



The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians



Spring 2018



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Spring is in bloom outside of Queen's Park. Photo: Shutterstock

Two Special Days

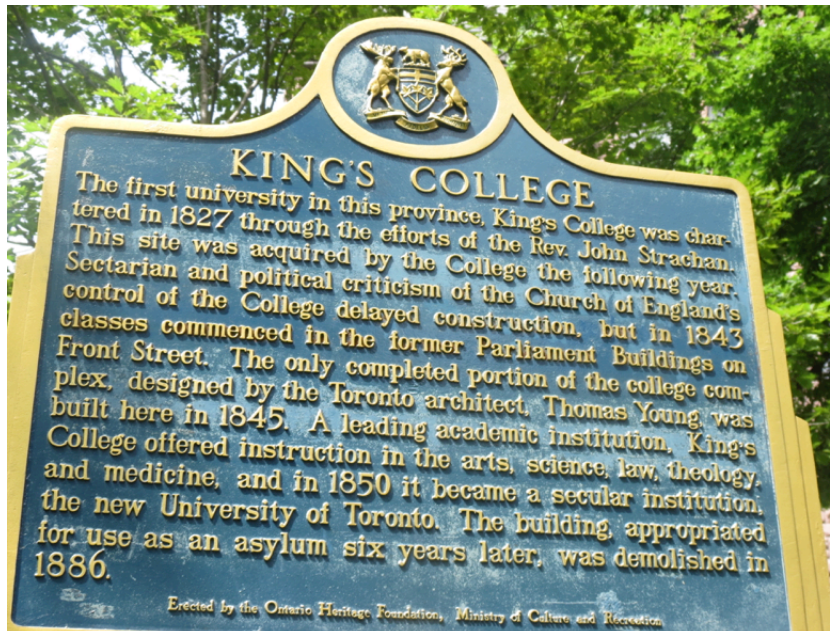
Set aside **Tuesday, October 16** and **Wednesday, October 17**.

These will be two days with important events.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting, presenting our Distinguished Service Award and it is our turn to host representatives from the Former Parliamentarian Associations of Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

Details will flow later on.

In the meantime, these are two days you will not want to miss – put a hold on them!



The future of the University of Toronto was a major Canadian political issue in the 1840s, Friedland writes, as Reformers like Robert Baldwin tried to wrest control of the colony's institutions from the Tory "Family Compact" and the Anglican Church, during a period of unprecedented political upheaval in the colony.

On April 3rd, 1849, Robert Baldwin introduced a bill into the parliament of the province of Canada to convert King's College into the University of Toronto. It would completely secularize the university, eliminating any publicly funded chairs of divinity and all religious tests for any member of the university, whether student or professor.

“Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.”

– Percy Bysshe Shelley

Vigil for Canadian Mosque Terror Victims by Evelyn Gigantes

There is warmth in a group of humans
Even at minus 17.
We stand in a crowd at the Centennial Flame, the
children among us
Lit up by candle glow. All of us are solemn.
We’ve brought our bodies and our young to say
we’re grieving,
To share the pain.
We have nothing to say. There seems nothing to
say.

I must be looking sadder than I know.
A young man walks towards me, speaking words I
can’t make out.
His hand touches my shoulder and he repeats –
Espoir, madame, ‘ope.
I welcome his solace and speak it back –
Espoir, hope, oui.

I wish I were tall and could see
How many souls have gathered here;
I ask a big man next to me, but he smiles and says
he’s too short to judge.
In truth, we’re all too short to judge.
But we feel like many as we shield each other from
the wind.

Way over by the flame, I hear the tones of a
soft-speaking woman
And the soft sounds of gloved applause.
There is no mike so my old ears have missed the
words.
Then, as I had longed to do, people gently start
“Oh, Canada”.
But I am weeping and cannot sing.
I gasp the words, but I cannot sing.
In silent accord we feel the vigil ended.
We slowly start to drift towards the street,
And as the group melts at its fringes,
The cold strikes hard.
It was our closeness kept us warm.

- Ottawa, Jan. 30, 2017

Editor’s Note:

If, at any time you wish to submit a
poem you have written, please send
it along. We will publish your poem
in the next possible publication.
You will be adding to the cultural
life of former parliamentarians!

Representing Hamilton
by Judy Marsales

PEOPLE ARE CALLING – POLITICS IS
CALLING – DO I ANSWER?
DECISIONS – DECISIONS – ISSUES –
DEBATE – A VOICE IS NEEDED
STAND UP – SPEAK UP – CAMPAIGN –
INTERESTING AND EXCITING
THOUGHTS – IDEAS – MEETINGS –
PEOPLE, PEOPLE, PEOPLE
HOW DO I MAKE A DIFFERENCE? WHAT
IS BEST FOR OUR CITY?
LAYERS AND LAYERS OF INFORMATION
– CONVERSATIONS – ARGUMENTS
WHAT DISTINGUISHES ACHIEVABLES?

TIME IS TICKING – CAN I MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?
HAMILTON IS MY CITY – IT NEEDS MORE
ATTENTION – MORE VOICE
WHAT IS IMPORTANT – WHICH ITEMS
SUPPORT THE PEOPLE? MY PEOPLE.
TAKING ACTION – ANALYSING THE
NOISE – CONTRIBUTING
HEART AND HEAD COMBINE TO MOVE
US FORWARD



Message From Mexico
by Karen Haslam

Here I sit by the pool
Soaking up the sun
Planning a trip to Calakmul
Mayan ruins are such fun

No MPPs
No office work
No David Joe or Doug
Just sitting here
Drinking down
My Baileys from a mug

Then comes a notice
From our Pres.
A poem he wants from me
Be sure to send it right away
So everyone can see

Oh no I cry
It is not right
To give me such a task
When here I sit
All comfy now
It is too much to ask

And so I write
To David Dear
To give him some advice
YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR FRICKEN
MIND

Sunrise
by David Warner

I treasure the beauty of a sunrise,
soft rose petals of shimmering light
bathing a fresh morning sky,
beckoning every creature from its
nocturnal lethargy, signaling
respite from night's obscurity.

Melodic warbling wafts my way,
a feathery friend's hymn
to a new daily beginning.
In the stillness, I can hear the music
with my ears, my heart, my soul.

Mountains, fields, forests, streams,
brooks, valleys, the beautiful sombre stillness
of a swamp stands stark against man's war,
deadly battles against each other,
and careless hostility with nature.

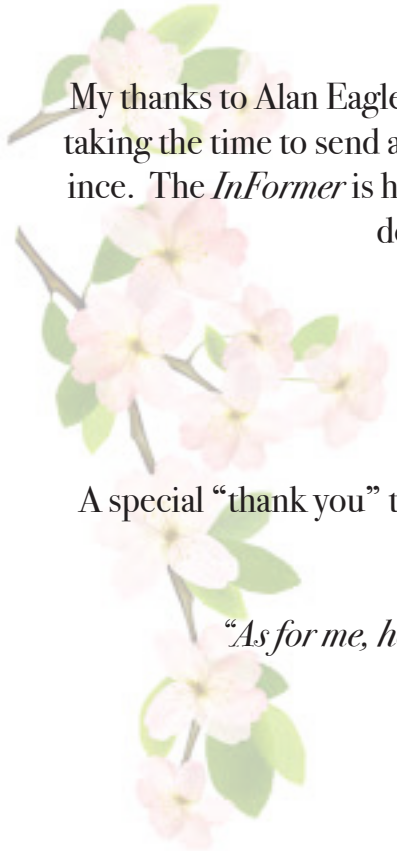
I cry out for quietude of heart and soul.
I seek a critical commune with nature,
to find ever elusive peace, inner calmness,.

I listen, willing myself to be cocooned
with nature, swaddled in sublime spirituality,
entwined with nature's beatific beauty.

One to many, a parade of humanity,
connecting with nature, each other,
forcing favourable obsolescence of war.

Hand in hand, I want a global span,
joyously sharing the rising of the sun,

Ontario's Idyllic Places



My thanks to Alan Eagleson, Annamarie Castrilli, Anne Swarbrick and Linda Lebourdais for taking the time to send along beautiful descriptions of their idyllic place in our amazing province. The *InFormer* is happy to showcase more of these very special places. Send along your descriptions and if possible, a couple of photos.

A special “thank you” to Bob Nixon for succinctly expressing what most of us feel at one time or another:

“As for me, home by the fire is now the best and that’s where I’m staying.”

- Bob Nixon



Collingwood by Alan Eagleson



Photo by Alan Eagleson

This photo is a view from our living room in Collingwood looking across Nottawasaga Bay towards Wasaga Beach. We have had a second home in this area (The Georgian Triangle) since 1972. This area offers everything a family needs. For seven months a year one can cycle on about 100km of dedicated trails, kayak along the shores of the Georgian Bay or on the Beaver and Nottawasaga Rivers, or play tennis and golf at one of the many public and private clubs in the area. The Blue Mountain area has six private ski clubs.

Blue Mountain Village is a year round resort open to the public offering downhill skiing, more than 20 restaurants, and 30 shops for your every need. We are only one hour and 40 minutes from Pearson Airport and two hours from the Ontario Legislative Buildings.

Collingwood is my wife Nancy's home town and our local MPP is Jim Wilson.

Come and see us sometime!

Prince Edward County

by Linda Lebourdais



One of my many favourite places in Ontario is Prince Edward County (PEC), located some two hours east of Toronto, south of highway of #401, and situated on lake Ontario, in the Bay of Quinte. You can also take the more scenic route following Hwy 2 through farmland, country apple orchards and a variety of rural Ontario towns. Picton is the largest town in the county.

PEC, which is almost an island, is an area which time has forgotten: therefore, it's the perfect getaway. For those who love hiking, sailing, camping, cycling, antiquing, beer and wine tasting, are a student of loyalist history, or enjoy great farm to table food, this is your spot.

The Area has miles of sand beaches and sand dunes to explore, at Sand Banks Provincial Park and at the, Lake on the Mountain, an interesting and unique geological feature, as well as lavender fields.

Plentiful accommodation is available in the many inns and quaint bed and breakfast facilities throughout the county with fabulous breakfasts included, and they do not disappoint.

One of the newer retail facilities called THE LOCAL is located in a renovated barn close to the town of Bloomfield and features a wide variety of local artisans, crafts, country food products like soups, breads, jams and pickles. Yummy!

Greeting you outside the barn is a dozen or so local goats. Very cute and friendly!

Why not come and experience a taste of the country this summer? You will be welcome!

Manitoulin Island by Annamarie Castrilli



Photos by Annamarie Castrilli

With its incomparable natural beauty, its rich history, its vibrant artistic community, Manitoulin, or Spirit Island in the Ojibwe language, is a world apart.

The largest freshwater island in the world, it is situated in Lake Huron some 363 kms north of Toronto and boasts more than 100 lakes and 4 major rivers where nature lovers can enjoy a multitude of outdoor activities.

It has a rich history dating to at least to 10,000 BC and possibly to 30,000 years ago according to archeological artifacts of the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods discovered at Sheguiandah, a site which Ontario has protected through legislation. Much later, French colonial voyageurs and coureurs des bois used its North Channel to reach Lake Superior. The first known European to settle on the island was Father Joseph Poncet, a French Jesuit, who set up a mission in 1648 near Wikwemikong, now an unceded Indian reserve under Ontario law, meaning that it has never “relinquished title to its land to the government by treaty or otherwise.”

The island is sacred to its Native population, the Anishinaabe people, who identify as the “People of the Three Fires” made up of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi tribes. This is reflected everywhere but no more than in its vibrant artistic community. Daphne Odjig, James Simon Mishibinijima, Leland Bell, Randy Trudeau, Shirley Cheechoo, Blake Deabassige are among the finest in Canada in the rich Woodlands tradition of Norval Morisseau.



Carl Beam, a mixed media artist, made Canadian art history as the first artist of Native Ancestry, to have his work purchased by the National Gallery of Canada as Contemporary Art. His wife, Anne Beam, herself an artist, maintains an art gallery and museum on the island, one of many, some owned by the artists themselves, to explore for the art lovers.



Accommodations on the island range from camping to elegant resorts. The cuisine is fresh and genuine: who can argue with freshly caught salmon and trout, naturally raised beef and the freshest of vegetables? There are golf courses, hiking trails, nature reserves, prehistoric sites, beautiful towns and natural wonders to explore everywhere. And the warmth and the sincerity of its inhabitants is without compare. Baymouth, at the southeastern tip of the island. It will feel like you are sailing to another world, and you will be.



There are two ways to get to Manitoulin Island: by car, or by boat. The swing bridge at the capital of the island, Little Current, at the northeastern tip of the island, connects Manitoulin to Ontario's highway network.

But by far the best way to get there is by ferry. From mid-May to mid-October, a ferry called the MS Chi-Cheemaun (yes it takes cars) travels from Tobermory, at the top of the Bruce Peninsula to the village of South Baymouth, at the southeastern tip of the island.

It will feel like you are sailing to another world, and you will be.

Paddling the French River Along the Old Voyageur Route by Anne Swarbrick



Photos by Anne Swarbrick

The sounds of water on wood as our paddles embrace the water. The picturesque views that give solace to our eyes and souls. Catching sight of the occasional heron or shore critter. Ontario is so rich in its options and opportunities.



The description of our first canoe trip along the Old Voyageur Route on the French River in 2016 led friends from Virginia to ask if we would do it again in 2017: this time with them. From Killarney's Hartley Bay Marina, we set off, accompanied at first by occasional motorboats from nearby remote cottages. Soon we turned into a quieter channel that grows more and more peaceful. On day two, on a smaller branch of the river, we are conscious of passing the last quiet cottage as we enter what feels like undiscovered territory.

On this trip, the water is much higher than previously, and some stretches provide new experiences and challenges. The most exquisite views remain so, however, including those of the infinite stars at night. When we encounter short challenges identifying next steps, we imagine with awe what it would have been like for the early voyageurs: how they found their way westward without maps – or with only the most rudimentary of them. Entering Georgian Bay and picking our way through the Fingerboard Islands is a rare and special treat; my brother describes it, with awe, as “God’s country.”

At the end of the week, we are ready to return to civilization, yet we continue to savour the images and sensations of that week on the waters and in the wilderness of this very special part of our province.



A Small and Prosperous Nation: Interview with Khanan El Khatib

Toronto's Consul General of Malta

The Maltese islands, inhabited since 5200 B.C., have been at crossroads of the Mediterranean for centuries. The archipelago made up of three main islands has always been an attractive strategic position for both trade and military advantage. As a result, Malta has been ruled by many including the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Knights of St John, the French and the British. Malta gained its independence from Great Britain in 1964, and became a republic 10 years later in 1974. It is a member of the European Union and part of the Commonwealth.

Why is it important for Malta to have a Consulate in Toronto?

Diplomatic relations between Malta and Canada were established shortly after Malta's independence on 21st December 1964. The first Maltese non-resident High Commissioner to Canada was Dr. Arvid Pardo, who presented his credentials in September 1969. The Consulate General opened its doors a few years later in 1972.

More importantly, people-to-people relations started long before that with the first Maltese settling in Ontario in 1840. It was only after the Second World War that a significant number of Maltese arrived to Ontario. It is estimated that between 1946 and 1981, approximately 18,000 Maltese migrated and settled in Canada. Today there are about 38,700 persons claiming Maltese descent and around 33,400 live in Ontario.

Although in Toronto, the Consulate General serves all of Canada. In fact, consular services are provided to Maltese citizens living in other provinces. We fly out of Ontario more than once a year so that people don't have to make the trip to Toronto alone or with their families.

What are a few things you would like us to know about Malta?

Malta gained its independence in 1964 and became a republic in 1974; it joined the European Union in 2004 and adopted the Euro in 2008. In 2017 Malta successfully held the Presidency of the European Union. This year we are proud that Malta's capital Valletta is the 2018 European Capital of Culture.

I think it is fair to say that yes Malta is a small island nation, the smallest member state of the European Union that has prospered both politically and economically. With one of the lowest unemployment rates in Europe, a strong economy and a promising outlook, Malta has since 2014 led the Euro zone in growth expanding with about 4.5% per year.

What attracted you to be a career diplomat?

I had never planned to be a career diplomat. As a child I always wanted to do sciences but at some point things changed. If I had to put a finger on it I'd say 3 December 1989; George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev met on board a ship in Malta and declared the end to the Cold War. It was a colossal moment. A month later, the Berlin Wall fell and the world changed and anything seemed possible - I was sucked in and this led me to a career in diplomacy.

Every job has its challenges. What are they in the world of a diplomat?

It is funny when I think about it – many think we spend our evenings going to cocktail parties. I think the biggest challenge is to explain to people what our job really entails, the importance of what we do, the personal sacrifices we make, the long hours and the pressure that comes with the job. You cannot do this job if you are not committed and dedicated. It affects every aspect of your life and that of your family and if you are not ready for that then the probability is you will be disappointed and change careers.

What do you find most satisfying about your role and responsibilities?

There is no secret about it: I am a people person. Engaging with people and being of service to them is the most satisfying part of the job. It is demanding and not always easy, but it is rewarding.



A Few Facts About Malta

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Population | 445,426 (2014) |
| Area | 326 km ² |
| Capital | Valetta |
| Largest city | Birkirkara – population 21,676 |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Official Languages | Maltese, English |
| Government | Unitary/parliamentary/republic |
| President | Marie Louise Coleiro Preca |
| Prime Minister | Joseph Muscat |

There are 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Hypogeum of Hal-Saflieni a Neolithic subterranean structure dating to 3300 BC
- Valetta, the capital of Malta
- Seven megalithic temples - some of the oldest free-standing structures in the world

Interesting facts: Malta was the most bombed place on earth in the Second World War. King George VI awarded the George Cross to Malta on a collective basis on 15 April 1942 “*to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history.*”



Ted Chudleigh

M.P.P. 1995-2014

Progressive Conservative Halton, Halton North

Thomas Laird Kennedy, elected for 40 years (1919-1934 and 1937-1959), was Interim Premier for 7 months between Premier George Drew and Premier Leslie Frost. Thomas Laird Kennedy was also the grandfather of Ted Chudleigh.

What do you remember about your grandfather?

I grew up on a farm which had a large apple orchard. It was not uncommon for me to find him in the orchard chatting with George Drew or Leslie Frost or Gordon Graydon. I also remember the visitors that would come to his home. In those days there were no constituency offices so it was a rule if we were visiting and someone came, we had to go to the kitchen where grandma would have cookies and ginger ale. It all seemed very normal to me, as this was how it had always been. My grandfather also liked mystical characters such as Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. He invented the Gum Drop Fairy. Early in the spring he would fill a barberry bush with gum drops on every thorn and then call the grandchildren to come and harvest them.

Why did you enter politics?

I guess that family tradition played a part. In addition to the example of my grandfather, my uncle Doug Kennedy had been an M.P.P. from 1967 to 1985 in Mississauga. In 1995 I saw that kids were graduating from high school and college without jobs to go to, so I was motivated to get involved. I was attracted to Mike Harris' message of the 'Common Sense Revolution.'

Who were your role models or mentors?

My grandfather, when he was Minister of Agriculture brought in electrification to the farms in the 1930s. That was huge! It was enormously important in creating a better life on the farm. My grandfather demonstrated that a social agenda was also important. Bill Davis always said that 'life is about moderation', so over time I took more of a Bill Davis approach to politics.

"All the best ideas in the world go for nought if you don't form government"
- Ted Chudleigh

What are some of your most fond memories from Queen's Park?

I truly enjoyed the Pages. The House was sitting one Halloween and so the kids weren't going to experience Halloween. I arranged for all the offices to have candy to give out when the Pages were sent on errands, and every Page got a pair of crazy socks. Years later I met a Page from that group who still had her socks as a keepsake of her experience at Queen's Park. It was fun working with some of the staff to set up the attic as a scary place to visit when we sent the Pages up there. One year I was Santa Claus and every Page got a pair of socks. During one particularly boring session in the House I systematically sent each Page up to my office where they could enjoy some fresh "apple blossoms" and watch tv. Eventually a House Attendant asked me if I knew where all the Pages were. I retrieved them. [editor's note: an apple blossom is a pastry treat – in this case likely supplied by Ted's brother Tom who owns Chudleigh's Farm]. I sponsored The Holocaust Memorial Act, in 1998, the first such act anywhere in the world outside of Israel. That was a very proud day for me. Closer to home, I worked hard and was able to keep the Georgetown Hospital open. Facilitating a smoother connection amongst the hospitals of Oakville, Milton and Georgetown was an important achievement. When I was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance I brought in a report on auto insurance which resulted in a 10% reduction in premiums. I am also proud of creating the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Act which protects the shoreline from Port Severn on southern Georgian Bay through the north shore of Lake Superior.

I found that the Legislature was a great clearing house for constituency problems and opportunities. There were times when you could sit with a Minister to discuss an issue and resolve it there and then. Working on behalf of the people I represented was always very fulfilling.

What has been keeping you occupied since leaving Queen's Park?

I loved the farm, but it is a good idea to leave when you can make the decision. My wife and I spend time in Florida. We enjoy golf, gardening, family and friends. I am also involved with The Canadian Royal Heritage Trust project called the 'Blue Sapphire Project.' We hope to place a statue of Queen Elizabeth II on the grounds of Queen's Park.

You were Executive Vice-President of the Ontario Food Processors Association. What experience or knowledge did you bring from that role which was helpful in being a legislator?

The OFPA is a member active association; a trade association with 2 or 3 staff and a membership which includes small family run producers as well as large international companies. We had many members that had independent and separate aims and goals. The challenge was to find a compromise with each issue that everyone could live with. To me, that was the essence of politics.

Distinguished Service Award

Hon. Roy McMurtry



Roy McMurtry was a Member of Provincial Parliament from 1975 to 1985. He served as Attorney General for all of those years and Solicitor General for part of that time.

The following excerpt written by Hugh Segal in 2007 is a great introduction to why Roy McMurtry has been selected as our recipient:

“On the surface, a black South African going into a voting station to cast a ballot, a French-speaking Ontarian being pulled over for speeding somewhere near North Bay, a blind Torontonion wandering into a Second Cup Café for a double espresso, a gay couple being married in a British Columbia city hall and a minority allophone choosing a school for his children in west end Montreal might not have much in common. They would be separated by wide expanses of geography, culture, education, experience and even lifestyle. They would not necessarily have anything in common with a couple sorting out the division of marital property in leafy Rockcliffe, or a child being represented in a difficult custody case in a courtroom in Thunder Bay. But they would be similar in one rather remarkable common point of reference. All of their lives would have been affected for the better by the work of the amateur and talented painter who supplemented his painting career by being a lawyer, an MPP, an attorney general, a high commissioner to London and Ontario’s Chief Justice namely, R. Roy McMurtry. He has crammed more public service careers into his 75 years than any four other people, any one of those careers sufficient to be the pinnacle of a lesser person’s life work.”

The ceremony honouring Roy McMurtry will be on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018** at Queen’s Park. More details will follow at a later date. Meanwhile, set that day aside. Join us as we celebrate someone who has served our province and our country with honour and distinction.

Open House

March 27, 2018

We were very graciously offered expanded quarters, essentially a wall removed so that our office would include an adjacent empty office. Within a few weeks the renovations were complete, including new carpeting.

“Thank You” was in order, not only for the talented people who spearheaded the changes, but for other staff at the Legislature who have been so helpful to us over the years.

Staff from various departments dropped by for food, refreshments and a chat. So too did some of our colleagues. Speaker Levac stopped by to say hello and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. Our “new” office not only allows us appropriate space to host a variety of gatherings, but the newly configured office is a better work space.

There is a standing invitation for all former members to stop by our office when you are in town. You will receive a warm welcome!



Mobina, Judy, Karen and Lily at the open house.



Monte Kwinter, Larry South and Joe Spina.



Speaker Levac visits.



David Warner and Ron Hansen.



Speaker Alvin Curling, Karen Haslam and Tony Ruprecht.



The delicious spread.



David Turnbull and David Warner.



Two guests chatting and eating.



Speaker Curling and Lily Oddie.



Dessert.



Larry South.

From Queen's Park to Campus

The University of Toronto has an “Extern Job Shadowing Program” which lets students explore a career by visiting with professionals in the workplace. Activities may include: tour of the workplace, attend site visits, observe day-to-day activities, meet with other members of the department, involvement in hands-on projects, attend department and client meetings, and/or receive an overview of the organization and workplace culture.

The OAFP is part of this program. The students will meet with an MPP from each of the parties, sit in on a committee meeting, observe a debate in the House and have time to discuss what they have seen and heard. I accompany the students during the afternoon and make sure we have time, back at our office, to have a good discussion.

I am always impressed by the enthusiastic interest the students show in wanting to know more about our parliamentary democracy. At the end of the day, most of the students indicate they would like to be part of the political process, not necessarily as an elected person, but directly involved.

“I really enjoyed the afternoon with you and I learned a lot of things I feel like I couldn't have learned by researching the life of an MPP, i.e. the work days, the sacrifices, the work life. Although I think I am still more suited to hold a position in some other aspect of political life, I am considering running for office at a later stage of life.

One thing that stood out to me was when you said that you thought of your opponents as just opponents rather than enemies. Also, when you said that it's important to get along and find common ground with your opponents because it creates an easier pathway for success. I think that's an extremely useful piece of information especially because some people hold very strong political opinions and sometimes it's difficult to separate political opinions from a person. But like you said, you should get to know the other parts of a person as it is advantageous for everyone.” - Victoria

“I just want to sincerely thank you for allowing me to job shadow you this week at Queen's Park. Between meeting Peggy (Sattler) & Raymond (Cho), listening to your lived experiences & funny stories, and sitting in on a justice committee, my view of politics as a tool for social change has grown drastically. As an equity studies student (and hopefully, future law student this September), I appreciated understanding the variety of ways in which MPPs navigate political culture and relations in a plight for social justice.” - Monique

In Loving Memory of Chris Stockwell



(March 9, 1957 – February 10, 2018)

Served in the 35th, 36th and 37th Parliaments
(September 06, 1990 – September 02, 2003)

Progressive Conservative Member for Etobicoke
Centre

Chris Stockwell was Speaker for the 36th Parliament. During the 37th Parliament he held two Ministerial portfolios: Environment and Energy, Labour. He was also Government House Leader as well as a Commissioner on the Board of Internal Economy.

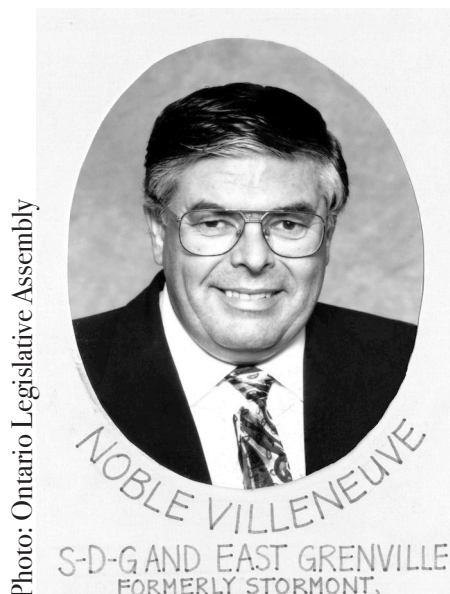
“The loss of a good friend is always difficult to accept. I knew Chris extremely well and have kept fond memories of him. I served with Chris as Deputy-Speaker during his tenure in the Chair from 1996 to 1999.

Our political affiliations were different but team work begins by building trust. We had really achieved that goal.” - Gilles Morin

“Chris Stockwell never entered a room unnoticed! He had an energy about him that made this impossible. He was a politician of frank opinions and he was never shy about sharing them. At the same time he had a sharp sense of humour - people were drawn to him. You couldn't help being swept into his orbit. For Chris, fairness trumped all else. His guiding principle in public life was that everyone deserved to be heard, and government should do as much listening as talking.” - Phil Gillies

“I got to know Chris on a whole different level when he was the speaker of the Legislature and I was the Deputy Speaker. He was elected to that position by members from all three parties and he worked hard to fulfill his promise to be fair and impartial. Chris was one of a kind - a quick study, smart, witty and passionate. I was very saddened by his death.” - Marilyn Churley

In Loving Memory of Noble Villeneuve



(August 1, 1938 – February 28, 2018)

Served in 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th
Parliaments

Progressive Conservative Member for
Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry [32nd – 35th]
Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry and East Grenville
[36th]

Noble held two Ministerial portfolios at the same time: Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Over his five terms in office Noble was Minister Without Portfolio, a member of a Special Committee on the Parliamentary Precinct, and on a Select Committee on Education. As well, Noble was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, Chief Whip, and served on eight Standing Committees: Procedural Affairs, Resources Development, Public Accounts, Legislative Assembly, Estimates, Administration of Justice, General Government, Finance and Economic Affairs.

Below are eulogies given by Bob Runciman and Gilles Morin at the funeral:

“Noble was my friend, my Queen’s Park colleague and for many years, my opposition seat mate. I worked with Noble for 16 years, the majority spent in opposition. You might think it unfortunate that more time wasn’t spent on the government benches, and there’s some truth to that. But I believe Noble would agree, that we had a heck of a lot more fun in opposition, especially from 1990 to 95 when Bob Rae and the NDP were in government.

An example of that was when the two of us decided to hide under our desk rather than vote against a fellow Tory MPP’s private member’s bill that we disagreed with. Back then there were votes on two private members’ bills every Thursday and they locked the doors between votes. We voted on the first bill from a Liberal backbencher and then ducked under the desk. Noble was a big guy, so you can imagine the two of us trying to get under that desk and unfortunately, the Speaker found us and amidst gales of laughter we were forced to vote. Of course we voted with our friend.

There was only 20 Conservatives in our caucus and the smaller numbers drew us closer together. In a lot of ways like a hockey team, this one coached by Mike Harris, covering each other's backs. In opposition Noble was a very effective critic. Strong and firm but never mad-doggish like some of his colleagues. Noble had a way about him. You couldn't help but like the guy and that applied to both sides of the legislature. Politics didn't enter into it.

Fortunately, Noble did get to serve in government and in a very senior role. I suspect June 26, 1995, the swearing-in of the Mike Harris cabinet, was one of the proudest moments of his career, for both him and his family. That's the day the Ottawa Sun's front page declared Noble, Norm Sterling and me, as the A Team for eastern Ontario. A great day. And then the hard work began.

And hard work was nothing new for Noble. He was a workhorse. And along with that, he was always very sensitive to the way he spent taxpayers' money. An example of both was his weekly Thursday nite drive home from Toronto to Moose Creek. After an exhausting week, he would always make the 5 or 6 hour drive to get home to Elaine and the riding. As a cabinet minister, he could have had a driver take him home and then pick him up for the return on Sunday night. But he didn't believe that was an appropriate use of tax dollars. Noble was proud of the legacy he left behind from his work in government. From initiatives like improving farm safety nets to quick-thinking crisis decisions like having his Ministry round-up generators to help farmers during the ice storm. And, of course, the accomplishment he always liked to talk about: teaching Mike Harris how to win the plowing match by turning sharp at the end to flip up the furrow.

On a strictly personal note, I always thought my wife's description of Noble was truly fitting. She called him a big teddy bear.

Today, thinking about that big teddy bear, I was reminded of the lyrics of an old song, smile though your heart is aching. And picturing Noble in the old opposition caucus lounge, sitting back with his feet up, a smile on his face, a glass of scotch or red wine in one hand and a cigar in the other.

A good, good man who will be truly missed. Rest well Noble.” - Bob Runciman

“Elaine, et toute la famille Villeneuve, on se sent bien seule quand on perd l'un des nôtres, aussi sachez qu'en cette période de deuil, nous partageons avec vous votre tristesse.

Au nom de l'Association ontarienne des ex-parlementaires, nos sincères sympathies.

Noble et moi avons servi à la Présidence de l'Assemblée législative durant plusieurs années. Notre rôle n'était pas toujours facile. Afin de garder l'ordre, nous devons avoir une main forte dans un gant de velours. C'est durant cette période que nous avons formé nos liens d'amitiés. Amical, respectueux, gentilhomme, quelques qualités que je garderai en souvenir de Noble. Nos allégeances politiques n'étaient pas les mêmes, mais une sincère amitié dépasse tout. La perte d'un ami est toujours difficile à accepter.” - Gilles Morin

“Noble’s commitment to assisting in the orderly managing of legislative business was a huge help. Over the five years we worked together we became good friends. What shone above all else was Noble’s humanity and his warmth. I never saw him without a smile. He was a talented politician, a true parliamentarian and a truly wonderful human being. I will miss him.” - David Warner



Chris Stockwell. Photo: Peter Power/ *Toronto Star*



Noble Villeneuve. Photo: *Le Droit*



Peter Preston. Photo: Miller Funeral Chapel

In Loving Memory of Peter Preston



Photo: Miller Funeral Chapel

(June 03, 1935 - October 14, 2016)

Served in the 36th Parliament (June 08, 1995 –
May 05, 1999)

Progression Conservative Member for Brant—
Haldimand

Peter Preston served as Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Resources Development, and as well on three Standing Committees: Social Development, Government Agencies, Public Accounts.

“Pete was a decent, home-spun, meat-and-potatoes guy. Not an unkind word about anyone. One of the people I was pleased to get to know and proud to serve with. Pete is the one who instructed me that, where fine dining is concerned (such as at the Queen’s Park dining room) the word “sausage” should at all times be pronounced “sau - saaj”, with the emphasis on the second syllable.” - John Parker

The following are excerpts from the tribute in the House, April 18, 2018, as recorded in Hansard:

“Peter took it upon himself to give back to his community. He cared about all of his constituents and was always willing to lend a helping hand to the poor and less fortunate. While serving as MPP, he transformed the constituency office into a food bank depot, in collaboration with the Caledonia and District Food Bank. For a time his constituency office stood as the only food bank in the small community of Cayuga, Ontario.

In a 1996 Hamilton Spectator article written by Michelle Ruby, Peter was asked about the food bank that he established, and he responded with the following: “It is simply not enough to preach the word of volunteerism and community spirit. I feel the best examples are by leading and taking the initiative.”

I hope that when we walk out of this Legislature today, the image we will keep in our heads of Peter is of someone who was passionate, dedicated, fun-loving and selfless. Thank you, Peter, for your incredible dedication to our province.” - Paul Miller

“What he did was, he transformed that love of horses into a love of children and young teenagers who basically had no place to go. That was his real true love. He combined that love of horses in creating his ranch, where these young teenagers could go and get their life together. He really was passionate about that. He believed that was something that he was obliged to do as a citizen and as a caring person.

He was also very much connected with the country of Peru because of his love of horses. In fact, in 1998, he greeted the Peruvian president on behalf of the province during a state visit. He really had that connection to Peru and to the horses.

The foster care of children was really Peter’s lifelong vocation. He took in kids from all over, especially First Nations children, and created a home for them. These are the things that sometimes don’t make the newspapers, but this is the good that Peter did beyond being here in the Legislature for those years. He called it his Rocking P ranch. This is something that he went all out for. He was a 100% type of guy and he put it all into these good things.” - Mike Colle

“As we know, Peter and his wife, Joanne, had horses, hence the name the Rocking JP ranch. These were not ordinary horses. Peter and especially his beautiful wife, Joanne, were renowned breeders of the Peruvian Paso horse, a breed that had been isolated in northern Peru for 400 years; hence, it retained certain characteristics: an ambling gait, somewhere between a walk and a canter, with an outward swinging of the legs. You would never see any other horse move this way, and it created a very smooth, comfortable ride. I attended a number of those horse shows. There would be busloads of Peruvian Canadians who would come to see their cherished horse. The consul general of Peru would attend.

He came in the 1995 election as a Common Sense Revolutionary, but he was also truly a Progressive Conservative with a social conscience, as we know, realizing that government couldn’t and shouldn’t be all things to all people, and there was a place for more so a hand up rather than a handout.” - Toby Barrett

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