



Summer 2015

Table of Contents

1. Interview with Barbara Sullivan ...pg. 2
2. Our Annual General Meeting ...pg. 6
3. Interview with Steve Paikin ...pg. 9
4. Interview with Murad Velshi ...pg. 14
5. Meet the Premiers ...pg. 17
6. Obituary: Wayne Wettlaufer ...pg. 18
7. Obituary: Keith Brown ...pg. 20
8. And Introducing ...pg. 21
9. Contact ...pg. 22

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

Series: Remarkable Women Parliamentarians

Interview with Barbara Sullivan M. P. P. (1987 – 1995) From Journalist to Politician

Why become a journalist?

I grew up on a farm and I wanted to become a large animal veterinarian. All of the farmers around me said they wouldn't hire me because I was very small and they didn't think I had the strength to deal with large animals. So I had to make a quick change. I decided to enter journalism school at Carleton. Journalism was my second choice, but I had done a lot of writing in my high school years and I worked for a community newspaper as a stringer. I worked on the news reporting side, and since I wanted to be involved in politics, there were clear conflicts of interest, so I moved into public relations and communications advisory work.

How did you make the transition from journalist to politician?

I was very active in the Liberal party, federally and provincially, and both on the organizational and on the policy side. My first concentration on the policy side was when Mr. Lester Pearson was Prime Minister, and I was so strongly in favour of both the Canada Pension Plan and Medicare.



And that's what really brought me into the political world; Mr. Pearson is still my hero.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment during your time in politics?

I think there were a number of things that happened, not necessarily because of me or even that I accomplished them uniquely. There was always a lot of teamwork. I was elected in the 1987 Peterson round, and was made Caucus Chair of what was a 95-member caucus out of a total of 130 members in the house. There were a lot of people in our caucus from all areas of the province to manage, so they were involved and heard in caucus and in government. I also sat on the Board of Internal Economy, overseeing the affairs of the Legislature.

During my first term I was Chair of the Select Committee on Energy. We did two things, one, to review the demand-supply plan of Ontario Hydro. This was an enervating, intellectually challenging task. The other is that we were the first legislative body I know in the world to look at climate change. We weren't allowed to travel at that time so we brought in experts from Britain, from the U.S., from Canada, from other places, and we asked the Royal Society of Canada to provide unique scientific expertise to the committee. The committee had representatives from every party and we were all engaged in the content provided by international experts. And we also had a few naysayers as our guests, people who didn't believe in climate change. That report is still worth reading because we not only talked about the causes and the risks, but about mitigation factors as well, which is, of course, where people are concentrating now—that was 30 years ago.

It was an effort that got no media coverage nor public interest because it wasn't top of the mind at the time. But, to me, it was a major accomplishment to get climate change on the province's agenda. Secondly, we built some expertise in the Legislature on what became a singularly important global occurrence.

One other accomplishment was the bills relating to consent to treatment (consent to treatment, substitute decisions and the advocacy act). The advocacy act didn't fly and it probably could have with a different orientation. But the consent to treatment act, which has had some amendments, and the substitute decisions act, are extremely important to families, and to those who seek healthcare.

I also put forward a private member's bill that passed and recommended to the Legislature and the government that the regional cancer centres and Princess Margaret combine into a provincial cancer agency, combining collaborative research and specialist cancer expertise.

And that was just one tiny step in the creation of Cancer Care Ontario, which has made remarkable strides since it was formed.

How does it feel to be called a remarkable woman?

I think that that is an unlikely title for me. On the way here, I listened to a CBC show and they were interviewing a 13-year-old girl named Rachel Brown from Bedford Academy in Halifax. She had just won the gold medal in Canada's Science Fair. This little girl started, at 11 years old, to think about how you get pure water to people in certain countries of Africa. She developed a water filtration system with cotton and charcoal. And then a pasteurization system using the sun to pasteurize the water, so that what's not removed through the filtration is removed through the pasteurization.

She now has this project being tested in Kenya and she's had inquiries from Uganda. That, to me, is remarkable. What I did at Queen's Park and subsequent to Queen's Park isn't remarkable in comparison.

What was the most important issue dealt by the Women's Issue portfolio?

I was Parliamentary Assistant to Hon. Greg Sorbara when he was Minister of Women's Issues. There are two things that stand out in my mind at that time. One of them was equal pay for work of equal value, and, to me, it was a no brainer. But it had to be debated because it wasn't happening without legislative requirements.

However, the other thing that happened during that period was that young women were massacred in Quebec. That day still sticks in my mind, because after it occurred, women from all political stripes, all ethnicities, all faiths gathered and wept. And there is nothing that comes close to that emotionally for me. It was just such a signal. The issue was so clouded because a mad young man who had improper mental health care probably, access to weaponry, which he shouldn't have had, and such hatred for women, that all women were exposed that day. It was a terrible, terrible day.

Do you have any advice for women who want to go into politics?

Be involved, know what's happening in your community, know why it's happening, expand your own horizons so that you become involved in things that you might not naturally think of as being amenable to your skill set or your own experience. Make a name for yourself. Take leadership roles. Build a team. Work with a political party.

After political life, what's been the highlight for you?

I re-established my business, which I had to give up because of conflict of interest issues. I changed the focus of the corporation so that it became a networked company with a heavier concentration on governance and public affairs consultancy.

I also was a trustee and then Chair of the Board of Hamilton Health Sciences – one of Ontario's finest academic hospitals. And that was a remarkable experience. We had six or seven sites offering specialized services from cancer care to children's mental health to acute care and research. We embarked on a \$650 million capital expansion. It was a very exciting time for that hospital and for the region that it serves. I still sit on the hospital's Quality Committee dealing with the quality of care and patient services.

I also served as working Chair of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council. I had an extraordinary council, and we made recommendations to the Minister of Health concerning the scopes of practice, regulations of existing, and introduction of new health professions in Ontario. Most of our recommendations were accepted by government and are now law. I am very proud of the work we did.

I still sit on a number of Boards, including the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority and the Bay Area Health Trust. Every bit of the work I do expands my knowledge, and I hope that I contribute something that better the lives of others.

Our Annual General Meeting



"It is always so fulfilling for the board to see so many attend our AGM, and then to stay for the wonderful speakers and for the Lieutenant Governor, who is such a wonderful choice. This is another wonderful representation of women at Queen's Park I am proud to support." - Karen Haslam.

The above quote captures the spirit of this year's meeting on May 28, 2015. The routine items, minutes of the previous meeting, finance, etc. were handled expeditiously.

Derwyn Shea announced that this would be his last year as our Chair. He paid tribute to Gilles Morin and John Parker, both of whom retired from the Board. Gilles and John were founding members of the O.A.F.P., with Gilles having served as Vice-Chair for fifteen years. He has agreed to remain as our link to the Quebec Association of Former Parliamentarians.

Two new Board members were elected; Jim Gordon (P.C., Sudbury 1981-87) and Doug Moffatt (N.D.P., Durham East 1975-77).

The reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor was a well-attended, gracious event. Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdeswell spoke candidly about being interested in the views of former Members as she fashions her role in the theme of "Ontario in the World".

"I am absolutely overjoyed, this is the best possible appointment. I am a huge supporter of human rights of women, we need that, because change comes from the top and it trickles down. This is the start of something." - Isabel Bassett.

"It's remarkable that she has reached out. It's a key part of our organization that we connect with the government that are non-partisan. It's so welcome." - Alvin Curling.

"The new appointment is excellent. This is much-needed representation, a great voice and for women." - Jim Gordon.

One wonderful event followed another! Off to "In Camera", where not only did we enjoy a delicious gourmet dinner, but were treated to a fascinating speech by Steve Paikin (Mr. TVO).

Woven through the theme of the importance of public service were stories about Premiers and other MPPs. All of us could relate to his assertion that the public often does not understand the pressures and challenges of being elected. Wit and wisdom in abundance capped a delightful day!





Interview: Steve Paikin Journalist, author, producer



Why choose journalism as a career path?

I don't know if I chose it or if it chose me. I quickly discovered when I went to university that I wasn't uniquely qualified to do anything. The one thing that I did come to learn about myself is that I have kind of an intense curiosity about how the world works. And if you have that, there aren't too many avenues for you. But fortunately, journalism seems to be one of them.

Would you consider yourself more a journalist, a documentarian, or a storyteller?

You're asking me to think about things I never think about. I don't even think of myself as a journalist, frankly. I don't know what I think of myself as.

I like the fact that where I work has afforded me the opportunity to host television shows, to write columns for the website, cover events for social media, make documentaries, write books, make a bit of a contribution to the post-secondary world. I'm a visiting professor at Ryerson and chancellor at Laurentian University in Sudbury. So, thanks to TVO, I've had the chance to do a lot of things, whether you can sum them all up under the title of journalist, I don't know.

Why the interest in politics and politicians?

I suspect it comes a lot from my upbringing in Hamilton. My parents were never partisan people, but they were always very interested in public affairs. We had lots of family friends who were in and around politics and, by osmosis, a lot of those conversations at the dinner table were about big issues.

I remember when my brother and I were teenagers and my parents purchased in a charity auction the right to have lunch with the Leader of the Opposition. We came to the Queen's Park dining room and there we were, 17 and 15 maybe, having lunch with Stuart Smith, who was, of course, from Hamilton, as were we. That was a moment of significance in terms of creating some interest.

Lincoln Alexander, another Hamiltonian, was always a role model, a trailblazer in so many ways. He was a friend of the family. We knew a guy named Gus MacFarlane, our MP who lived up on the mountain. Herman Turkstra was a family friend and a member of city council. Of course, the Coppins family, being from Hamilton. John Munro, I mean, these were all sort of people that my folks knew just from being active citizens in Hamilton. They were never partisan. I can't remember us having any lawn signs of any particular party, but they were active and they were involved.

My mom was involved in everything. One year, 1981, I believe, Bette Stephenson, a Conservative, had appointed her to the governing council at the University of Toronto. She gave money to Stuart Smith, because he was a party leader and she thought it was important to support a party leader from Hamilton. And she voted for Brian Charlton, a New Democrat.

Have you ever had an interest in holding public office?

Never. I'm interested in the issues but not from a partisan participatory kind of way. I kind of want to understand them, dig into them, help others understand what's going on. This is the second most important legislature in the country. The Premier of Ontario is the second most important politician in the country. So I've spent a lot of my life trying to understand what goes on in here and convey what goes on in here to other people.

I know it's very fashionable to kind of "pooh-pooh" the significance of politics and say they're all a bunch of crooks and what they say doesn't matter, but I've never believed that and so I've spent some time trying to understand it and trying to pass on information that I can find out.

From having interviewed many politicians, what do you think generally motivates people to enter the political arena?

At the risk of sounding incredibly naïve, I think what motivates them to get in is to contribute to the public life of the country, and from the very different points of view that they approach it from, to make improvements to our society. I'm not going to pretend that there isn't a bit of ego and self-aggrandizement and allowing yourself to feel a bit like a big shot, either in your community, or if you're the Prime Minister across the country. But I don't impute negative motives to the job. It's a useful job. Their behaviour is much better in private than it is in public.

Politics has turned into something where it seems to require a certain level of bad behaviour, and that I regret. But when you get people away from the cameras and actually talk to them as people, you actually find out what motivates them from a positive point of view. And I've written a few books about that because I thought it was important to get that story across.

Voter turnout at all levels has been declining over the years. Why?

I know it's tempting to say because the public thinks they're all corrupt and what's the point? I don't think that. Partly, it's bad behaviour. Partly, it's during campaigns, they all spend so much time talking down the other guy rather than talking up themselves; it's no wonder that nobody wants to have any part of it. If Air Canada started taking out commercials saying you should fly us and not WestJet, because WestJet crashes all the time, what would that do? Well, it would scare everyone away from flying.

Yes, politicians contribute to a cynicism about politics that results in less interest. Yes, media focus enormously on the food fight and probably not enough on substance of issues, which contributes to a cynicism. We shouldn't also take away from the possibility that some people are just content with whatever happens so they don't really feel a need to participate.

The other possibility is that we're not exactly like 1970s Chile here. It's not like you've got these extreme right-wingers on one side and extreme communists on the other side. All of the political parties today are kind of around the middle. And the obligations once you get into office, to ditch the more extremist elements of your platform, are so obvious. The differences among the parties are not as significant as they were and that may give people the impression that no matter who wins, they're all going to do exactly the same thing.

Can you tell us about some fond memories from your broadcast years?

Well, I've probably done 20,000 interviews, so I almost don't know where to start. Certainly having the job that I've had has enabled me to talk to people who ordinarily wouldn't give me the time of day and that's a great privilege. I've had a chance to interview Mikhail Gorbachev, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and Rosalind Carter. And, you know, I guess every Prime Minister since Mulroney and every Premier since Bill Davis.

If you're interested in how the world works, this is a great job to have because you get to meet the people who make the decisions on what's going to happen in our lives. That's very gratifying. I wouldn't limit it at famous influential people either. There have been people I've interviewed who are "Mr. and Mrs. Everyday Ontario or Mr. and Mrs. Everyday Canada" who have also really stuck in my head over the years as well. Some joyous interviews and some heartbreaking interviews as well; I talked to a mother who just had her child killed. This job affords you the opportunity to have direct contact with the absolute joys and tragedies of real life. It's a privilege to have contact with people from all walks of life.

How do you deal with those situations?

As respectfully and tactfully as you possibly can.

In the 1990 election, I was hosting the CBC television election night broadcast and that was the election Bob Rae won. At the end of the evening, he gave his victory speech and then he did a series of interviews with television stations.

I wasn't sure I was going to get him but when they told me over the headset, "You've got Bob Rae in 20 seconds," I began jotting down four or five points for a very quick interview. So I asked the obvious questions: are you as shocked as everyone else? Are you going to call an inquiry into the development business? Are you really going through with public auto-insurance?

And then, I had a moment where I thought, "I've known Bob Rae for 10 years, I know him a little bit, not really well. But I'm going to try and ask him a question here that he's not expecting. It may be considered an inappropriate question, but I'm going to take a chance at it."

I said, "Mr. Rae, this has been a rough time for you. Your in-laws were killed in a car accident; you've lost your brother as well. Do you see this victory tonight as some kind of payback for all the misery your family has experienced?"

And he just said, "Well, it's funny you should ask. I was talking to my mother this morning and she said 'It's about time the Raes had a party.'"

What is ahead for you?

After 10 years of bugging him, Bill Davis has finally agreed to let me write his biography, which is the latest project I'm involved in. I've been spending a lot of time up in the archives at York University, going through his personal papers, which he's not given anybody else access to. And there's some fascinating stuff in there, like Frank Miller's resignation letter, which Mr. Davis did not accept, but he still kept the letter. And the letter is amazing. The letter pretty much says, "Premier, I have the utmost respect for you, I admire you so much. But you and I agree on nothing. And on the six big issues that our government is dealing with right now, you and I disagree and I cannot continue to serve in your cabinet."

Mr. Davis took the letter, put it in his desk, didn't accept the resignation, and they just went on. Somehow, he managed to talk Frank off the ledge. There are lots of those kinds of stories in there.

Do you have any more books you're working on?

I'm hoping the Davis book will be my last book. So I'm hip-deep in that one right now. I've gone up to his home in Brampton a number of times to talk to him. And that's two years of work while I'm hosting The Agenda and doing Laurentian [University] stuff and Ryerson [University] stuff. If I can get through this one and I'm still alive, I think that's going to be it.

Out of Africa – The Journey of Murad Velshi

Treasurer of O.A.F.P

M.P.P. (1987-90)



“We weren't white enough for South Africa and not black enough for Kenya, so we left for Canada.”

Murad Velshi's odyssey really starts in 1897, when Murad's father became friends with Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa. A quest for justice was born. Murad's father recalled how, as a teacher, Gandhi would have the young students rise at 6:00 a.m. and take a cold shower. The students didn't much like having a cold shower so Gandhi had them run for a while, and then have a cold shower. He was preparing them for when they would be jailed for participating in a peaceful march, and then have to present themselves for arrest having protested against injustice.

What does yeast have to do with life in South Africa?

We had a successful bakery business, with 18 locations. However, we were allowed to sell only to non-whites. Yeast is used in the baking of bread, but also in making beer. Blacks were not allowed to drink beer, so illegal stills developed. Periodically, the police would arrive at our bakery to check our inventory of yeast. When we became politically active, the checks became more frequent, but worse was the licensing issue. We needed a licence to operate the bakery and would renew the licence yearly. Our political activity resulted in the renewal being every six months, then monthly, then weekly, and finally daily. The licence office opened at 9:00 a.m., but we needed to ship out our bread at 6:00 a.m. We were finished! We lost everything. It was time to move, so we made our way to Kenya.

Life in Kenya

We spent 10 years in Kenya. I was in the real estate business and Mila (Murad's wife) was in the airline business.

Why did you leave Kenya?

We weren't black enough. We didn't want to return to South Africa where we were not white enough. So, we decided to apply to Canada.

Why Canada and not the United States or England?

Both the United States and the U.K. supported apartheid while Canada opposed apartheid. In particular, the labour movement in Canada was a major force in opposing the brutal repression of apartheid.

Life in Canada

Murad and Mila came to Canada in 1971, established a chain of travel agencies, and became involved in community life. Murad ran unsuccessfully in the 1981 Provincial election, but was elected in 1987. When defeated in 1990, Murad returned to community work, particularly helping refugees.

What is the best way to approach the challenges faced by refugees?

The answer is a political approach. One needs to negotiate with the U.N. and other levels of government. I also wanted to convince governments that we should try to teach English or French to refugees in the refugee camps, thereby making the transition to Canada easier.

Murad was called upon to assist the Ismaili Community in a resettlement effort of Afghan Ismailis persecuted by the Taliban Regime. Most of these refugees were in refugee camps in Peshawar, Pakistan, also in New Delhi, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and in the USA. He travelled to Peshawar and New Delhi to identify and interview the refugees.

Murad negotiated with the Canadian and Quebec Governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in South Asia, and the Canadian High Commissioner's Office in New Delhi, which culminated in a landmark agreement adopted by the Canadian Government as a prototype because of its extremely high level of ingenuity at both integration and rehabilitation. This agreement, for the first time ever, accepted 'Community Sponsorship' for a group of people rather than individual sponsorships.

The Canadian government agreed to have teachers in the camps. Our O.A.F.P. secretary, Mobina Bhimani, was one of those teachers.

Based on both your personal experience and your volunteer work, particularly with refugees, what are some of the most difficult challenges for refugees coming to Canada?

Getting jobs. It is a dramatically different culture, especially since many refugees are coming from a male-dominated society.

In today's news, there is a humanitarian crisis with refugees fleeing countries like Syria in an effort to reach parts of Europe. The West seems unable to help solve the problems. Why?

The West is not using its power and influence wisely.

Meet Our Premiers

This new series, starting with our Fall 2015 publication, will feature exclusive interviews with Ontario's Premiers. We get a glimpse into the personal side of holding the highest political office in Ontario. We start this unique series with an interview with William G. (Bill) Davis, the longest serving Premier in the history of our Province.



Wayne Wettlaufer

December 16, 1943 – June 21, 2015

Wayne served in the 36th and 37th Parliament (June 08, 1995 – September 02, 2003) as the Progressive Conservative Member for the Riding of Kitchener/Kitchener Centre. Twice, Wayne was Parliamentary Assistant (Minister of Tourism and Recreation, Chair of Management Board of Cabinet).

During Wayne's two terms in office, he held the position of Deputy Government Whip, Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs and served on six Standing Committees (Estimates, General Government, Government Agencies, Regulations and Private Bills, Legislative Assembly, Finance and Economic Affairs).



"I served with Wayne and remember him as a warm and vibrant person. His infectious personality and great sense of humour were shared with Members on both sides of the House. He was kind to all those who knew him and a true gentleman in the very best sense of that word. He will be missed." - Annamarie Castrilli

"I knew Wayne very well when he was a Member. A very pleasant and kind personality." - Gilles Morin

"Wayne and I were always friendly with each other. He was always very jovial and welcoming. The warm smile on his face meant to me that he enjoyed life very much. His passing is very sad indeed." - Rosario Marchese



“Wayne Wettlaufer was a class act! He truly lived for helping others in several capacities. Wayne served his constituents with understanding, dedication, and determination. Family, faith, and friends played a huge part in Wayne's life. He left a lasting legacy.” - Ernie Eves

“Wayne was first elected in 1995 and immediately became a member of the Government backbench. He was very thoughtful and was well regarded by his colleagues. He listened well and researched issues that affected his constituency. Wayne, who was of German descent, put forward a Private Member's Bill to celebrate the contributions of immigrants from Germany. Wayne knew that I had some German blood and sought my assistance in having his Bill pass in the Legislature. I couldn't say no to him as he worked so hard in the Legislature, so as House Leader for the Government, I was able to negotiate the passing into law of the "German Pioneers Day Act" which recognizes the day after Thanksgiving as a day of celebration for the many contributions of those of German Heritage. Wayne and his community were very proud of this achievement. Wayne was a good representative who was pragmatic in resolving problems and issues. He was a very strong family man and will be terribly missed by his wife Marilyn, his daughter Leanna, his two grandsons, and his son in law.”

- Norm Sterling

Keith Brown

November 7, 1926 - July 7, 2015



Served in the 26th and 27th Parliament (June 11, 1959 - September 05, 1967) as the Progressive Conservative Member for Riding of Peterborough.

Keith served on three Select Committees (Election Laws, Youth, Automobile Insurance) and 14 Standing Committees (Privilege and Elections, Private Bills, Labour, Education, Highways and Transportation, Natural Resources and Tourism, Natural Resources and Wildlife, Mining, Agriculture, Standing Orders, Health and Welfare, Game and Fish, Travel and Publicity, Public Accounts, Lands and Forests, Energy).

Keith Brown, a successful businessman in Peterborough, served in the governments of Premiers Leslie Frost and John Robarts.

Introducing... Our New Intern: Lauren Malyk

Welcome to our newest intern, Lauren Malyk! Lauren is currently studying for her Bachelor of Journalism at Ryerson University here in Toronto.

She is also a radio host for The Scope at Ryerson and a communications manager for the Want Anything From the Shop? Podcast.

With experience in radio and social media, Lauren is also interested in the arts, with a growing interest in the political world.

With a passion for puzzles, Lauren has a curiosity and creativity with which she approaches all her work, making her a more than welcome addition to the O.A.F.P. team!



Contact

Chair:

Derwyn S. Shea
29 Grenadier Heights
Toronto, Ontario
M6S 2W5
416.787.7911.
dshea@sthildastowers.com

Directors at Large:

Doug Moffat
dougmoftat@powergate.ca

Jim Gordon
jimgordon72@bell.net

Nominating Committee:

Steve Gilchrist
jsgilchrist@yahoo.com

Newsletter Committee:

David Warner
416.291.5030.
david.warner@sympatico.ca

Steve Gilchrist
jsgilchrist@yahoo.com

Mobina Bhimani
oafp@ontla.ola.org

Sadaf Ahsan
sadafahsan21@gmail.com

Lauren Malyk
laurenmalyk@hotmail.com

Distinguished Service Award

Committee:

Chair: Joe Spina
Lily Oddie Munro
Doug Moffatt

Regional and Education:

John Hastings
416.397.3091.
5050 Yonge Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 5N8
john_hstings@tdsb.ca
john_hstngs@yahoo.ca

Members Services and Secretariat:

Karen Haslam
karenhaslam@wightman.ca

Treasurer:

Murad Velshi
42 Hoyle Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4S 2X6
416.488.3024.

Queen's Park Office:

Room 1612, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2
416.325.4647.

oafp@ontla.ola.org