

# TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

## Keeping in Touch – Update 2022



Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills:

As MPPs reconvene at Queen's Park for what appears to be the final sitting of the 42nd Provincial Parliament, we can all harbour realistic hope that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic may be behind us.

Public health officials believe that while COVID-19 may not be entirely eradicated, it will eventually level off to an endemic state. This would mean life would largely return to normal, as vaccination continues and immunity to the virus takes hold in the majority of the world's population.

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 seemed to come out of nowhere just before Christmas. Much more contagious than Delta, Omicron case numbers and hospitalizations quickly began growing exponentially, causing our public health officials to recommend additional steps be taken to protect our health care system from being overwhelmed. The Provincial Government accepted this advice, moving the Province back to a "Modified Step 2" list of restrictions intended to slow the spread of the virus and keep people safe.

It goes without saying that we are all exhausted by the pandemic that has upended lives around the world. But it also goes without saying that as much as we wish it were so, it is not yet over.

As your MPP, I have spoken and corresponded with countless constituents, explaining my belief that we need to continue to listen to our Medical Officers of Health, including getting vaccinated. We should heed their advice to the greatest extent possible while we carry on in our communities.

We can all take inspiration from the passionate dedication of our health care workers. They and other essential workers have put themselves at risk day-to-day to ensure our economy continues to function and the rest of us are kept safe. We cannot say thank you enough.

Our education staff and students have also shown tremendous dedication and flexibility as they continue to engage in learning both online and in-person. Our teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, and principals have put in extra time and care to minimize the impact on student mental health and learning.

In these uncertain days, I also take inspiration from the memory of some of the outstanding public servants of the past. Canada lost one of its greatest nation builders when former Premier Bill Davis passed away last year. Unassuming and unflappable, dedicated to the Province and devoted to his family, Premier Davis embodied decency and compromise. His legacy lives on, and MPPs on both sides of the House can learn from his example.

As always, my staff and I are here to help on matters involving the Provincial Government. We continue to seek to ensure your voice is heard at Queen's Park. Please feel free to contact us whenever you need us.

Together, we are getting through this. Better days await us all.

Keep well, stay safe, and take care.

Sincerely,

**Ted Arnott, MPP**  
Wellington-Halton Hills



**Fresh and Local** – The Downtown Georgetown Farmer's Market is a great destination for local produce, such as sweet corn from Bob Allison. Good things grow year round in Ontario, and information about what's in season can be found online at: [ontario.ca/foodland/page/availability-guide](https://ontario.ca/foodland/page/availability-guide)



**Boosting our Protection** – Getting your COVID vaccine, and the booster shot, is the best protection against serious illness from COVID-19. It's quick and easy, and there are lots of appointments available. Thank you to each of the frontline healthcare workers and pharmacists who has stepped up to assist in vaccination efforts across Wellington-Halton Hills.

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SURVEY SAYS...

In our last riding update newsletter, constituents were invited to answer a survey on my website. We have received hundreds of replies, and I would like to thank everyone for sharing their ideas and concerns. Most of the comments have been constructive, even if they have included criticism of current government policies. Several themes emerged.

The responses indicated overwhelming support for stronger measures to protect our natural environment. From a Georgetown resident: “The whole province is watching what the current government is doing to promote and improve environmental protection...why not restore the tree planting initiative to help in the fight against carbon emissions?” From another: “Prioritize the environmental crisis that we’re in. Environmental impact should be considered in every decision. If we don’t have clean air or water, nothing else will matter.”

Many replies expressed support for paying down the provincial debt after the pandemic is over, reflecting a sense of fiscal responsibility and concern for the financial well-being of the next generation.

Future infrastructure needs? Again, a strong consensus that investments in affordable, reliable, high-speed internet make sense. Not surprising, since so many of our residents have struggled to work or learn from home with inadequate broadband, and small businesses seek to increase their on-line presence.

What about the proposed GTA West Multimodal Transportation Corridor? “Paving over farmland is never a good idea!” one Georgetown resident wrote succinctly. Another wrote: “Rationale is based on old, pre-pandemic analysis of need...it feeds urban sprawl which reduces community spirit...” Most respondents believed that the cost of the project will outweigh the benefits.

Under the “additional ideas for improvement” category? Many asked for greater cross-party cooperation. “Stop worrying about being re-elected and do the right non-partisan thing for the future...it is the greater good for which you should be working, not holding onto power.”

The innate wisdom of the people of Wellington-Halton Hills.

NEW CARVING UNVEILED AT QUEEN’S PARK

On November 18, 2021, the Legislative Assembly held a ceremony to unveil a new carving in the Chamber.

The carving, done by Indigenous artist Garrett Nahdee from the Walpole Island First Nation, showcases the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

These teachings have been passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years through ceremonies and stories. Placed above the interior Chamber entrance, the carving embodies animals representing Love, Wisdom, Truth, Humility, Respect, Courage and Honesty. They serve as a permanent reminder of the ongoing role played by Indigenous peoples in the creation of Ontario, and symbolize the continuing renewal of Ontario’s relationship and connections with Indigenous peoples living in the province today.

I had the opportunity to deliver remarks on behalf of all Members of Provincial Parliament, sharing the story of how the carving came to be and the importance of having the Seven Grandfather Teachings in the Legislature. An excerpt of his remarks are below:

I am sure each of us can recall our first visit to this assembly: steeped in grandeur and carrying the weight of our collective history and the possibilities of our future. Our first visit leaves a profound impression, whether it is today or was many years ago.

During my maiden speech as an elected Member, almost 31 years ago, I spoke of my overwhelming feeling of reverence for this chamber and its members.

Today, as we gather to unveil this new carving, I am again overcome with a deep feeling of admiration for this chamber, and the meaningful work we are entrusted to do as elected members on behalf of all the people of Ontario.

Some days here are routine. But other days, like today, are truly remarkable.

This historic day is the culmination of the efforts of many, beginning in 2016 when Yasir Naqvi suggested to Speaker Dave Levac that the Assembly consider bringing indigenous artwork into the Chamber, following his attendance at an event which recognized the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



**The Seven Grandfather Teachings** –Seen above the entrance to the Legislative Chamber, the Seven Grandfather Teachings are a set of guiding principles that give people the tools for how to live a good life. Each of the animals in the carving represent one of the teachings: courage, truth, wisdom, love, respect, humility, and honesty. You can learn more about this beautiful carving at: [www.ola.org/seven-grandfather-teachings](http://www.ola.org/seven-grandfather-teachings)

In the years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report was released, all Canadians have had the opportunity to learn and reflect upon our past, and today we are continuing to renew our relationship with all Indigenous peoples living in the province.

And in this spirit, let us embark on this new journey together. The carving we are unveiling today is an exquisite addition to the Chamber’s art and history; but it is much more than that. It is a symbol of the continued relationship we are building with indigenous communities as we work together to create a brighter future for each of us in this province.

We are honoured that the story of the Seven Grandfather teachings is being shared with us today and displayed as a permanent reminder of the guiding principles we can all embody as we pursue good governance and a good life.



SUPPORTING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott has a front row seat to the extraordinary spirit and generosity of the people in our riding. We care, which is why so many of our residents give of their time, talent and hard-earned money to give back to others in need. It seems to be ingrained in us, and it’s part of our culture.

One such need is mental health.

The pandemic has affected all of us, and the maintenance of good mental health has been the key to the resilience we’ve had to acquire to get through it.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and its local branches have been at the forefront of providing supports and services to help. And their work is not unnoticed.

In fact, one of our local residents, Robert Eilers, has donated \$50 million (yes, fifty million dollars) to CMHA to build a new Centre for Children’s Mental Health and Developmental Services in Guelph. I was pleased to join the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner at the groundbreaking event, held on July 22nd.

Mr. Eilers thanked CMHA by telling his own personal story of overcoming adversity.

“Please never doubt for one minute the impact you have on the children that you help and support every day. You make a difference in ways you may never see, and sometimes it can take decades to see the results of your efforts. Someone helped me 35 years ago when I was 17...today was their doing,” he said. “I was on a very different, very destructive path and they supported me and helped me take a different, more constructive, more positive path.”

Mr. Eiler’s donation is believed to be the most generous to CMHA ever.

CMHA’s local CEO Helen Fishburn highlighted why the donation is so timely. “Children, youth and their families are struggling and suffering more with mental health issues than ever before, thanks to this thing called COVID,” she said.

Robert Eiler shows us mental health challenges can be overcome, and caring and generosity are alive and well in our communities.

In addition to the development of the new Centre for Children’s Mental Health and Developmental Services, there are a number of community resources available for those in need including:

- Halton Region Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association: [halton.cmha.ca](http://halton.cmha.ca)
- Waterloo Wellington Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association: [cmhaww.ca](http://cmhaww.ca)
- Ontario Mental Health Resources: [ontario.ca/mentalhealth](http://ontario.ca/mentalhealth)
- Kid’s Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868



**Investing in Seniors at Bennett Village** – Patricia Godden, a resident at the Bennett Village in Georgetown, took up painting at age 93 and showcased her talents with her daughter and MPP Arnott during an outdoor visit to the Bennett Centre. The Centre has received approval to rebuild and Mr. Arnott worked closely with Bennett Centre staff to encourage the government to support their rebuild.

ARNOTT IN THE NEWS:  
Highway 413 Debate Continues to Drive Interest

(written for the Independent and Free Press, December 2021)

The Ministry of Transportation’s proposed Highway 413 project continues to generate a great deal of discussion at Queen’s Park. On the one hand, the Ministry maintains a new 400 series highway is needed in the western GTA to address current congestion, strengthen our economic competitiveness, plan for future population growth, and create jobs and economic activity. On the other hand, critics of the 413 proposal question the cost, the environmental impact, the loss of farmland, the traffic studies that have been done, and even the Provincial Government’s motivation for proceeding with planning for a new highway that actually started under a previous Government. Locally, the Council of the Town of Halton Hills has consistently opposed the construction of the 413, while the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce has expressed support.

As your MPP, I continue to carefully monitor the issue. Future traffic projections are less certain because of the pandemic, but I agree that we need to plan realistically for future growth. As part of the GTA we need to be forward looking, while ensuring that the environmental impact of new infrastructure projects is minimized, quality farmland is protected, and tax dollars are spent effectively and carefully.

Last month, I sought a meeting with senior staff of the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the latest developments on the 413 proposal. We met virtually on November 25. Once again, I urged Ministry staff to consider the views of the people of our Riding, consult with the Town of Halton Hills Council, and listen to us before final decisions are made.

I was assured that discussions with the Town will continue. I will ensure that they do.

As always, your comments are very helpful as I continue to ensure your voice is heard at Queen’s Park.



**Ground-breaking Mental Health Investment** –MPP Arnott was honoured to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Centre for Children’s Mental Health and Development Services building. The building is the future home of over 30 service providers focused on youth wellness and resilience.



# Keeping in Touch – Update 2022



**Heroic Healthcare in Wellington–Halton Hills** –The Groves Memorial Community Hospital continues to shine as a beacon of modern healthcare in its second year of operation at the new site. Healthcare workers across the riding continue to go above and beyond to care for residents. In Georgetown, work also continues on planning for hospital revitalization at the Georgetown Hospital.



**Remembrance at Queen’s Park** –MPP Arnott joins representatives of the Canadian Forces outside the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony.



**Skating Safely**—MPP Arnott enjoys the Optimist Recreation Centre’s Outdoor Arena in Aberfoyle. Public health measures in recreation settings, like wearing a mask, are in place to keep us all safe and allow us to stay active and healthy. Getting active and being outdoors is great for your mental and physical health, and there are lots of outdoor arenas, trails, and parks in Wellington–Halton Hills to enjoy.

**Sunrise Forest** –Along with Puslinch Mayor Jamie Seeley and MPP for Guelph Mike Schreiner, MPP Arnott visited the Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre for a tree planting event in their Sunrise Forest. When complete, the project will include 20 acres of managed forest and meadows with riding trails, accessible walkways, memorial areas, program spaces, benches and accessible interpretive signage.

## 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)



From the Archives, 2007 – Wellington–Halton Hills MP Michael Chong and Ted enjoying the summer sunshine at an event in Georgetown, pictured here with friends Tom Kilmer and John Duncan.

## HERE TO HELP!

The Wellington–Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office is here to help constituents with matters relating to the Provincial Government.

- Birth/Death/Marriage Certificates
- Driver and Vehicle Licenses
- Employment Standards
- Family Responsibility Office
- Health Cards
- Hydro One
- Landlord and Tenant Board
- LHIN/Ontario Health
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- Ontario Works
- Power of Attorney forms
- Service Ontario
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)