



# TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch – Update 2017



## Rural Ontario needs access to high-speed Internet

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is continuing to push the Government to follow through on its promise of expanded access to affordable, high-speed Internet for rural Ontario.

“During my canvass of Wellington-Halton Hills in the 2014 General Election, I met thousands of people. I sought to answer their questions, listen to their concerns, and encourage their aspirations,” Mr. Arnott told MPPs in a statement in the Ontario Legislature on December 7. “One thing I heard is that many of my constituents do not have access to affordable, high-speed Internet. We know that in today’s economy, connectivity is an absolute necessity for households, farms, and businesses.”

Mr. Arnott took action immediately following the election. On June 13, 2014, the day after the election, he raised it in a letter to the Premier. Then, in July 2014, at the very first opportunity, Mr. Arnott tabled a Private Member’s Resolution calling on the Government to work with the Federal Government and the Western Wardens’ Caucus to develop a strategy to ensure that all Ontarians would have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.

Two years later, the Government did just that.

“Exactly 24 months passed. Then, this past July, the Government announced a commitment to doing precisely what we had urged them to do: setting aside \$90 million, with an equal Federal Government contribution, to support the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Project, known as SWIFT,” Mr. Arnott noted.

While Mr. Arnott was pleased by the announcement, he noted that the Government has yet to release a list of exactly which communities will benefit from the investment or provide a timeline as to when the project will be completed.

He urged the Government to keep up the momentum and acknowledged our local municipal Councils and Staff.

“I want to express my thanks to everyone involved with implementing this proposal, but let’s keep it moving. The County of Wellington and the Town of Halton Hills are very enthusiastic about expanding access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet. Let’s get behind our local communities, and let’s build a fibre network throughout rural Ontario that gives every Ontarian access to high-speed Internet service and all the benefits that technology entails.”

## Contact Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott

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**HONOURING ELSIE DANDY** – (from left) Township of Centre Wellington Mayor Kelly Linton, Ted Arnott, Jim Dandy, and Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong congratulate Elsie Dandy for receiving the Governor General's Sovereign Medal for Volunteers at the Fergus Legion on October 8. Ms. Dandy, who received the award one day after her 99th birthday, served as a nurse during World War II.



**ERIN LEGION** – Ted Arnott and Town of Erin Mayor Al Alls congratulate Erin Legion executive members Enid Acton, Diana Critchley, Rose Ostrander, and Ken Paisley on receiving a grant of \$2,975 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Seniors Community Grant Program for the Legion's Zoomers Senior program on July 25. The Erin Legion hopes to use the grant to provide transportation for seniors to attend the weekly program.

*(Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)*

## MPP Arnott welcomes promise to build new university campus in Halton

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott rose in the Ontario Legislature on November 2 to inform MPPs about the Government's announcement of plans for a new university campus in the Region of Halton.

"The promise of the future in Ontario calls us to pursue excellence in post-secondary education leading to good, career-track job opportunities for graduates and a strong innovation-based economy for the Province," Mr. Arnott said. "This goal requires partnership and vision. That's why we were so excited to hear the Government's commitment to build a new university campus in Halton. I was glad to be in attendance when the announcement was made in Milton."

Afterwards, Mr. Arnott thanked the Government for committing to build the campus.

"I want to thank the Government of Ontario for making this promise," he said. "When it's built, the new Milton campus will provide another local-

postsecondary education option for our students."

In his statement in the Legislature, Mr. Arnott also recognized the important contribution of local officials.

"Region of Halton Chair Gary Carr, who spoke at the announcement, has provided strong effective leadership on Regional Council in support of this proposal," Mr. Arnott told MPPs. "Mayors Gord Krantz and Rick Bonnette have also been vocal advocates, and we thank them as well."

Mr. Arnott has been pushing for a new university campus in Halton for some time. He has met with officials from Wilfrid Laurier University twice last year to discuss their proposal for a new campus in Milton, including a meeting in September at Queen's Park with the Leader of the Official Opposition, Patrick Brown. He has also raised the matter several times in the House to call attention to the merits of Laurier's proposal, and written to the Minister

of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

In addition, on September 12, the very first day the House resumed for a new session, he tabled a Private Member's Resolution calling upon the Government to approve Laurier's Milton campus proposal.

While Mr. Arnott welcomed the Government's promise of a new Milton campus, he asked for the Government to provide clarity on the timeframe of the university project.

"While the Minister announced a call for proposals for January 2017, she did not indicate any timeframe for when the new campus will be completed and open for students," Mr. Arnott pointed out. "We all know this is a long-term project and it won't be built overnight, but surely Halton residents and Laurier's supporters deserve to know the Government's timetable for completion of the new campus. I urge the Minister to announce this publicly, and soon."

## New Groves hospital one step closer

Three bids have been submitted to Infrastructure Ontario to design, build, and finance the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital in the Township of Centre Wellington.



**A NEW GROVES HOSPITAL** – An architect’s depiction of what the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital may look like. (Photo courtesy of the Groves Hospital Foundation)

Mr. Arnott has been a strong advocate for the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital at Queen’s Park, where he has been pushing for the hospital project for more than a decade. He has raised the need for a new hospital many times during debate in the Legislature. He has also worked hard to bring the issue to the attention of successive Ministers of Health through many letters, private conversations, meetings, and phone calls with both the Ministers and their staff.

“I intend to continue to monitor the progress that is being made towards our new hospital,” Mr. Arnott said. “This project is vitally important to our Riding and I want to continue to do whatever I can to ensure our residents will soon have access to the new state-of-the-art hospital that we’ve been promised.”

According to page 285 of the 2016 Ontario Budget Papers, the Ontario Government plans to spend almost \$2.9 billion on hospital infrastructure in the 2016/17 fiscal year.

In February 2016, Infrastructure Ontario announced that GMCH Partnership, EllisDon Infrastructure Healthcare, and PCL Constructors Canada, had all been shortlisted to respond to the Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was issued in June 2016. All three companies submitted bids to Infrastructure Ontario before the RFP deadline.

Now that all the bids have been received, Infrastructure Ontario and Groves Memorial Community Hospital are evaluating each of the proposals, and will then select a preferred bidder, and negotiate a final contract. The winning bid is expected to be announced in the summer of 2017.

“This is again good news for our community,” Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott said. “With each step, we’re getting closer and closer to the day that the new Groves hospital will open its doors.”

The new hospital is expected to be completed in 2019.

“The hospital project is a community effort,” Mr. Arnott said. “We would not be where we are today without the dedication and hard work of Groves staff, County of Wellington and Township of Centre Wellington Councils and staff, as well as the many donors and volunteers who have given their time and money. I want to thank them all.”



**GET YOUR FLU SHOT** – Acton Rexall pharmacist Dina Riad gives Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott his annual flu shot on December 2. A few years ago, a study concluded that Ontario’s universal flu shot program has saved several hundred lives and has averted a substantial number of hospitalizations, doctor and emergency room visits.

## 2 year moratorium announced on water bottling permits

The Ontario Government has announced a two year moratorium on new or expanded water-taking permits for water bottling companies.

Under the proposed regulations, which were announced in October, no company can apply for a new or expanded permit to take water for the purpose of bottling water until January 1, 2019. The proposed regulations would also reduce the length of the permit renewal applications from 10 years to a maximum of 5 years, as well as introduce mandatory reductions on water taking during times of drought.

During the moratorium, the Government says it will review the existing rules for groundwater protection, undertake research to improve our understanding of groundwater, and review the fees charged to large volume water users.

In January the Government announced that it would also increase the fees charged to water bottling companies from \$3.71 per million litres of water to \$503.71 per million litres of water.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott has been closely monitoring the issue surrounding water-taking permits.

“Over and over again, I’ve said the approvals process for large volume water-taking permits needs to be based on hydrogeological studies,

which prove that the quantity and quality of our groundwater will be protected for future generations,” Mr. Arnott pointed out. “These scientific studies need to take into account the future growth pressures that are imposed on our communities through the Places to Grow Act.”

Mr. Arnott added that there is considerable expertise on this issue in Wellington-Halton Hills.

“Recognizing the process is now underway, I hope the Minister will reach out to the University of Guelph’s Centre for Applied Groundwater Research (G360). They are undertaking world-leading, collaborative scientific research on groundwater protection. Our Wellington County municipalities can also provide valuable input. Many individuals in our Riding will also want to provide thoughtful comments,” Mr. Arnott added. “My constituents are engaged in this issue and it won’t take them two years to respond.”

Mr. Arnott noted that people who are concerned can comment on the Ministry’s Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) registry, and that they can also write to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

“I’d appreciate receiving copies of these messages to the Minister, so that I’m in a position to follow up,” he concluded.



**A MEDAL FOR BRAVERY** – On November 24, former Halton Hills Fire Chief Brent Marshall and Assistant Deputy Chiefs Bruce Morrison and Harry Olivieri were honoured at Queen Park with the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery. They were presented the medals, which are awarded to individual firefighters who have displayed exemplary courage, by Ontario Lieutenant Government Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

*(Photo taken by Ted Arnott)*



**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** – Ted Arnott joins in the festivities at Ted Flanagan’s Olde Fashioned Christmas Special at St. John’s United Church in Georgetown in December. The annual fundraising event features Christmas favourites sung by local performers from Halton Hills, and included Ted’s rendition of “Jingle Bell Rock.”

*(Photo courtesy of Ted Flanagan)*

# WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



**WORKING TOGETHER** – Erin Councillors Rob Smith and John Brennan join Lisa Arnott at Ted and Lisa’s family skate in Erin on January 22.

*(Photo by Ted Arnott)*



**TED AND LISA ARNOTT’S FAMILY SKATE** – A large crowd turns out for Ted and Lisa Arnott’s annual family skate in Acton. Each year Ted and Lisa host family skates across Wellington-Halton Hills. This year’s skates were in Georgetown, Acton, and Erin.

*(Photo by Ted Arnott)*

## MPP Arnott continuing to push for expanded GO Train service



Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is continuing to push for all-day, two-way GO Train service on the Kitchener Line through Wellington-Halton Hills.

“Working together for almost a decade, we in Wellington-Halton Hills have been actively pushing for improved GO Train service for the residents of our communities,” Mr. Arnott told MPPs in a statement in the Ontario Legislature on November 30. “And we’ve made some significant progress. The Acton GO Station was re-opened in January 2013, giving our area residents another access point for commuter rail service into the Greater Toronto Area. Additional new trains along what we now call the Kitchener Corridor, give our Georgetown area residents greater flexibility for their daily commute.”

Mr. Arnott again reminded the Government that people have not forgotten their promise during the 2014 election campaign to establish all-day, two-way GO Train service between Kitchener and Union Station, and

expressed disappointment that it was taking so long.

“It was only after the 2014 election was over that the Government admitted that they were planning to take ten years to keep the commitment to two-way, all-day rail service through Wellington-Halton Hills from Kitchener to downtown Toronto,” Mr. Arnott pointed out.

Since the election, Mr. Arnott has twice tabled Private Members Resolutions in the Legislature calling on the Government to fulfill its promise.

“As soon as it was possible to do so after the 2014 election, on July 2, I tabled a Private Member’s Resolution, calling on the Government to immediately move forward to fulfill their commitment to provide full-day, two-way GO Train service on the Kitchener Line between Waterloo Region and the GTA with stops in Wellington-Halton Hills. It was one of the first resolutions on the Ontario Legislature’s Order Paper,” Mr. Arnott reminded the Legislature. “When

the new session began in September [2016], I again tabled my Private Member’s Resolution supporting better GO Train service.”

Mr. Arnott concluded by urging the Government to move forward with its commitment for improved GO Train service.

“I call on the Minister of Transportation to undertake all reasonable efforts to expedite the prerequisites for improved GO Train service along the Kitchener Line, and in doing so, keep the Government’s promise to our communities,” he said.

Afterwards, Mr. Arnott pointed out that there is strong support for these improvements in Wellington-Halton Hills.

“Our MP Mike Chong has been very supportive of GO Train improvements,” he said. “Halton Regional Council, Wellington County Council, as well as our local Mayors and Councils all have an interest, and many have publicly expressed strong support.”

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**PRESENTING A HYDRO PETITION** – Ted Arnott presents a hydro petition in the Legislature in November. Since launching the petition in January 2016, Mr. Arnott has received and presented hundreds of petitions from people across Wellington-Halton Hills concerned about the rising cost of hydro.

## MPP Arnott continuing to present hydro petitions

Rising electricity rates continue to be a significant concern for people across Wellington-Halton Hills.

“We in Wellington-Halton Hills and people across the province are extremely concerned about the increasing price of hydro,” Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott said. “Without question, it is the top issue raised by people who contact us.”

In response to the concerns Mr. Arnott has been hearing, he launched a petition in early 2016 calling on the Government to take immediate action to stabilize hydro rates.

“We’ve had a tremendous response,” Mr. Arnott observed. “The petitions have been coming in steadily all year. We’ve received well over 2000 signatures and I was able to present them 28 times in the Legislature over the course of the year.”

Mr. Arnott says that the soaring cost of hydro can be directly attributed to Government policy decisions, including the feed-in-tariff (FIT) contracts paid for wind and solar power as a result of the Green Energy Act, the

sale of surplus energy to neighbouring jurisdictions at a loss, and new investments in transmission infrastructure.

The 2015 Auditor General’s report found that Ontarians overpaid for electricity by \$37 billion over the past 8 years. The report estimated that Ontarians would overpay by an additional \$133 billion over the next 18 years if nothing changed.

“I want to thank everyone who has signed our petition and helped to circulate it,” Mr. Arnott said. “I plan to continue to present the petitions as they come in. We need to send a message and continue to put pressure on the Government and hold them accountable for their hydro policy decisions.”

**Copies of the petition are available on Mr. Arnott’s website at [www.tedarnottmpp.com](http://www.tedarnottmpp.com) or from Mr. Arnott’s Riding Office at 1-800-265-2366 or [ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org).**

## MTO should provide financial support for Halton Hills Truck Strategy

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is continuing to highlight the need to study the idea of a bypass on Highway 7 around Acton and a long-term strategy to deal with truck traffic through Halton Hills.

Mr. Arnott raised the issue in a statement in the Ontario Legislature on September 29, calling on the Government to work with the Town of Halton Hills to find solutions.

“The Mayor of the Town of Halton Hills, Rick Bonnette, Town Council, and staff, have asked the Minister to partner with the Town on a study to investigate alternatives for a long-term transportation solution for truck traffic along Highway 7 within the Town of Halton Hills,” Mr. Arnott told MPPs. “This would include reviewing the need for an Acton bypass. Working together, we have said that a bypass is needed in order to find a long-term solution to the problem of truck traffic along Highway 7.”

Mr. Arnott has been persistently drawing attention to the issue since October 2015.

“I have raised this issue in the Legislature several times,” Mr. Arnott said. “I have also written to the Minister of Transportation many times, and talked to him directly. I initiated and helped arrange a meeting with the Minister and Mayor Bonnette, Regional Chair Gary Carr, and Town staff in the boardroom of the Minister’s Queen’s Park office.”

On September 12, the very first day the House resumed following the Government’s decision to prorogue

the Legislature, he tabled a resolution calling on the Government to make the Acton bypass a priority. It is the first Private Member’s Resolution on the Legislature’s Order Paper.

The Town of Halton Hills has already begun Phase 1 of the study, looking to develop an overall truck strategy. Phase 2 will examine the possibility of an Acton bypass. So far, the Town has yet to receive any firm commitment of financial support from the Ministry of Transportation.

Mr. Arnott insists that given the fact that Highway 7 is a provincial highway, the Ministry should pay for half the cost of the study, as the Town has requested.

“The Minister led us to believe that he would try to help. And on June 8, he indicated in writing that Ministry staff would assist with the terms of reference of the study,” Mr. Arnott said. “Now the Ministry needs to become our financial partner as well.”

According to the 2016 Budget Papers, the Government plans to spend more than \$2.1 billion on provincial highways in the 2016/17 fiscal year, plus an additional \$768 million on “other transportation, property, and planning.”

“The Region of Halton is only continuing to grow, and this problem will continue to get worse, unless we get together to find a long-term solution,” Mr. Arnott concluded. “Let’s get going.”



**INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH** – Ted Arnott participates in the International Plowing Match which was held in Wellington County in September. The International Plowing Match is North America’s largest outdoor agricultural and rural expo and attracted over 90,000 visitors to Wellington County.

*(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)*



**ELORA CURLING CLUB** – Ted Arnott was on hand to help cut the ribbon at the Elora Curling Club on October 13 after the club received two grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Canada 150 Infrastructure Grant. The Curling Club received a \$126,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to replace the facility’s ice-making components.

*(Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)*

## Changing Workplaces Review could impact local businesses

In February 2015, the Ontario Government launched the Changing Workplaces Review, to examine Ontario's labour laws.

The Review is being carried out by Special Advisors Michael Mitchell and John Murray. They were given a mandate by the Minister of Labour to carry out a review of the Labour Relations Act and Employment Standards Act, with the purpose of examining how these laws can be updated to keep pace with the "changing needs" of workers and employers.

The Special Advisors released their Interim Report on July 27, 2016. It is a 312 page report with a long list of possible recommendations. Interested parties were given less than three months to submit their responses before the October 14 deadline.

"Given the significant implications of many of the recommendations contained in the Interim Report, the Changing Workplaces Review has the potential to fundamentally change the relationship between our province's employers and employees," Mr. Arnott said.

Mr. Arnott has been monitoring the issue closely. He wrote to the Minister of Labour in October, requesting an extension of the submission deadline from October 14 to the end of the year to give all interested groups and individuals time to respond.

While Mr. Arnott was disappointed the Government did not announce an extension of the consultation period, he believes that the Changing Workplaces Review will be a big issue in the coming months.

"I encourage everyone, both our local business owners and employees, to take the time to look at the Interim Report and see what impact these recommendations may have on them," Mr. Arnott said. "This issue isn't going away, and people should be aware of the potential implications that this could have on their businesses and their jobs."

The Special Advisors were expected to submit their final report to the Minister of Labour in February 2017.

Information on the Changing Workplaces Review can be found at: <https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/about/workplace/>

## Halton Diabetes Program: Georgetown office has moved

Halton Healthcare has announced the relocation of the Georgetown Hospital Halton Diabetes Program (HDP) to 360 Guelph Street, Unit 33, Georgetown from its current location at the Hospital.

The program will be sharing office space with Links2Care, an award-winning provider of early intervention services and programs that foster independence and resilience for people across the age continuum. Links2Care has created a community hub with other health service providers to provide accessible services to the residents of Halton Hills.

The arrival of this new program will increase access to diabetes services for patients in the community and supports more integrated care planning to improve the

lives of those living with diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

The Halton Diabetes Program at Georgetown Hospital closed on Wednesday February 1, 2017 and reopened on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the Links2Care offices.

**Please note the following changes effective February 2, 2017:**

**Georgetown Halton Diabetes Program  
360 Guelph Street, Unit 33  
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4B5  
905-873-6502 x 158**

For more information log on to  
[www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com)

