



## *The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians*

Editorial: David Warner (Chair), Lily Oddie Munro, Norm Sterling and Alexa Huffman



Christmas Social Nov. 27 2012 at OAFP office

### **Notice**

We are currently exploring the possibility of providing office space for former Members, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more information.

### **AGM**

June 5, 2013

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Queen's Park

*Please hold this date in your calendar. More details will be announced in the next edition of the InFORMER.*

### **Distinguished Service Award**

#### **Criteria**

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional career contributions and/or achievements by former Members of the Ontario Legislature. The recipient is not currently elected to the Senate Assembly or the House of Commons and has demonstrated remarkable community contributions since leaving elected political life.

Send nominations to Room 161  
99 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, Ont.  
M7A 1A2, before March 31.

Explain, in less than 500 words, why this former Member should receive the Award and provide a brief biography.

Perth, Ontario,  
Tuesday Oct. 27/12

O A F P

Room 1612, Whitney Block,  
99 Milledge St. W.,  
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1A2.

Dear Mr. Lee:-

I am Hlong Wiseman's wife one of  
your OAFP members to tell you a little  
special interest story about Hlong.

Hlong became ill with kidney problems  
shortly after he retired from politics and was  
under the care of the Renal Clinic at the  
Riverside Hospital in Ottawa. They took care  
of him until his need advance to the dialysis  
stage at which time he went on Home dialysis  
every night for 9 hrs. - this treatment did not  
work for Hlong and he went on Hemodialysis  
July 20/11 at the General Hospital Ottawa and  
remained on it from Ottawa to Kingston to Smiths  
Falls until Aug. 17/12 when he was admitted to  
the Ottawa General for a Kidney Transplant - a  
gift of our daughter - he has been there ever  
since. He has had some setbacks but has  
recovered in the Rehabilitation wing and is to  
be discharged this Sat. Oct. 27/12 - a historical  
event for this family.

Hlong enjoys the information from the activities  
of the OAFP.

BERNISE

Thank you for listening,  
Bernise E. Wiseman.

**Medicine and Politics: the personal and the political**  
**Dr. Robert (Bob) Frankford**

**Written January 2012**

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*"Medicine is a social science, and politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale."*

*Rudolf Virchow*

The eminent 19<sup>th</sup> century German physician Rudolf Virchow was an impassioned advocate for social and political reform. Virchow is widely regarded as a pioneer of social medicine. Elaborating on the above statement, he said:

Medicine, as a social science, as the science of human beings, has the obligation to point out problems and to attempt their theoretical solution: the politician, the practical anthropologist, must find the means for their actual solution....The physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor, and social problems fall to a large extent within their jurisdiction. (*Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf\\_Virchow#Political\\_career](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Virchow#Political_career))

I received my medical education in England at King's College of the University of London and St. George's Hospital. When I qualified, I did not know about Dr. Virchow's portrayal of my new profession, shared his desire for social and political reform, and would have been encouraged to know that I had chosen a field in which I might make such a contribution.

When I arrived in Ontario in 1967, it was not difficult for an International Medical Graduate from England to qualify to practice here, and I soon fulfilled the requirements to do so. OHIP, and its complex fee schedule for the payment of doctors did not yet exist. The days of being paid in chickens were pretty much over, at least in an urban setting, but most doctors were paid on a fee for service basis, and I was one of them.

During the early 1980s, when successive Progressive Conservative Governments were in power in the province, then Minister of Health Larry Grossman introduced the option of converting one's OHIP remuneration from fee-for service to capitation, that is, per capita payment for caring for a registered roster of patients. Such capitated practices were to be known as Health Service Organizations (HSOs.)

I was quite taken with the possibilities that such a payment system offered to practice the kind of social medicine to which I aspired. I negotiated with the Ministry to convert my practice to an HSO, and then Minister of Health Murray Elston of the governing Liberal Government came to the opening of my HSO in the east end of Toronto. My expectations in converting to this model were realised, and it was feasible to employ other professionals including nurses and a massage therapist.

Both the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals in Ontario had thus played a role in my ability to develop an HSO. I was later to learn that it was Dr JSW (John) Aldis, when he was a policy adviser in the Ministry of Health, who had in fact developed the model for HSOs which used capitation payment for rostered patients, and recommended both physician run and community run HSOs. And I learned as well that it was Dr. Aldis, in that same role, who had contributed to the establishment of OHIP in Ontario.

Dr Aldis was a remarkable man. His career had not included elected office, but otherwise comprised an extraordinarily wide range. He had been a business student, industrial physician, practician physician (who worked on the establishment of Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital), medical journal editor, civil servant adviser and planner, and independent consultant. He was a regular writer of letters to the editor of the *Globe and Mail* as well as medical journals and newspapers. Even during his long retirement, he involved himself with public health issues in the town of Port Hope. Dr Aldis died at the end of 2010 at the age of 95. His family has entrusted me with a collection of his papers, which I am using as a basis for writing about his work.

A number of HSOs were developed in Ontario, the largest of which was in Sault St. Marie. The Ontario Medical Association established a Section for HSO physicians in which I have been active at various times and held elected office. It was there, at a dinner meeting of the OMA's Section, that I met Dr. Aldis, who was our invited speaker.

Capitation payment was designed to pay equivalent revenue to OHIP fee-for-service, and even added an incentive for reducing hospital costs. Although insured fee-for-service OHIP payment is so well established that most Ontarians think it is the only model, there is a fundamental choice to be made of the model to adopt, in particular for the financing of primary care. Patients sign in to the HSO, thus creating a roster for the physician, a database from which groups can be selected for study or further scrutiny - by disease, demography, geography, or other variable.

The National Health Service in the UK has for years essentially provided universal nationally registered primary care, funded per capita. This has opened the door for social medicine, community based research and interprofessional teams. The eminent general practitioner and writer Dr Julian Tudor Hart bases his approach on years of practice in a small village in Wales, and it is his community-based research that has given us the Inverse Care Law: “the availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need for it in the population served.” Hart first published this in 1971 in the *Lancet* (Feb 27;1(7696):405-12.)

Assured per capita payment is something from which government, as payer, benefits as well. Primary care physician payment is predictable under such a system. By contrast, the exercise of setting a fee for each medical procedure is extraordinarily complex and never ending. In my HSO, I was also able to provide a way for a number of elderly doctors practicing in the area to retire or ease out of practice with some sort of pension equivalent.

To return to Virchow, he was a political opponent of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who is actually credited with being the creator and pioneer of universal health insurance. Germany has the world's oldest universal health care system, with origins dating back to Bismarck's Health Insurance Act of 1883. Whereas Virchow saw the physician as the one who points out problems, and the politician as the one who solves them, it is Bismarck who is credited with saying “Politics is the art of the possible.”

What happens, then, when physicians themselves become politicians? It is uncommon, but obviously can occur, that a doctor moves to another career which opens the potential of political problem solving. I have mentioned the many impressive stages in Dr. Aldis's career. Dr Hart ran for political office, although he did not win. There are a number of examples of physicians who have served in the Ontario Legislature, although they are vastly outnumbered by those in other professions, especially law.

In 1990, I had the privilege of being elected to the Ontario Legislature and serving a five year term, after a 25 year career in medical practice. I served a brief term as well as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health.

What can be achieved in a political setting is facilitated or hindered by many factors including economic conditions, party politics, leadership, and many other factors. One example of the success of political intervention in medicine began early in my tenure in office. I was approached by representatives of the Sickle Cell Association of Ontario. I learned from them about the problems associated with the disease as well as carrier status. They convinced me to support a call for universal testing of newborns for the sickle cell state. It took some years and another government to implement this, but it is now standard practice in Ontario as it is in all American states. I take this as an example of reducing mortality and morbidity through political action, as well as prevention by counselling of gene carriers.

Dr. Virchow set the challenge for physicians to help change the world for the better. Dr. Hart and Dr. Aldis each found their own ways to do so. I believe that physicians in Ontario, like those in most parts of the world, enter demanding medical education and practice with the aim to help and to heal their fellow human beings. I have both practiced clinical medicine and served in political office. The combination of those experiences has convinced me that capitation payment to primary care physicians, based on universal registration of the Ontario population, offers the most promising way to provide excellent primary health care in this province. The Ontario population, and human beings everywhere, deserve no less.

## Common Connections

*We were Members of Provincial Parliament at different times and with different Parties, but our common connection was having the privilege of serving the people of Ontario. If you have visited a Former Member who is facing a health challenge, or if you've made a visit just to catch up on a Member's current life, let us know about it so we can share the experience in The InFormer.*

### David Warner and Gilles Morin visit Noble

#### Villeneuve

From 1990 to '95, the three of us shared the duties associated with the "running of the House", I as Speaker, Gilles as Deputy Speaker and Noble as the second Deputy. While we were from three different political Parties our collegial approach to parliamentary duties resulted in a good friendship. This past November the three of us got together for the first time since those days. We gathered at Noble's farm home near Maxville, located not far from Cornwall. Noble suffered a stroke eleven years ago, but has made some progress in his recovery. What a great afternoon, reminiscing, sharing lots of laughs, rekindling the warmth of our friendship. Tasty local cheese enhanced with a glass or two of wine certainly created a festive atmosphere and a vow was made to not wait years before getting together again!

### OAFP 2012 Christmas Social



Eric West, Lisa Macleod and Murad Velshi



Helen Breslauer, Dr. Bob Frankford, Bob Huget, David Turnbull

### OAFP 2012 Christmas Social

The 2012 Christmas Social was a great success for the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. Many members came out on November 27th to enjoy the evening with former colleagues and friends. The new Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynn, was kind enough to join us-and spent a considerable amount of time, in the middle of the Liberal leadership race, to talk those in attendance. Everyone had a good time and it was a chance for the Association to ensure Members keep in touch throughout the year.



Doug Reycraft and Rick Johnson

# Interview with Graham Murray

*Graham Murray worked for the NDP Party and, since 1987, has been the publisher of Inside Queen's Park and owner of G.P. Murray Research Limited.*

## **What were your duties at the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Association?**

Initially, I worked for them for external affairs media and lobbying. When I became executive director, I was responsible for the budget and responsible for making sure the organization ran on an even keel. They worked to get financially secure footing so there were member dues owed to the organization. It teaches you to deal with interest with stakeholders in the political system. I was very much better equipped to know how government worked. There are students who study history and political science but there is no feel for it unless there is direct hands on experience.

## **Why did you move from OCUFA to the NDP Caucus Research?**

Provincial budget allows you to elaborate and be involved. The key issues require necessary figures. Research doesn't require as much time spent on certain issues.

## **What brought you into the political life?**

During a period of leave, I was drawn into the the New Democratic Party. They were having an election for a leader as Stephen Lewis was leaving. Michael Cassidy, president of the riding association, asked if I wanted to work with the leadership race and it went from there.

## **Why did you exit political life?**

In short, it was being fired by the NDP. In the run up to the election in 1985, there was an issue of government car insurance. The numbers were misinterpreted in a serious way. The party fought on the issue and I decided not to proceed. In truth there was a lot of tension with the leader and the leader's office. I was not going to be pushed around.

## **What was one of the high points of your career?**

Being able to kill off the Canadian Industry Packaging Stewardship Initiative. The government had just taken power and the packaging power was destroying municipal spirit.

## **What happened after you left the political arena?**

I knew a fair amount. I was well connected and knew where to go and who to speak to. Your contacts tend to build up over the years.

In 1987, I created Inside Queen's Park. Our major competitor was and remains Queen's Park Briefing, but we do well. I did an information binder and various projects related to elections. There are a lot of people in government relations field such as lobbyists. It's more interesting and worthwhile to work on other kinds of things.

## **What kind of research do you do?**

As little as possible. You look for the key issues and go from there.

## **How have you adjusted to life after Queen's Park?**

Haven't adjusted fully. If I'd worked harder selling my products, I would have been a much richer man than I am now.

## **Based on your experience, what would you recommend to people entering politics?**

I would advise them to learn about the political process by working on a campaign and seeing the operation of the political party. You have to enter the government relation field and the government itself to see how decisions are made.

## **Who are some interesting people that you have interviewed?**

Peter McCormack and Francis Lankin.

# Where Are They Now?

Karen Haslam

New Democratic Party-Perth 1990-1995

## **1. What have you done in terms of employment and community involvement?**

After the election of 1995, like many of my colleagues I returned to work in my community. I was Secretary of the Board of the United Way, President of the ACW, served on the Strategic Planning Committee for the City of Stratford, and eventually re-entered political life. I was elected as Mayor of Stratford in 2000.

## **2. What got you interested in politics?**

My interest in running for MPP was based on my work as an elected member of the Board of Education. I wanted to be where the decisions were made about the type of funding and education opportunities offered to our students.

## **3. What did they find disappointing or disillusioning about being an MPP ?**

When I came to the Legislature, I expected to go to a ministry, explain the needs of my constituency, and convince them to release the funds that had been promised to the Hospital, to the Board of Education, and our Women's Shelter. Instead, it took me two years of consistent hard work with my colleagues to get through the process but eventually each of my projects, and quite a few more received the necessary funding. Traditionally, MPP's especially those on the back benches have very little input into legislation. Although the NDP were more inclusive than other Parties, it sometimes required a loud voice to remind those in the Ministries that we were essential to the success of any legislation passing.

## **4. Was there anything from your previous employment which was helpful when elected?**

People who run for public office have to have a passion for what they want to accomplish. As well as this, I was a former school teacher, confident in my public speaking ability, quick on my feet, knowledgeable about the bureaucratic process, outgoing, and determined enough to work hard for what I wanted to accomplish.

## **5. What was the biggest adjustment to life after Queen's Park?**

For many it was a shock not to be in the Legislature again. For countless it was difficult to find a job. For several it was hard not being able to help constituents, and for others it was just another change in an ongoing life experience. For me it was hard to accept that after all of my hard work, people did not vote for me. This was mitigated by people telling me at the door when I campaigned, we like you Karen, you have been one of our best representatives, but we can't vote for Bob Rae or we can't vote for the NDP again.

## Where Are They Now?

Karen Haslam

New Democratic Party-Perth 1990-1995

### **6. Was anything from your days at Queen's Park helpful in the employment or activities chosen to pursue after political life?**

There is no doubt that the experience I had as the MPP helped me in my future political aspirations. In 2000, I was elected as Mayor of Stratford, a job I loved and a job in which I took great pride. I worked for 6 years on the Provincial Conservation Review Board, and, of course, I am active on the Executive of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. Personally, I think that the experience helped me grow in confidence, and in my commitment to doing the right thing for the right reasons. Presently I am a Trainer for Elections Ontario, and Elections Canada.

### **7. List three experiences as an MPP which are most memorable (positive or negative)**

While there were negative experiences (the behaviour of some male members in the Legislature), I prefer to dwell on the positive.

- a) Of course, there is the episode where Charles, Prince of Wales, bent to put my shoe back on while we visited the AGO, (what a prince charming he was) – and I still have the shoe.
- b) The revised Tobacco Legislation, crafted by my Health Ministry staff and myself through province-wide Committee Meetings, remains an achievement of which I am very proud.
- c) The third, seen as both a positive and a negative by some, is my decision to resign my position as Associate Health Minister over the “Rae Days” Legislation. In all conscience I could not support Legislation that removed the ‘right to bargain’ for Unions, a decision I stand by today.

**(We want to give all Former Members an opportunity to share their stories about life at Queen’s Park and, just as importantly, what they have done with themselves since leaving provincial politics. If you have a new job, a new hobby, new family members – anything you think your former colleagues would like to hear – please send your comments to David Warner, Chair of the Editorial Committee, at [david.warner@sympatico.ca](mailto:david.warner@sympatico.ca).)**

# Where Are They Now?

Steve Gilchrist

Progressive Conservatives Scarborough East 1995-2003

## 1. What was your background before entering politics?

I was very fortunate, through a serendipitous turn of events, to find the career I fell in love with at age 16. Around the same time my father had been accepted for the Canadian Tire dealer-training program, I found a job at a different Canadian tire store and, some years after that, I joined up with my father, full-time. We then spent 25 years building a Canadian Tire business, ultimately having the 8<sup>th</sup> largest store in the country. It was a fascinating and complex business with 160 staff and competing in the retail marketplace was a great challenge. I think what I found most attractive about retailing is the fact that it is a “people” business. It seemed a very natural segue into politics because, as people come to know you and they see you as a fixture in the community, more and more people would share stories about what they thought was right and wrong in the world around us. I would hear stories about everything from the increasing incidence of crime in the neighbourhood, welfare abuse, the lack of certain equipment in our local hospital, inappropriate urban planning and the deterioration of our local environment. More and more, what had been a hobby, working as a volunteer for both the federal and provincial parties, turned into a passion that, ultimately, inspired me to run for office and give up my career at Canadian Tire.

## 2. When you ran for office, what were your goals?

By 1995, I had had a chance to reflect on what we had done right and what we had done wrong in the 1990 election campaign. In general terms, I knew that it was essential to bring a more business-like approach to the way that the provincial government operated. We simply could not afford to have \$11 billion annual deficits if we were to be able to afford the sort of prosperity and the wide range of government services we have always enjoyed in this province. My goal was to be able to be a part of solving the problems that were afflicting my community and this province. Finally, there were number of larger, local environmental issues that I wanted to see addressed, including the protection of the Scarborough bluffs and the creation of the Rouge Park to ensure the permanent protection of the last unspoiled river in the City of Toronto.

## 3. What were the best and worst parts of political life?

The best part was being able, as a team, to tackle the myriad of issues that faced this province when we were elected. I am proud, and I’m sure my colleagues would share this pride, that we had made almost 200 promises in what we called the “Common Sense Revolution” and, to the best of my knowledge, we kept every one of those promises. Keeping those promises involved making fundamental changes to the way business is done within the government and that created an economic boom that led to balanced budgets for the province and the creation of over 600,000 net new jobs during our eight years in office.

# Where Are They Now?

Steve Gilchrist

Progressive Conservatives Scarborough East 1995-2003

The bad side, ironically, was the fact that the public was not kept better apprised about what was happening in the province. As we have seen, voter turnout rates have continued to drop to the point where, now, not even 50 per cent turn out to vote, provincially and federally. People haven't had the incentive to be more connected with politics and politicians and that's quite ironic when you consider that the three levels of government, combined, take 50 per cent of our annual incomes. It is essential, if we want to see this trend reversed, that governments do a much better job of being accountable, transparent and open and ensuring that citizens are equipped with the tools to understand the roles that governments play in their lives.

## **4. What have you done since leaving office?**

I was fortunate enough to be offered the position of the first Commissioner of Alternative Energy for the province. I came into Queen's Park with a long standing interest in hydrogen technology and the belief that it will be the ultimate end game as our energy systems evolve. My goal was to accelerate the rate at which hydrogen, and other renewable energy technologies, were adopted and I was immensely grateful when the premier accepted the suggestion to have a select committee at the legislature study all forms of renewable energy.

So, when I left Queen's Park in 2003, I thought about potentially going back and selling toaster ovens for another 25 years but decided that it would be more fulfilling and interesting to work in the renewable energy sector. Over the past ten years, I have been actively working on the advancement of hydrogen, geothermal, solar, waste-to-energy, waste-to-biomass and energy efficiency technologies. I continue to do that today. I have concentrated my efforts in developing countries, around the world, because, as high as our energy prices are here, they are much worse in most of the developing world.

## **5. How do you adjust to life after politics?**

There is quite a transition. Having now had the opportunity to be on the board at OAFP and seeing other studies done by other groups of former parliamentarians around the world, the transition back to the private sector can be a very traumatic one and I don't minimize the challenge faced by all those except those who kept businesses or law practices during the time as MPP. For those who made a clean break, it would seem that here in Canada, unlike in the US, we create a stigma about being a former politician while the Americans tend to treat them as resources. Americans tend to be consulted about policy issues; all the things that went right and wrong because you went through them yourself. We don't seem to do that in Canada, particularly here in Ontario. Regardless of the label, regardless of which party wins, current politicians could benefit, tremendously, by tapping into the resources of those who have gone down the political road before them.

## Obituaries

### Cliff Pilkey



Photo courtesy of The Oshawa Express.

**(July 27, 1922-November 17, 2012)**

Served in the 28<sup>th</sup> Parliament (October 17, 1967- September 13, 1971) as the New Democratic Party Member for the Riding of Oshawa.

Cliff served on four standing committees (Labour, Legal Administration, Social, Family and Correctional Services, Private Bills) and one Select Committee (Report of the Ontario Committee on Taxation)

Mr. Pilkey also served as president of Local 222, United Auto Workers, from 1957 to 1959, president of the Canadian UAW Council in 1957, president of Oshawa and District Labour Council from 1957 to 1967, an Oshawa councillor from 1962 to 1966 and 1972 to 1976, Oshawa's deputy mayor from 1964 to 1966, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour from 1976 to 1986 and, in addition, being named one of the founding board members of the Oshawa Senior Citizens' Centres.

Cliff Pilkey also received numerous accolades, including a Centennial Medal of Canada in 1967, the Order of Ontario in 1990 and a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013.

He was a Second World War Veteran and 62-year member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 43.

### Doug Rollins



Photo courtesy of Canadian Obituaries

**(Nov. 7, 1938-Nov. 19, 2012)**

Served in the 36<sup>th</sup> Parliament (June 8, 1995- May 5, 1999) as the Progressive Conservative Party Member of Provincial Parliament for the Riding of Quinte.

Doug served on four Committees of the House (Justice, Finance and Economic Affairs, Estimates, Regulations and Private Bills).

The Mayor of Belleville, John Williams, said "Doug was a straight shooter. He'd always say it like it is and you like that in a person, especially someone in politics. He was never afraid to say how he felt,"

Before being elected, Doug Rollins had also owned a service station in Belleville's east end.

He served many years in various community positions, including as President of the Belleville Agricultural Society, the Parrott Foundation, local sports associations and Quinte Exhibition and Raceway.

*Obituaries***John Turner****(September 24, 1922 - January 20, 2013)**

Served in the 29<sup>th</sup> Parliament (October 21, 1971-August 11, 1975), 31<sup>st</sup> Parliament (June 09, 1977-February 02, 1981), as Speaker in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Parliament (March 19, 1981-March 25, 1985) and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Parliament (May 02, 1985 -July 31, 1987) as the Progressive Conservative Member of Provincial Parliament for the Riding of Peterborough.

John served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Justice (1974-75), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health (1978-81), and on a wide variety of Standing and Select Committees. In 2003, John was appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, a perfect appointment given John's deep appreciation and understanding of good citizenship.

John Turner was someone who had a deep commitment to his community, parliamentary democracy, and Canada. He was a decorated veteran of World War Two, flying 30+ bombing missions over Europe. John Turner was someone who truly served the people of Peterborough and Ontario in a distinguished, honourable and dignified way.



# Omega

January 1 - December 31, 2012

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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 1985–1990 Liberal

Leonard A. Braithwaite – Etobicoke

Died March 28, 2012 Served 1963–1975 Liberal

John Cleary – Stormont–Dundas–Charlottenburgh–Cornwall

Died October 6, 2012 Served 1987–2003 Liberal

Clifford George Pilkey – Oshawa

Died November 17, 2012 Served 1967–1971 NDP

E.J. Douglas Rollins – Quinte

Died November 19, 2012 Served 1995–1999 PC

## Prorogation of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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In a British Parliamentary system, the life cycle of a Parliament is separated by discreet periods of time known as sessions. Each session commences with a Throne Speech and ends with prorogation or in some instances, dissolution.

While there are certain constitutional or statutory provisions that govern the Parliamentary cycle, such as the requirement that the House must sit at least once every 12 months and that no Parliament can last longer than 5 years, there are no such constitutional or statutory provisions relating to when or how often prorogation should occur. There is no prescribed length for a session, nor is there any limit on the number of sessions that may occur during the life of a Parliament. Indeed, in Ontario there are examples of varying numbers of sessions during a Parliament (34<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 1987-89 - 2 sessions; 24<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 1952-55 - 5 sessions); and examples of sessions that have lasted more or less than one year (35<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 3<sup>rd</sup> Session: April 1993-December 1994 and 29<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 5<sup>th</sup> Session: March 1975-August 1975).

At the beginning of each session, the Lieutenant Governor reads the Speech from the Throne which outlines the government's proposed legislative plan for the Province. Once a session has commenced, it will continue to meet at dates and times determined by the House. The session may be interrupted by a number of adjournments as set out by agreement of the House or more recently by the Parliamentary Calendar. However, each session is only concluded upon either prorogation or dissolution.

Dissolution is the means by which Parliament comes to an end when the Lieutenant Governor grants a request of the Premier by to dissolve the current Parliament and call an election.

Prorogation, does not end the Parliament, rather it brings to a close the current session and sets the stage for the commencement of the next session. The House is prorogued by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, issued on the advice of the Premier. A session may be prorogued either when the House is sitting, or during any adjournment. It may occur with the reading of a prorogation speech by the Lieutenant Governor in the Chamber or by way of a proclamation which is later published in the *Ontario Gazette*.

The effect of prorogation is to bring to an end all proceedings that were before Parliament. Any unfinished business "dies" on the *Orders and Notices Paper* and may only be proceeded with in the next session if it is reintroduced from the beginning stage. On occasion, the House has passed a motion prior to prorogation in which it carries over certain business into the next session. In this case, the business identified in the motion will be carried on the *Orders and Notices Paper* at the same stage as at prorogation.

## Prorogation at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Part 2

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While the specific implication of prorogation is that the legislative agenda as set out in the Speech from the Throne is complete, it is most common that some legislation remains unfinished. In the past, this fact has been recognized by the press as they have made a show of dropping copies of those bills that have “died” on the *Orders and Notices Paper* over the press gallery and onto the floor of the Chamber following prorogation.

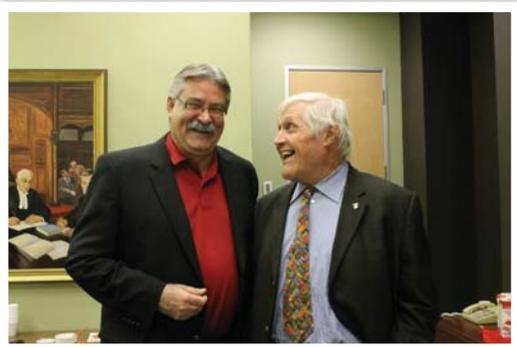
Once the House has been prorogued, the date for its recall is the prerogative of the Government and is issued by a proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor on the advice of the Premier. This fact was referenced in the following statement made by Speaker Warner on May 11, 1992 in response to a point of order raised by Jim Bradley MPP:

**“The Speaker:** I will be pleased to provide something for the member: The member, being an experienced member, I am sure is aware that once the House is prorogued, the recall of the House is at the pleasure of the government.” (Legislative Assembly of Ontario, *Hansard*, May 11, 1992)

While section 5 of the *Legislative Assembly Act* indicates that it is not necessary for the Lieutenant Governor to indicate at prorogation the date that the House will reconvene, Section 7 of the *Standing Orders* provides that the Government House Leader shall announce the approximate date upon which the Assembly will be reconvened. In recent history, however, particularly when prorogation has occurred by proclamation, no return date has been given.

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### OAFP 2012 Christmas Social



Speaker Dave Levac and John Hastings



Dr. Bob Frankford and Colin Issacs



Tony Ruprecht, David Warner  
and Lily Oddie Munro

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## Renewal Form

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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

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Address

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City

---

Province

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Phone

---

E-mail

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Riding

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Years Represented

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Party Designation

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I would like to join/renew for:

1 year at \$50.00

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

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Please send a cheque payable to the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians,  
Room 1612, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2

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Thank you so much for your participation and support!