



TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch – Update 2015



ARTHUR CENOTAPH – Ted attended the dedication of the mural at the Arthur Cenotaph on Sunday, October 25.
(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)

Remembering those who served

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott attended the dedication of a new mural at the Arthur Cenotaph on Sunday, October 25, in recognition of the service of Canada's veterans, and in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Arnott grew up in Arthur and represented the village in the Ontario Legislature from 1990-1999. When the riding boundaries changed in 1999, Arthur was included in a different riding. Arthur is now represented

by Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece, who also attended the event. At the Cenotaph, Mr. Arnott delivered the following remarks:

It is a distinct honour to have been asked to say a few words today.

First of all, I want to thank everyone for joining us here at the Cenotaph, which for so many years has stood as a silent symbol of the patriotism and pride of this community, and as a monument to the courage and valour

of Arthur residents who answered the call of duty to King and Country to fight in Canada's wars.

And every year, on November 11th, we gather at the cenotaphs like this one, all across the country, to remember all who served, all who sacrificed, all who were wounded in body or spirit, and all who died.

This year is will be especially significant. Not only is it the 100th anniversary of the start of the first

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MPP Arnott attends cenotaph dedication ceremony at Arthur Cenotaph

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World War, and the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy in the second World War, it is a year when our mission in Afghanistan has just concluded, but our mission against the extremists of the Islamic State, or ISIS, has just begun.

And on Wednesday of this week, in our nation's capital, the National War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, was insulted in the worst possible way by a cowardly attack on Corporal Nathan Cirillo, who was proudly posted there in ceremonial and silent tribute, as a reserve member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Village of Arthur is known far and wide as Canada's Most Patriotic Village. And it is the events of this week, that remind us of why that patriotism is so important; that freedom isn't free, as our beautiful new mural reminds us.

But the freedom we hold dear, and should never take for granted, was purchased for all of us at dear cost, with the sacrifice of the lives of more than 100,000 Canadians through the past 100 years.

I want to express sincere thanks, to all who were involved in the mural project, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch

226, the Arthur Historical Society, the Township of Wellington North, and everyone else who volunteered their time and talents to erect this mural, augmenting our beautiful and historic cenotaph, lest we forget.



A WEEK OF REMBRANCE – Mr. Arnott lays a wreath at the Erin cenotaph to honour those who fought and gave their lives for our country. Every year, Mr. Arnott attends Remembrance Day observances across Wellington-Halton Hills.

(Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)



KIDSABILITY – Mr. Arnott attended the grand opening of the new KidsAbility centre in Fergus on January 15. KidsAbility works with children and youth with special needs to realize their full potential. Mr. Arnott has been supportive of the organization for years.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



FAMILY SKATE – A large crowd turned out for Ted and Lisa Arnott's family skate in Georgetown on January 25 at Mold-Masters SportsPlex. This year, Ted and Lisa also hosted family skates in Acton and Elora.

Government's budget plan continues pattern of deficits and debt

By Ted Arnott, MPP

The provincial Government's "*Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review*" can be summed up in three simple words: **more red ink**.

Once again, we see overall government spending on the rise. In the fiscal year ending March 31st, the Government plans to spend \$130.2 billion. This is up from \$126.4 billion last year.

The deficit for 2014-15 (the shortfall of revenue when compared to expense in the fiscal year) is expected to be \$12.5 billion. This compares to a deficit last year of \$10.5 billion.

With the deficit going up, not down, it becomes harder and harder to accept the Government's claim that they will balance the budget by 2017-18.

The net provincial debt is now \$287.3 billion. This figure is up from \$267.2 billion last year, and has more than doubled since 2003, when it stood at \$139 billion.

The net debt per capita (in effect, the amount each of us owes because of years of overspending by provincial Governments) stands at \$21,003. This important measure of public debt has almost doubled since 2003.

Net debt as a percentage of gross domestic product (the Provincial debt compared to the accumulated value of the goods and services we produce) is now 39.9%. To compare, the debt to GDP ratio was 26.2% before the 2008-09 recession. This represents a staggering increase in Ontario's debt load and demonstrates our diminished capacity to carry and service it.

Interest payments continue to increase at an alarming pace. At \$10.8 billion this year, interest costs are the third largest and fastest growing line item in the budget, behind only health and education. The cost of servicing the debt is expected to grow by a billion dollars a year for the foreseeable future, in spite of current low interest rates. By 2017-18, it is projected that interest on the debt will be \$13.9 billion, taking away resources needed for front line services we all value.

I continue to advocate for our vital infrastructure needs in Wellington-Halton Hills, knowing full well the Government intends to spend \$12.3 billion this year on infrastructure projects. We in Wellington-Halton Hills deserve our fair share of the funding that they are going to spend.

At the same time, I continue to call upon the Government to get serious about eliminating wasteful spending, using the Auditor General's recent reports and the Drummond recommendations as a starting point.

The numbers in the article above are taken from the Government's 2014 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review which can be found at: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/fallstatement/2014/>

Postscript:

Moody's Investment Services recently released a report on Ontario's finances, confirming their "*negative outlook*" on the Province's books.

"Given such high levels of planned spending, it is our expectation that there will be non-significant reductions in Ontario's debt burden for the next five to ten years," the report indicated.

It is expected that interest rates can only go up in coming years, which will further challenge the Provincial Government's debt management.

In order to remain solvent, the Province must make its interest payments on the debt, and as interest costs go up, there is less money available for health, education and other vital services.



HOSTING THE GERMAN PRESIDENT – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott greeted German President Joachim Gauck at Queen's Park on September 26. President Gauck has been recognized for his courage and determination in advocating for human rights in East Germany during the Cold War. The German President's Canadian tour marked the first state visit by a German President in almost 25 years. Germany has the largest economy in the European Union and the fourth largest in the world.



Groves receives approval for Stage 2 of new hospital Project

On December 22, Groves Memorial Community Hospital announced that it has received approval from the Ministry of Health for its Stage 2 submission and permission to move forward to the next phase of the planning for the new hospital.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomed the news and thanked Health Minister Eric Hoskins for his support.

“This is great news for our community. I want to thank the Minister of Health for his interest in Groves,” said Mr. Arnott. “I have spoken to him a number of times about the need to keep this project moving forward and he has always been very supportive.”

Following the announcement, Mr. Arnott phoned the Office of the Deputy Minister of Health to directly express his thanks for the approval.

“The staff and volunteers at Groves also deserve enormous credit for their hard work,” Mr. Arnott added. “Without their dedication and commitment, this project would not be at this stage.”

Over the years, Mr. Arnott has worked with the Ministry of Health, MPPs including PC Health Critic Christine Elliott, the County of Wellington, the Township of Centre Wellington, and local officials to ensure that the project continues to move forward.

Last July, he sought an update briefing from the Ministry of Health to go over the progress being made. The meeting was held in September at Queen’s Park with Ministry of Health staff. Mr. Arnott invited Groves officials so they could present their case together.

“It’s exciting to see the new hospital moving closer to construction,” Mr. Arnott concluded. “As we move into the next stage of planning for our new hospital, I will continue to monitor developments and work with the Hospital, Ministry, and MPPs towards the realization of our vision of a new hospital to meet the needs of our community in the 21st century.”

Halton Hills Health Link Created

In January, the Ontario Government announced the creation of the Halton Hills Health Link, dedicated to delivering better care for patients with complex medical conditions.

The Halton Hills Health Link will bring together a team of providers including doctors, nurses, specialists, hospitals, home care, long-term care, and community agencies in order to provide patients with better care through individual care plans, and greater collaboration and coordination between a patient’s health care providers.

The new program will focus on the five percent of patients with the highest needs, who account for more than two-thirds of Ontario’s health care spending.

“A renewed focus on better, personalized care for seniors and patients with complex needs is welcome,” said Mr. Arnott. “Our local health care providers work hard together to ensure the best possible patient care and this program will only assist them in achieving that goal.”

Members of the Halton Hills Health Link include:

- The Halton Hills Family Health Team (Co-lead)
- Links2Care (Co-lead)
- Acclaim Health and Community Care Services
- Alcohol, Drug, Gambling Assessment, Prevention and Treatment
- Bennett Health Care Centre
- Mississauga Halton Community Care Access Centre
- Canadian Mental Health Association – Halton
- Canadian Red Cross Peel Region
- Halton Community Legal Services
- Halton Healthcare Services – Georgetown
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Halton Region Public Health Department
- Halton Region Paramedic Services
- Halton Regional Police Services
- Hope Place Centres
- North Halton Mental Health Clinic
- Summit Housing and Outreach Programs
- Town of Halton Hills – Hillview Active Living Centre
- Young’s Pharmacy

New Courthouse needed for Halton Region

Halton Region needs a new Courthouse and Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is working across party lines to get the job done.

“The existing court facility in Milton is simply inadequate for the needs of Halton Region,” Mr. Arnott argued. “It is aging, overcrowded, and inadequate in terms of security and privacy.”

According to the Halton County Law Association, the cells are overcrowded, the elevators routinely break down, jurors are often required to sit in the stairwell while waiting to be called, and there is no private space for lawyers to consult with their clients. Litigants are routinely required to travel to Brampton or Guelph because the Courthouse simply cannot handle the volume of cases.

“The Government is planning to spend \$254 million on justice infrastructure in the 2014-15 fiscal year,” Mr. Arnott pointed out. “I would anticipate they will be spending a similar amount going forward. Given the clear need, a new Halton Courthouse should be a priority.”

When the current Courthouse was built in 1962, it served a population of approximately 190,230. While there was an addition in 1979, it now serves approximately 550,000 people. With the population of Halton Region exploding in recent years, that number is expected to climb to

565,100 by next year alone, and Halton Region forecasts that its population will grow to over 750,000 by 2031.

Since the issue was first brought to his attention by lawyer Paul Stunt, Mr. Arnott has worked hard to raise awareness of the need and has reached out to other local MPPs.

“I am prepared to work across party lines with all Halton area MPPs to present a clear and compelling case to the Government that a new Courthouse is urgently needed,” Mr. Arnott said. “Halton Regional Council has also demonstrated its strong support for this project. Working together, we can get the job done.”

Last September, Mr. Arnott toured the Courthouse to see the problems firsthand. He also attended a Town Hall meeting with Courthouse users, including lawyers, judges, and staff.

He has since worked to raise the issue with the Government in the Ontario Legislature.

“I have addressed the issue in the Legislature several times, I have also written a number of letters to the Attorney General, and discussed the issue directly with her,” said Mr. Arnott.

Mr. Arnott also reached out to the Attorney General’s office to arrange a briefing on the issue for all Halton area MPPs in December. The briefing provided an opportunity to discuss the problem with Ministry staff.



GET YOUR FLU SHOT – Ted Arnott receives a flu shot at Rexall Pharma Plus in Acton from Pharmacy Manager Lynn Lafrance. The Ontario Government provides the flu shot to all Ontarians free of charge.

(Photo courtesy of Acton Rexall Pharma Plus)



HALTON COURTHOUSE – The Milton Courthouse on Steeles Avenue needs to be replaced. The current courthouse is aging, overcrowded, and inadequate.

Morrison Bypass remains a priority for MPP Arnott

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is continuing to push the Ontario Government to place the Highway 6 Morrison bypass on the Ministry of Transportation's 5 year plan for new highway construction.

Mr. Arnott raised the need for the Morrison bypass directly with Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca in Estimates Committee on October 29. The following is an excerpt from the official transcript of the committee hearings:

Mr. Ted Arnott: The very day after the provincial election, on June 13, I went into my constituency office and I wrote a letter to the Premier. I said this to her:

"As you know from your tenure as Minister of Transportation, Highway 6 serves as a vital link between the 401 and the Hamilton/Niagara region and the US border. However, drivers travelling this route encounter a severe bottleneck in the community of Morrison, in Puslinch township, just south of the 401. Oftentimes traffic is backed up for kilometres in both directions.

"By constructing the Highway 6 Morrison bypass, this bottleneck would be eliminated, and traffic and goods could flow back and forth from Hamilton to the 401 more" easily and "quickly and safely. There would also be a" huge "positive economic benefit for a large region of the province. There is a huge economic cost related to the current congestion at Morrison.

"As you know, I've been raising this issue in the Legislature for years.

"Working with the township of Puslinch and the county of Wellington, I have repeatedly written and spoken to successive Ministers of Transportation urging that the Highway 6 Morrison bypass project be placed on the Ministry of Transportation's southern highways program, MTO's five-year plan for new highway construction. I have also raised the issue many times in speeches in the Legislature.

"During the most recent provincial Parliament, after you became Premier," I said to the Premier, "I introduced a private member's resolution again calling on the Minister of Transportation to put the Highway 6 Morrison bypass on the ministry's five-year plan for highway construction. My resolution was the very first

item on the order paper, as I tabled it the same day as your government's throne speech on February 19, 2013.

"This project has been talked about for a generation. It is time for this project to proceed.

"Once more, I urge you to prioritize this project and ensure that it is placed on the Ministry of Transportation's five-year plan for highway construction."

Of course, we were called back into session in July, shortly after the election, and I again tabled my private member's resolution. And I believe—yes, it is the very first item on the Legislature's order paper at present.

On October 6, a group that has formed, called the Morrison Bypass Coalition, met with many ministry staff, including staff of the Premier. Here are some of the key messages that they wanted to leave with the government:

"Intersected by Highway 6, the village of Morrison" in the township of Puslinch "has become a bottleneck at the centre of a main transportation and trade corridor. The two-lane stretch of road on an otherwise four-lane highway is impeding the movement of people and goods between Wellington county, the GTHA and the US.



MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION – Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca attended the Estimates Committee hearings in October. Mr. Arnott is continuing to push the Minister to put the Highway 6 Morrison bypass onto his Ministry's 5 year plan for highway construction.

Morrison Bypass remains a priority... *continued*

“The Morrison bypass project would alleviate ever-worsening traffic issues in the area, saving local businesses and commuters more than \$15 million a year today, and more than \$30 million per year by 2031.

“Despite the long-acknowledged need for this essential infrastructure by the government, construction of the Morrison bypass project is now decades overdue.

“Businesses have made significant investments in the region on the understanding that the government was moving forward with the Morrison bypass. With every passing year of inaction, the success of those investments, and the jobs they generated, are put in jeopardy.”

They talked about the Tim Hortons Guelph facility employing 500 employees; Maple Leaf’s new 282,000-square-foot distribution centre in Puslinch township; Canada Bread investing in a \$100-million plant in Hamilton; Nestle Waters Canada, Canada’s largest bottled-water manufacturer and distributor, 300 employees, with \$10-million to \$15-million worth of goods annually shipped through Morrison.

And they concluded with: “With their local main street serving double duty as a major transportation artery, local residents in Morrison have legitimate concerns about the safety and well-being of their families.”

Now, I know you’re aware of the need for this project, and I’ve raised it, as you know, many, many times in the Legislature. We have an outstanding group that’s been put together, in response to the request from one of your predecessors, Bob Chiarelli, that the township council go back and put together a group of advocates for this project. They have an outstanding group, representing industry, municipalities, chambers of commerce, and —

The Chair (Ms. Cindy Forster): Mr. Arnott you have one minute.

Mr. Ted Arnott: And my question is —

The Chair (Ms. Cindy Forster): That’s quite a statement. Question and answer, one minute.

Mr. Ted Arnott: — when will you place this project on the southern highways program, your five-year plan for new construction?

Hon. Steven Del Duca: I don’t have much time. I know how passionate you are and how consistent you have been on this issue. You’ve come to talk to me about it; I know you have raised it with others; you’ve sent correspondence. I get all that. I would like to see that document, for whatever it’s worth, after we’re done, because I haven’t personally had a chance to review that one.

Mr. Ted Arnott: Your chief of staff has it.

Hon. Steven Del Duca: That’s fantastic. That’s good. I know how important this is to you and to your community.

As you’re probably aware, the next version of the southern Ontario highways plan has not been released yet. That’ll be forthcoming in the near future. From what I understand, the environmental assessment work is completed. I’m not in a position today to make any formal announcements, but I do understand where you’re coming from. We should keep talking about this. I appreciate your patience on this item.

“ **THERE WOULD ALSO BE A
HUGE POSITIVE ECONOMIC
BENEFIT FOR A LARGE
REGION OF THE PROVINCE** ”

MPP Arnott stands up for local municipalities

Pushes Government for fair share of infrastructure investment

On February 11, MPP Ted Arnott and municipal representatives from across Wellington-Halton Hills met with Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs officials in Guelph to discuss how local municipalities can better compete for much needed infrastructure funding.

In attendance were Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White, Centre Wellington Mayor Kelly Linton, Erin Councillor John Brennan, and Puslinch Councillor Matthew Bulmer, as well as a number of municipal staff.

In January, Mr. Arnott contacted Ministry officials to arrange the briefing after hearing a number of local municipalities express concern about being denied funding from Provincial programs designed to support municipal infrastructure investment.

The briefing gave municipal officials an opportunity to express their concerns directly to the senior ministry staff in charge of administering the programs. They pointed out that the Government's criteria which favours municipalities with "more challenging economic conditions and fiscal situations" makes it difficult for fiscally responsible municipalities to compete for funding.

"I have heard concerns from a number of municipal officials in Wellington-Halton Hills about how difficult it is for fiscally responsible municipalities to receive infrastructure funding," Mr. Arnott said. "They have expressed that they often feel that they are wasting their time filling out applications which they know will be rejected."

"The Minister needs to ensure that our municipalities receive their fair share of the infrastructure funding," he added.

Mr. Arnott pointed out that the Township of Centre Wellington, for example, is responsible for 105 bridges across the Township. A small, rural township like Centre Wellington simply does not have the resources to maintain all those bridges without support from the Province.

He also noted that the Town of Halton Hills had planned \$9.3 million of work along Connecting Link roadways in the coming years, only to have the Government abruptly cancel the Connecting Link program without notice. Before the cancellation, the Provincial Government had covered 90% of the cost of these projects.



CHRISTINE ELLIOTT – Ted Arnott and Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong host Whitby-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones at Fraberts Fresh Food in Fergus.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



ST. ALBAN'S – Ted attended the ribbon cutting for the renovated kitchen at St. Alban's the Martyr Church in Acton. The church received a grant of \$150,000 from the Trillium Foundation to renovate the kitchen and community hall.

(Photo courtesy of the New Tanner)

“**The Minister needs to ensure that our municipalities receive their fair share of the infrastructure funding**”

Traffic Lights needed at Rockwood School Crossing: MPP Arnott

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is pushing the Ministry of Transportation to do more to ensure the safety of children crossing Highway 7 at MacLennan and Dunbar Streets in Rockwood on their way to school.

This past September, Ecole Harris Mill Public School opened its doors on MacLennan Street in Rockwood. However, in order to reach the

school, many students must cross Highway 7 at MacLennan Street.

Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White and Mr. Arnott have expressed concerns about the safety at the crosswalk.

“Large groups of children are being left to cross a busy provincial highway with only a crossing guard to ensure their safety,” said

Mr. Arnott. “I have supported the Mayor’s statements and believe that the safety of our children should be the top priority. Traffic lights would seem to be the best, safest solution.”

The following is a letter Mr. Arnott wrote to Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca on November 19 urging him to take action to resolve the problem:

HAND DELIVERED TO
THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
IN THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE



November 19, 2014

The Hon. Steven Del Duca
Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister:

I am writing to bring to your attention a serious public safety issue in the community of Rockwood in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.

Due to the recent opening of Ecole Harris Mill Public School, there is an urgent need for traffic signals at Highway 7 and MacLennan Drive in Rockwood. In order to reach the school large groups of students must currently cross Highway 7 with only a crossing guard to ensure their safety. This is not acceptable.

Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White has raised this issue with me on a number of occasions. He has been in contact with Ministry of Transportation staff to address this issue, but your Ministry has told him that there is not enough traffic volume warrant the installation of traffic signals.

Neither Mayor White or I are satisfied with this response. He asked that I approach you directly to discuss this with you and we request that you personally approve the installation of traffic signals at this intersection. Failing that, we would urge you to approve some kind of flashing light indicating that a crosswalk is ahead.

Enclosed is a copy of your Ministry’s response to Mayor White, as well as two previous emails which I have sent you on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ted Arnott
Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

Local municipalities among first to receive ice storm assistance

The Township of Centre Wellington and the Township of Puslinch are among the first municipalities to be promised financial assistance from the Province of Ontario for cleanup costs following the 2013 Christmas Ice Storm.

On February 13, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced it has approved the claims and initiated final payments to three municipalities: the Township of Centre Wellington, the Township of Puslinch, and the Township of Mapleton, all of which are located in Wellington County.

The Township of Centre Wellington has been promised \$297,543 and the Township of Puslinch \$44,923.

While (as of the time this newsletter was written) other municipalities in Wellington-Halton Hills are still waiting for their claims to be finalized, they have been offered “interim funding” by the Ontario Government. The Region of Halton has been offered \$996,639, the Town of Hills \$326,901, the Town of Erin \$156,702, and the Township of Guelph/Eramosa \$56,178.

“I know that staff from all our municipalities worked very hard and spent untold hours putting the claims together to satisfy the Government’s process,” said Mr. Arnott. “I was glad to support their efforts.”

Last year, when it became apparent that the Ontario Government was dragging out the claims approvals process, Mr. Arnott reached out to municipalities and conservation authorities in Wellington-Halton Hills, asking for details on their individual claims. He worked with colleagues, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman and Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece.

Mr. Arnott raised the issue in the Legislature in December, urging the Government to expedite the process. He followed up by presenting the claim information directly to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, insisting upon a prompt resolution.

St. John Ambulance opens new location in Fergus

St. John Ambulance held an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of its new location at 181 St. Andrew St. East in Fergus on February 28.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott stopped by the open house to recognize the important work the organization performs.

“I want to thank the many volunteers at St. John Ambulance for their dedication and commitment to our community,” said Mr. Arnott.

Among the services that the Fergus Branch provides are First Aid Training, Baby Sitting Courses and Home Alone Programs, Therapy Dog visits to Seniors Homes, and Child Car Seat Installations.

The St. John Ambulance is a worldwide humanitarian organization dedicated to the service and wellbeing of others. It has been operating in Canada since 1883.

It works to enable Canadians to improve their health, safety, and quality of life by providing training (first aid) and community services (health and safety). The organization has over 5,000 volunteers across Ontario and has trained over 134,000 Ontarians in first aid and health and safety related courses.

In addition to the Fergus branch, communities in Wellington-Halton Hills are also served by St. John Ambulance branches in Guelph and Oakville.



ST. JOHN AMBULANCE – Mr. Arnott attended the St. John Ambulance open house in Fergus on February 28. One of the services the St. John Ambulance provides is visiting nursing homes with therapy dogs, which are trained to provide affection and comfort to seniors.

(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



Lincoln Alexander Day now observed across Canada

On January 21, the Province of Ontario observed the 2nd annual Lincoln Alexander Day.

While Lincoln Alexander Day was originally only marked in Ontario, in December 2014 the Parliament of Canada passed a Bill extending it across the country.

The recognition of the Hon. Lincoln Alexander on January 21 of each year – his birthday – was initiated through a Private Member's Bill brought forward by Wellington-Hills MPP Ted Arnott. The Bill was co-sponsored by Liberal MPP Bas Balkissoon and NDP MPP Paul Miller. The MPPs worked together across party lines to secure the passage of the bill, which was passed into law with the unanimous consent of the Ontario Legislature.

"Lincoln Alexander served as an inspiration and a role model for so many people across this province," Mr. Arnott said. "Lincoln Alexander Day is a day in which we can recognize the great contribution that he made to Ontario

and to Canada. And most of all, we remember his legacy of overcoming racial prejudice and discrimination, and helping to build the tolerant Canada that we cherish today."

Lincoln Alexander was born on January 21, 1922. He served in the House of Commons in Ottawa from 1968 to 1980, representing the Riding of Hamilton West. In 1979 he was appointed as Minister of Labour, making history as Canada's first black Cabinet Minister. He later served as the Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board of Ontario, as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and as the longest serving Chancellor of the University of Guelph. He passed away on October 19, 2012.

"I want to thank Mrs. Marni Beal-Alexander, Dr. Rosemary Sadlier of the Ontario Black History Society, and Dr. Alastair Summerlee, former President of the University of Guelph, for their support, helping to give Lincoln Alexander his due," Mr. Arnott concluded.

Legislative Page Program Accepting Applications

Each year, approximately 140 Grade 7 and 8 students from across Ontario are selected to serve as pages in the Ontario Legislature.

These pages serve in the Legislative Chamber, acting as messengers and performing many other helpful duties.

The program is an educational opportunity for Ontario students and offers a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about Ontario's Parliamentary system and the legislative process.

The Legislative Assembly is accepting applications for pages for the fall session starting April 15. The deadline for application is June 15.

For more information visit:
<http://educationportal.ontla.on.ca/en/page-program>



LINCOLN ALEXANDER DAY – Mr. Arnott was at Queen's Park on Lincoln Alexander Day to attend the presentation of the Lincoln M. Alexander Awards for Leadership in Eliminating Racial Discrimination. This year the House of Commons recognized January 21 as Lincoln Alexander Day across Canada.



GROVES GIFT SHOP – Last year the Gift Shop at Groves Memorial Community Hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Gift Shop is run by the Groves Hospital Volunteer Association and all proceeds go to support the hospital. Mr. Arnott is continuing to monitor the progress towards a new Groves Memorial Community Hospital.

The riding of Wellington-Halton Hills

Recently, the Federal Government undertook a process of planning the redistribution of the federal riding boundaries for seats in the House of Commons in Ottawa. This work was done by an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission.

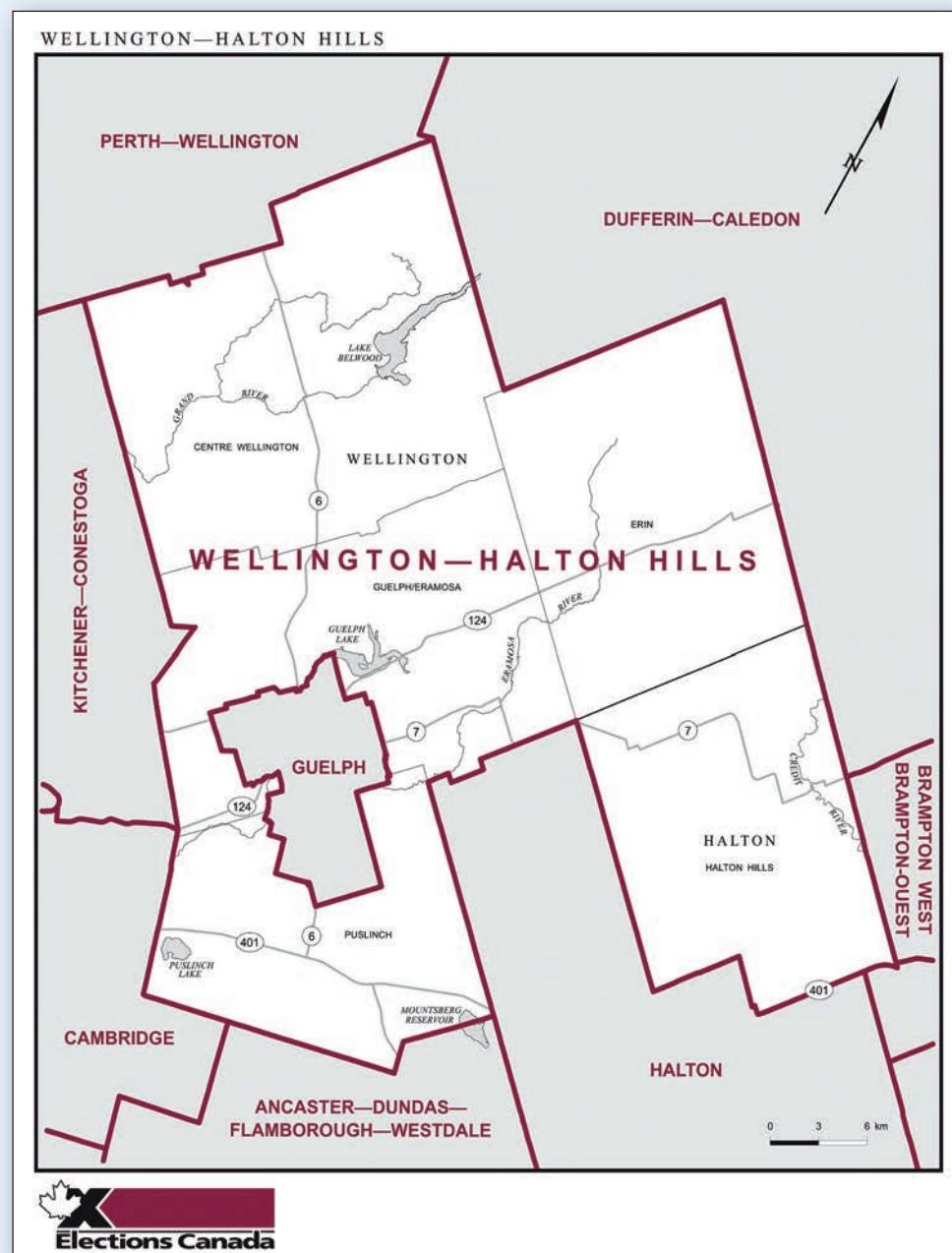
As a result of this process, after the next federal election, Ontario will receive 15 new seats.

New riding boundaries have been established for many ridings. However, the boundaries of the federal riding of Wellington-Halton Hills, represented by MP Michael Chong since 2004, will remain unchanged.

In September, the Premier of Ontario publicly proposed that the Ontario Legislature should expand from 107 to 122 seats, so that the provincial ridings

in southern Ontario would mirror the new federal ridings. Assuming the Ontario Legislature passes a bill reflecting her wishes, these changes would take effect in the next provincial election, expected in 2018.

This would mean the provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills, represented in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Ted Arnott since 2007, would remain intact for the next provincial election.



The riding of Wellington-Halton Hills is composed of the municipalities of:

- The Township of Centre Wellington
- The Town of Erin
- The Township of Guelph/Eramosa
- The Town of Halton Hills
- The Township of Puslinch