



# TED ARNOTT, MPP

## WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

### Keeping in Touch, Summer 2023

Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills:

It gives me great pleasure to be writing to you once again, to provide you with an update on some of the events in our Riding, and how the Legislative Assembly of Ontario works to serve you, your family and our communities.

Half-way into 2023, we have seen and been part of a resurgence of hope and optimism as the worst of COVID-19 recedes into memory.

New challenges have emerged, including the rising cost of living caused by inflation, the unacceptably high cost of housing, and stubborn economic uncertainty.

The rising cost of groceries and other essentials are making it hard for many families to make ends meet. In addition, higher interest rates are creating a credit crunch for many households. A growing number of people are forced to choose between eating and making rent payments at the end of the month. Our food banks are responding, and I want to especially thank our volunteers for caring.

But these problems are offset by the fact that most of us have been able to resume many normal, day-to-day activities. Never before in living memory has it been so wonderful to see friends and family, in person, and share a laugh and a loving embrace. We are forever grateful to our health care workers and other front-line workers who helped us turn the page on the pandemic.

Few things give me more inspiration than the spirit and dedication I witness first-hand whenever I attend community events in our Riding. Our amazing volunteer community spirit was never diminished during the pandemic, but it was by necessity dormant. Today, that is no longer the case. Once again, our communities have come alive.

As always, I continue to view your concerns as my priority. Not a working day goes by that I am not engaged in seeking to ensure that our Riding's needs are considered and addressed. My staff and I also work to ensure that every voice is heard by the provincial Government.

Let's all look for ways to get involved. To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your community can do for you; ask what you can do for your community." We can all do our part.

As always, my dedicated and caring staff colleagues and I are here to help any way we can on matters involving the Provincial Government. Please feel free to contact us whenever you need us.

And let us never lose sight of the fact that we are fortunate to live in Wellington County and Halton Region, and we have it within ourselves to help build a better world for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Ted Arnott*

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



**Proud of our Community** — MPP Ted Arnott joined MPP Matt Rae and Senator Rob Black, along with community members at the Centre Wellington OPP Operations Centre in Aboyme to mark the start of Pride Month. The Wellington County OPP raised the Pride Flag for the first time this year to show the 2SLGBTIA+ community that we are here to support them and to continue our efforts to ensure their safety in our communities. Our communities welcome everyone, and together we can stand in support of inclusion, tolerance, acceptance, respect, and compassion.



**Thanking our Healthcare Partners** — MPP Arnott was pleased to join Halton Region MPPs, MPs, and Regional Chair Gary Carr to thank Halton's Paramedic Service teams as part of Paramedic Services Week. The Service responds to over 55,000 calls each year and transports more than 35,000 patients in need of additional care.



**Red Chamber at the Pink Palace** — Unlike the Ontario Legislature, the Parliament of Canada is made up of 2 Chambers: the House of Commons and the Senate. Senators representing Ontario visited Queen's Park to watch Question Period and meet with Members of Provincial Parliament. Together, Members and Senators discussed how Ontario is represented at each level of Government. MPP Arnott joined Members in welcoming the Senators, including a familiar face in Wellington County: Senator Rob Black, who previously served on Wellington County Council.

## Contact Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott



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## What Happens at Queen’s Park?

Ontario’s parliament is the legislative or law-making body, responsible for debating, amending and passing laws. This democratic process takes place at Queen’s Park in Toronto, where the 124 Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) elected from across Ontario come together to represent their communities.

For those who recall the show “Schoolhouse Rock,” before a law can be passed, it is introduced as a bill and goes through a number of important stages that allow MPPs to study and debate an idea before it becomes law. In Ontario, the process goes through a number of steps as explained below:

### Introduction and First Reading

When a bill is introduced in the House, it is called First Reading. At this time, the objectives of the bill are explained and the MPPs decide whether to accept the bill for future debate. If it is accepted, it is assigned a number, printed, and scheduled for debate for Second Reading. Each member receives a copy of the bill and the debate is usually scheduled for several days later, giving MPPs time to study the bill.

### Second Reading

During Second Reading, MPPs debate the principles of the bill. They are each allowed to speak only once during this time. After the debate, the MPPs vote on whether to let the bill proceed to the next step. In some cases, the bill may move directly to Third Reading, but often it is first examined by a Standing or Select Committee. The bill can be in the committee stage for a few days or up to several months. After review by the Committee, the bill is reported back to the House. It may be sent to the Committee of the Whole House or directly to final debate.

### Third Reading

During Third Reading, MPPs debate the bill for the last time. Following the debate, the Speaker calls for a final vote about the proposed law.

### Royal Assent

If the majority of MPPs vote to make the bill a law during Third Reading, it is presented to the Lieutenant Governor for Royal Assent. This procedure is called Royal Assent because the Lieutenant Governor is agreeing to the bill on behalf of The King. This last step officially makes the bill a law.

Explanations from the Legislature’s website: [www.ola.org](http://www.ola.org).



*Signing In* — Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Todd Decker, looks on as MPP Ted Arnott signs his name on the roll after being sworn for the 43rd Parliament. Mr. Decker recently retired from the Legislative Assembly after 39 years of service. The extensive procedural knowledge of the Clerk helps all members to debate, amend, and pass legislation at Queen’s Park.



*From the Archives* — Ted, Lisa, Jack, Dean, and Phill had a front row seat in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly during the 2009 Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



*Provincial Neighbours* — The Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Assemblée nationale du Québec come together through the Ontario Quebec Parliamentary Association to share ideas, compare policies, and further the friendship between Parliaments. We were honoured to host the Quebec delegation in Toronto this year.

## The King’s Coronation

*In May, countries in the Commonwealth celebrated the coronation of King Charles III. At Queen’s Park, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, hosted a flag raising to mark the occasion. I was pleased to join in the celebration and deliver remarks on behalf of the Legislative Assembly:*

On this day, we acknowledge our history. We look to the past, taking pride in our accomplishments, but at the same time reflecting upon the injustices which are also part of that history. And on this day, we acknowledge our future.

We look ahead, taking strength in the hope that’s in our hearts, but at the same time resolving to do better, so that “freedom prevails, and justice rules.”

Today, just as always, the Crown, as personified and embodied by His Majesty King Charles III, is the fundamental element of our parliamentary democracy and legal system. It the foundation upon which our government is structured, and how it functions: how it seeks to “meet the needs of the people we serve.”

This system we have, with all its obvious flaws, but equally obvious virtues, can only operate over time, if there is stability and continuity; if there is a head of state who is above politics, and who unifies and embodies the interests of the nation and its people.

As Canadians, we are respected around the world, not so much because of our might, or even our accomplishments. We are respected and admired because of the character of our people, and the values we demonstrate every day, including our diversity, our tolerance, our fairness, and our compassion.

The Canadian example is a beacon to a troubled world. And it is our system of government that has been the framework upon which today’s Canada was built, and continues to grow and evolve, to something even better.

But His Majesty can’t be here all the time, obviously. No doubt he wishes he could be here more often. And so he is represented by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, whose commitment to service is the very same as the late Queen she served. It is tireless. It is genuine. It is total.

Today, we are very fortunate to have Her Honour representing His Majesty the King in this province. Thank you, Your Honour. And let us always acknowledge, and never forget that while we meet here this moment at “Queen’s Park,” named for Her Majesty Queen Victoria in 1860, these Legislative grounds rest on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. They have been a gathering place for other Indigenous peoples, including the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe for thousands of years. A gathering place where we assemble on this glorious day of celebration and renewal, at a place named for a monarch long ago, but consecrated by the peoples who were here first, symbolizing the sacred bond between the Crown and Indigenous peoples.

In 2021, we unveiled an Indigenous carving in the Legislative Chamber, the first major alteration of the Chamber in many years. That carving, “The Seven Grandfather Teachings” serves to remind Members every day of the virtues we need to demonstrate in order to live “a good life”: Love, wisdom, truth, respect, humility, honesty, courage.

On the day we unveiled the carving, Gimaa Stacey Laforme remarked that we have a similar past, a kindred spirit and a common heritage. And we must always remember the real reason we gather: to do the right thing for our people, our children, and our future. Let us remember that too, every time we say: “God Save The King.”



## A Lesson in Education by Ted Arnott, MPP

School may be out for the summer, but before the final bell, I had the opportunity to go back to school with the Halton District School Board.

It has been a while (quite a long time) since I was a public school student in Arthur. However, I recently went back to school with trustee Jeanne Gray, as part of Halton District School Board’s Take Your MPP to School initiative. To say I was impressed would be an understatement.

After the pandemic’s sporadic interruptions of in-person learning, Robert Little and McKenzie-Smith Bennett public schools and Acton District High School are again alive and bursting with enthusiasm and creativity.

Acton High has launched a mental health and well-being improvement program, ensuring every student feels like they belong, and is improving students’ mental health literacy and resilience. It could not be better timed and it’s a model for the province.

I’ve also had the chance to catch up with Halton Catholic District School Board trustees and staff, visiting Holy Cross Catholic Elementary, Christ the King Catholic Secondary School in Georgetown and the Thomas Merton Centre for Adult and Continuing Education in Oakville, along with local trustee Janet O’Hearn-Czarnota.

Again, I saw first-hand — and was blown away — by the extraordinary dedication and caring of our education professionals, and the response of students toward achieving extraordinary outcomes.

Going back to 2008, we have approached the Ministry of Education on at least 10 separate occasions seeking support and approval for a new Holy Cross school.

Parts of the current school are more than 60 years old, and its overall condition continues to deteriorate. Our students deserve better and the school board has an innovative new solution. I appreciated the minister’s interest and I look forward to his response.

As an member of provincial parliament (MPP), I have always believed our publicly funded school systems are the incubator of our society’s future. There are myriad reasons why investments in public education pay huge dividends down the road.

One is that well-educated communities attract job-creating investments. If our education system is the best in the world, Ontario will lead the world in the decades to come. That is why we must set the bar high and with continuous improvement strive to raise it even higher.

*Originally published in the Independent and Free Press on June 6, 2023.*



***Back to School** — As part of the HDSB’s Bring Your MPP to Work Day, MPP Ted Arnott traded his seat in the Legislature for a seat in the classroom to learn more about the incredible work being done to support students at schools throughout the Board.*

## What’s Happening Here in Wellington-Halton Hills

Wellington-Halton Hills has no shortage of fun things to do all year round, but our communities are particularly busy during the summer months. Thanks to our dedicated and resilient community groups and volunteers, there are many incredible things to do close to home. I hope to see you around at some of our great local events!

### Downtown Georgetown Farmers Market: Saturdays from June-October

You can expect to find local seasonal fruit and vegetables, local honey, syrup and jams, deli meat items, hand-made botanical soaps and lotions, artisans, flowers and plants. Every week we also feature talented crafters and local community groups that appeal to a wide variety of interests.



***Continuing to Advocate for the Continuum of Care** — Along with County officials and MPP Matt Rae, it was great to host the Associate Minister of Housing—the Honourable Nina Tangri—in Wellington County to share with her the proposal for Wellington County’s Inclusive Seniors Village.*

### Elora Festival: July 7-18

Now in its 44th season, the Elora Festival has established a reputation as Canada’s international choral festival, presenting world-class choirs and vocal ensembles over two weeks in July in the artists village of Elora, “Ontario’s most beautiful village.”

### Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games: August 11-13

Celebrate local Scottish heritage with world-renowned talent and entertainment in the beautiful town of Fergus, Ontario. Enjoy the best of Scotland... without the airfare.

### Acton Leathertown Festival: August 13

Acton has been a proud Canadian leader for more than 180 years in the leather and crafts industries. Join us for Friends, Family, Food and FUN! Celebrating the Acton Community and its Members at Halton Hills’ largest one-day event.

### Hillsburgh “Let’s Get Growing” Family Fun Day: August 19

Since 2006, the third Saturday in August is FAMILY FUN DAY in Hillsburgh, now organized by the Let’s Get Hillsburgh Growing committee. A family-oriented event featuring music, games for the kids and a Classic car Show.

### Riverfest Elora: August 18-20

Over the years, Riverfest Elora has brought an impressive array of musicians to the small town. Get ready for a full weekend of music, arts, food and culture!

### Georgetown Craft Beer-Head for the Hills Festival: September 16

Head for the Hills is a day of craft beverage sampling, gourmet food, and live music in the beautiful countryside. Voted the #1 Beverage Festival in Ontario, Head for the Hills is a guaranteed good time rain or shine.



***Gone Fishing** — Over 550 anglers registered for the Belwood Lions Club’s annual Pike and Walleye Derby. There are many great lakes and rivers around Wellington-Halton Hills for fishing, swimming, boating, and relaxing. Don’t forget your lifejackets to stay safe while you have fun!*

In addition to these events, we have fabulous Fall Fairs in Aberfoyle, Acton, Erin, Fergus, and Georgetown, thanks to enthusiastic community volunteers.

We also have Farmers’ Markets in Aberfoyle, Acton, Elora, and Erin.

Our local newspapers, municipal websites, and BIAs are great resources to know what’s going on across Wellington-Halton Hills.

You can also find events and markets across Ontario by visiting [www.festivalsandeventsontario.com](http://www.festivalsandeventsontario.com) and [www.farmersmarketsontario.com](http://www.farmersmarketsontario.com). Ontario is “yours to discover” and you can find travel ideas all around the Province at [www.destinationontario.com](http://www.destinationontario.com)



Around the Riding



*Shining Bright at Sunrise* — Joined by head instructor Camilla Giffen and Sunrise rider Nicholas Caine, MPP Arnott cuts the ribbon on Sunshine Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre’s new tractor, purchased with the help of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Grant. This new tractor will allow Sunrise to improve health and safety practices related to pasture and farm maintenance.



*Celebrating Spring* — Ted and Lisa serve up delicious pancake toppings at the annual Spring Fling at James McQueen Public School. A very enthusiastic team of School Council volunteers organized the successful fundraising event.

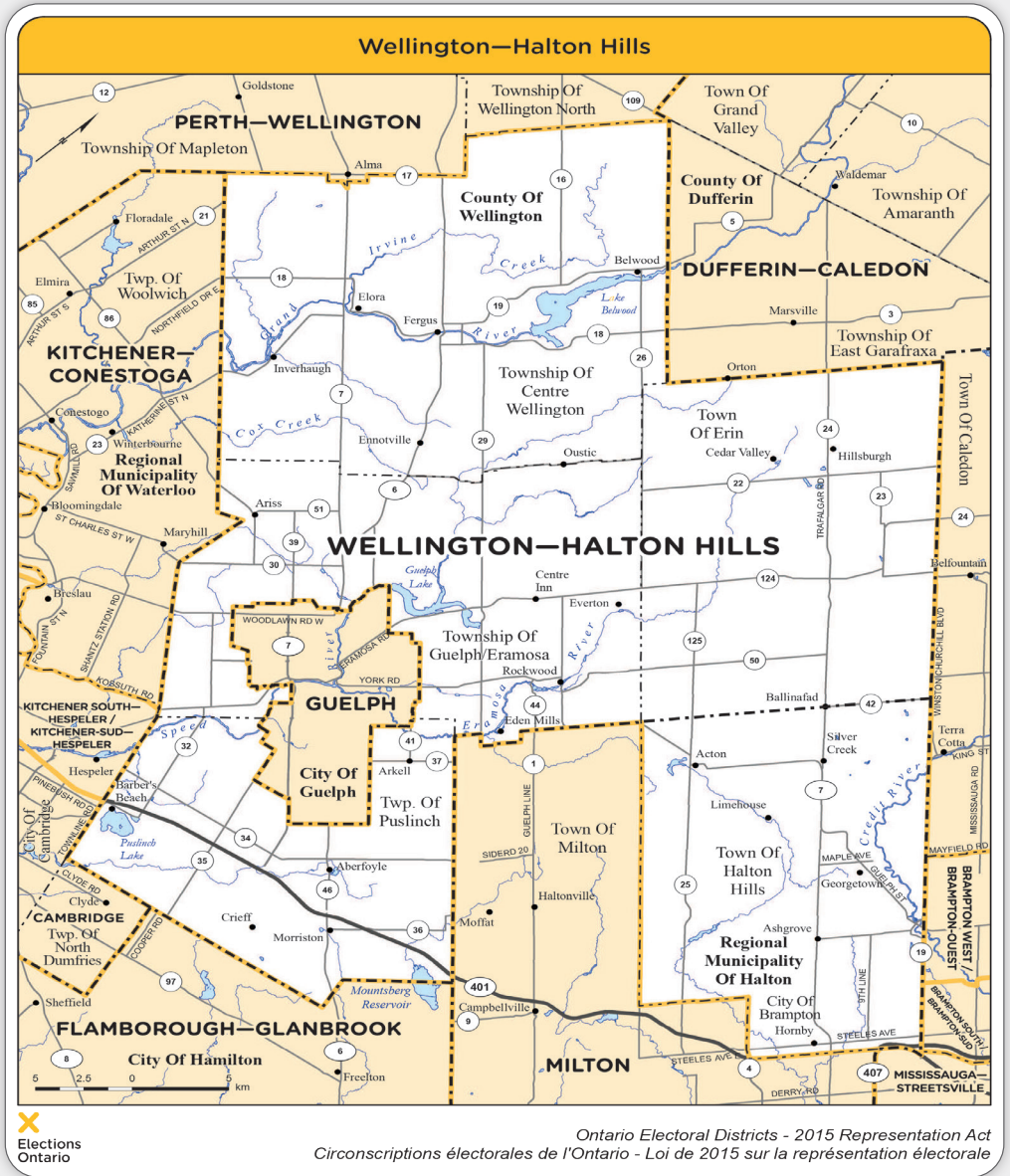


*Breakfast on the Farm* — Ted was glad to attend the successful “Breakfast at the Farm” at Crossen Holsteins, hosted by the Fergus Agricultural Society and Alma Optimists. The event brought many families out to the farm for a delicious meal and a chance to see firsthand where our Ontario-made food comes from by touring the dairy operation.

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)



*Spring Socializing* — Ted and Lisa greet guests at their annual Spring Social. This year, the event was held in the Rose Gardens and Aberfoyle Hall at the Wellington County Museum and Archives. If you didn’t have a chance to talk to Ted at the Spring Social, his office is open all year long to hear from constituents and help on matters relating to the Provincial Government.

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)