



Spring 2015

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Editorial: David Warner (Chair), Lily Munro,
Steve Gilchrist, Sadaf Ahsan and Lauren Malyk

A Distinguished Event!



The stories flowed like fine vintage wine. The vintage was 1960's, '70's. An enthusiastic capacity crowd were treated to quite a slice of history as our Association presented the Distinguished Service Award to Stephen Lewis.

Darcy McKeough, who served as Treasurer during the Premierships of John Robarts and Bill Davis, revealed that he had kept all of the notes that Stephen had passed to him in the House. In return, Stephen revealed that in all those years when he was criticizing Darcy's budgets, he didn't really understand finances!



Patrick Reid, the last serving Liberal-Labour MPP, followed up his customary witty remarks with a touching analogy, comparing Stephen's political rise to the polishing of the two diamonds from Attawapiskat, which were added to the Mace in 2009.

Elie Martel, former House Leader and a seven consecutive term Member, described Stephen's dedicated, inspirational efforts that resulted in significant changes in Ontario's health and safety laws.

The Deputy Premier of Ontario presented a tribute letter from the Premier, as well as delivering a gracious personal greeting. Jim Wilson, Leader of the Progressive Conservatives, told a personal story of how he met Stephen. Jim's presentation was warm and witty. He was followed by Peter Tabuns, MPP, whose spirited offering chronicled much of Stephen's life, political and beyond.

In his eloquent response, Stephen expressed gratitude for receiving this Award, as well as being able to meet up with many of his former colleagues. His dynamic spirit, wit and vision were evident and warmly received by the audience.

There were a couple of crowning touches. Premier Bill Davis, while he was not able to join us, called Stephen during the event and the two of them had a chance to reminisce. A group that included the Premier, Jim Wilson and Gilles Bison, Speaker Dave Levac, Chair Derwyn Shea, Darcy McKeough, Patrick Reid, Elie Martel and former Speaker David Warner gathered at the Grand Staircase for a photo.

This wonderful event was a success, largely because of talented work by Mobina Bhimani, our secretary, Ana Resendes, Protocol and Public Relations, Monica Weber, Food Service, who provided a delicious meal, and Nokomis O'Brien, Assembly Photographer, who created unique photo boards. The Clerk, Deb Deller, and Speaker Dave Levac are to be thanked for embracing and supporting our Distinguished Service Award programme.

Interview with Stephen Lewis, on the occasion of the Distinguished Service Award

You have held the prestigious position of UN Ambassador, and have been involved in many things of world importance. What was special about receiving the Distinguished Service Award?

I think mostly because it brought back all of my time in the legislature itself. For me, political engagement was a terribly important chunk of my life. I'm a democratic socialist, it meant a lot to me. I learned a great deal from the political arts, which I was able to employ into what I did after.

As an observer of politics, what is different today from when you were elected?

I think mostly it's the practice of politics that has changed. The legislature when I was there was a very rigorous forum, but it was civilized. You could debate intensely, but you were friends, you respected each other when leaving the chamber. Today, provincially and federally, there is so much animus, anger, aggression, and unpleasant ethical behaviour, that it's a deterrent to be a member of the legislation.

I had the extreme privilege to be in politics when Bill David was Premier, and it is hard to find a more pleasant person. We profoundly disagreed on everything, but respected each other and



remain friends to this day. One of the loveliest moments of the DSA lunch was when Bill called to say hello, which is typical of him. Back then, and it was true for my father too when he was working alongside Bob Stanfield and Pierre Trudeau, you were respectful of each other, turbulent but civilized. Often tempestuous, but always with a coating of respect, which made progress possible.

What do you think has lead to this change?

I think politics began to descend to unpleasant personal attacks in the time of Ronald Reagan. The temper and feeling of politics changed, and this was a time when we were greatly influenced by American politics and what we saw and heard.

What motivated you to become elected?

I think it was genetic; I come from an intensely political family, I absorbed politics from the moment I was in diapers. My family's had a quest for social justice, we were all ideologically wanting to improve the world. I'm not sure that we did, but it was logical in a family of activists that I would run for office. And I ran at a very young age and in a new riding, so there was greater opportunity to become elected. I was enormously lucky to have been married right then as well, so that I had a passionate, socialist, feminist wife alongside me; the stars aligned.

Who were your mentors?

Politically, my dad, David Lewis. People invoke their parents, but my dad was an active politician and dedicated his life to the democratic left, he was devoted to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and he was the national leader and I was provincial leader of the NDP alongside each other. So we had a lot in common, obviously, concerning political change. His approach of civility made you feel you could persuade people to change opinion based on argument, not aggression. I hope I picked up some of that.

Do you have any fond memories from Queen's Park?

I have some great memories of vigorous debates, of the War Measures Act, constitutional reform in Canada, debates over occupational health and safety, bringing help to disturbed children; we made progress there, we contributed.



I remember those with great pleasure, there were honest exchanges of view in those debates.

But I had many great personal moments too. However, I will save my anecdotes. I want to write a personal memoir at some point, I do have a contract that was signed thousands of years ago. I would like to write it based on my time in politics.

What advice would you give to someone considering a political life?

To have a set of convictions against which you can measure what you do, to which you hold fast and don't deviate so it allows you to always be confident in the positions you take. It is important to avoid opportunism, to not have principles that shift easily from day to day. It is good to be uncompromising.

Secondly, value your constituents hugely, recognize that an inescapable part of politics is to represent and serve them, whether it's concerning a workers claim, housing, social allowance, whatever, if they come to you with it, you should be accessible and immediate.

Thirdly, in the actual practice, value research overall, assuming you'll be a civilized person in the legislature, value that research that underpins your arguments. The most effective arguments are those that are unanswerable.

What roles in your career have had the greatest impact on you?

I've been very lucky in life to be able to do or experience a variety of fascinating roles, and when it comes to my fifteen plus years in politics, I valued it; I don't have the words sufficient to say how much I valued it.

In terms of intellectual and emotional values in life, there were two. For a period of two years, I sat on a panel of seven African and non-African individuals to investigate the genocide in Rwanda. I was spending my time dealing largely with survivors of genocide, which takes an immense emotional toll.

The other experience with great impact for me was the time I spent working on HIV/AIDS in Africa, which was similarly distressing, but engaging. You felt you must do something about it, it was horrific, and something had to be done. It struck me to the core viscera and it will stay with me.

You said part of what motivated you to have a career in politics was a familial need to make a change in the world. Do you feel you've accomplished that?

Some of the issues in the legislature, for example, occupational health and safety, with the caucus, we did make an important difference in the life of Ontario. Internationally, having the opportunity to be the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, yes, I feel I helped to make a difference. But one must always remember, there are thousands of people working to make a difference together. But I was meeting people in cabinets trying to persuade them to change policies, I feel good about that.

This is abstract but incredibly important. All my life, I have both been married to and worked with extremely strong feminists, so questions of feminism and gender equality have always been central to what I believe, and have given me an anchor I didn't have when I was a young man, a high school jock. I learned overtime and was tutored by them and it resulted in a very strong set of convictions for me.

Interview with Rev. Derwyn Shea, Chair of O.A.F.P. Former M.P.P., 1995 – 99



AGM, June 2002.

When was the association founded?

Following debate in the Standing Committee on General Government, chaired by Steve Gilchrist, and receiving all party support (see Hansard), the Bill proceeded to Parliament where it received unanimous support and Royal Assent in the year 2000.

What prompted the establishment of The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians?

The death of a defeated Member proved to be a catalyst for action. Reflecting upon his untimely death, it became clear support structures were simply not sufficient or available. It seemed reasonable to suggest the development of a group of former Members with parliamentary experience might be timely for a sensitive response to former Members struggling with re-entry into the community with non-political status.

Regardless of party affiliation, these men and women could provide a resource especially during such a readjustment period. Upon further review, it was noted that such formal associations existed in Ottawa (CAFP) and Quebec providing apolitical support to and for former Members with varying services and parliamentary support. It also became clear that no caucus kept a complete file on past Members, nor did the HR Department keep contact information on Members not qualifying for benefits. Only the Legislative website offered a brief on former Members. The O.A.F.P. seemed a reasonable solution to provide a forum for former Members to keep in touch with each other, keep informed of current issues and generally provide a structure of mutual support that offered opportunity for Members to share their experience with the broader community on an apolitical basis, and to develop contact with other associations across Canada and beyond (see Hansard and website for founding principles). It also became clear that such an Association could appropriately lobby the government on matters of benefits and educational research projects. As contact with other Associations developed so, too, did the founding vision expand and continues to up to this day.

It is worth noting that the original former Members who provided advice and support represented all parties: Gilles Morin (L), Tiny Silipo (NDP), John Parker (PC), and Terence Young (PC). Many former Members from all parties were quick and generous in supporting our new Association. Today, our Membership numbers are in excess of 160 and growing.

Editor's Note: Tragically, the Former Member for Carleton, Hans Daigeler, took his own life only months after losing the 1995 election.

What were the obstacles in establishing the O.A.F.P.?

Surprisingly little. Current Members were concerned it might pose possible confusion over roles, but once they became aware of the experience in other jurisdictions, that concern soon disappeared. In point of fact, there was considerable support that included the Board of Internal Economy, the Speaker, the Clerk, and a number of departments, including HR and Finance. Office space was provided within the precinct, along with a modest budget to offset telephone and office supplies. Other expenses were covered by annual dues assessed for each Member. To this day, our Association owes considerable appreciation to those offices and the general good wishes and support extended by sitting Members.

What are the benefits offered by the Association?

Amongst others, we provide Members with a bi-weekly copy of IQP, a quarterly newsletter, frequent electronic updates, seasonal social activities, the Distinguished Service Award (recipients have included William Davis, Robert Nixon, and Stephen Lewis), opportunities with the Parliament-to-Campus Speakers Program, AGM, office support, website, opportunity to meet and greet former Members from across Canada and beyond, and involvement in our parliamentary history as our project researches and identifies every former Member of the Provincial Parliament.

Obviously, our Association lobbies the government on issues affecting all former Members and their benefits or lack thereof. Recently, the Board approved free membership for all former Members 80 years plus. We are now exploring the possibility of travel tours to state and foreign legislatures (i.e. New York, Bavaria, Scotland, etc.), while linkages with their former Members are to be reported in our newsletter and discussion sessions.

What are these other Associations?

We have close liaisons with the Canadian Association, Quebec, and Manitoba. Alberta is in the process of formation, as is British Columbia. On the international scene, we are in contact with the Former Members of the European Union, the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, the Scottish and Welsh parliaments, and the Legislature of New South Wales Australia. It was my personal pleasure to offer advice and support to the mother Parliament as the UK began its establishment of a Former Members Association. Four years ago, I was pleased to invite Quebec and Manitoba to Toronto to establish an annual meeting of Chairs on a rotational basis. In 2004, we hosted the meeting, and, this year, we will meet in Quebec City. Hopefully, Alberta may be in a position to send a delegation as well. Our pan-Canadian experience will show signs of growing to the benefit of us all.

What is the party representation in the O.A.F.P.?

Membership is pretty much equal across party lines, but the non-partisanship of membership offers comfort to all of us to engage each other as colleagues sharing parliamentary experience. It has been most effective and beneficial.



Tony Silipo, John Parker, Terence Young, Hon. J. Bartlemack, Derwyn Shea, Giles Morin



(Left) AGM participants with newly elected speaker, the Hon. Alvin Curling..



(Left) AGM, June 2002.

(Below) Giscard d'Estaing, Former Prime Minister of France, and Derwyn Shea.



Are there future goals for the O.A.F.P.?

Encourage more political education at universities, colleges, and high schools on an apolitical basis. It is important that our youth understand the realities of political service and structures of the parliamentary system. It's a challenging 'job' and hard on family life. We also need to expand our service to the families of our membership, develop study tours, and provide more luncheon discussions across the province. To date, we have held regional meetings in the Niagara Peninsula, London, Ottawa, and Sudbury. We still need to visit the northwest of Ontario and anywhere former Members gather seasonally so they have direct access to the Board Members, as well as to the support staff in our Toronto office (Mobina). We are also exploring a golf tournament with Members of the Quebec Association to be held appropriately in Kingston.

You have had a very diverse career. What has been your general motivation?

I began my entry in the political world while in graduate school. City of Toronto Council appointed me to the Planning Board where I served as Chair for four of ten years until entering the election for Toronto City Council. I was elected Senior Alderman for Ward One and served in that capacity until the Peterson government separated the City and Metropolitan governments. I chose to run for Metro and continued to represent my Ward as an Executive Metropolitan Councillor until I was persuaded to run provincially. It was my honour to serve in that capacity representing the Toronto riding of High Park-Swansea. Along the way, I was privileged to serve as a police commissioner, Chair of the O'Keefe Centre for the Performing Arts, President of the Canadian National Exhibition, and sundry posts most of our colleagues have experienced who have served in municipal government. Through it all, I have continued as an Anglican priest and was honoured as a canon a few years ago.

All in all, my service to and for the O.A.F.P. has been a high point in my career for which I am most grateful. I appreciate the support and contribution of our membership, and especially the past and current Members of our Board. The future of the O.A.F.P. seems secure and exciting providing our Members and the Parliament continue the strong support we have received during our first fifteen years (2000-2015).

Happy anniversary to us all!

Interview with Larry South, M.P.P. 1985 – 90, Frontenac-Addington

Why did you enter political life?

I was retiring from thirty plus years as a civil engineer and sanitary engineer and I was wondering what I might do in retirement. The year was 1984. Perhaps I could get the nomination to run in the federal election. That didn't happen, but the next year there was an opportunity provincially. This turned out to be a watershed in my life!

Editor's Note: Larry has his Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Applied Science from the University of Toronto.

What are your fondest memories of being at Queen's Park?

Being part of the first non-Conservative government in forty years, with the swearing in of the Cabinet being held on the front lawn of Queen's Park. I also have fond memories of some Members who were great orators as well as being nice people; Sean Conway, Bob Rae, Mike Breagh, Ian Scott and Frank Miller.

Is there anything that can prepare you to be an MPP?

Not really. Be personable, have lots of energy and be prepared to work hard.

If you had a mentor, who was it?

Bob Nixon and David Peterson.

Tell me about opposing nuclear power. Do you remain opposed?

I have always been concerned about the safe disposal of the nuclear waste. And it is a very expensive form of power because of the constant repairs.

You are on a mission to eliminate property taxation. Why?

The current system is irrational. When you retire, your income increases each year by 1 or 2%, but the property value increases by 4 to 5%. Thus with market value assessment, your property tax will increase greater than your income will. Lower income homeowners are subsidizing high-income homeowners. By substituting a municipal income tax in place of property taxation, homeowners will be treated on the basis of ability to pay, therefore making it easier for them to stay in their own homes longer. I am trying to convince the Premier and the Minister of Finance of the wisdom of this approach.

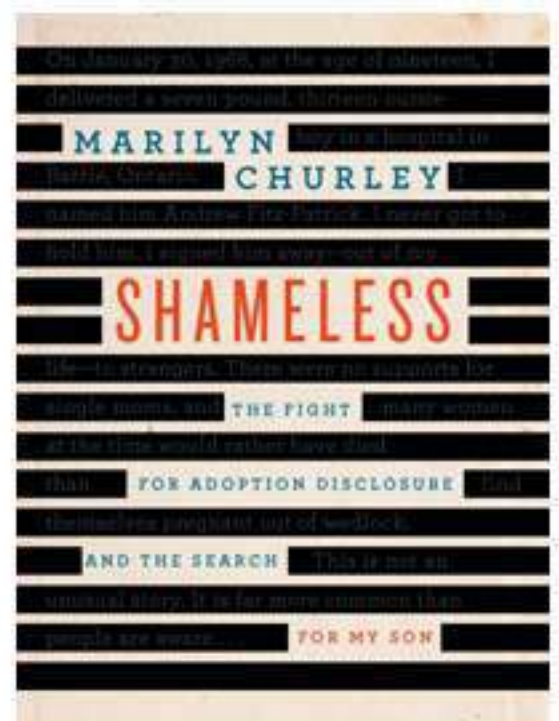
Editor's Note: Larry South, a World War II veteran, who celebrated his 90th birthday February 26, is the oldest living Liberal former MPP. He and his wife Joyce live in Kingston, Ontario.



Shameless: *The Fight For Adoption Disclosure* *And The Search For My Son* by Marilyn Churley A book review by David Warner

*"Goodbye little Andrew – for now. I love you and one day
I will find you."*

Marilyn Churley takes us on several journeys. There is one that has the reader confronting the sad and scary situation faced by so many girls and young women should they be unmarried and pregnant. We encounter a very judgmental society of the 1950's and 60's, one which had a double standard when it came to gender. "Boys will be boys" excuses a sexually active young man, but a similarly active young woman is a "slut". Shame, mistreatment, an aura of secrecy compounded by the illegal status of abortion, which often brought unscrupulous abortion providers, unsafe conditions, all heaped as a heavy burden on a young woman who no doubt felt totally abandoned.



There is a journey from small town east coast to the urbanite setting of Ottawa and Toronto. Marilyn recounts in detail her Happy Valley, Labrador childhood; her naiveté and innocence, and her grappling with a whole new world at university and a burgeoning political awakening.

A political journey is interwoven and the reader is given a first hand look at how the determination of one person can make a difference.

Marilyn's legislative efforts, more than a decade of persistence, starting in 1993, reveal something that anyone who has served in public office knows so well, that there is never a simple issue. The complexities are explained fully. And as well, the reader discovers that politicians can and do rise above partisan politics. The issue carries the day.

Marilyn Churley provides an account of her life, which clearly articulates her courage and determination. She provides an insight into who she is from a childhood inoculation experience; "...my pride and nerve give me the ability to fight through fear and do things even if they are scary."

It took courage for Marilyn to write this book, revealing so much of herself.

I found myself emotionally moved as I read about Marilyn's experiences. Likely, you will too.

And there is a happy ending!

Steve Paikin's interview with Marilyn is well worth watching, and you can find it here:
<http://tvo.org/video/212077/marilyn-churley-fight-adoption-disclosure>

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Interview with Marilyn Churley, M.P.P. 1990-2000, 2003-2005

During this fight for disclosure, was there ever a point when you wanted to quit?

Not really. Although there were times when I was really frustrated and wondered if it would ever happen. But I vowed that I would not leave my position as M.P.P. until a law was passed. Luckily, that happened in 2005 just before I was to leave to run federally.

But even though it took ten long years, each time I introduced a Bill, my colleagues, the media, and the public were more educated and better understood adoption disclosure.



When the legislation was being debated, were there unexpected allies or opponents?

There were people in the Conservative Party who did support the Bill, but their party line was to vote against it. Eventually, when the Bill was finally passed, I was quite surprised that there were some progressive people who supported the Bill in general but wanted a disclosure veto. They wanted to amend it and eventually succeeded through the courts. That means that some people still do not have access to their information.

So ultimately, I didn't see it particularly as a partisan issue, even though it broke down along those lines, because after all, the Legislature is the Legislature! I thought of it very much as a human rights issue that everybody from all sides of the Legislature could relate to. I think some of those in opposition were driven by their own secrets and fears.

In trying to get the legislation passed, what tactic was most successful for you?

I think the biggest things that helped us were the health implications. Even those outside of the adoption circle understood the implications of not having access to your genetic health background.

A geneticist who did a press conference with me at Queen's Park stated that there are literally thousands of diseases that are genetically passed on that we are now aware of. Knowing your biological health history can help you make decisions about whether to have children or not, and having knowledge of inherited diseases can even save lives. Everybody can relate to that.

I think of our coalition as a three-legged stool; we had me, a very committed M.P.P. who was determined to get it through. We had a few media on side, which was very important. (Ian Urquhart from the Toronto Star was the very first one to write a positive story about the issue.) And we had a very strong activist-coalition made of adult adoptees, birth mothers, and some fathers, as well as adoptive parents, all of whom worked with me every step of the way. They were were fierce in their advocacy and never gave up.

What were the emotional hurdles when you were writing the book?

Well, that's an interesting question, because it happened a very long time ago, and I reunited with my son in 1996. But that kind of hurt never goes away. You have the baby, you place your child for adoption, and you get on with your life. And I got on with a very successful life. But I never stopped yearning for my child. Not a day went by when I didn't think about him and wonder what happened to him. It was a great relief to find him.

In writing the book, I got in touch with that scared, traumatized teenage girl from Labrador who I had kind of locked away. The adult in me wept for her. It is still a very emotional subject for me to talk about. I didn't realize that there was still so much pain and anger left to be dealt with. So it was a good experience to tell my story in my own words.



(Right) Marilyn Churley with OAFP Intern
Lauren Malyk.



Do you feel like you've healed now?

No. Women who relinquish their babies to adoption never completely heal. But I don't wallow in it. Grief and loss is a part of life and nothing can be done to change the past. I feel lucky that I reunited with my son and that we have such a great relationship now.

What has been the reaction to the book?

It's been powerful; I make everybody cry, even grown men like David [Warner]! The reaction has been very positive. I had a really nice, standing room only book launch in Toronto. Kathleen Wynne came, as well as Kilauren Gibb, Joni Mitchell's daughter, and many old friends and colleagues from my past and present. The support was great.

The adoption community, particularly the people who worked so hard in changing disclosure laws, are happy that I wrote this book, because now there's at least there an historical account of the fight that they engaged in for so many years.

I think some people believe that writing a memoir is easy, but it's actually a very hard exercise. It's not as transparent as it seems, because you're trying to figure out how to create a balance, what stories to tell, what to leave out, dealing with family, and trying to determine if they will freak out if I write about this thing or another. I worked hard to find the right balance, and based on what I'm hearing from people, I managed to do that.

How have your two children reacted to the book?

They were aware that I had been writing the book and I am happy to say that they have responded very positively. I think my son had some concerns given that he's the central cast in the book, but he seems to be okay with what I have written about him. I think my daughter, Astra, and my son, Billy, feel very proud of what I've done and my accomplishment in writing the book.

So what's next for you? Do you see another book?

I do, I have an idea that's been germinating for a while in my head. I already have the title and I know what it's going to be about. But it's going to take some more research. I'm not sure when I will get to it, as I am still happily doing things to promote this book for the time being.

Is it partly from the experience of writing this book that you feel you can write another?

Writing is not for sissies, I've discovered. I still consider myself more of a politician than a writer. It took me a long time to finish the book. Of course, I was writing it while working full-time and or running in elections.

Writing this book has taught me a lot. For instance, I wandered all over the place sometimes spending days on tangents, doing research, etc. I wasted a lot of time writing material that really didn't belong in the book.

The inspiration for *Shameless* was not my personal story; in fact, I wasn't going to tell my own story. I really wanted to chronicle our ten year battle at Queen's Park and make sure that the people who worked so hard from the adoption community got credit. But I was told firmly by a publisher that this kind of story would not work without my personal connection to it included. That's how I ended up writing about my personal experience, which in the end, created a better product.

Do you feel like the tide has been turning in politics for feminism?

Well, we have our first female Ontario premier, Kathleen Wynne, who is also an out Lesbian. That suggests we've moved forward in leaps and bounds. But I think that we have a long way to go. I mean, witness what's happening to Hillary Clinton in the United States right now. I'm not referring to her policies or party here, I'm simply referring to the attacks on women generally; the way they dress, the way they wear their hair, their voices, continue to be a special challenge for women in politics. The fact that some male pundits actually wondered aloud why Clinton would want to run for the President of the United States now that she is about to become a grandmother underlines just how entrenched these ridiculous values and expectations are when it comes to women. They never say that about grandfathers! And in terms of getting more women elected to Parliament, there's still a lot of work ahead of us.

For details on the book, go to Between the Lines Books (BTL) website here:

<https://btlbooks.com/book/shameless#reviews>

Shameless can be ordered through btlbooks, www.amazon.ca and chapters.indigo.ca.

Or contact Marilyn directly at mchurley@rogers.com.

Annual General Meeting!

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Our dinner speaker will be
Steve Paikin
“Peaks and Valleys of Political Lives in Ontario”

The business meeting will be held in room 228, Main Legislative Building, starting at 3:00 p.m.

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, has graciously invited us to a reception at the Lieutenant-Governor's Suite, following our business meeting.

We will be dining at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly's main dining room, preceded by an opportunity to socialize.

Cost for our 4 course gourmet presentation:

Cornerstone Members and guest: \$40.00 per person

Members and guest: \$50.00 per person

Non-Members and guest: \$60.00 per person

You can now make reservations for dinner!
Call 416-325-4647 or email oafp@ontla.ola.org.

Series: Remarkable Women Parliamentarians

Interview with Dianne Cunningham

M. P. P. London North 1988 – 2003

Minister Responsible for Women's Issues

Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Why did you enter politics?

I did not start out to be elected. At my children's school in London, there was a wonderful kindergarten teacher who was in her last year of teaching prior to retirement. The School Board assigned her to teach 30 or more children in the morning at her home school, then to go to another school for the afternoon class. The community thought this unreasonable. As Chair of the Home and School Association, I made a presentation to the Board. Unintentionally, this was my start to a political career!

When you ran for the Leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, did gender play a role in the contest?

It probably did, but I did not notice.



Who were your mentors?

As a child, I was surrounded by family members who were successful in business. My father headed up his own business, my aunt and uncle founded St. Clair Ice Cream, and another aunt founded Kid's Town Children's Wear. I had several role models in my community, both men and women. I was also fortunate to have our dynamic Education Minister, Dr. Bette Stephenson, as a role model, as well as Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, who I admired as a strong woman leader.

You were involved in making bicycle helmets mandatory. Tell us about that.

My son, Kevin, at age 14 in 1984, was seriously injured in a car accident, suffering a near fatal head injury. When I was elected in 1988, every Member's name was in a draw for a Private Members Bill opportunity, and I became third on the list. Medical staff at SickKids Hospital and the Ontario Head Injury Association were lobbying for a Bicycle Helmet law as they had seen far too many head injuries from cycling accidents. It took seven years of numerous hearings and research by three different governments before we finally proclaimed the Bill in 1995. There was tremendous support and statistical evidence that helmets save lives. My Bill was universal in application, but in the end, an age restriction of 16 was applied. It turned out that while parents wanted their children to wear helmets, many didn't want legislation to apply to them.

Do you have any advice for women who are considering a life in politics?

I had a tremendous support group referred to as "The Kitchen Cabinet". They knew how to raise money and reached out to build winning teams. Be prepared to spend a great deal of time away from your family.

Any fond memories of your time at Queen's Park?

I am proud of our accomplishments. In particular, I fondly recall the extraordinary effort made right across the country at the time of the Quebec Referendum. I was Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. We connected with our counterparts in every Province and Territory in a collective effort to mount a strong, unified voice that we wanted Quebec to stay in Canada.

As Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, I worked with my staff at the Ontario Women's Directorate where my knowledge as a former teacher, social services director, and self-employed management consultant helped me with the skills, contacts, and drive to work with others. We implemented a province-wide strategy to prevent Violence Against Women and Children and Economic Independence Programs for Women in partnership with entrepreneurs and mentors representing management, marketing, technology, and finance.

Our accomplishments at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities have been recognized and celebrated over the past 10 years as ambitious and innovative: new and diverse apprenticeship training programs, successful double cohort implementation focusing on curriculum and ambassador assistance, new degree opportunities for students, SuperBuild funding of over \$900 million to create 55,000 new spaces at colleges and universities, tuition increase caps at 2% a year over five years, and new scholarship and loan repayment systems to help students and their parents in financing their education.

Any disappointments, aside from losing the bid to be Leader?

Although my team and I worked hard to win the Leadership, it was a much appreciated opportunity for me to travel the Province with Mike Harris. Together, we met so many people who were committed to participating in our democratic process; we listened to their ideas and worked with them to make a difference!

And what is your life like after politics?

As many of my colleagues would agree, it's great to be home. After 30 years in public office and so many opportunities to make positive and relevant changes in education and government policy, it has been a time to enjoy my family and friends. Time to catch up, read books other than briefing notes, play tennis and golf, take in the Grand Theatre and Stratford, enjoy our family cottage in Muskoka and my grandchildren, travel far and wide with my friends and really see the sites as opposed to never seeing the outside of a hotel room, and above all - time to just think and enjoy!

But here were some requests to help out! So I became the Director of the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management at The Richard Ivey School of Business at Western University, London, in 2004 - 2012. The initiatives of the centre were focused on more cooperation between government and business in the formulation of public policy, thus achieving greater economic performance and productivity for Ontario and Canada. We consulted with governments and responded to their needs to further public policy research. Our students were included every step of the way. In collaboration with business and academia, we produced timely and relevant reports that included suggestions and recommendations for consideration and implementation.

From our first workshop, "Building Paths to a Low Carbon Society" in 2006, to studies on "Developing Competitive and Sustainable Transportation Policy", "Making Green Energy Happen", "Water Innovation - A Competitive and Innovative Agriculture Sector", we partnered with experts across the country and beyond to provide examples of best practices and to create partnerships and provide contacts to government for ongoing research and good public policy options. Symposiums, distinguished lectures, and support for student internships motivated our students to be involved in the workings of business and government. Many went on to important positions in both private and public sector employment, some as entrepreneurs! This was a very satisfying time in my career.

I also became a board member on the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy and the Canadian School of Public Service at the federal level. I chaired the Ontario Neuro-Trauma Foundation, and was Tri-Chair of the 2010 Special Olympic Canada, National Summer Games, London.

In conclusion, as you can imagine, I am now sort of retired, always ready for a challenge, but am more involved in my community by attending functions and supporting the next generation as they seek opportunities and contribute to the success of our country. It's great to be home again!

"..it's great to be home. After 30 years in public office and so many opportunities to make positive and relevant changes in education and government policy, it has been a time to enjoy my family and friends."

Highs and Lows

In a few words, would you describe what your greatest satisfaction was from your days at Queen's Park, and your greatest disappointment? - Editor David Warner

“My greatest pleasure at Queen's Park as MPP for Toronto Lakeshore was forming friendships with fellow members from all parties. Those friendships continue to this day with Bill Davis, Darcy McKeough, and Gordon Carton. My greatest disappointment was losing my seat in 1967.
- Alan Eagleson, MPP 1963-67.

There were many highs. Certainly advancing Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy was a high. This Strategy has been the reason ten mines have opened in Ontario over the last ten years providing jobs and economic growth for many Ontario communities. Developing and implementing the plan to four lane Hwy. 69 from Sudbury to Parry Sound was another high. A dream of our community of Sudbury is being realized because of this plan.

The low was having to say goodbye to friends in all parties that you have worked with and whose lives were changed drastically because of the reality of elections and the results that forced them from office. The hardest goodbye was the untimely death of Dominic Agostino, our colleague from Hamilton. His sudden death touched all of us in the Legislature in a very dramatic way. Many more highs than lows and always a profound privilege to serve the people of Sudbury and Ontario.
- Rick Barolucci, MPP 1995 - 2015.

The high point was when the Legislature unanimously gave third read and passed my Private Members Bill (“Sandy's Law”) requiring the posting of signs cautioning women about the effect of alcohol on their unborn child.”

My lowest point in politics was the last time I walked out of the Chambers – I found that to be very difficult.
- Ernie Parsons, MPP 1999 – 2007.

The high was the sight of a future Speaker dancing beside a piano at 2 a.m. in a Washington nightclub. A lusty voice with amazing dexterity. The low was the leader of the Big Blue machine seeking a chance to negotiate a deal to survive when a week before he refused to even discuss the matter. The fall from 42 years of power deserved a little dignity.

- Mike Breagh, MPP 1975 – 90.

Editor's Note: I cannot attest to the veracity of the Honourable Member's "high point".

Highs: When I moved to Scarborough in 1957, I became involved in many volunteer activities - Scarborough General Hospital, Social Planning Council, and chair of the Scarborough Board of Health and the Canadian Mental Health Association. Scarborough was a growing community and I soon became aware of the need for improved services. In 1971, I was elected the Member for Scarborough East. When appointed by Bill Davis as the Secretary for Social Development, I was in a position to take action to improve necessary services in Scarborough and right across the province.

Lows: Saying goodbye to my excellent staff and all the civil servants who were so helpful during my fourteen years at Queen's Park. I also miss the friendships I had with so many of my political colleagues on both sides of the House. It was a wonderful experience and I would highly encourage more women to become active within their ridings and within the provincial Parliament.

- Margaret Birch, MPP 1971 – 85.

Probably the most satisfying experience for me was being involved with the Environmental Committee with its work on recycling under the then Minister the Honourable Jim Bradley. A serious start was made on compostable waste; metal, paper etc. In general, under Jim Bradley's guidance, much was accomplished. An example is now we have no coal burning hydro generating stations. The decision to call an early election would have to be the low point.

- Walt Elliot, MPP 1987 - 90.

Interview with Reid Scott, Former M.P.P. Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, 1948 – 51 M.P. New Democrat, 1962 – 68 Toronto City Councillor, 1969 – 76

At age 21, you were the youngest person ever elected at Queen's Park. Why did you decide to get involved in politics?

My family was very poor when I was growing up and we used to live down by the old Woodbine Racetrack, on this little cul-de-sac in a four-room house made of wood with no furnace. The bathroom had no light, and there was a faucet for gas, which I was afraid to touch because I was afraid it would put the roof off.



I went to public school where they had me skip a couple of grades. When it came time to graduate, the principal said, "Your term teacher and I would like you to go to the YMCA every Friday night for the next eight weeks, because we think you have enormous potential. You will be tested on what you can do." I didn't have any money and they paid the fees for me to make my way there. So I pocketed the money, and I walked. In the end, they told me my particular brain would lend me very well to being a doctor or lawyer. I was young enough at the time that I thought babies always came at two in the morning.

So in 1948, I enrolled in law school. I couldn't afford to go, but I had something like a bursary paying for tuition and expenses. I went to a professor there and said, "I don't know anything about politics, but I'm willing to learn. What I need is a mentor; would you consider being my mentor?" He said he would be glad to; he had been examining my work and was impressed. He gave me great advice: never lie to a reporter, even if it's embarrassing to yourself or your party. He said not to worry about the truth, and it'll carry you through your whole career, and it has.

You were elected municipally, provincially and federally. How were the experiences different?
I worked in law and politics at the same time. I was doing very well, and the practice was good.

I was very impressed with Tommy Douglas and David Lewis when the 1962 election was called. They both came to see me and said they'd very much like to have me run as a candidate in the area. I said I wasn't at all interested in going into federal politics; it's a very boring business. Tommy said, "There's war to be done there, we need someone there with a brain, and apparently, you've got one. If I can give up the premiership, surely you can get a partner – for the time being, anyway." I asked if I could have a night to think about it. I figured I would run, get defeated, and then go back to Queen's Park. Anyway, about halfway through the campaign, I noticed I was a member of the Scarboro Golf and Country Club and they thought it would be a wonderful thing if one of their members could become an MP. So when they asked how they could help me, I said "Money!" In a month, I had \$35,000 contributed, in 1962; those guys were loaded. Halfway through, I began to get the idea it may be a danger getting elected, because more and more people were coming forward with support. On election night, I won by 294 votes.

Tell us about your involvement in the "great flag debate".

In the election of 1963, Mr. Pearson made a promise that if he were elected Prime Minister within two years, he would advocate the creation of a Canadian flag. It was his opinion that we had reached the age of majority and should be independent. So he became Prime Minister, and everyday a tangent would build, "Where is the flag?" Finally, he introduced what was known as "the Pearson Pennant". John Diefenbaker opposed it right away, of course, and then the battle was on. What followed was one of the most lengthy, disgusting, unbelievable debates in Canadian history.

Pearson couldn't risk a vote because he was in a minority, so he decided to have a multi-party committee. The international body that grants permission for a new flag for a country requires that only the colours of the country be on the flag; ours are red and white.

Tommy Douglas came to me and said he wanted me to be the representative on the committee. I went back to Tommy the next day and presented a plan I'd worked on all night. I said I would undertake it, under three conditions for him. First, go to the other house leaders and change the committee to a committee of the House of Commons under supervision of the speaker, who is neutral, and that will get over the multi-party committee. They all agreed, to my surprise.

(Image via The Toronto Star)



Secondly, I wanted 24 members of our research group under my total control until it was over. He said that was half the staff, to which I said, "Tommy, I'm getting a little pissed off. Do you want a flag or don't ya? I have a plan that might work, I'm going to guarantee it, just wait. In a case like this, the most prepared and best researched with the answer to every question that could be asked will win nine times out of ten." They all had different ideas and I had to come back with one united one. He allowed it.

Thirdly, I did not want any interference. And it was a go.

The most dangerous thing a lawyer can do is call an expert witness. You can never get them to shut up and they can destroy you. We held a session with the experts in public. I said it was important the public understood what we were hoping to accomplish here. We called the first expert, and he was a very highly placed individual. I had him placed under oath, and I was a notary public and commissioner, and even brought my bible, and said, "If you don't tell the truth, you're subject to perjury."

I said, "What is the purpose of the national flag?" And he said, "Coming so late in our term, it is a statement to the world that we have reached a point of independence and sovereignty, where we can make all our own decisions without reference to any other country." I said, "What colours should appear?" And he said, "The colours of the country, red and white." I said, "Red and white only?" And he said, "Yes." I said, "Mr. Pearson has introduced a flag with two blue borders on it with maple leaves in the middle." And he said, "That would be unacceptable." I said, "Ok, what if I take the blue borders off and replace them with red ones. What would you think of that?" He said, "Well, it's a bit better, but now you've got another problem; why the three flags?" And I said, "Why not one? What if we take off the three leaves, and put a single one in the middle?" So we had that made up.

We narrowed it down to three flags. At the very end, when we were a week shy of voting, it narrowed down. I went to see John Matheson, Pearson's point man on the flag. I said, "John, it's time for the kill, everything is set up for victory. I have two problems left: you and I are good friends, and I hope our relationship will survive this, because you're one of the main problems. Your obsession with getting Pearson's flag through is crazy. You and I both know that the maple leaves come from the coat of arms.

I bet no one on the committee knows that and 99.9% of the public doesn't even know we have a coat of arms. Join the twentieth century. The only flag we can pass is the red and white maple leaf flag. You heard the experts - that would be the perfect flag." So John changed his mind and agreed to go along with it.

Then I went to Walter Gordon, the minister of finance, and said, "We're ready for the final vote. The only problem left is the Prime Minister." He said, "What do you suggest?" I said, "I want you to take him a message from me. His flag will never fly; I will kill it if I have to, because I have enough votes. I've got five Tories and three independents. It'll be close, but it'll be clear. But I don't want to do that, because I like and respect him. I want you to give him that message, because it doesn't have to be that way, he just has to withdraw support for his own flag and authorize these representatives to do the same thing and it's all over." So he did that, and then he phoned me the night before the vote and said, "Reid, are you sure you know what the hell you're doing?" I asked how the Prime Minister felt, and he said, "Like a cat on a hot tin roof." So I said, "Look, did he do what you asked? Did he get my message? Because nothing will stop me now." He said, "Reid, can you assure me you can pull this off?" I said, "I'll bet you \$20,000."

The next morning, in deference to the Prime Minister, I had them put the Red Ensign on the top, Mr. Pearson's in the middle, and on the bottom, we put mine. The Tories only had five votes and were trapped with nowhere to go. The only place they could vote then was the red and white flag. On the second vote, I knew all the Tories wouldn't vote for Pearson, so they all voted for my flag, and much to their embarrassment, the liberals did the same and so did the independents. It was 14 to nothing. When the clerk announced it, the Tories went ballistic.

The final report was prepared and jumped over the barrier of partisanship, because it was a committee of the House of Commons. So it was all brought to an end. Everyone was stunned for a while. At one point, Léon Balcer, the Québec lieutenant, got up to speak, and said to Pearson, "You're the worst Prime Minister we've ever had! I recognize a man scarred by a lifetime of failure." It was really bitter. He sat down, and the final vote was at 1 am, and it was shoved through the senate in two days. The queen gave her approval in early January. And Mr. Pearson gave the official approval soon after. It was a very moving day when the flag was raised. Just as it got to the top, a wind blew across it, it flew up and it was beautiful. That's how a plan works.

Do you have other great memories from your time in politics that you haven't mentioned?

I remember we had a visit once from the queen, and I was Chief Protocol Officer. I was sitting in my office one morning, and my secretary came in. She said there are some gentlemen with big black things in their hands looking for you. She said they're "the advanced people for the majesty". So these two guys come in, and they've got these big binders, and I said, "What is all that for?" And they said, "It's the protocol for the queen." And I said, "You don't think I've got the time to go through all that crap, do you? I don't have the time, sorry. I've got five or six major appointments right now; so go boil the stuff down to about 15 pages to what I can understand. It's now or never!" So they did.

Anyway, the queen came and she was a lovely lady. We had a pleasant time with her. When she was standing by the waterfront, really high up on the royal yacht, she said, "Mr. Scott, would you help me down?" And of course I did, I held my arm up, and she tucked her hand under mine and grabbed my wrist. And I said, "Your majesty, you know you've just broken a 100-year-old tradition; nobody is supposed to touch the queen." She said that didn't matter at all and we strolled along the waterfront as the cameras were going nuts. I thought, anybody who is going to get a picture of this could sell it to the Associated Press and put their kids through university!

And then there's Philip, in a crowd of veterans all in wheelchairs, and all they wanted to do was shake his hand, because Philip was in the army. One of the gentlemen asked me to remove him from the crowd, and I said, "Well, what do you want me to do?" And he said he's holding up the party, so get him out! I said, "Are you nuts? Do you want me to have my picture on the front page of the paper losing the queen's husband? All he wants to do is shake hands with a bunch of old veterans. You do it!"

"[Don't] worry about the truth, and it'll carry you through your whole career."

Leo Jordan

December 29, 1929 – February 15, 2015

Served in the 35th and 36th Parliament (September 06, 1990 – June 02, 1999) as the Progressive Conservative Member for the Riding of Lanark-Renfrew. Leo was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism and served on four Standing Committees (Resource Development, Regulations and Private Bills, Ombudsman, Social Development).

"I was very saddened to hear of Leo's passing recently. Leo and I served together in the Legislature for the same area of rural Eastern Ontario during the 1990s and I got to know him well. He had a great sense of humour and could always find the fun in just about any situation.



He had a long career with Ontario Hydro, so he was particularly well informed about energy issues. He really cared about good hydro service in rural Ontario and fought hard to maintain it for the people of Lanark-Renfrew. Because he had been the Reeve of Montague Township, Leo also understood the importance of the municipal/provincial relationship, and I attended several meetings with him both at Queen's Park and at home where his appreciation of that relationship was quite helpful to solving the problems of the moment.

But most of all, Leo and his wonderful wife Thecla loved being with people. Whether it was parade, a picnic, or just walking down the Main Street of Smiths Falls, Lanark Village or Arnprior, they made themselves at home and were open and friendly with everyone they met. In fact, one of my most vivid memories of Leo will always be of his standing in line at the Annual Church Supper at Mount St. Patrick, the historic capital of the Irish in the Ottawa Valley.

I can see him clearly in my mind's eye, standing there with a broad smile on his face and knowing that he was about to get a great meal and take one step closer to heaven! A good man who served his community well in so many different capacities. We thank him and his marvellous family for his and their service.”

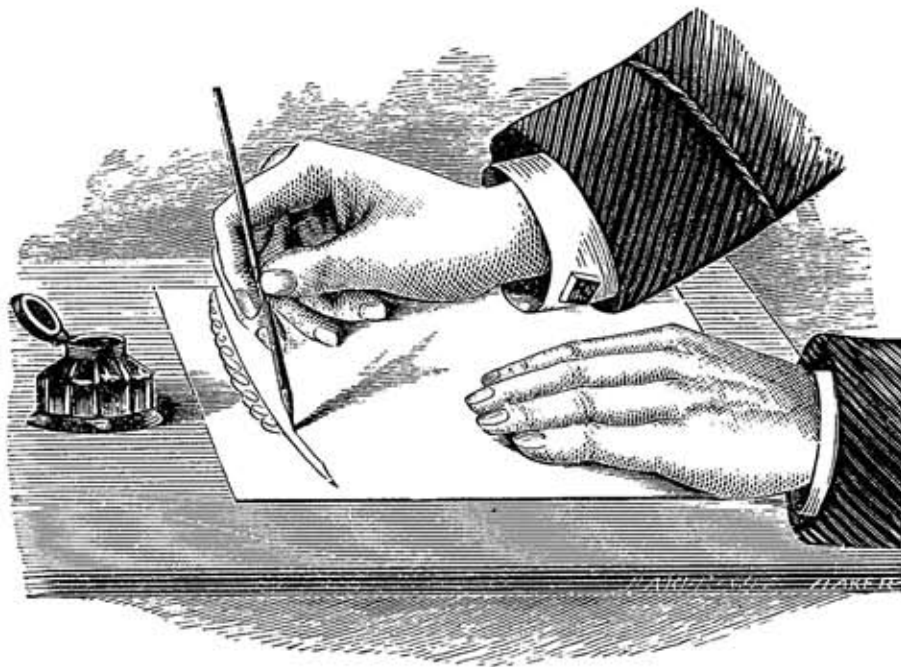
- Sean Conway.

“Leo Jordan was a very proud and dedicated family man. He and his wife Thecla, who tragically passed away over 15 years ago, were proud parents and grandparents of five children and 18 grandchildren. Leo would often talk to me about the achievements of them. As MPP for Lanark-Renfrew, Leo was very concerned and involved in rural, small town Eastern Ontario issues. As a former Reeve of Montague Township, he was always in close contact with his local municipal government representatives. In the Legislature and in caucus, he was an outspoken advocate for them. Both my wife Joan and I will always remember many happy occasions with Leo and his wonderful wife and partner Thecla Jordan.”

- Norm Sterling.

*“A good man who served his community well
in so many different capacities.
We thank him and his marvellous family for
his and their service.”*

Beyond the Pink Palace



This will be a standard feature of every publication, that is, provided you, the reader, supply us with information. One thing I have learned from having the privilege of helping produce *The InFormer*, is that former Members are interested in what their former colleagues are doing. So...a regular opportunity to share information!

What is new in your life? A grandchild has arrived, a family wedding is planned, you have a new volunteer position, a daughter or son has decided to enter the political arena; in other words, “newsy” personal stuff!

Just email me (david.warner@sympatico.ca) and your news will be shared in our next publication.

Under the Palm Trees



Rumour has it that many of our colleagues gather in the sunny south for some or all of the winter.

We invite you to share your stories or observations about winter with the surf and sun.

As well, let us know if you would be interested in convening at a meeting of our Association in Florida next winter. **There are logistics to be considered, so let us know where in Florida you usually go and the approximate time when you are there (ie. mid-January to mid-March).**

No promises – but, if there is sufficient interest and an agreeable location can be found, we just might be able to meet up “under the palm trees”!

Send your replies to david.warner@sympatico.ca

Next Issue

Our summer publication will feature:

⇒ Photos and interviews capturing our Annual General Meeting, which will include a reception hosted by the Lt. Governor, along with our dinner, featuring guest speaker Steve Paikin. You could be in those photos and interviews by signing up now for our May 28th AGM!

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