



TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

Keeping in Touch, Fall 2024

Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills:

With the summer of 2024 coming to a close, the hallmarks of autumn are all around us. The days are getting shorter; the evenings are cooler. Students are returning to school; farmers are harvesting. Migrating birds are beginning their incredible journey south; deciduous trees are losing their leaves. Taken together, these signs of fall remind us that in life, change is inevitable. And it is also how we make progress.

But many in our communities today are facing overwhelming challenges. While in recent months inflation has mostly stabilized, the high cost of living—whether it be groceries, fuel, or rent—is putting enormous pressure on household budgets. And as interest rates have increased, families renewing variable rate mortgages are hard hit. Small businesses are facing an uncertain economic outlook. Mental health continues to be impacted.

We are united in our hope for better days ahead. All orders of government must work together to provide the leadership our Province needs right now.

At the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, many of us continue to advocate for debate that is respectful, professional and principled. It is true that disagreement is inherent in parliamentary democracy and vigorous discussion about alternatives leads to better outcomes, but negative personal attacks only serve to undermine public confidence.

If MPPs set a high standard for substantive and informed debate, we can inspire trust and be deserving of the support we have received by the voters who sent us to Queen's Park.

It has been an absolute pleasure for me to attend many of our community events in the summer months and see larger crowds gather again! It has also been wonderful to reconnect with so many of you and hear your ideas and views on the issues facing the Province. I want to express my sincere thanks to our municipal government partners and volunteers who make Wellington-Halton Hills such a special place to live.

As always, I continue to view your concerns as my priority. My staff colleagues at our Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office and our Queen's Park Office help me to ensure that every voice in our Riding is heard by the Ontario Government. Feel free to contact us whenever you need us, and please keep in touch.

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills



East Wellington Community Services celebrates 40 years — MPP Ted Arnott joined EWCS CEO Kari Simpson and Founding Member Kasia Seydegart at Erin Hills Acres to celebrate 40 years of healthcare, transportation, and social services support for families and individuals in the Town of Erin and Guelph-Eramosa Township.



Make Way for Flashing Green Lights! — In 1994, the Ontario Legislature passed the amendment to the Highway Traffic Act which allowed our volunteer firefighters to use a flashing green light on their cars when responding to an emergency. This was Ted Arnott's very first private member's bill that was passed into law. If you see the flashing green light on a vehicle, please give our volunteer firefighters space to pass.



Casting Connections — In the last Keeping in Touch update, there was a photo of a Lincoln M. Alexander bust unveiled at Queen's Park. It turns out there is a Wellington-Halton Hills connection! It was cast and prepared at the Artcast Inc. foundry in Halton Hills. Ted was pleased to visit and learn more about the fantastic work they do from Cathy Knoespel.

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New Exhibit "Breaks Ground" at Wellington County Museum

Wellington-Halton Hills has a rich agricultural history, and a new exhibit opened at the Wellington County Museum and Archives highlights an important factor in our agricultural success: Soil. This new exhibit was inspired and guided by Senator Rob Black, and I was pleased to deliver remarks at its grand opening on June 15:

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, I have many opportunities to talk about how truly great our communities are...and how the County of Wellington and Region of Halton continue to set the bar for outstanding local governance and delivery of municipal services.

Today, here at our iconic Wellington County Museum and Archives, I want to commend County Council and Staff for the exceptional work they do, and thank them for their principled leadership, dedication to public service, constructive partnership with the Province, and effective efforts to meet the needs of the people in our communities.

This new exhibit at the museum, "Not Just Dirt: Digging into the Science of Soil" represents months of hard work by our staff, and they deserve acknowledgement for giving us an opportunity to better understand the importance of soil health to our collective "economic, environmental, human and social health."

Those words might seem familiar to Senator Rob Black. In fact, I took them directly from the title of the Senate of Canada's Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry's groundbreaking (that pun was intentional) report, entitled: "Critical Ground."

We are very proud of our home-grown Senator Black, who has contributed so much to our County for his entire life, including

service on County Council, and now takes our unique political culture into the Chamber of the Senate of Canada. And, we are glad that he continues to make time to attend so many community events, bringing the work of the Senate home to us.

As Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, and knowing better than anyone in the Senate that it's "not just dirt," Rob had the vision, initiated the idea of the soil study, brought it to the fore, lobbied to make it a priority, mobilized his colleagues, and engaged in extensive consultation locally, nationally, around the world, so that soil degradation and depletion can ameliorate, and future generations will continue to be fed by high-quality, safe and nutritious Canadian-grown food sources.

The Senate study is accessible on-line, and its Executive Summary and its 25 Recommendations are presented in a very thoughtful, easily understandable manner.

If you care about agriculture, which we all should, and if you care about our future, which we all do, it's worth a look. It's a call to action for all orders of government, and one that we should pick up, working cooperatively together. I will be bringing that message to my colleagues at Queen's Park.

So thank you County of Wellington, and thank you Senator Black, for highlighting the importance of soil health, now and in the coming decades.

The Wellington County Museum is open Monday to Friday from 9:30 am-4:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 am-4:00 pm, and admission is by donation.

Connecting to Healthcare in our Communities

Healthcare is a top issue I hear about from constituents and community leaders. During a recent conversation with a local doctor, I was reminded of a great resource to help connect individuals and families with a local healthcare provider.

The Government of Ontario has a service called Health Care Connect, which can assist you with your search for a family health care provider. It doesn't guarantee that a family health care provider will be found, but it's a resource that can help you in your search, if you don't have a family doctor.

Once a physician or nurse practitioner in your community is found, you will be referred to their practice. You are then responsible for calling to book an appointment.

For more information or to register with Health Care Connect, visit [Ontario.ca/healthcareconnect](https://ontario.ca/healthcareconnect)



Hearing about Healthcare — Ted was pleased to join the Minister of Health for a tour of the Groves Memorial Community Hospital and their modern care facilities. He is also working with healthcare leaders in Halton Hills to advance hospital redevelopment planning at the Georgetown Hospital.

Georgetown Healthcare: Looking to the Future

When the provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills was formed, one of my very first stops in Halton Hills was to the Georgetown Hospital. I met some of the dedicated staff, outstanding community volunteers, and those involved with the Foundation.

Through all the years I have been privileged to serve the people of Halton Hills, my admiration for the Georgetown Hospital and everyone associated with it has grown exponentially. And by working together, in partnership, we confront challenges with the overarching purpose of Halton Healthcare in mind: to care for the people of our communities and provide exemplary patient experiences. Always.

Looking to the future, we need hospital redevelopment planning in Georgetown to move forward.

The Ministry of Health has a multi-stage, multi-year approval process for new hospital redevelopment projects. There are many communities across the province, like ours, which have aging hospital facilities no longer meeting the needs of their growing populations. So, we need to work together to advocate for our project. And that's precisely what we are doing.

Halton Healthcare has submitted to the Ministry the required information for the Stage 2 approval. We are now formally requesting approval from the Ministry to move to the second stage of planning, the functional program stage, and we are seeking a planning grant from the Ministry to help us with the next steps that are needed.

The Minister is aware of our request. We've even met with Brampton-area MPPs, recognizing a new Georgetown Hospital will benefit the people of neighboring communities as well.

And, we continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our community, including the Walker Wood family's donation of the land where the new hospital will be built, which represents the largest single donation which Halton Healthcare has ever received in its history.

As we look back, we can be satisfied that compassionate, quality, and integrated community hospital care, here in Georgetown, has been delivered. And going forward, we will work together to make it even better.

Ordre de la Pléiade—Recognizing the Achievements of Francophones in Ontario

Each year, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario recognizes Franco-Ontarians who have contributed to their communities by awarding “Ordre de la Pléiade” medals. MPP Arnott was pleased to deliver remarks on behalf of the Legislative Assembly at this year’s ceremony on March 20; en français :

La diversité était et demeure une des grandes forces de l’Ontario. Les Franco-Ontariens font partie intégrante de cette diversité. Aujourd’hui, nous rendons hommage au travail passionné des personnes qui ont grandement contribué à la promotion de la langue française et de la culture francophone en Ontario. Il faut un effort conscient pour se fixer à sa culture en milieu minoritaire, et nous savons que ce n’est pas facile.

C’est grâce au travail inspiré et à la persévérance d’individus comme vous, qui se sont consacrés à l’amélioration de leurs communautés et à la poursuite de leurs traditions, que nous avons aujourd’hui une communauté franco-ontarienne forte et dynamique.

Nous reconnaissons aujourd’hui six personnes de toute la province qui ont été nommées par leurs pairs et sélectionnées par un panel de parlementaires. Ils ont des parcours et des passés différents et proviennent de divers domaines, mais ils partagent tous un dévouement évident à la cause francophone. Votre motivation à servir les autres et à promouvoir cette riche culture franco-ontarienne est méritoire. Trop souvent, un travail acharné comme le vôtre peut passer inaperçu.

Mais aujourd’hui, c’est différent.

Nous reconnaissons vos réussites et nous vous en rendons hommage. Alors que mes collègues et moi-même avons été élus pour servir, vous avez choisi de servir. Nous vous en remercions.

Mes sincères félicitations à vous tous.



Celebrating Franco-Ontarian culture — Members of the Ontario branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie meet with the Honourable Edith Dumont, Ontario’s first francophone Lieutenant Governor. Pictured left to right are MPP Stéphane Sarrazin, MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Ted Arnott, Hon. Edith Dumont, MPP France Gélinas, MPP Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, and MPP Lucille Collard.



Legislative Learning — Parliamentarians from across Canada meet annually as part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for fruitful discussions on a wide range of topics that impact our Legislatures and communities. Ted was pleased to host the discussions this summer in Toronto and is pictured here with Presiding Officers from around the country.

The Provincial Riding of Wellington-Halton Hills

Recently, the independent, non-partisan Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended new federal riding boundaries for the distribution of seats in the House of Commons in Ottawa. The Constitution Act, 1867 and the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act require that the number of seats in the House of Commons and the boundaries of federal electoral districts be reviewed after each decennial (10-year) census. This allows for changes and movements in Canada’s population to be reflected in the House of Commons.

As a result, when the next federal election is called, the federal riding of Wellington-Halton Hills (currently represented by MP Michael Chong) will be changing. The new ridings of Wellington-Halton Hills North and Milton East-Halton Hills South will be created, and MPs will be elected to represent them.

However, the Provincial Government has indicated that there will be no change to the current provincial riding boundaries, at least for the next provincial election. So, it appears that the Provincial riding of Wellington-Halton Hills will continue to exist, as it does today, for the next provincial parliament.

Our Finest Hour

May 28, 2024 was no ordinary day at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. But it was one of our best, at least in my time as a Member.

Since his election in 2018 as MPP for Kiiwetinoong, Sol Mamakwa has emerged as one of the most respected Members. His thoughtful and constructive approach to his duties is underscored by patient persistence and integrity. He advocates effectively not just for his constituents, but for Indigenous people across the Province.

Mr. Mamakwa is a survivor of Indian Residential Schools, where he was punished for speaking Anishiniimowin (Oji-Cree). On May 28, he rose in the Legislature and made history by giving an entire speech and asking questions of the Government in the very language he was forbidden to speak as a child.

To make this possible, a change in the Legislature’s Standing Orders was required, so that Members could “address the Speaker, in either English, French, or an Indigenous language spoken in Canada.” Every Member supported this change in the House rules, and the staff of the Assembly worked to ensure that simultaneous translation and Hansard were ready to go, to record Mr. Mamakwa’s remarks.

The following is a translated excerpt of his remarks in the House.

...Speaking Anishiniimowin, an Indigenous language, that’s where my life comes from. As I speak my language—we feel secure and well in our land when we speak our own language. It’s like we’re one with the land. We receive strength in speaking our language and it’s like healing medicine, as we stand together, that we stand together as Indigenous people to continue fighting for our rights as First Nations people to speak our own native language, to work together, I would say, to work together with all governments.

Sol Mamakwa’s speech was an important step on the path to truth and reconciliation. It was an honour to be in the Chamber to hear his remarks and see Members from all sides come together with a genuine demonstration of respect, ensuring that the culture of Canada’s Indigenous peoples is never again diminished or threatened.

Our journey towards reconciliation continues, together.

Around the Riding



Concerts in the Community — Ted was pleased to stop by the Open Rehearsal for the 45th Elora Festival. This summer's festival was a spectacular success, thanks to the hard work of artistic director and conductor Mark Vuorinen, Elora Festival staff, and many volunteers. The Ontario Trillium Foundation also contributed with a generous Resilient Communities Fund grant.
Photo Credit: Lorie Black/Wellington Advertiser



Scottish Summers in Wellington-Halton Hills — There is no shortage of Scottish activities around Wellington-Halton Hills! Ted joined 2024 Honoured Chieftain Rupert C. Irving of Bonshaw, Senator Rob Black, and MP Michael Chong at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games and also took in the fantastic pipe bands at the Georgetown Highland Games. Mòran taing to all the volunteers who make these events possible!

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

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, 2016 — Ted Amott tries to plow a straight furrow at the Halton County Plowing Match, which was held at Ted Brown's Farm. Plowing Matches have deep roots in our rural communities and work to highlight the traditions and innovations of agriculture in Ontario.

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)

