

# TED ARNOTT, MPP

## WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

### Keeping in Touch – Fall 2020



Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills,

So much has changed from the beginning of this year as we continue to confront the challenge of COVID-19. But it hasn't stopped us from finding new ways to connect, create community, and continue working to make Wellington-Halton Hills a great place to live, work, and play—at a distance.

Rainbows have graced our windows, cheers have rung out through the streets, and smiles are shared—even through masked faces.

We have also seen great changes around our neighbourhoods as infrastructure projects continue to improve our community. The Government of Ontario has once again committed to building the Highway 6 Morriston Bypass. In Centre Wellington, our new Groves Memorial Community Hospital opened in August. In Georgetown, Halton Healthcare has started long-term planning for the redevelopment of our Georgetown Hospital. The journey ahead is long and complex, but we are moving forward to the realization of our collective vision. As your MPP, I am pleased to work with our community partners to do whatever I can to help.

Together, we have faced a crisis that is unprecedented in our lifetimes. Our response has demonstrated that we are resolved and resilient. Our community spirit binds us together as we renew and rebuild.

As always, my staff and I are here to help anyway we can on matters involving the Provincial Government. Please feel free to contact our Offices when you need us.

Keep well, stay safe, and take care.

Sincerely,

*Ted Arnott.*

## Thank You Frontline Workers!

While COVID-19 completely upended what we once took for granted as “normal” and cancelled many events and activities we were looking forward to in 2020, there were some bright spots in the darkness: more time at home with our families, new ways to connect with friends near and far, the chance to learn a new skill or practise an old one, and a renewed appreciation for those who work tirelessly on the “frontlines” every day.

We rely on the services provided by our essential workers daily, and our communities are enriched by their presence. To our truck drivers, custodians, waste collectors, grocery clerks, farmers, journalists, municipal employees, police officers, fire fighters, healthcare professionals, and everyone continuing to work in essential services during these difficult times: **THANK YOU!**

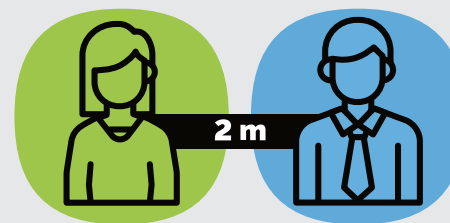
Our doctors, nurses, personal support workers, technicians, and other healthcare professionals have said it best: They stay at work for us, so we need to stay home, maintain our “bubbles,” wear a mask, and practice physical distancing, for them—and for all of us. Continuing to flatten and plank the curve is essential to ensure our healthcare system is not overwhelmed and that we can all get through this together.



**Please wear a mask.**



**Wash hands frequently.**



**Practise physical distancing.**

### 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](mailto:ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org)

Visit us on the web: [www.tedarnottmpp.com](http://www.tedarnottmpp.com) or [www.twitter.com/mpparnottwhh](https://www.twitter.com/mpparnottwhh)

**Queen's Park Office**  
Room 180, Legislative Building  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2  
Tel. (416) 325-3880 • Fax (416) 325-6649  
Email: [speakerarnott@ola.org](mailto:speakerarnott@ola.org)



A LONG HISTORY AT THE GROVES HOSPITAL

My first encounter with the Groves Memorial Community Hospital was in 1963. Though I can’t say I remember my birth at Groves, I do remember many subsequent visits, including the births of our boys.

Many residents of our area have their own histories with Groves and are proof of the great work it has done and continues to do in our community. Our new Groves Hospital serves as a shining beacon of excellence in healthcare, strong community support, and literally thousands and thousands of hours of volunteer labour to raise money.

This amazing community success story didn’t just happen overnight; it’s been years in the making. It was 2004 when I first raised the Groves’ redevelopment plan in the legislature, and I have brought it up in the House again and again, in committee, in letters, in meetings, and in conversation continuously since that day.

But it was not any one person’s efforts that led to the grand opening this year. The hospital has got to this point through *extraordinary community effort*. We have all worked together, building the future of primary care for our residents. Our cumulative efforts are an exemplary show of innovation, collaboration and partnership.

My sincere thanks to my colleagues in local government: successive councils and staff of the Township of Centre Wellington and councils and staff at the County of Wellington for their vision and leadership.

I would also like to thank the Government of Ontario, successive Ministers of Health, the incredible staff at the Ministry of Health, Infrastructure Ontario, Ministry of Finance, and all Ministries involved in the process, as well as my own dedicated staff over the years who have continued to advocate for our communities in every conceivable way.

But our deepest expression of gratitude must be extended to the Groves Hospital staff and volunteers, the board, the foundation, our donors and indeed the entire community—everyone in the hospital’s catchment area—for their hard work, patience, persistence, and generosity. It has been a pleasure to work with them over the years and support them every step of the way.

We know that together we can accomplish anything we set our minds to, and the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital is a great example of this. So—what’s next?



FROM THE ARCHIVES, BREAKING GROUND AT GROVES – On August 9, 2017, Ted participated in the ceremonial ground breaking at the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital. Exactly 3 years later, on August 9, 2020, the hospital officially opened its doors to patients.



YEARS IN THE MAKING – MPP Ted Arnott joins MPP Christine Elliott, MPP Michael Chong, and Stephen Street, Groves President and CEO in front of the new Groves Hospital. The opening celebration capped off 18 years of work by the community to make the new hospital a reality. The new Groves is located at 131 Frederick Campbell Street in Aboyne in the Township of Centre Wellington.



IT’S OPEN! – MP Michael Chong, Deb Hill, Groves’ Senior Vice President of Redevelopment and Transition, MPP Ted Arnott, and Mayor Kelly Linton celebrate the official ribbon cutting for the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital, as Dr. Groves looks on in portrait form.

A 2020 TIME CAPSULE

Just as we asked our grandparents, future generations will likely ask us what it was like living in 2020.

My answer might be this:

For us, 2020 started like every new year.

We had many challenges to tackle, but we were excited about what the year would bring, and as always, hopeful the best was yet to come.

Then a novel coronavirus began to spread around the world, and it came to us.

There was fear. The economy was shuttered, and many lost their jobs. Our hospitals prepared to be overwhelmed. Our long term care homes were hard hit, and many older people died. Families grieved.

There was anxiety. We were told to stay home, only go out if necessary, and stay clear of other people. We couldn’t even visit family and friends.

What once seemed normal was gone in a flash. Community gatherings were banned. Schools were closed, and then went online. Professional sports stopped; the Olympics were postponed.

But there were roses among the thorns.

There was leadership. Our municipal, provincial and federal governments stepped up and worked together. The people responded.

There was courage. Our health care workers never wavered. Our farmers, food processors, truckers and grocery store workers kept us fed. Our police, firefighters and paramedics and other essential workers were amazing. They all risked their own health to keep the rest of us safe.

There was isolation, but there was also connection. Our technology enabled us to keep in touch with loved ones, friends and colleagues.

There was caring and compassion. Neighbour looked out for neighbour. People were generous and shared what they had.

There was resilience. We were determined. The glue that binds society together held. We showed what we were made of. We were worthy of the sacrifices our ancestors had made for us. We laughed more than we cried.

There was belief that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

That we would get through it and rebuild; that life would be better again, even better than before.

That whatever we faced, we could overcome, together.

And we will.



# WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT



**HOME OFFICE** – Like so many people across the Province during the pandemic, Ted worked from home on days when he was not required to be at the Ontario Legislature. Our Riding Office and Queen’s Park staff worked remotely as well, to continue to serve our constituents and the Assembly.

**ANNUAL FAMILY SKATE IN ACTON** – Ted and Lisa have hosted family skates for many years, and fortunately they were able to do so again in January at the Acton Arena and Community Centre and the Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown.



**LOCAL LUNCH** – Ted and his wife Lisa enjoy lunch on the patio at Tanners in Acton. They are pictured here with owner Andrea Clark. Supporting local businesses is especially important during these times!



## REMEMBERING THEIR SERVICE

2020 marked 75 years since the end of World War II. Although observances were not able to proceed as planned, we were able to mark this special occasion through our collective efforts to assist vulnerable neighbours, cheer for frontline workers, and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Ceremonies were also able to take place virtually, and I was honoured to join the Premier of Ontario and participate in a small wreath laying ceremony at Queen’s Park on May 8 and share the following remarks.

*It is my great honour, on behalf of all 124 Members of Provincial Parliament,*

*Opposition and Government alike,*

*To join you here this morning at our provincial seat of Government,*

*Standing strong and bold, as a lasting symbol of democracy and liberty,*

*The very same values which motivated a generation of Canadians to volunteer, risking their lives far from home, in the service of their country.*

*The years have passed, but we gather still, and we do so today, to acknowledge their courage and valour, and remember their sacrifice,*

*In the spirit of John McCrae’s urgent exhortation:*

***“To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.”***

*We now carry that torch.*

*When we look back, we know that the history of our country was not preordained. It didn’t just happen.*

*It unfolded as it did, leading us to become one of the most respected and appreciated nations on the Earth,*

*Because of the qualities of our people: our resourcefulness, our willingness to endure shared sacrifice, our compassion, and most of all, our character.*

*Those qualities were never more evident than during the war years, from 1939 to 1945, and our role in helping to bring World War II to an end was significant.*

*We’ve never started a war, but in defence of freedom, we have always punched above our weight.*

*First in Italy in 1943, then after D-Day in June 1944, Canadian Forces faced down the Nazi occupiers, pushing first through France, then Belgium, and Holland.*

*Fighting not for conquest, but for liberty and freedom. Fighting to build a better world, for the generations who would follow. Our generation.*

*This past week, we also observed the 75th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands by Canadians, which has created a special friendship between our two countries, unique in the world.*

*We are very grateful to the Embassy of the Dutch Kingdom in Canada for the gift of Liberation75 tulips, which now adorn our South Lawn around our flag poles, and serve to refresh our memories of our enduring bond with the Dutch people.*

*Seventy-five years ago, as the hostilities in Europe came to an end, here in Toronto, they celebrated. University Avenue south of us was packed, and the crowds engulfed much of the downtown.*

*Today, by necessity, our numbers are diminished here. Many who would want to be here with us cannot be present.*

*And we are not yet celebrating the end of our trial.*

*But remembering what happened seventy-five years ago inspires in us*

*The strength, the resolve, the resilience,*

*To confront and overcome the challenge of our time.*

*While we are physically apart, all across Ontario, we are together in affection, and in spirit.*



**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF LIBERATION** – This spring, orange tulips bloomed on the grounds of Queen’s Park. The tulips were gifted to legislatures across Canada by The Netherlands in recognition of 75 years since the Liberation of The Netherlands by Canada in World War 2. The Liberation was the beginning of a lasting friendship between Canada and The Netherlands, and Dutch immigrants to Canada continue to show their appreciation in countless ways.



## TAKE A MOMENT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Almost overnight, all of our lives were turned upside down in March. Many of us began working and attending school from home, limiting grocery trips, and visiting family through windows to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Most everyone has felt moments of worry. We've asked ourselves: What will the future bring? What if I get sick? Will I lose my job? Will I ever see my friends again? How will my family and I get through it? When will it end?

In these anxious times, we need to remember the advice of our mental health organizations and advocates about how to deal with stress and keep it from getting us down:

- **Use credible media sources to stay informed, but take a break from it when you need to**
- **Be kind to yourself, and to others**
- **Stay active by going out for a walk, or try exercising at home**
- **Reach out to others through phone calls, texts, or video calls**
- **Take time to notice and appreciate nature**
- **Embrace this opportunity to try a new hobby or learn a new skill**
- **Remember the generations before us who overcame greater challenges**

Please know there are also still a number of community resources available to assist if you are struggling during this period of distancing and ever-changing circumstances, including:

- **Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo-Wellington branch: 1-844-437-3247**
- **Canadian Mental Health Association Halton Region branch: 1-877-693-4270**
- **ConnexOntario: 1-866-531-2600**

## LEADING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

In times of crisis, leaders emerge. They empathize, encourage, support, plan, explain and inspire.

We have seen genuine leadership day after day since the threat of COVID-19 became a reality. New announcements continue, and all orders of government have stepped up to address the challenge head on.

Our local community organizations, including our hospitals, Chambers of Commerce, food banks, service clubs and churches have all pitched in, again providing the leadership to fill the needs of many in our community.

Our essential workers continue to put their own health at risk in order to ensure the rest of us are safe and secure.

Everyone in our province has had their lives up-ended by COVID-19, but in spite of this, we have shown our endurance, resilience, courage and belief that we will get through this together, and Ontario will emerge from it stronger than ever before. We know that we will.

Together, we have successfully “flattened the curve” of new COVID-19 cases. But we can't let up. We must all continue to heed the advice of our public health officials, their recommendations are even more important as the Ontario economy begins to re-open.

And it is also time to support our local businesses, now more than ever before. Buy a gift card to a local store; order take out; arrange a curbside pick up of your favourite products; be patient; and say thank you.

We can all be leaders in this time of crisis.

### *A final word...*

I want to express appreciation to my Riding Office colleagues Judy Brownrigg, Karen Thomas, Janice Howie and Marnie Mainland; and at Queen's Park, Rachel Nauta and Monica Weber. Their effectiveness, dedication and passion for public service are second to none. Thank you all!



**PRIDE DURING A PANDEMIC** – Ted was pleased to join members from all parties to raise the Pride and Trans flags at Queen's Park to mark Pride Month in June. During these difficult days, it is especially important to remember that love will always win.



**RAINBOWS OF HOPE** – Rainbow drawings have been popping up in Wellington-Halton Hills and around the world to spread hope and cheer in our communities. These beautiful rainbow pictures were spotted in Elora.



**FROM THE ARCHIVES** – During his 30 years as an MPP, Ted has hosted many community events, including this summer picnic in Arthur in 1994. He looks forward to doing so in the future, when it is safe for everyone to get together again.



**SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES** – Our local businesses are an important part of our communities. Supporting our local businesses helps support our local economy and our neighbours who run them. Ted is pictured here at Ron Wilkin Jewellers in Fergus with Amy Wilkin. Remember to wear a mask when visiting stores in our communities to keep everyone safe and healthy!



**PLANNING FOR GEORGETOWN'S FUTURE HEALTH CARE NEEDS** – Ted continues to work with Halton Healthcare as it enters the early stages of the Ministry of Health's multi-year approval process for hospital redevelopment. We can all support the Georgetown Hospital Foundation, as we plan and proceed towards our long term goal of a revitalized, state-of-the-art hospital in Georgetown.