



The *InFormer*



Summer 2018



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Welcome, former parliamentarians! Below is a list of what you'll find in the latest issue of The InFormer.

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Meet the Interns

Summer 2018



Victoria Shariati is a journalist and academic researcher currently completing a journalism degree at Ryerson University. She is minoring in both history and politics.

With a keen interest in politics and foreign affairs, Victoria hopes to earn a master's degree in a field that would help her explore the intricacies of Canadian public and foreign policy and international law.

Victoria began working with the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians in May of 2018.



Zena Salem is a multilingual journalism student at Ryerson University, minoring in French, and Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Post-graduation, she aims to pursue a master's degree in international law and policy.

In addition to being passionate about international journalism, her work focuses on social issues, law, politics, religion and culture and human rights.

Zena aspires to be a news anchor and journalist, covering events and issues that target marginalized groups, law and politics –both locally and internationally.

In conversation with

Haley Shanoff

Curator of The Gathering Place, Queen's Park

What is your background, as related to the world of art?

I have an undergraduate degree in history and a master's in museum studies, so my focus was always more on history than on art. The museum studies program [I did] focuses on how to interpret things in general as opposed to a specific subject matter, and how to best curate a show. I don't have a degree in fine arts or art history or anything like that, it's just become part of my job, which is really interesting.

Why is The Gathering Place important?

The institution of Parliament is very steeped in tradition but it's mostly a British tradition. There are a lot of voices that aren't traditionally heard at the Legislature. Parliament is supposed to be for the people of Ontario, and to represent the people of Ontario, so bringing in more voices is really something important, especially with the Indigenous voice, as we are on their traditional land. I think it's important to open up that line of communication and make sure Indigenous communities and individuals feel welcome in a place in which they don't always feel welcome.

Just promoting arts and culture is important as well, and it's also important to be able to give an opportunity to artists all across the province to showcase their talents.

Did you have any specific themes in mind when you were selecting the art?

No. We reached out to all of the Chiefs in the province as well as the Métis Nation and the Inuit community, and we told them that we wanted to launch this project and asked, 'What do you think? Do you have any input or artists who might be interested?' In some situations we worked directly with the Chief and in other situations we worked with individual artists, or sometimes with a cultural centre or museum or gallery. We explained to them that these are multiuse spaces and we really want these spaces to be building bridges of communication and understanding. We asked what they would like to see in there. We left it really open in that way.

Why is there no permanent collection?

We thought it was important to have it be a living, breathing entity and to show that communities are always changing and growing and also just to give different voices the opportunity to be featured in the rooms. It's not a static space. If we were to get a piece from each of the First Nations registered bands in Ontario, we couldn't physically fit everything in the room. It's nice to have that opportunity to switch things.



Haley Shanoff.
Photo: Legislative Assembly of Ontario

How long would one piece typically stay in The Gathering Place?

We ask for it for a loan of a year, if possible. In a few instances it's been less and in some it's been longer. There are a few pieces that are on more of a long-term loan basis.

If you saw the Grass Dance regalia outfit in the room that's farthest west, that piece is more of a long-term loan. Generally, it's about a year. The other thing I should mention is that the artist or the communities or an individual has loaned us the piece, so we're conscious of that. It doesn't belong to us and we don't want to keep it longer than they may want.

“When you’re looking at someone else’s culture or art, you’re an outsider.”

Did you experience any challenges when you were putting everything together?

Sometimes it was difficult trying to reach people. I remember there was one Chief who had gone to a very remote hunting camp for most of the summer and I was trying to get in touch with him, so that was a challenge.

It was really important to understand that we're really trying to not put our lens on someone else's culture. I'm not Indigenous, so I was really conscious of that. That was another major challenge, you don't want to be imposing your culture on someone else. We did work with some few people on an advisory board type of set-up and bounced everything off of them, all of the text and everything to make sure there wasn't anything we were missing because we were ignorant of something.

When you're looking at someone else's culture or art, you're an outsider. We made sure that the voices you hopefully see and hear are the voices of the artists and the communities as opposed to just us.

– Victoria Shariati

In conversation with

The Hon. Henry N. Jackman

The former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario sat down with The InFormer to discuss his time in politics.



His Honour Henry Jackman.
Photo: Getty Images

What were a few of the highlights of your term as Lieutenant-Governor?

I can't say that any special thing was a highlight, but the totality of my experience was a highlight. I met everybody, and when I say everybody, I mean everybody, from the highest to the lowest. I went to almost every city and town in Ontario. I would never have done that if I hadn't had a job like that. You got to see the province. It's a province my family has lived in for six generations. I met all kinds of people. Every group of people – new Canadians, old Canadians, every kind of Canadian.

Do you think the position of Lieutenant-Governor is still important today?

Definitely. You can't have our system of government without the Crown, or the representative of the Crown. Political power consists of the Crown and the Parliament. The armed forces and the police do not salute the Premier. Their allegiance is to the Crown. The Crown is a rather nebulous concept that says no matter how high you are, you can be the head of the biggest corporation or the Premier of Ontario, but you are all subject to the Crown. The Lieutenant Governor is not the person at the top. He is the symbol of the top.

What are some qualities you think the Prime Minister should keep in mind when looking for a new Lieutenant-Governor?

Well, if I look at the appointments after I served and even before I served, they were all different. They should be different because Canada, and Ontario, is very different. There are all kinds of people. I succeeded Lincoln Alexander, who was Black. Hilary Weston, who succeeded me, was a woman. Her successor was Aboriginal. His successor was a paraplegic, who was succeeded by another woman. Everyone is different. The next Lieutenant Governor will be different. That is the secret of the job. It has to be a cross section.

Did your experience at Queen's Park alter or confirm any opinion you had of politicians?

I think it may have reinforced the views I already had and still have. I have a huge respect for people who run for Parliament or run for the Legislature. They contribute and give far more than they ever receive out of it. That doesn't mean I don't have views about some things I like and some things I don't like on specific policies, but the idea that someone, a man or a woman, presents themselves to their friends and neighbours and says, "I want to represent you," that's a very positive thing. That's what makes a democracy. That's a great thing we have over some other countries in the world that don't have that kind of electoral system.

You used to act while in college. Did you have a favourite play?

I like Shakespeare, but that's perhaps because I was brought up on it and had that influence at school, in both high school and university. I played several roles including Hotspur, Henry V and Marc Antony.

Tell me about your toy soliders.

I used to play with them a lot when I was a little boy, but those soldiers have long been broken. Some of the remaining ones are quite valuable, as they are antiques, although they were originally toys for children. But the age and calibre of the painting has made them valuable. I still have a few, but I gave a lot of them to the Royal Ontario Museum. They are going to have an exhibition of them soon.

What is the story of the King Edward VII statue?

That was my father's statue. He got that [statue] from India. This was 30, 40 years ago. A good friend of my father's was Roland Michener, who was High Commissioner to India and later became Governor General. My father said he'd like to have an equestrian statue and Michener said there were some in India. All of the statues of imperial generals on horses had been taken down by the government because India was now independent of Britain. So Michener said, "I'll get you a statue. I'll get you a statue of King Edward VII." Michener inquired and they said the statue was in a warehouse somewhere and my father could have it if he paid to take it away, which he did at considerable expense. It was erected in Queen's Park. Edward VII opened Queen's Park. He was the oldest son of Queen Victoria. And that's why it's called Queen's Park.

– Victoria Shariati

In conversation with

Zanana Akande

Former MPP

“Every time someone in your family is set back it makes you more determined to succeed.”



Photo: YWCA Toronto

Zanana Akande has her Master of Education (U. of T.), was an elementary school principal, taught secondary school, and was a consultant for an elementary and secondary school. She was an adjunct professor at both York University and U of T, was the first Black woman to be elected to the Ontario legislature, and the first Black woman in Canada to be appointed to Cabinet.

This dynamic, accomplished woman, born in Canada, her family having moved here from the Caribbean, settling in the Kensington Market area of Toronto, turned early days of adversity into a life dedicated to making this world a better place.

Her mom was from St. Lucia, her dad from Barbados, both of them teachers in their Caribbean homelands.

In Canada, race prevented them from being teachers.

In fact, Akande's university educated father had a supervisory role in the Barbadian education system. His Canadian job was as a meat packer. The change of vocation took quite an emotional toll on him, however he bounced back by deciding to teach reading and writing to newly arrived immigrants.

The family setbacks motivated Akande. In the decades which followed, her accomplishments grew and blossomed. Akande became immersed in her community, used her academic achievements to help make a difference for minority children and always strived for something bigger.

She co-founded the Tiger Lily Magazine, a paper dedicated to visible minority women, co-hosted a Toronto Arts Against Apartheid Festival and was President of the Harbourfront Centre.

I asked her, "What was it about Harbourfront?"

"Harbourfront was exciting to me. Bill Boyle, who was the CEO for so many years, kept saying to me 'you know there are so many students working down here that you've taught and remember you and your encouraging them to be involved in Harbourfront.' I thought, what a terrific opportunity for the kids that I taught, the youth that I came in contact with, to get involved in a centre that reflects theirs and all cultures."

Akande was a board member of Milestone Radio, Canada's first urban radio station.

"It was important to us to have a voice where we could decide what was important and where our views could be expressed without negative repercussions," she said.

I asked if it was difficult to get advertising. "Very tough because the music was different. For some, the population that they thought would be attracted to that station would not necessarily be seen as buyers of their products or supporters of their particular businesses. It was part of our learning to understand how little involved in the general commerce of the wider community they thought we were.

It made us aware of the fact that the larger business community didn't have a good idea about the services that we purchased, where our money went and how it was spent. So it was important for us to educate them about that, but it was also extremely important for us to educate ourselves. We became more aware and more astute and in many ways much more effective in making our voice heard."

In 2004, Akande was presented with the Constance E. Hamilton Award for her work in addressing equity issues in the community. That award is named after the first woman elected to Toronto City Council. The recipient must be a resident of Toronto whose actions have had a significant impact on securing equitable treatment for women in Toronto, socially, economically or culturally.

I asked Akande if there were specific things she had done to warrant the award.

"I believe, in part, it was because of co-founding Tiger Lily magazine, which focused on providing the perspectives of women of colour, and for my work with the Federation of Women Teachers, which is now part of the Ontario Teachers Federation, encouraging women to be independent within or without marriage."

There was the shock of being elected in an area which included the upscale Forest Hill section of Toronto. Akande was appointed to Cabinet and later initiated the Jobs Ontario Youth program. However, her experience at Queen's Park was not entirely a happy one.

“There was a great deal of attention given, by the media and even some members, to where I lived, and my assumed wealth and the demonstration of it, rather than the work I did or was trying to do with my colleagues or my dedication to delivering the platform on which the NDP had run. To me that personalized and limited focus trivialized the real reason we were there.... to present all views about government proposals to effect change in the province.

I still feel that the ability to look at things, to analyze them, to read the background, to consider the needs and wants of your constituents, and have a full debate in the House is important. Very often the decisions are made with the support and even influence of people whose names have never been on the ballot. I resent that. Other people accept it, I resent it. I believe it is one more step in removing government from the people.”

Zanana Akande continues working on behalf of communities. While she is on a number of boards, Akande is also part of a team working to establish a Black community legal service.

“I think it’s important because there are so many people who require the support of legal services who can’t afford it. The middle class can barely afford to go to lawyers. They’ve priced themselves beyond the needs of the community. People say, ‘I don’t know how much taking this issue to a lawyer is going to cost. Let’s forget it.’

And that has serious repercussions for all communities. The serious repercussions are that you let things go that shouldn’t be ‘let go’ and things continue to happen as though that’s the correct thing simply because it’s never been officially questioned.

The legal clinic will also be valuable in teaching people their rights and the information they should know, where to collect it, and how to use it. The clinic will also be involved in test cases so that there will be precedents for similar cases, providing a basis for you to question the standards and the behaviour of certain groups and services within our society.”

Earlier this year Zanana Akande was honoured twice.

The Y.W.C.A. presented her with a “Women of Distinction Award,” and the City of Toronto presented her with a ceremonial “Key to the City.”

– Emerald Bensadoun

Two Special Days

You should have received detailed information about the special two days, **Tuesday October 16** and **Wednesday October 17, 2018**.

Since it's our turn to host the Inter-Provincial meeting this year, we have invited Former Members' Association of Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta. We have also taken the opportunity to reach out to the provinces of British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the remaining provinces and territories, we have sent a letter to the Speaker asking that she/he find a former member who might be interested in creating an Association.

We are reaching out across Canada so that collectively there will be an opportunity to share ideas about what can be accomplished by our Associations, especially related to strengthening our parliamentary democracy. What are creative ways in which we can connect with the younger generation?

Our Skype meeting with the former members of the European Parliament was fruitful and prompted us to try and develop better communication across Canada.

Our very special 'Distinguished Service Award' ceremony will be combined with the Annual General Meeting of our association and the gathering of representatives of Inter-Provincial Associations of Former Parliamentarians.

The Lieutenant Governor of the Ontario, Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt, MSc., will host a reception to welcome the Inter-Provincial Parliamentarians and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions to Ontario and to Canada of Hon. Roy McMurtry, who will be the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Service Award.

Joining our visit to the Niagara wine district and a leading vineyard for a VIP tour and a dinner at the CN Tower's revolving restaurant, will provide a wonderful opportunity to socialize with former colleagues as well our out-of-the-province guests.

On the morning of October 17th, we will meet for reports and discussions relating to our activities and undertakings. We will learn from each other about our organizational aspirations, successes and challenges. This session will without doubt help us to shape our own strategic plans as we move forward.

A couple of special days in the life and growth of OAFP! Not to be missed.

Our Educational Efforts

Again this fall, your Association will be connecting with post-secondary institutions to offer a unique opportunity for students to meet, greet and quiz former members of the Ontario Legislature. The usual format is a two hour session with political science students, with the topic being at the direction of the professor. Ideally, our volunteers for the session represent all three political parties. Often, because of logistics we end up with two of the three, but certainly in the course of an academic year the three major Parties are equally represented.

As with other former members who have participated I have found the interchange with students to be stimulating and informative. Unquestionably, this is “value added” education for the students and an opportunity for us former Members to understand the issues from a much younger perspective.

We can always use more volunteers.

So, before classes get started give Mobina a call [416-325-4647] to sign up for a wonderful opportunity to further the cause of parliamentary democracy.

“Job Shadow” is a unique program at the University of Toronto’s Career Centre. O.A.F.P. is one of a wide range of private and public organizations who participate. This is a direct, “hands on” approach for students who are seriously considering a certain career. In our case, a life in the world of politics; not necessarily as an MPP, but perhaps involved in policy development.

I arrange a half day, once in the fall, winter and spring, consisting of about an hour meeting with three MPPs, one from each party, sit in on a committee meeting, observe the House in session and some time to talk about what the students have observed, answer their questions. To date the most common response has been one of great respect for what the MPPs do. Occasionally a student will admit that she or he would like to be elected one day.



Russian cannons at the Legislature.

Russian Cannons

Ever wonder about those two cannons we walk by at the front of the Legislature? Why are they there? From where did they come?

The two Russian cannons outside the Legislative Building entrance were captured by the British during the Crimean War and sent to Toronto in 1859 as a gift from Queen Victoria. The story, about which some historians have doubt, is that canons such as these were melted down to supply metal for Victoria Cross medals, the highest military decoration awarded by the British Government for acts of valour in battle. The cannons were originally positioned at the south end of the park where Sir John A. Macdonald's monument is now located, and were moved in front of the Legislative Building upon its completion in 1892.

While they are called Russian cannons, most cannons commissioned by the Russian Army were made in China.

In conversation with Floyd Laughren

Former MPP

"Retired and continuing to be at the heart of Sudbury's growth."



Photo: Sudbury.com

Floyd Laughren is a former New Democratic Party member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario now living in Sudbury, Ontario. From 1971 to 1998 Laughren represented the Northern Ontario riding of Nickel Belt. When the New Democrats formed the government in 1990, Laughren was appointed Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier.

Prior to a 27-year career at Queen's Park, Floyd Laughren taught economics and business at Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario. After leaving the legislature in 1998 he was appointed chair of the Ontario Energy Board, a position he held for five years. He retired in 2003, returning to Sudbury to devote much of his time to volunteer in community work.

What motivated you to enter politics?

Right now, I am not involved politically but at the time what motivated me most was what I saw when I came to Sudbury in 1969. The landscape in Sudbury was terrible. Pollution was awful. The super stack, a 1,200 foot smokestack which would later help to dissipate much of the pollution from the mines away from the Sudbury, had not yet been built. A lot of money and resources had been taken out of the community, with little coming back in return. It was obvious that this was not an acceptable situation. Health and safety issues were not high on the government's agenda. So when I was approached by the local NDP riding association about running as a candidate I thought, why not? So I agreed to run.

Is there something specific that you were most eager to work on?

Being an MPP from Northern Ontario at the time was a good opportunity to affect change. Many northern communities were really getting the short end of the stick. It was important that the government designate more resources to the region and I was eager to work on behalf of the people in the region.

The small Indigenous communities were quite vulnerable and required much more attention from the government. Of prime concern was the fact that they had no economic stake in their own territories and continued to live in horrible conditions.

What is something that Southerners do not fully understand about Northern Ontario?

I don't think there is an appreciation of the size of the north. Let me give you an example: Elliot Lake is about 100 miles west of Sudbury. During an election campaign one time, an NDP official called me and asked 'would you run over to Elliot Lake and attend a luncheon? ... I said 'well I have a meeting in Sudbury.' His reply was 'well, it should only take an hour to get there and back.' It showed the lack of knowledge there is about the vast size of the north.

What is one thing you would like to work towards if you were still involved politically?

Probably the healthcare system. Everybody wants a better healthcare system but many people don't want to pay for it. It's terribly expensive, and if we just continue throwing money at the current model, nothing will change.

We need to take a fresh look at the healthcare system. As an example, I am involved with the local hospital and we are continually dealing with the number of people in the hospital who really should not be there. They should be in nursing homes or other alternative care institutions. It is a lot cheaper to have someone in a nursing home than a hospital bed. But there needs to be major investment into more alternative care options.

Sometimes we need to spend money short term to save money long term. Everybody is well intentioned when it comes to healthcare, and nobody wants to sabotage medical care, regardless of political party. We just really need to think about how to remodel the system. I am not a fan of just pouring more money into the current model.

What is life after politics like?

I enjoyed politics very much, and when I retired I realized that I had to have something to keep me occupied or else I would lose my mind, so I got more and more involved in the community.

*

Enshrined in the Sudbury Community Builders Hall of Fame 2007: "Floyd Laughren is one of the 'players' who steered the community from a one-industry town dependent on mining into a diversified regional capital and centre for post-secondary education and health care in northeastern Ontario."

Here is what getting more involved in the community means:

- Chaired the Ontario Energy Board
- Member of the Laurentian University Board of Governors
- Director of Community Savings Credit Union of Sudbury

- Member of the Advisory Committee for the Sudbury Community Foundation
- Chaired the United Way campaign in 2005 when more than \$1.5 million was raised, a record since the agency began in 1982
- Chaired the Greater Sudbury Community Solutions Team to research and report on problems and solutions stemming from the political amalgamation of the Sudbury region
- Received an honorary Doctorate of Law from Laurentian University in recognition of service to the province
- Received the Fred Sheridan Award from Cambrian College for contributions to the community
- The establishment of the Floyd Laughren Bursary for accounting and business students, and the Floyd Laughren/Justin Eves Foundation Special Needs Bursary by the Cambrian College Foundation.
- In 2018 was awarded The Order of Ontario.

*

Praise and position hasn't changed Mr. Laughren. He remains unassuming, humble and forthright. To quote Jim Bradley: "What you see is what you get."

What the riding of Nickel Belt got, for many more years than the 27 in the Pink Palace, was a tireless worker for the riding and for Northern Ontario.

200 Years of Ontario Beer

Canada's first recorded brewer was Jesuit Brother Ambroise, who began making beer in 1646 after the foundation of New France. It was 1786 when John Molson established his first brewery in Montréal, which is today the oldest brewery in North America.

The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of the Independent Brewery in Ontario

In the late 1700's, John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, encouraged the development of breweries as a way to support the agricultural industry. Breweries flourished. There were over 300 breweries in 130 towns across Ontario, according to beer historian Ian Bowering.

Significant dates of breweries which started out as small, independent breweries:

1836 John Sleeman starts a brewery in the little town of St. Davids, located near Queenston Heights, a town which was badly damaged during the War of 1812–14.

1840 Thomas Carling opens his brewery in London.

1847 John Labatt also opens a brewery in London.

Through the first half of the 19th century beer was not only popular, but due to immigrants bringing their preferred taste, there was a wide variety of ales and lagers.

From the late 1800's through to the end of World War I, the temperance movement and prohibition laws had the effect of a lot of breweries closing.

The Great Depression made it possible for wealthy business men, such as E. P. Taylor to purchase small breweries. The consolidation, aided by the advent of television ads in the 1950's, continued so that by the 1970's only giant breweries remained. The diversity of ale styles was gone!

1984 The microbrewery is back, with the establishment of the Brick Brewery in Waterloo.

Today, there are approximately 250 microbreweries in Ontario with over 150 different varieties of all-natural, locally produced craft beers.

Travel Tip: If you live in the GTA, visiting or thinking of a way to entertain visitors, consider a trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village. Dine in the style of the 1860's and enjoy a pint of ale or porter brewed using the original 1860's ale and porter recipes.

Concerned about drinking and driving? Those clever pioneers built a subway station a ten minute walk away from their village!

Ale Trails

Ontario is truly an amazing province! There is remarkable diverse beauty east, west, north, south. There are charming towns and villages scattered throughout our vast province.

Interestingly each of our three wine regions also has “ale trails”

Southern-Central Ontario

Niagara Ale Trail – Niagara Region

Rural Routes & Dirty Boots – York – Durham – Headwaters

Taps, Tastes & Trails – Tri-Cities

True Brew Path – Hamilton – Halton – Brant

Northern Ontario

Apple Pie Trail – Blue Mountains

Cottage Country Beer Trail – Muskoka

Saints and Sinners: Bootleggers Run – Grey County – Simcoe County

Eastern Ontario

Artisan Food and Beverage Region – Hastings – Prince Edward County – Lennox & Addington – Frontenac

Backroom Deals and Muddy Wheels Trail – Ottawa – National Capital Region

Bay of Quinte Craft Beer & Cider Region

Brews, Bites and Barns– Peterborough – The Kawarthas

Western Ontario

Barrels Bottles & Brews – Windsor – Essex – Pelee Island

Gravel Run Craft Beverage Tour – Huron – Perth

Hop Me: A Craft Brewery Passport – Huron – Oxford – Perth – Middlesex – Elgin

Looking for more details, check out www.ontariobev.net/ale-trails-ontario/

200 Years of Ontario Wine

Important Dates in Ontario's Wine History:

1811 A retired German corporal named Johann Schiller, acknowledged as the father of Canadian wine, founded a small vineyard in what was then Cooksville, now part of Mississauga. Using cuttings from wild vines, he fermented the grapes and sold the result to neighbours.

1866 Pelee Island's winery was started by 3 farmers from Kentucky.

1867 Wine from Schiller's property (owned by Count Justin de Courtenay) was sent to the World's Fair in Paris, France where it was well received, some comparing it to Beaujolais.

1918 – 1927 During Prohibition it was illegal to produce or consume beer and spirits, but wine was exempt. As a result sales grew 10 fold during the prohibition years. Successful lobbying by the farmers!

1975 Inniskillin was granted a license by the province to create an estate winery – the first since prohibition. Moving away from the high-alcohol port and sherry style wines, this new breed of vintners turned the corner by growing vinifera vines that could hopefully compete with Europe.

1988 Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) – was established in to regulate the industry and to certify that growing and production methods were up to par with the other wine regions of the world.

1991 Inniskillin's 1989 Vidal ice wine wins the prestigious Grand Prix d'Honneur at the 1991 Vinexpo in Bordeaux, France. After more than a decade of trial and error, Ontario's ice wine industry is thrust onto the world stage with this upset over the dominant German Eiswein.

2007 Prince Edward County is certified a Designated Viticultural Area. The quest for this designation started in the 1990's. The relatively mild climate, thanks to Lake Ontario, means that thirty wineries on the island have flourished; growing a variety of grapes that include Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Franc.

There are more than 180 wineries in our three wine regions of Lake Erie North Shore, Niagara Peninsula and Prince Edward County. The economic impact (2015 figures) is \$4.2 billion, employing 18,000 people.

As far as I know the only former M.P.P. who owns a winery is Richard Johnston (1979–1990 Scarborough West). Richard owns and operates By Chadseys Cairn, in Prince Edward County.

If our readers are aware of any other former Member who owns a winery, let me know.

Interested in exploring Ontario's wine regions? www.winecountryontario.ca

Ontario's Treasures



Unabashedly, this promotes a winery owned and operated by a former MPP, Richard Johnston. Chadsey-by-Cairn winery is located in Prince Edward County. This incredibly picturesque farm and vineyards is named after Ira Chadsey, an early settler who built stone cairns at the back of the farm to guide him home in the afterlife when he returned as a white horse, the winery, By Chadsey's Cairns, has become an iconic county touchstone.



Not yesteryear! Today. At Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. What's new again, is old!

Photo: Youtube/ Townsends

“The Artists Who Created the Art at Queen’s Park”

The publication is scheduled for launch this fall

Philip Cote, a talented artist, is of the Moose Deer Point First Nation. He is soft-spoken as he explains the connection between art and the history of Indigenous people. He explains how colonization intruded on the oral tradition of passing the stories from one generation to another, how Canada embarked on a path of cultural genocide, and spiritual stories and the sense of identity were lost.

The Pan American Games were held in Toronto in 2015. Philip Cote was commissioned to paint 10 murals along the Pan Am Path, a path designed to link walking and cycling paths across the city. It was an amazing adventure for Philip. “The whole idea of this mural is a small seed that’s going to get planted and it’s going to go somewhere. It’s the creation story of the Anishinaabe people, so we’re talking about a different way of looking at the world.” The murals, which adorn the Old Mill subway bridge, attracted the attention of Jeff Purdy, a cyclist who was deeply impressed by the art. As a consequence, Jeff organized a speakers series at Centennial College as part of a course in First People’s history.



The artist.

In loving memory of Walter Pitman



Photo: OISE

(May 18, 1929 – June 14, 2018)

Served in the 28th Parliament (October 17, 1967 –
October 20, 1971)

New Democrat Member for Peterborough

Served as Deputy Leader of the Third Party and
on four Standing Committees (Human Resources,
Education and University Affairs, Private Bills,
Agriculture and Food)

“Wally, as he was known by his Legislative colleagues, was one of the class of 1967, our Centennial Year. Sadly, there are few of us left. There were a lot of new members, but a few stood out—Walter (Wally) was one of them. Thoughtful, well prepared and researched, and deprecating, he was always listened to. He was not personal in his criticisms and relatively non partisan—in a relatively partisan parliament (not as partisan surely and rancorous as it has become). Wally was very respectful of the House and all its members—a tone set largely by the then Premier, John Robarts. Wally and I were on a CBC panel together on Ontario Politics, after we were both no longer members. I remember Wally running in a little late—for makeup- he had run from home a distance of some kilometres and participated on the show in his running shoes and clothes! There was nothing pretentious or pompous about Wally. A credit to the then 1967–1971 Legislature!”

– Patrick Reed

“Walter Pitman was an enthusiastic Member of the Legislature, who loved to debate issues, especially ones related to education. His contributions were inevitably thoughtful and thought-provoking. I remember Walter as someone who could forcefully make his point without being overly partisan, which was quite an achievement in a House which had its share of partisan skirmishes. Beyond his term at Queen’s Park, Walter Pitman went on to make enormous contributions to Ontario in many different and valuable ways, richly deserving the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada. While he may have been politically misguided, he was a true champion of the New Democratic Party and an inspiring parliamentarian.”

– Bill Davis

“I had the good fortune of having my life development intersect often with Walter Pitman. My family had just moved to Peterborough a year or two before he was first elected as New Party representative for the riding. We both were at Trent in its early years. He was one of two inspirational people who launched my NDP activism. I remember being so sad when he lost the 1971 election, after campaigning hard for him in the backroads of Douro and Dummer, but was so in awe of his gracious optimism in defeat. Whether it was when he was president of Ryerson, head of the Ontario Arts Council, or working on the No Dead Ends report encouraging educational laddering between colleges and universities, we always seemed to meet somehow and reignite what for me was a very special friendship.

It was in the years following politics when he became a wine customer that we had some of our most memorable conversations, when he would share his thoughts about his latest musical biography or when he and Ida would introduce me to his children when they stopped by after a visit to the cottage in Arden.

What a remarkable, renaissance figure. Academic, politician, patron of the arts, Runner into his 80's, Biographer. Never a hint of negativity or bitterness. He filled every minute with meaning. He focused on the person in front of him with a real inquisitive interest, maybe believing that we were as interesting and dynamic as he was.

I have more of a negative bent but I won't succumb to the desire to say how greatly he will be missed. Instead I will exclaim what a great gift to us all it was to have him here for such a good, long and meaningful life.

Thank you, Walter.”

– Richard Johnston

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