



Editorial: David Warner (Chair), Lily Munro, Steve Gilchrist and Michael Duncan

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**



This year's pre-Christmas social will be on **Monday, November 24**. Always a special time, this year is extra special as we host former Members from Quebec and Manitoba. They are here attending the Tri-Partite AGM, which is being hosted this year by Ontario.

**Place: Room 1641 (Lewis Room), Whitney Block Time: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

What a wonderful opportunity to meet up with colleagues you haven't seen for a while!

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## **A SPECIAL EVENT**

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY**

#### **2014 RECIPIENT - MR. STEPHEN LEWIS, C C**

Stephen Lewis served in the Ontario Legislature from 1963 to 1978, Leader of the Ontario New Democrats from 1970-78. He served as Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations (1984-88), Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF (1995-99), UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa (2001-06).

This distinguished parliamentarian will be honoured with our highest award at a ceremony on

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

**11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Room 228, Main Legislative Building**

More details will be in our next publication.

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## **SNEAK PREVIEW !**

Steve Paikin will be our guest speaker at our next Annual General Meeting. Details will be available in our next publication – meanwhile set aside Wed. May 27, 2015 for a very special evening!

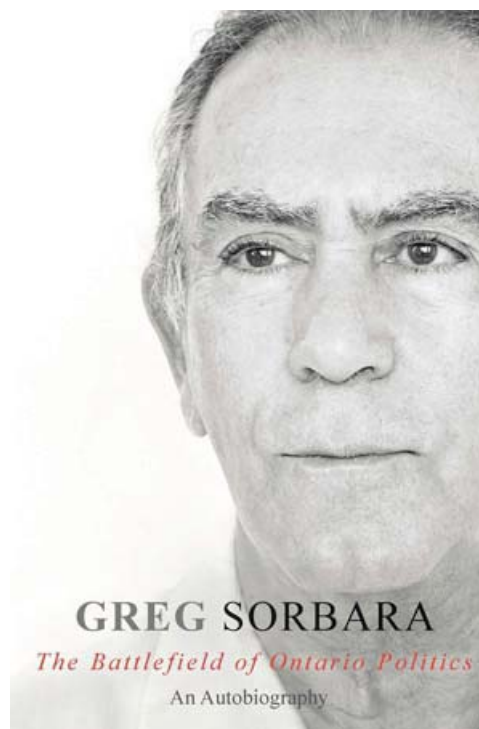
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## **ANOTHER POLITICAL LIFE**

We have attempted to compile a list of Former M.P.P.s who were elected municipally October 27, 2014. No doubt the list will be incomplete, so please let us know of names which we have missed.

John Tory	– Mayor of Toronto
Giorigio Mammoliti	– re-elected, Toronto City Councillor
Anthony Perruzza	- re-elected, Toronto City Councillor
Gary Carr	– re-elected, Regional Chair, Burlington
Linda Jeffrey	– Mayor of Brampton
Al McDonald	- re-elected, Mayor of North Bay
Dave Boushy	- re-elected, Sarnia - County Councillor
Jean-Marc Lalonde	- Clarence-Rockland City Councillor
Randy Hope	- re-elected, Mayor of Chatham-Kent
David Neumann	-re-elected, Brantford City Councillor
Kim Craitor	- Niagara Falls City Councillor
Ron Eddy	- re-elected, Mayor, County of Brant
Bart Maves	- re-elected, Niagara Falls, Regional Councillor
Jim Watson	- re-elected, Mayor, City of Ottawa

**“The Battlefield of  
Ontario Politics – An  
Autobiography”**  
**BY GREG SORBARA**



*A book review by David Warner*

“For the summer we lived in a teepee on the banks of the Slocan River. It was magical.”<sup>1</sup>

Greg Sorbara takes us on a journey from those idyllic days of 1970 in the Rocky Mountains, as a volunteer in the Company of Young Canadians, romantically entwined with another volunteer, Kate, to the lofty heights of an Ontario Finance Minister.

An easy, fluid style of writing, combined with an honest recounting of his feelings and his naivete allows the reader to gain an appreciation of Greg's challenges, contrasted with his many achievements. We are given an inside look at how Greg, as President of the Ontario Liberals, molds and fashions a formidable election machine, his personal touch providing excellent candidates across our Province.

Greg's narrative about rejecting the life of a Basilian Priest, he and Kate caring for a severely autistic child, his early life in the Kootenays and his immigrant family background, all nicely frame an image of a man for whom family does come first.

Cont'd on next page.

The good, the bad and the ugly of political life are highlighted when the R.C.M.P. mistakenly put Greg's name on a search warrant. And, as is so often the case in political life, and life in general, "At moments such as these, some people surprise you by how quickly they disappear, while others surprise you by how unexpectedly supportive they are."<sup>2</sup>

Major political events in Ontario often spawn three versions of the truth. "The Battlefield of Ontario Politics" provides one well articulated interpretation of the 1985 Accord signed by David Peterson and Bob Rae. Similarly, Greg chronicles his remembrance of the gas plants issue.

Greg Sorbara is an inveterate baseball fan. Greg has hit a home run with "Battlefield of Ontario Politics" !

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- Quotes:      1. Greg Sorbara, "The Battlefield of Ontario Politics" page 26  
                 2. Greg Sorbara, "The Battlefield of Ontario Politics" page 18
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## **AN INTERVIEW WITH GREG SORBARA**

Former M.P.P. and author of "The Battlefield of Ontario Politics – An Autobiography"

### **What is the worst part about being in government?**

How little you can achieve in relation to your aspirations. You work on the margins and choose two or three things which you can accomplish.

### **What is the best part about being in Opposition?**

I did not find it enjoyable being in Opposition. By the end of 1992 I saw that the Rae government, who by the way had a number of accomplishments, would be replaced by Mike Harris. The prospect of eight more years in Opposition was not palatable.

**Voter turnout continues to decline, many young people gravitate to issue oriented groups and many older people claim “all Parties are the same”. Is our political Party system still relevant?**

Yes, our political system is still relevant, but there is work to be done to re-establish authority in Parliament. As well, inspired leadership is needed. I draw on the example of 'Trudeaumania' in the late '60s and the more recent lesson of Jack Layton's success in Quebec.



More disturbing than a low turnout is the somewhat pervasive attitude of many young people 'I don't care. It doesn't matter'.

**Your love of family is evident. Would you or have you advised your children regarding a life in politics?**

A qualified “Yes.” I have never encouraged my children to seek a life in politics. Only one appears to have a political gene in her makeup, the others closely follow political issues and events but are not really interested in entering a political life.

**The chapter “What's Ahead” provides some thoughtful reflections on issues, but doesn't tell us what Greg wants to do next. Where are you headed next?**

I am trying to bring some 'value added' to the Sorbara Group. I am firmly ensconced in Prince Edward County where I am involved in restoring an old hotel. And, a great joy in my life, rather like coming full circle, is being Chancellor of my Alma Mater, York University.

**SERIES: REMARKABLE WOMEN**  
**PARLIAMENTARIANS -**  
**INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET BIRCH**  
M.P.P. Scarborough East 1971-85



**Provincial Secretary for Social Development,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier**

**Why did you enter politics?**

We had moved from East York to Scarborough in 1958. Since we lived close to the Scarborough General Hospital and our two children were now in school, I started volunteering at the hospital. At the same time I was appointed to the Scarborough Board of Health and the Canadian Mental Health Association. After travelling around the province and visiting mental health institutions, I became aware of the need for additional mental health services and felt strongly such services should be available in all communities.

Doctors at the hospital also indicated there was a need for more hospital beds in Scarborough, and they suggested that I run in local Scarborough elections with the platform of additional beds and greater educational facilities. Although I didn't win that election, we did get approval for a new hospital (Scarborough Centenary Hospital, now part of the Rouge Valley Health System), and I was invited to sit on the hospital's board of governors. In 1971 I received a phone call asking if I'd be interested in running provincially.

**Why the dedicated interest in health care?**

Working as a volunteer in the hospital, I became more and more aware of patient needs that were not being met. There were also some personal, family experiences which motivated me.

**Were there any political role models for you?**

Unquestionably, (Premier) Bill Davis.

**Were there particular challenges as a woman entering the political arena?**

Because I had already tasted politics and had accomplished what I had set out to do in Scarborough concerning increasing hospital capacity and services for the mentally ill, I knew it took a determined stance to get things done. Deciding to run for provincial politics was made easier because no matter what I pursued I was always treated with dignity.

**You were the first woman admitted to the Albany Club. Could you tell me about how that happened?**

At a Cabinet meeting, discussion turned to invitations my colleagues had received to a luncheon at the Albany Club to meet Robert Stanfield. When I mentioned I'd not received that invitation Bill Davis agreed I should have as a member of Cabinet, and he consequently put in motion changes to Albany Club rules that allowed, for the first time, female members.

**Any advice for women who are considering a life in politics?**

You must consider what a life in politics will mean. Serving is not without its pressures, and it takes up a lot of time. Any a successful career requires a supportive, understanding husband and family.

### **A fond memory or two from your time at Queen's Park.**

I was invited to board the Royal Yacht, Britannia. I was chatting with a group of women when the Queen came along. She asked if she could join in the conversation. In the course of our lively discussion it became apparent that she had the same concerns and challenges as us when it came to raising a family.

On another occasion when my husband, Guy, and I were introduced to the Queen and Prince Phillip, the Prince asked Guy what he did. Guy responded, "The same as you, Sir. I follow my wife around." Much to the delight of the Prince, the Premier and the Queen!

I was particularly fond of Indira Ghandi and had spent a bit of time with her shortly before she was assassinated.

I had exceptionally good fortune throughout my working life to collaborate with many talented public servants and professionals, and to meet so many very nice and interesting people.

[Editor's Note: Margaret Birch was the first woman cabinet minister in the history of Ontario. She continues to be a staunch advocate for group homes and for better mental health programs and facilities.]



**SERIES:**  
**REMARKABLE WOMEN**  
**PARLIAMENTARIANS -**  
**INTERVIEW WITH**  
**ELINOR CAPLAN**

M.P.P. 1985-97, Cabinet Minister, M.P.  
1997-2004, Cabinet Minister



**Why did you enter politics?**

I was one of a group of neighbourhood community activists who was trying to get a crosswalk. The local City Councillor would not help so we found someone to run in the next election and that person won. This experience wetted my appetite for electoral politics.

**Were there any female role models for you in politics?**

Margaret Campbell. Margaret was one of the first female lawyers to graduate in Ontario and she was the first Liberal woman elected. She was one tough cookie and very smart. She was my role model.

**Did you face any challenges as a woman in politics?**

Yes. In 1985 there was a significant time of change. It was the first time there was a critical mass of women elected and it was the first change of Government in 42 years. It was the first time that the two opposition parties, Liberal and NDP got together to agree on an agenda so that there would not be a snap election for two years and this was all very new. It was a heady time and a time of real opportunity.

### **Any fond memories from your time in politics?**

For the first time after three years I went back to Ottawa and went into the House of Commons for Question Period. At the end of Question Period I was walking out and a woman, Diane St.-Jaques from the Bloc came over to me and said, "I wanted to tell you that you were the most respected Minister of Immigration during Chretien's years and during Martin's years. The reason I wanted to tell you this is that you treated all members of the House equally and you allowed representations on behalf of all of our constituents, and the cases were decided on the basis of merit and also on precedent." I was shocked anybody had noticed. We never had one case hit the front pages.

I would say that was probably my fondest memory. The one thing that happens is that you don't expect thanks, you don't expect anyone to know the internal workings or to have noticed. Usually all you get are the criticisms and the complaints.

### **Having served at all three levels of Government, and been successful in business do you think there are still barriers for women?**

Yes. Primarily in politics because it's so competitive and women are not used to it, but I think they are getting better. I used to do a speech about this and say when I was young and socialized I went to ballet school and I failed, I went for music lessons and I failed, I sang in the choir unsuccessfully. I used to play pick-up baseball with the boys on the lot and I had the worst position on the team because I was the catcher and in those days we couldn't afford equipment.

But with political life women aren't used to dealing with people who will tell you one thing and do another. Unfortunately that is the reality of some of the character of the people that you have to deal with.

So with politics I found it was very much competitive and women were not as comfortable competing in a male-dominated environment. I think it's getting better because now there are clearer rules and there are more women.

## **What prepared you well for politics?**

I had four children, three boys and a girl all very bright. I remember one day very early on in the Peterson Government I was Chair of the Management Board and I went to him and I said Premier, people in this caucus barely know each other, we need to have some team building conferences, seminars or something where we can get together and know each other, develop a level of trust and be able to work together. He said, "Elinor don't mother them," but he changed his mind after that.

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

Our membership continues to grow! The Former Members listed below have joined the O.A.F.P. in the last little while:

### **OAFP New Members**

Don Abel November 2013  
David Allan Tilson Mar 21, 2014  
Douglas Peter Moffatt, March 19, 2014  
Hon. Allan McDonald March 5, 2014  
Bradford Nixon March 17, 2014  
Barbara Fisher Mar 13, 2014  
William Wrye March 28, 2014  
Hon. Randy Hope  
Isabel Bassett: April 25, 2014  
Stephen Lewis: May 5, 2014  
Leona Dombrowsky: May 22, 2014  
Dr. Annamarie Castrilli Feb 6, 2014  
Albert J. Roy June 4, 2014  
Richard Bartolucci July 4, 2014  
Frank Klees July 10, 2014 Cornerstone member  
Donna Cansfield July 10, 2014  
Teresa Piruzza Aug 28, 2014

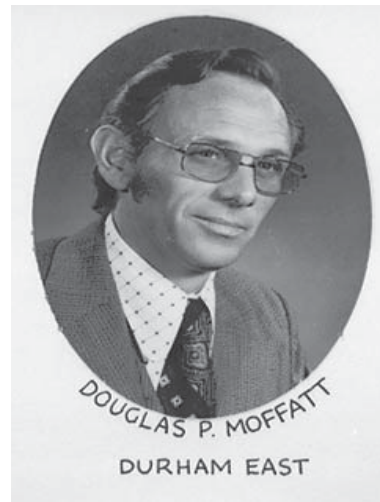
### **Honorary Members**

Milton "Bud" Gregory January 2014  
Lorne Maeck January 2014  
Ann Sloat Feb 2014  
George McCague Feb 2014  
Richard Treleaven Apr 10, 2014

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## **INTERVIEW WITH DOUG MOFFATT**

**M.P.P. 1975-77, Committee  
Member O.A.F.P.**



### **Why did you enter politics?**

I was never interested in politics but I was an elementary school principal. There were a number of things going on in education that seemed to be becoming more political. The Hall-Dennis report had come out. Things were changing and it seemed that no one was speaking to the issues. The Board that I worked with was a small rural board in Northumberland-Newcastle.

The only people I ever heard talk about anything that made sense in education was Stephen Lewis and Gerry Caplan.

They spoke as a tag team at a convention I went to. It wasn't supposed to be political but it was very political. I became interested in knowing more about what they thought so the only way I could do that was to become involved with a political party. A local guy I knew was a member of the NDP and he said I should run. There I was! Everything I've done has resulted from some interest in an issue.

### **From your experience what are some of the differences between municipal and provincial politics?**

I found that the municipal experience was a lot more direct. In Queen's Park you could get up and sound off about something, make a lot of noise and nothing would happen. Municipally if you say something or do something you pretty much get instant feedback. Someone stops in the street and says, "Don't put that stop sign on my street." I found municipal activity to be pretty good. I was a councillor, regional councillor, I was a mayor and I was Chairman of the Police Services Board and there was a lot that went on that you could really pay some attention to and see things happen.

### **How did you get into municipal politics?**

After I left Queen's Park, I worked in private industry for 17 years and when I was able to retire from that I did and that's when I got involved in a local issue and became a local councillor thinking that I could solve that problem. Then I realized that, that wasn't the problem. The problem was with the Mayor and then I ran for Mayor.

### **Anything surprising when you were first at Queen's Park?**

I remember the first day I came to Queen's Park after the election. I walked in and was chatting with Keith Norton and we went to go get some lunch. As we were walking down the stairs Larry Grossman joined us. I can still remember Larry saying, "If Davis doesn't give me one of those cabinet positions?!"

I found Queen's Park to be a confusing place at first and because I had come in on an issue, the airport issue and we had great success, I thought it was a great place. It was such a great feeling that we ran for that issue, took a tough stand, got elected and were able to change it. That was a pretty good feeling. Not everybody has that feeling of success in their first week.

### **Who were your mentors in politics?**

I respected a lot of people. One of the people I got to know well was Huey Segal. I used to enjoy just listening to him and Gerry Caplan. I can still remember that Segal, Caplan and Stephen Lewis were buddies. They had a similar intellectual curiosity and a knowledge that was beyond my belief. They knew things that I had never even dreamed of and they could tell stories too. These guys knew the stories that I only had a glimpse of.

### **Any advice for someone entering politics?**

I guess my biggest bit of advice I would give to new people is that you really need to build relationships with other members and not just those in your own caucus. You need to talk to, listen to, and be interested in people in the other parties.

### **A fond memory?**

The biggest thing was when Arthur Maloney was named as the First Ombudsman for the province. He was a marvellous statesman. He used to have dinners every few weeks and members from all three parties were invited to go these dinners. It was just like attending a court somewhere and that was a really impressive part about this place. We would meet in the members dining area in Osgoode Hall.

**SERIES: REMARKABLE  
WOMEN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS –  
INTERVIEW WITH DR.  
BETTE STEPHENSON**

M.P.P. 1975 - 1987 Three Cabinet posts, as well as Chair of Management Board



**You were a highly successful, accomplished medical doctor. Why choose a political life, a life which not only pays less but is more stressful?**

I would not say "more stressful". My practice in Willowdale at the end of W.W. II with veterans returning was heavily weighted in obstetrics and the nearest hospitals were in downtown Toronto. I spent many hours driving down and up Yonge Street and other N-S roads under time pressure. In June 1975 I received 3 visits from our sitting member Dalton Bales requesting my active participation in the forthcoming election because of his enforced retirement due to ill health. My response was "no" 3 times. His 4th visit informed my family about the burden of his numerous visits. My husband and our 6 children aged 6 – 16 years old organized a full family meeting on Sunday afternoon from which I was totally excluded. They decided I should run for the nomination - so I did.

**Were there any role models for you when it came to women in politics?**

There were several - but Charlotte Whitten (first Mayor of Ottawa) stood out. She was quoted as saying, " A woman can do anything in public life that a man can do and probably better" and "you can always succeed in politics if you do what is right".

**Did you find there were any particular challenges as a woman in political life?**

I was accustomed to working in an all-male company. I had helped Victor Johnston start the College of Family Physicians and I had assisted in the building of "Mediscope" - an exhibit at the CNE of how Medicine & Surgery had changed over a period of 150 years. I was then invited to fill one of the now elected positions on the Board of the Ontario Medical Association. I enjoyed the experience and went on to become President of the OMA in 1970-71 which led to my membership on the Board of the C.M.A. In both circumstances I was the only woman on the Board and the first woman President of both organizations. There were always challenges, none ever overwhelming.

**Any advice for women who are considering a political life?**

You need total family support. If married, a husband who is thoughtful, gracious and helpful and enthusiastic children. If not married, do your chosen work as well as it would be possible to do and volunteer in the community to benefit the citizens. All of which results in an admirable reputation.

**What surprised you about Queen's Park?**

That some of the members in other parties were quite antagonistic and how quickly they could, with Media help, turn an intended joke into an embarrassment. e.g. during a difficult labour dispute in Windsor after having to respond "no progress" to an opposition question my then seat mates in the House quietly asked me "what would you like to do about it?" I whispered to them that "perhaps we should cut Windsor loose from the Province and let it float down the river." Hansard did not record any of this whispered conversation but the Leader of the NDP ensured that my little joke became a Windsor News headline that was not very funny!

**Would you tell us about a fond memory or two?**

I met lots of wonderful people including the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, Pope John Paul, the Premiers of other Provinces, municipal leaders, mayors and unforgettable volunteers. I had a superb staff in ministries especially Tim Armstrong



*Bill 65, passed on May 10, 2000 during the 37th Session, founded the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. It was the first bill in Ontario history to be introduced by a Legislative Committee.*

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leading the staff in Labour and Harry Fisher the staff in Education, Colleges and Universities. Being the first woman Minister of Labour. When I asked Premier Davis in late September, 1975, why he would appoint me Minister of Labour, he said there were three Main reasons:

1. That it was time to have a woman as Minister of Labour in Canada;
2. That he wanted Occupational Health and Safety moved from Health to Labour and that I was the best able to do that and finally;
3. Because all his advisers were against it.

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## **SERIES: REMARKABLE WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS - INTERVIEW WITH EVELYN GIGANTES**

M.P.P. 1975-81, 1985-87, 1990-95 Cabinet Minister

**You had a successful career going in public broadcasting. Why enter the political arena?**

I joined the NDP because of its platform. While I had a good career at the CBC I found that my political activity was restricted.

**Were there any role models for you when it came to women in politics?**

Marion Dewar (former Mayor of Ottawa), and I had prepared a film tribute to Charlotte Whitton (first woman Mayor of Ottawa).



**Did you find there were any particular challenges as a woman in politics?**

Lots of them! In 1975 there were only a total of 9 women MPPs (out of 130 Members) and little understanding or sensitivity to issues which affected women by most of the male Members.

**Any advice for women who are considering a political life?**

To paraphrase Alexa McDonough (Former Leader Federal NDP) “We are in it for the same reasons men are in it; it's fun!” We are direct employees of the public.

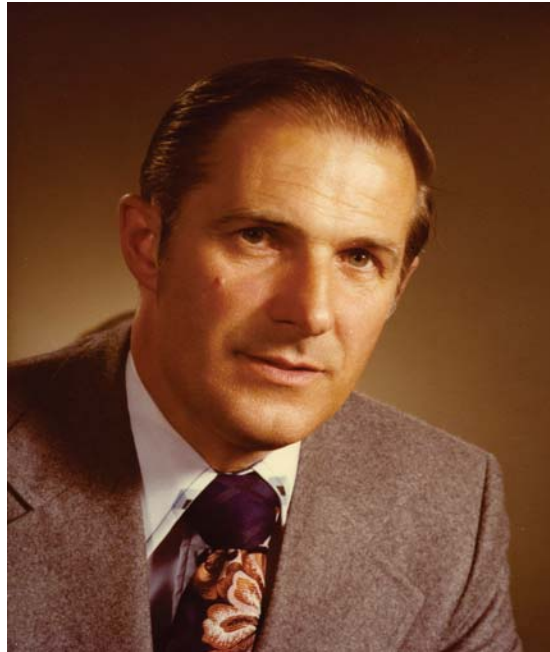
**What surprised you about Queen's Park?**

The circus-like atmosphere in the Chamber!

**Would you tell us about a fond memory or two?**

There were many. It was very special to work with Stephen Lewis. Ending the extra billing by medical doctors was important, as was amending the Ontario Human Rights Code to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender. And it was a major achievement to greatly increase the number of co-op and non-profit housing units.

## OBITUARY



### **George Ashe (October 5, 1932 – August 3, 2014)**

Served in the 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Parliaments (June 09, 1977 -- September 09, 1987) as the Progressive Conservative Member for the Riding of Durham West.

During George's three terms he held three Cabinet posts: Energy, Government Services and Revenue. He was also Chair of Management Board. Prior to being appointed to Cabinet, George was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Treasurer. He was a member of two Select Committees (Hydro Affairs and Energy) and five Standing Committees (Members' Services, Resource Development, General Government, Finance and Economic Affairs, Public Accounts).

George was the first Mayor of the Town of Pickering (1973)

"George was a very good Member of the House as well as being an excellent Riding Association person. He was always approachable and personable." - *Dr. Bette Stephenson*

"I learned very quickly, as an Opposition Member, that I could approach George Ashe with a question and be received with respect. George was always willing to assist where he could. His modesty hid the fact that he was very competent and talented. It was evident that he had a deep commitment to public service." - *David Warner*

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