



TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch, Update 2024

Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills:

I am grateful for this chance to send you an update on what's happening in our Riding and at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at Queen's Park in Toronto.

As spring approaches, we can look forward to a new, refreshed burst of life and community activity. Farmers will be on their land planting for the coming season. Small businesses will ramp up ahead of another season of tourism and festivals. Construction of the new homes we need will continue unabated. Kids will be playing soccer and baseball, cheered on by their parents. Each of us has something to look forward to in spring and summer.

But for many today, the high cost of living continues to strain household budgets. A large number of families are struggling to make ends meet, as inflation increases the cost of groceries and other essentials, the inadequate supply of attainable housing pushes up rents, and higher interest rates mean the cost of borrowing creeps up. An entire generation wonders if home ownership will be possible for them. All orders of government need to work together and look for ways to help.

Members of Provincial Parliament continue to meet, debate and vote on the issues, challenges, and opportunities that Ontario faces. Whether it be health care, education, community safety, housing, protection of our natural environment, and so much more, the Government of Ontario is responsible for services and programs that directly impact our families and communities. However, good government depends on the active involvement of the people we are privileged to represent and serve. Democracy flourishes when good people are engaged. We can all participate in making our communities even better. The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in Wellington-Halton Hills.

As always, I am also grateful to work with my caring and dedicated colleagues in our Riding Office and Queen's Park Office on your behalf. We are here to help any way we can on concerns about the Provincial Government. Please do not hesitate to contact us when you need us.

With every good wish,

Ted Arnott

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills



Acton Awarded Trillium Grant Funding—The Town of Halton Hills recently received an Ontario Trillium Grant to update the HVAC systems at the Acton Arena. MPP Arnott celebrated this announcement with Halton Hills Mayor Ann Lawlor and Town Councillors. In a news release from the event, MPP Arnott noted that: "Improving energy efficiency is important and the Town of Halton Hills deserves credit for managing and maintaining outstanding recreational facilities in our communities."



Write-On—The Eden Mills Writers' Festival Rivermead headquarters had its grand re-opening late last year. Ted joined the Township of Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White to help the group celebrate. The 162-year-old heritage building was upgraded thanks to an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, which will ensure the community has improved access to literature programming and events for years to come. Every September since 1989, the Eden Mills Writers' Festival has been offering readers a showcase of established and emerging Canadian writing, and this year's Festival will take place from September 6-8, 2024.

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Busting Barriers at Queen's Park

There is a new addition to the historic hallways of Ontario's Legislative Assembly. On January 21, a bust of Lincoln M. Alexander was unveiled at Queen's Park; marking the first instance of any likeness honouring a Black Canadian political figure to be displayed in a parliamentary setting in Canada.

The day of the ceremony also marked Lincoln Alexander Day, which is recognized each year in Ontario. It was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by MPP Arnott—co-sponsored with his colleagues in the Legislature, MPPs Bas Balkissoon and Paul Miller— and passed into law in 2013. January 21 was selected as the day to recognize “Linc,” in honour of his birthday. This year he would have been 102 years of age. MPP Ted Arnott was honoured to present the following remarks as part of the ceremony:

“We gather to honour and remember one of Canada's finest public servants,

Whose personal decency and trail-blazing accomplishments inspire us to this day.

And it is fitting and appropriate that we unveil this “likeness of Linc,” and display it here at Queen's Park,

So that a new generation of Canadians can learn about the man he was, and the timeless values he lived by.

I would like to acknowledge Rosemary Sadlier and the entire Linc Committee for their work to make this day a reality in collaboration with artist Quentin VerCetty, Licensed to Learn, the Black Opportunity Fund, and our Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations team.

Each of us here is a part of Linc's legacy and contributed to this day in some way,

whether we knew him personally,

or benefitted from his life of service and the barriers he shattered for the next generation of leaders to follow in his footsteps.

For those of us who were privileged to meet and know Linc, I'm sure we all have our own special memories.

I want to share one of mine with you today, one that I also shared in the House during debate on the Lincoln Alexander Day Act in 2013:

Lincoln Alexander was the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario when I was first elected to the Assembly in 1990.

When he would come into the chamber here at Queen's Park for a throne speech or other special occasions—

he had a bearing and a manner that ironically seemed to be both regal and down-to-earth at the same time.

But it was his sense of humour that endeared him to everyone who knew him.

As chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, he visited Wellington County in the summer of 2008 to help unveil a historical heritage plaque at Glen Allan, recognizing the Queen's Bush settlement, which was a community of 2,000 black settlers, many of whom were escaped slaves who had come to Canada from the southern United States via the Underground Railroad.

“Good afternoon, Your Honour,” I said, as I greeted him.

“They said there would be some big shots here,” he replied.

I smiled, protesting that I didn't see myself as a big shot.

He said, “All you MPPs think you're big shots.”

We both laughed, remembering that he too had been a parliamentarian and so, by his own definition, was a big shot himself.

If only he had known then that we would one day gather here to unveil his bust, memorializing his “big shot” status in the halls of Queen's Park, on display for all visitors...

And while he may have said it in jest, he certainly does fit the definition: a person of consequence or prominence.

The Honourable Lincoln MacCauley Alexander really was a Big Shot: a man whose political appeal crossed party lines and whose life was an example of service, perseverance, humility and humanity, principles which we should all aspire to embody.

Linc inspired thousands of young Canadians with his life story and example of overcoming discrimination,

pursuing excellence and working for a better Canada,

and his story will continue to inspire visitors through stories shared around this bust and the accompanying displays.

Thank you all for being here today on what would have been Linc's 102nd birthday. May we continue to honour his legacy and inspire those around us the way Linc inspired us.”



“Linc” Event Speakers—MPP Arnott presented remarks at the unveiling of the bust for Lincoln M. Alexander. He is pictured here with the Speaker of the House of Commons in Ottawa, Hon. Greg Fergus, at the start of the ceremony. Lincoln Alexander was the first black Member of Parliament, and Hon. Greg Fergus is the first black Speaker of the House of Commons.



Learning More About “Linc”—Visitors to Queen's Park can see the bust of Lincoln M. Alexander and other historic busts and artifacts as part of the Legislature's free public tours. There are also options to learn more about Queen's Park and the work of Parliament online from home, through webinars and virtual tours. You can learn more about them at www.ola.org/visit-learn.

The Legislature's ON Parliament Podcast is also a great way to learn about the history and traditions of parliament. Monthly episodes of ON Parliament can be found wherever you listen to podcasts, or on the Legislature's website at www.ola.org/ON-parliament-podcast.

Working Together with Municipal Partners on Behalf of Wellington-Halton Hills

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) attracts more than 1,600 participants to its Annual Conference in Toronto. Earlier this year, about 300 municipalities sent delegations to gather, discuss common challenges, share best practices, and meet with Members of Provincial Parliament.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott rarely misses the ROMA conference. He goes to demonstrate his support for our local municipal Councils and their staff in meetings with Ontario Cabinet Ministers.

At ROMA this year, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr and other Halton representatives pushed for a “New Deal for Halton Region.” Since Halton continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in Canada, there is a need for up to \$5.2 billion in infrastructure investments to keep up with that growth in the coming years. Provincial support for water, wastewater and road infrastructure would be money well spent. Any funding gaps on shared services need to be assessed and when possible, addressed. Stability in the two-tier regional governance structure will provide greater certainty in the continued delivery of quality, cost-efficient local services.

The Town of Erin advocated for financial support from the federal and provincial Governments for its wastewater treatment project serving Erin and Hillsburgh. As the largest southern Ontario community still using septic systems, the project is needed to protect the environment and accommodate future residential and business growth, as Erin does its part in helping the Province achieve its ambitious goal of building 1.5 million new homes in the next decade. A provincial grant would help offset the hook-up costs for the existing residents, making the transition to the new communal system more affordable, especially for low-income families and those on fixed incomes.

The Township of Centre Wellington asked the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to approve the growth forecasts in the County of Wellington’s Official Plan Amendment #120. There needs to be consultation between the Province and local municipalities on any urban boundary revisions that

are being contemplated. An expansion of the Connecting Link boundary (Highway 6 through Fergus) would facilitate growth, without the need to wait for approvals from the Ministry of Transportation. Longer term, increased traffic volumes mean we will need to begin planning and building support for a bypass around Fergus.

Mr. Arnott has persistently advocated for our infrastructure needs over the 33 and a half years that he has served as an MPP. He intends to follow up with the relevant Ministers in the provincial Government on these priorities, as well as the other issues our local municipalities identify and bring to his attention.

Explanations from the Legislature’s website: www.ola.org.



Halton Shares Local Updates with Minister of Municipal Affairs—
MPP Arnott joined the Halton Region ROMA delegation for their meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Paul Calandra. He is pictured here with MPP Natalie Pierre, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward, and Halton Regional Councillors Colin Best, Clark Somerville, Angelo Bentivegna, and Rory Nisan.



Meeting with the Minister—The Township of Centre Wellington had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing at the ROMA Conference. Mayor Shawn Watters, along with councillors and municipal staff, shared local priorities and MPP Arnott was pleased to express his support.

Elections in Ontario

March is Voter Registration Month in Ontario; a great opportunity to confirm your address and ensure you are registered to vote! To be eligible to vote in Ontario, voters must be 18 years of age or older on polling day, a Canadian citizen, and a resident of the province. But, if you’re 16 or 17 and reside in Ontario, you can add yourself to the Ontario Register of Future Voters on the Elections Ontario website.

There have been many stories in the news about electoral processes, and in Canada we are very fortunate to have safe and secure election processes.

Ontario’s elections are administered by Elections Ontario under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer—a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly. Elections Ontario’s mission is to “uphold the integrity and accessibility of the electoral process and to manage elections in an

efficient, fair, and impartial manner,” something they take very seriously, as voting is an essential part of our democracy.

While Ontario’s next election is not scheduled to take place until June of 2026, Elections Ontario is still busy preparing as much as possible in advance, so they are ready when the election is called. Elections Ontario is continually securing voting locations; updating voter records; purchasing supplies like paper for ballots and pens to mark your selected candidate; and staying informed about the latest electoral news and processes from around the world.

They also administer by-elections in ridings where a resignation or the passing of a Member has created a vacant seat in the Legislature.

When an election is called, there is an Ontario-wide effort to ensure that all eligible voters can cast a ballot. Each electoral district has a local

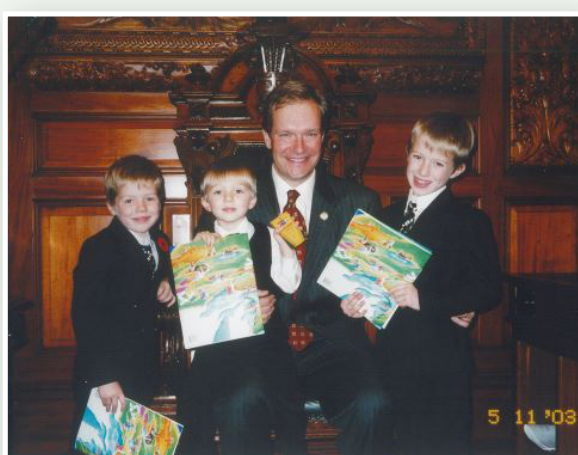
election office known as a returning office, which opens once an election or by-election has been called. The returning office hires local residents to fill the various roles required for the election, like poll clerks or information officers that help direct voters to their voting stations. These staff also tabulate the vote and share the results with the returning office so that the successfully elected candidate can be determined.

Civic engagement is key to maintaining a healthy society and it follows that a free and fair electoral process is a cornerstone of our democracy, and registering for the vote is the first step. We are very fortunate in Canada to have non-partisan offices committed to making voting easy and accessible for all electors. In March, or at any time through the year, check that you are registered to take part in our democratic process:

www.registertovoteon.ca



Building Healthcare in Halton Region —
In November 2023, Halton Healthcare was thrilled to announce an incredibly generous donation of 105 acres of land from the Walker Wood family to help meet the future healthcare needs of its communities. The family donated the farm that was their home for many years to Halton Healthcare in memory of Neil Cameron Walker Wood, who passed away in 2021. This donation is a great step towards providing modern, local healthcare services to our growing communities.
Ted continues to advocate for Ministry of Health approval for the Georgetown Hospital to move forward to the next stage of planning.



From the Archives, 2003 —Ted is pictured with his sons Phill, Dean, and Jack in the Speaker’s Chair shortly after he became a Presiding Officer (assistant Speaker) for the first time. In his present non-partisan role as Speaker in the House, MPP Arnott continues to make local concerns a priority. When the House is sitting, MPP Arnott has direct access to Members on both sides of the House and can offer them his perspective on current issues. He continues to go to bat on behalf of Wellington-Halton Hills municipal, school board and other broader public sector partners; pushing to ensure our community’s needs are addressed.



Sliding into Spring — At the Boreham Park opening in Arkell, Ted was challenged to try out the new playground equipment that was installed thanks to the Township of Puslinch Council and the generous support of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Grant to enhance recreational opportunities in the community. This new playground will not only give children a wonder-filled place to play, but from an early age they will also feel the vitality of our caring community; and parents might have some fun at the park, too!

Around the Riding



Save the date: *Celebrate Spring*
 Sunday, June 9th, 2024, 1:30-3:00 PM
 Rose Garden/Aboyne Hall
 Wellington County Museum and Archives
 Everyone Welcome!
 We hope to see you there.
 RSVP by May 25th at ted.arnott@pc.ola.org
 or 519-787-5247

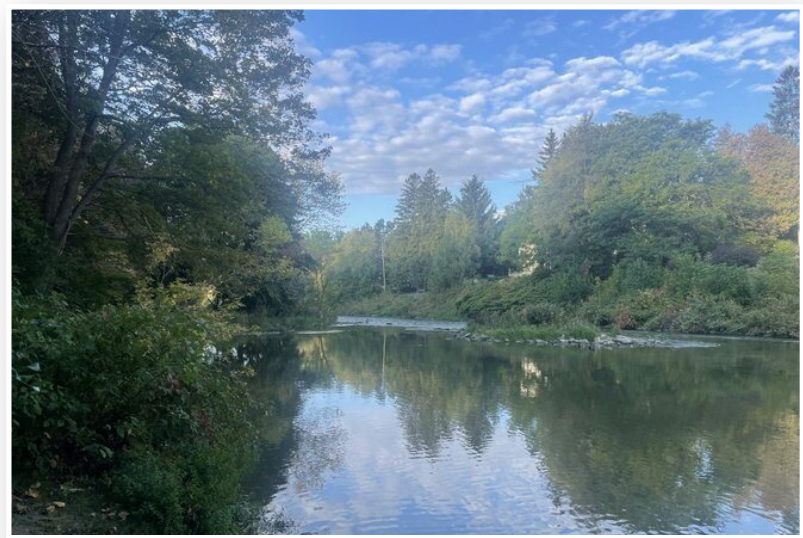


FROM THE ARCHIVES, 2014—Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott was on hand for the announcement of a grant of \$140,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the North Halton Girl's Hockey Association. The funds were used to enhance player development, female referee development, and to provide mentorship programs (Photo courtesy of the Independent and Free Press). Little did we know that 10 years later, girl's hockey would continue to grow, with the inaugural season of the Professional Women's Hockey League.

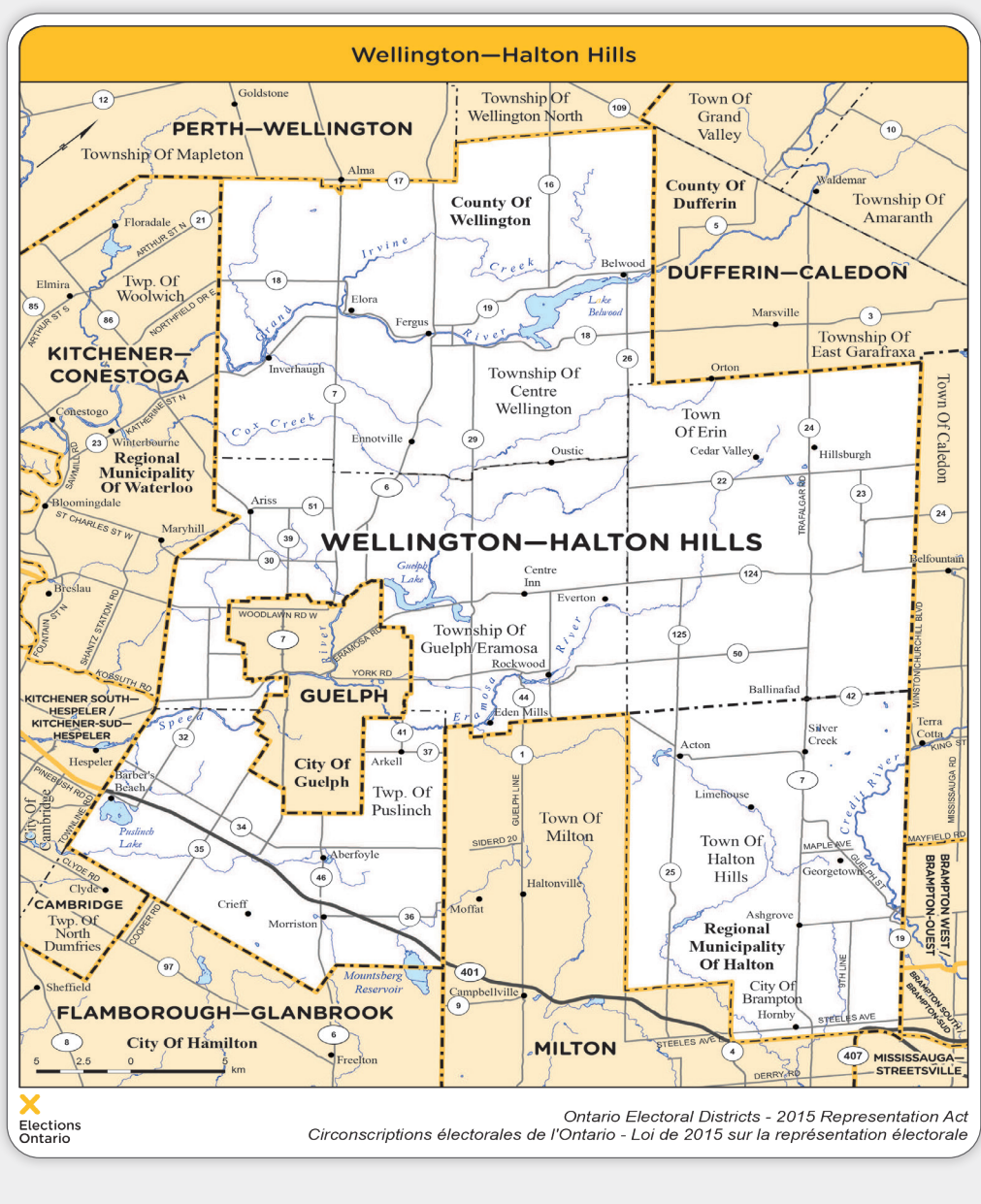
WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

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)



A Very Grand River—Ted captured this image of a quiet day on the Grand River in Fergus. As the weather warms up, life will return to the Grand; leaves will fill the trees, ducks and other birds will source food from the waterway, our world-famous brown trout fishery will flourish, and paddlers and cyclists will enjoy the recreational opportunities along the river.



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 licences
- Employment Standards
- Family Responsibility Office
- Health Cards
- Hydro One
- Landlord and Tenant Board
- Ontario Health
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- Ontario Works
- Service Ontario
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)