



The inFormer



The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

Editorial: David Warner (Chair), Lily Munro, Joe Spina and Alexa Huffman



The flag at the front of the Legislature is flown at half mast on March 15, 2012 to honour deceased member Tony Silipo.

This issue will cover the Ottawa regional meeting, the Smith Monument, honouring Tony Silipo, the Annual General Meeting and our regular Where Are They Now?

Welcome New Members

Caplan, David	2011
Gilles, Phillip	2011
Johnson, Rick	2011
Lalonde, Jean-Marc	2011
Rinaldi, Lou	2011
Ruprecht, Tony	2011
Sterling, Norm	2011
Van Bommel, Maria	2011
Wilkinson, John	2011
Allen, Richard	2012
Dambrowski, Leona	2012
Brownell, Jim	2012
Eves, Ernie	2012
Phillips, Gerry	2012
Pupatello, Sandra	2012
Runciman, Robert	2012
Watson, Jim	2012



Introducing the New Speaker of the House

Dave Levac was born and raised in the southwestern Ontario community of Brantford, where he continues to live with his wife, Rosemarie. They have three adult children.

After teaching elementary and secondary school for 12 years, Dave became an elementary school principal in 1989. In his capacity as a principal, Dave developed conflict resolution programs for which, among other accomplishments, he received a Distinguished Teacher Award in 1994.

In addition to his teaching career, Dave took an active leadership role in his community through involvement in a number of local non-profit organizations including the Heart & Stroke Foundation, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the United Way, and the Thank-A-Vet luncheon committee, the Parkinson Society of Canada, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Brant and the Telephone City Car Show. He also founded and chaired the Friends of the Firefighters Committee, initiating a number of successful fundraising campaigns for the Brantford and Brant Fire Departments. In recognition for his community work, he was named Brant and Brantford's Citizen of the Year by the Brantford Expositor newspaper in 1997.



First elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1999 as the MPP for the riding of Brant, Dave has since been re-elected three times. At the Legislature, he has held positions as the Public Safety & Security Critic, Chief Government Whip and Chair of the Cabinet's Education Committee and the Chair of the Economic, Environment, and Resources Policy Committee. He also served as the Parliamentary Assistant for the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and later, the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

During his career as a legislator, Dave was a member of two inter-parliamentary organizations: the Ontario-US Parliamentary Association and the Ontario-Quebec Parliamentary Association where he served as Vice-Chair. He will remain an active member of both as Speaker

Dave became Ontario's 41st Speaker on November 21st, 2011. As well as presiding over the Legislature, Speaker Levac chairs the Board of Internal Economy. Composed of MPPs from the three political parties, this committee is responsible for all financial and administrative matters relating to the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker also has a diplomatic role, welcoming visiting dignitaries to the Legislative Building and representing Ontario's parliament both in Canada and abroad.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Peter Kormos is the former NDP member for Wellend. He was elected as an Ontario New Democratic Party Member of Provincial Parliament to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1988. He was a practicing criminal lawyer and a local Wellend city councillor before. Under Bob Rae's government, Kormos' was appointed to cabinet as Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions. Although the NDP were defeated in 1995, Kormos popularity continued. He sought NDP leadership but lost.

He was House Leader for the Ontario NDP Caucus from 2001 to retirement in 2011. He also held positions in the while serving NDP in opposition. This year, he was elected to the Niagara Regional Council in a by-election.



David Ramsay just retired from politics in 2011. His political career has a rich history. Ramsay was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1985. He was part of the Ontario New Democratic Party, representing the Timikaming Riding, part of the change from the Tory stronghold in northern Ontario in the 1980s. In 1986, Ramsay joined the Liberals and won reelection in 1987, becoming part of Premier David Peterson's cabinet. He was the Ontario Minister of Correctional Services and then the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food. He kept his seat when Bob Rae's government came into power. In 1992 he ran for leadership of the Liberal Party, supporting things like equity measures, but lost. He won seats again in 1995 and 1999, was chair of the caucus from 1993 to 1994 and 1999 to 2003. When the Liberals won in 2003, Ramsay

became the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources. In 2007, he became Ontario's first Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. After the provincial election that year, he became Premier Dalton McGuinty's Parliamentary Assistant.

After retirement, Ramsay and his wife Cathy have been sailing on their boat, Gael No Mara and he will set up a mediation practice when he returns.



REMEMBERING BOARD MEMBER TONY SILIPO

This month, we announce the passing of the founder of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians and former NDP cabinet minister, Tony Silipo. Silipo died on Saturday March 10 at 3:15 p.m at the age of 54. A service was held at the Bernardo Funeral Home on March 13 and 14, where family and friends gathered to remember him fondly.

Silipo was very active in the community, making a career of public service. He began his political career as a trustee and later chair at the Toronto District School Board from 1978 to 1990.

In politics, Silipo was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1990. He was the NDP member for the Dovercourt riding. He was in Bob Rae's cabinet as Chair of the Management Board then Minister of Education from 1991 to 1993. He worked to integrate exceptional children into regular classes. He also fought cuts to social welfare. From 1993 to 1995, he was the Minister of Community and Social Services. In 1999, his riding was abolished and Silipo lost in the new riding of Davenport.

After leaving the Legislature, Silipo still worked into the community at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal. he was one of the initial board members of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians and his contribution will be sorely missed. To his wife and family we convey our deepest sympathy.

His legacy will be remembered and carried on through OAFP. On March 15, 2012, the flag outside of the Ontario Legislature was flown at half mast to honour the former member.



OMEGA

Pat Hayes, a former MPP, passed away on May 2, 2011, after a long battle with lung cancer.

Hayes was an Essex County politician. He served for the NDP in the Legislative, for three terms between 1985 and 1995. He was also the Mayor of Lakeshore between 1997 and 2003.



Leonard Braithwaite passed away on March 28, 2012. Braithwaite had a rich political career.

In 1963, Braithwaite was a young lawyer starting out in the Liberal Party. He was elected in Etobicoke and became Ontario's first black MPP, in opposition. He was re-elected in 1967 and 1971. He served as the Liberal Party Critic for Labour and Welfare.

Braithwaite's achievements included revoking a section of an Ontario law that allowed racial segregation in schools. He also was appointed the Order of Canada in 1997 and in 1994, received the Order of Ontario.

Braithwaite was defeated in the 1975 election. Until recently, he worked part-time in his law office. In 2011, he received the William P. Hubbard Award. Braithwaite also served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War Two.

Braithwaite also served as a member of the CNEA. He was on the board of directors for the CNE (Canadian National Exhibition) in 1982 and 1983.

A memorial service was held on April 21 at St. Matthias' Anglican Church.

OMEGA

Obituaries

Robert W. MacKenzie
Hamilton East
Died January 17, 2011
Served 1975 - 1995
NDP

Ivan Thrasher
Windsor-Sandwich
Died January 21, 2011
Served 1964 - 1967
PC

René Piché
Cochrane North
Died January 22, 2011
Served 1981 - 1985
PC

Ray Haggerty
Niagara South
Died April 23, 2011
Served 1967 - 1990
LIB

Patrick Michael Hayes
Essex North 1985 - 1987
Essex - Kent 1990 - 1995
Died May 2, 2011
Served 1985 - 1987 and
1990 - 1995
NDP

Bruce Crozier
Essex
Died June 3, 2011
Served 1993 - 2011
LIB

William Ferguson
Kitchener
Died July 22, 2011
Served 1990 - 1995
NDP

Margaret Renwick
Scarborough Centre
Died January 20, 2012
Served 1967-1971
NDP

Tony Silipo
Dovercourt
Died March 10, 2012
Served 1990 - 1999
NDP

René Fontaine
Cochrane North
Died March 17, 2012
Served 1984 - 1990
LIB

Leonard A. Braithwaite
Etobicoke
Died March 28, 2012
Served 1963 - 1975
LIB

Smith Monument



The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians is working to expand the Trust's Premiers Gravesite program where the grave sites of former premiers of provincial parliament are honoured with a mark on their tombstone. OAFP would like to honour all former members and is working to that end. It will be our objective, over time, to have a marker placed on the gravesite of every former member of Ontario's parliament. This was one of the ongoing initiatives discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

OTTAWA REGIONAL MEETING



The Ottawa Regional Meeting was held on March 5, 2012. The meeting was a great success with a tour of the Parliament buildings, a reception and a dinner. Many members attended and special guests included Barry Devolin, Senator Di Nino and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson. The topics of discussion included future plans for the Association, including recruitment of more members and connection with other provinces and similar associations. Everyone enjoyed meeting up, seeing old faces and learning of any changes of interest.



Annual General Meeting

Notice of Meeting

Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

Annual General Meeting

3-5-*Business Session Room 228

5:00 Reception

6:30- Dinner in the Legislative Dining Room

With distinguished speaker and cash bar



All cheques are to be made out to The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

OAFP AGM 2012

Name: _____

Please RSVP by -----

Please check the events you will be attending

3:00 AGM _____

Reception _____

AGM Dinner _____

☐

Cornerstone Member and 1 Guest \$35/Each

☐

Member and 1 Guest \$40/each

☐

Non-Member and 1 Guest \$50/each

PLEASE NOTE

There are a limited number of seats available. Dinner reservations **MUST** be made in advance.

Please return by
mail, fax or email:

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M7A 1A2

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416-325-4647

Fax: 416-325-4650

Email:

Calendar Note

The Sudbury regional meeting will be held late spring. More information to come.

Committees of the Association:

Membership, Editorial, Programs. Distinguished Service Award. We welcome members to volunteer for our committees. Contact OAFP for more information.

Contact Information

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OAFP Honours It's Cornerstone Members

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Claude F. Bennett
Brenda Elliott
Luc Guindon
Ken Keyes
Francis Lankin
Tony Lupusella
Giorgio Mammoliti
Remo Mancini
Judy Marsales
Jennifer Mossop
David Neumann
Dan Newman
John Parker
Caludio Polsinelli
Bob Rae
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Ronald G. Van Horne



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Memberships

Note: Each member receives an annual membership card and a membership scroll to which they can affix their annual seal. The card will identify members for qualifying discounts at various hotels and services which are identified from time to time. You can also contribute a one time fee of \$500 for lifetime membership. You will receive all the benefits of regular membership plus you will be invited to special activities and receptions. You will also get discounts and a special seal to affix to the scroll.

Please note that full membership is available only to former sitting Members of the Legislative Assembly. Associate (non-voting) membership is offered to current MPPs, and former MPs who represented an Ontario riding.

Renewal Form

I wish to join/renew full membership in the Ontario Association of Former
Parliamentarians, *OR*

☐

I am currently a sitting member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and wish to
become an associate member.

☐

Name

Address

City

Province

Phone

E-mail

Riding

Years Represented

Party Designation

I would like to join/renew for:

1 year at \$50.00

☐

I would also like to contribute \$500.00 to become a Lifetime Cornerstone Member of OAFP

☐

Please send a cheque payable to the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians, Room 1612, Whitney
Block, 99 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2
Thank you so much for your participation and support!