may be different than the federal boundaries, in southern Ontario the provincial riding boundaries are identical to their federal counterparts.

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)



QUEEN’S PARK AT DUSK - 2018 marked the 125th anniversary of the Official Opening of Ontario’s Legislative Building. Ted Arnott took this picture of the building’s south entrance on July 17, during the Special Summer Sitting.



GEORGETOWN WALK FOR ALS – The Georgetown Walk for ALS is consistently one of the largest annual fundraisers for ALS in Canada. This year, the Georgetown Walk for ALS raised over \$135,500 to support ALS research. Pictured at the event are MPP Ted Arnott with Mayor Rick Bonnette (both on their way to the Georgetown Highland Games, which were held later on that day) and Councillors Jon Hurst, Jane Fogal, and Bryan Lewis.

Photo credit: Mary Jo Knox



FROM THE ARCHIVES, 2006 – MPP Ted Arnott enjoys a glass of Ontario milk with John Vanthof of the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. More than a dozen years later, they are colleagues in the Legislature; John Vanthof is today the MPP for Timiskaming—Cochrane.