

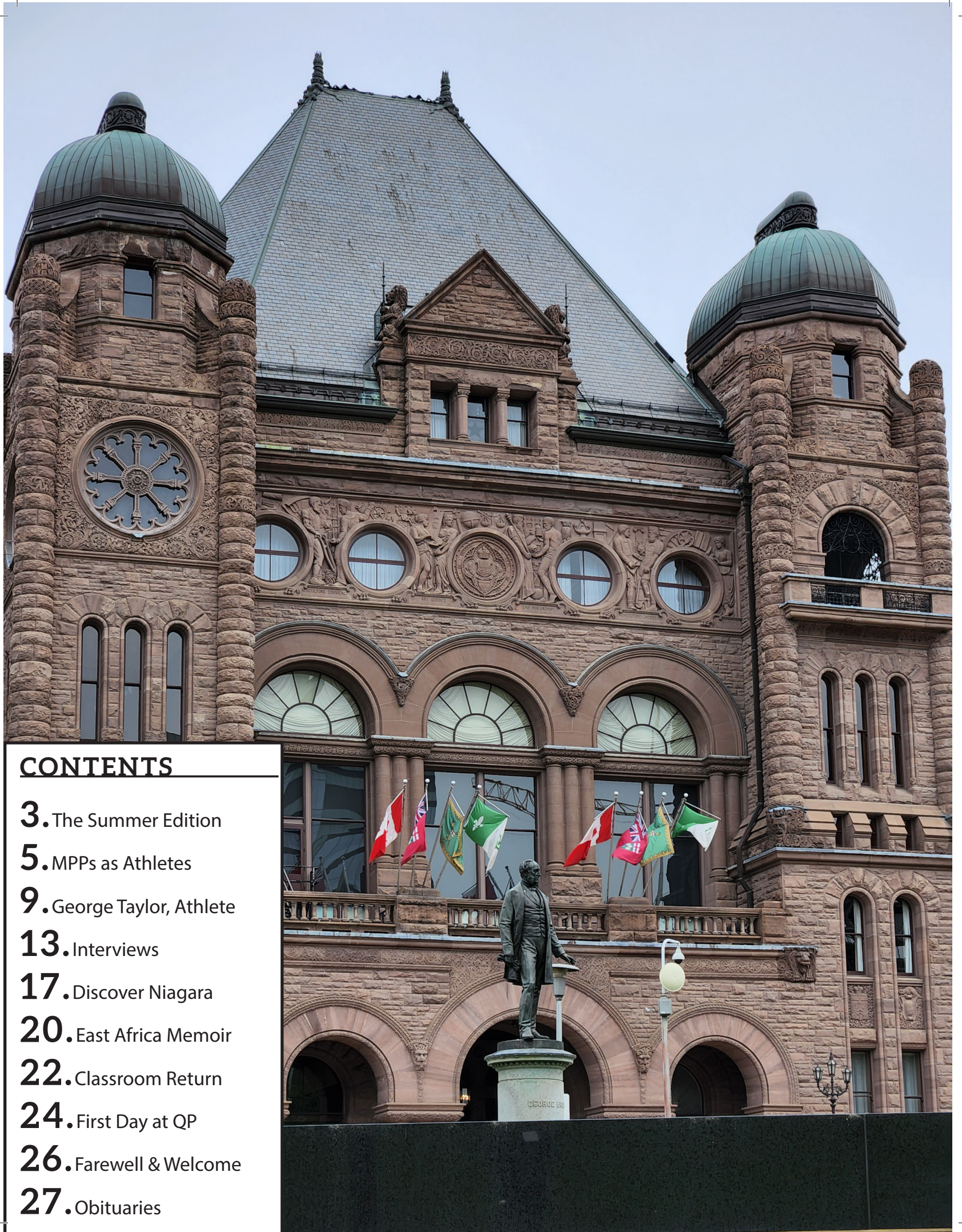


The *InFormer*



SUMMER 2022

Canada Cup
July 5th, 1992



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THE SUMMER EDITION

by David Warner

Ah, wonderful warm summer! Perhaps lazy times at a cottage, or enjoying one of Toronto's many street festivals, or camping in one or more of Ontario's lovely provincial parks. There's a seemingly endless list of delightful summertime activities available. A reality jolt is that COVID also remains available. So, a good measure of caution still a good idea.

Niagara Falls is commonly referred to as "a seventh wonder of the world". It is magnificent. I never grow tired of seeing The Falls. In this edition, Jim Bradley, although having been an MPP for four decades for St. Catharines, describes what there is to see and do in Niagara Falls should you get bored staring at the tumultuous, cascading water. And, why this border city is a great place to live.

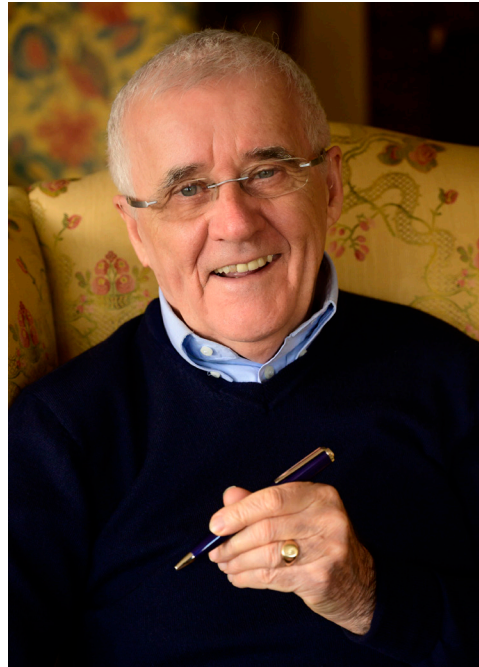
The hockey at Queen's Park story in our last edition

helped to uncover a great story about one of our colleagues who just may be the most accomplished amateur athlete ever elected in Ontario. George Taylor's story, along with some great photos, is featured.

The two talented Interns who worked on the Summer edition were David Cassels and Thomas Publow. Their excellent writing and layout work

is nicely augmented by the eagle eye proofing of Linda Jeffrey, John Parker and David Neumann.

Sadly, since our last publication, three more of our colleagues have passed away; Bob Huget, Carman McClelland and Alan Pope. The InFormer, on behalf of all former MPPs extends our condolences to their families and many friends. Bob, Carman and Alan served our province with honour and dignity.



David Warner, Editor of the InFormer



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

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MPPS AS ATHLETES

"You don't win by being good. You win with hard work and sacrifice. Without that, skill is just potential." - Bobby Orr

Many women and men who are elected to the Ontario Legislature have distinguished themselves in the arts or athletics. In this publication we focus on MPPs as athletes, putting the spotlight on

George Taylor and highlighting others. I can not claim a complete list. If you, the reader, know of names left out, let me know.

Gary Carr

**MPP 1990 – 2003, MP 2004 – 2006,
Regional Chair 2006 - present**

A professional goaltender
1973-74 Michigan State Spartans
1975 Toronto Marlboros – won Memorial Cup
1975 NHL Amateur Draft – Boston Bruins selected Gary 122nd overall
1975 WHA Amateur Draft – Cincinnati Stingers selected Gary 89th overall
1975 – 1982 played in minor pros, then retired



Gary Carr's Hockey Card

Bill Davis

MPP 1959 - 1985

Bill Davis was a member of the Varsity Blues intermediate football team from 1948-51. Among his teammates were Roy McMurtry and Tom Wells, both of whom, later served in the Davis cabinet.

Roy McMurtry

MPP 1975 - 1985

While studying, Roy was hired to teach football at Upper Canada College
Played four seasons with the Varsity Blues football team, meriting conference all-star status in 1952, and later named to the Blues' all-century team
Signed with the Montreal Alouettes in 1954 but instead of playing linebacker in the Canadian Football League, decided to become a high school coach
1956, joined the Varsity Blues staff as an assistant for two seasons
1990 - chairman and chief executive officer of the CFL (Canadian Football League)

Syl Apps
MPP 1963 - 1975

1930's student (economics) at McMaster University, also on football team

1934 – British Empire Games – gold medal in pole vault

1936 – Olympics in Berlin – 6th in pole vault

1936 – 1948 hockey player for the Toronto Maple Leafs

(averaged more than a point a game during his 10 years with Toronto Maple Leafs)

1943 – 1945 served in World War II, Canadian Army

1961 - Hockey Hall of Fame

2017 - named one of the '100 Greatest NHL Players' in history

1975 - elected to: Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

Canadian Amateur Athletics

Hall of Fame

McMaster University's

Sports Hall of Fame

1977 - Order of Canada



Syl Apps

Peter Fonseca
MPP 2003 – 2011,
MP 2015 – current

An Olympian

3Rd 1990 Los Angeles Marathon

3Rd 1992 New York City Marathon

2Nd 1994 Houston Marathon

2Nd 1994 Toronto Marathon

5Th in the 10,000 metres, 1994 Commonwealth Games

Top Canadian, 21st overall, Men's Marathon, 1996 Olympic Games, Atlanta Georgia

(2 hours, 17 minutes and 28 seconds)

Tom Wells
MPP 1963 – 1985

Tom Wells was a member of the Varsity Blues intermediate football team.



Peter Fonseca at the 1996 olympics

Alex Cullen
MPP 1997 – 1999
City Councillor 1991-1997, 2000-2010

Cyclist – Completed four Rideau Lakes Cycle Tours (Ottawa Bike Club event - 180 km Ottawa to Kingston, and return)

Cross-Country Skier – Completed the Gatineau Loppet (former Keskinada) (51 km) numerous times; completed the Canadian Ski Marathon (160 km over 2 days), achieving the bronze, silver & gold Coureur des bois

Runner – Completed numerous 10 km and half-marathons (21.1 km), and 8 marathon races (42.2 km) including Ottawa, Toronto, Chicago and New York

Triathlon – Completed numerous Sprint, Tri-A-Tri, Olympic triathlons and 4 iron distance triathlons (an iron distance triathlon (aka ironman) covers 3.8 km swimming, 180 km cycling, 42.2 km running in a day)

A three-time Rudy Award winner (2008, 2010, 2011) for completing 5 endurance events within a year – the Winterlude Triathlon, the Gatineau Loppet, the National Capital Marathon, the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour, and the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon.

* Alex, at age 71 is still cross-country skiing, biking, kayaking, canoeing and running half-marathons

Jean Marc Lalonde
MPP 1995 – 2011
Mayor of Rockland 1976-1991

Jean-Marc Lalonde has been a part of organized hockey from the minors to major Junior A 1962- Coached the famous Guy Lafleur with the Rockland PeeWee hockey team

1972-79- Board member of the CAHA (Canadian amateur hockey association)

1976- President of the Ottawa District Hockey Association 1976

- Manager/Owner of the Rockland National Jr A hockey team who won the Canadian Championship Centennial Cup

Mickey Hennessy
MPP 1977 – 1987
City Councillor 1962 – 1969, 1988 – 1991.

1930's - Quebec provincial boxing champion
1936 - Summer Olympics, Berlin - selected to represent Canada in the flyweight division.

However, he was one of two Canadian boxers at the Games who failed to make their weight and were thus unable to participate. (Mickey was one ounce overweight!)

1952 - moved to Fort William, Ontario and took over as head coach of the Fort William Canadians, a junior ice hockey team. He held this position for 12 seasons, collecting numerous regional titles, and was a scout for the Montreal Canadiens of the National Hockey League until 1978.

1977 - inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame

Anecdotes as told by a former caucus colleague

“When Mickey would fly home from Toronto to Thunder Bay he would always wait to be the last off the plane so he could collect all the discarded newspapers. He would then drop them off at the various Parishes to give the local priest the latest Toronto News.”

“Bruce McCaffrey asked Mickey if he would like to see his son play hockey. Mickey was thrilled to do so and visited the dressing room after the game to give the boys a pep talk. After he had finished his speech he reached into his pocket and pulled out 20 one dollar bills and handed one to each of the 8 year old players. The kids were thrilled.”

1992-2000- co-owner of the Hull Olympics Quebec major Jr hockey team and 1997 Memorial Cup Champions. 1998 – General Manager of the team.

Awards

2004 Grand Chancelier de la légion d’honneur de la République Française

2012 Grand Officier Ordre la Pléiade

2015 Order of Canada

There is a Jean-Marc Lalonde Arena in Rockland, Ontario

Morely Kells

MPP 1981 – 1985, 1995 – 2003

Alderman 1976-78, Controller

1978-80

***rated one of the greatest coaches
of lacrosse in Canada, at all levels***

1954 – 1961 player with the Long Branch and Alderwood Clubs in the Junior “A” league

1955 - Minto Cup champion with the Canadian Junior Lacrosse Long Branch team

A coach in the 1960s and 1970s

1966 – 1969 with Toronto Maple Leafs Lacrosse Team

1972 - started the semi-professional Ontario Lacrosse Association

1974-75 - co-founded National Lacrosse League, with six teams in Canada and the U. S.

1973 - received the Lester B. Pearson Award for contribution to sport

1974 - led Rochester to the Championship in its initial year

1976 - named to the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame



Morely Kells

Cindy Nicholas

MPP 1987 – 1990

“Queen of the Channel”

At age 16, Cindy set a world record crossing lake Ontario from Youngstown, N.Y. to the Canadian National Exhibition in 15 hours and 10 minutes. Cindy swam across the English Channel 19 times, including the first two-way, non-stop crossing by a woman. She finished in 19 hours 55 minutes, the quickest result at the time for any male or female swimmer that bested the 1975 record of American Jon Erikson by almost 10 hours.

She completed a record five two-way crossings, including two in one year.

1977 and 1979 - Canadian Press top female athlete of the year

1979 - a Member of the Order of Canada

1993 - Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame

2003 - Ontario Sports Hall of Fame

2005 - International Swimming Hall of Fame



Cindy Nicholas

GEORGE TAYLOR, ATHLETE

By David Warner

"I moved season to season playing football, hockey, baseball, some basketball."



Early Days

George Taylor's athletic life started with the Dofasco company picnics at Port Dalhousie where George never failed to come home without a prize in the races.

"In elementary school and high school and on the street we were always playing games at which I would excel and make the team. At that time you didn't play organized sports until age 12. That's when I made my first baseball team, also playing elementary school hockey and other school sports. Everybody in Hamilton played hockey at the Barton Street arena which later became known as the Forum when Ken Soble of CHML bought the Junior A team and renovated the arena.

In high school I was on a city championship track team and became a Canadian champion cross-country runner. We had four high schools in Hamilton; Westdale, Central, Delta and the all-boys Catholic school, Cathedral. Some of us who played together, or against each other

included those who later became professionals; Frank Consantino, Russell Jackson, Ron Howell, Murray Oliver. Many of our track stars went on to American universities such as Michigan State, Michigan, Nebraska, Notre Dame and North Dakota.

University Days

"We just moved basically season to season playing football, hockey, baseball, some basketball. As a student at McMaster University, I played with Russ Jackson as quarterback and we won the Ontario Intercollegiate championship that year, 1957. I was also a member of McMaster's championship track and field including Canadian Champion in cross country. I also played Intercollegiate hockey that year, as I had all the way through elementary and high school. I played recreational hockey with former NHL and Olympic players, through to law school and continued thereafter until I broke my hip playing hockey in Geneva with my son in 2010. Very embarrassing. He still plays at 54 age but I had to hang up my skates."

An athlete for all seasons

George Taylor appears to have participated in just about every sport you can name, and has done so from childhood to his elder years. George was born in Hamilton, then after getting his law degree from Osgoode Hall, Toronto, moved to Barrie, Ontario.

"In high school I tried out for many teams in many sports. Medals and awards in swimming, diving, football, track and hockey followed. Coming to Barrie I left much of my sports history behind me but continued playing hockey here. The big group I played with in Barrie, most of whom were better than I, were surprised when I told them that I was a star player with the legislative team.



McMaster Football, George Taylor in Row 3



Delta Hamilton Track and Field Champions



McMaster Hockey, George Taylor in Row 2



Trophy Cabinet



Kenilworth Kabs 1949



George Taylor and Terry Fox in 1980



George Taylor Scuba Diving



George Taylor racing in Barrie in 1980



George Taylor as an olympic participant



Reflections

My high school track buddy went off to Michigan State. I got accepted but didn't go. I was more interested in being a multi-sport athlete.

One of my most exciting vacations was with my two sons David and Darcy in 2010 when we were able to go on the Tour de France Cervelo team trip.

I had to discontinue playing hockey with Eddie Sargent, as he arranged hockey games through Harold Ballard, at Maple Leaf Gardens, on Wednesdays, after the Leafs worked out; Wednesdays being cabinet day.

I recall playing the hockey team from York University, arranged by the President of York, Ian MacDonald.

I played tennis with George Ashe (former Cabinet Minister), who was quite good.

I was always up for a charitable event. One of those charitable events however resulted in being admonished by Premier Davis at a cabinet meeting. The event was on the grounds of Queen's Park. I came straight from the event to the cabinet meeting. I quickly found out that the dress code for cabinet was not a sweat pant outfit.

I frequently played in charitable events, in Barrie and elsewhere, as a member of the Legiskaters.

I chuckle that when I played with Eddie Sargent he complemented me on my play, especially when I brought my older son Darcy out to play at MLG. The Taylor line really did shine, mostly because of my son who played up to the junior level.

An unfortunate end to a remarkable athletic life

“My sports activities have not been without their physical consequences, including a road bike accident; being cut off by a car driven by an impatient prominent Liberal causing a crash which gave me a severe concussion and broken collarbone and hip curtailing most of my athletic endeavours with a retirement home close at hand in my future.”

George Taylor, over the decades, excelled in numerous sports. He was an accomplished amateur athlete. He was also able to combine his love of sport with a law career, political career, community participation and, along with his wife, raise a family.



INTERVIEW WITH MRS. PATRICIA LUNA



Honorary Consul of Mali, in Toronto
by David Warner

"Maliens are a resilient people, living with little, yet with a steadfast resolve for a sustainable democracy."

The landlocked west African country of Mali has been represented in Canada for several decades by two talented people, devoted to assisting a constantly struggling country.

From 1988 until mid-2012, the Consul was Mr. Paul Tuz, a Canadian born in Austria, an Order of Canada recipient, as "President of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto, who has maintained effective relations between business and all levels of government. He has also contributed significantly to construction safety and served as a devoted community worker." Following the passing of Paul in 2012, his wife

Luna, a Canadian born in Mexico, began serving as Consul.

"I've been involved with the consulate since the late 80's. My spouse was the consul of Mali for over 20 years. During that time, I got to know Malians in Toronto and watched how my spouse worked very hard to promote trade between Mali and Toronto. At his passing 10 years ago, I asked the then Ambassador to allow me to continue working with Malians in Toronto and promote trade. Malians are very hard-working people and I'm very honoured to represent them in Toronto."



Bamako, Mali

The Challenges of being landlocked

“The land locked nature of Mali poses the problem of transport of goods and services from seaports to several parts of the country and ultimately end users. The cost of products is high due to the same high cost of transportation but also the lack of road infrastructure or of poor quality. Most rural and poor areas are disconnected from what we call globalization because they cannot afford consumer goods and services except in cities where a middle class exists. On the good side the resilient Malian population lives with little and what they produce is entirely organic and ecological. On the bad side, at the economic level and in the context of trade to develop the country, this isolation is problematic. Thank God the financial and economic embargo was lifted this Sunday, July 3.”

Editor's note: The Economic Community of West African States had imposed economic and financial sanctions on Mali, after its military rulers proposed a 24-month transition to democracy and published a new electoral law.

Canadian connections

“Gold mining is the main mining activity in Mali, which is the largest third producer in Africa. In addition to gold Mali’s potential also lies in several untapped natural resources such as bauxite, iron ore, base metals, and phosphate. The Mining Code put in place by the government has attracted many foreign investors and has resulted in the exploitation of new mines, especially gold mines, making the gold industry the main source of income in Mali regarding exports in terms of tax revenue. Gold production is the keystone of the Malian mining sector and represents ninety-five percent of the country’s mining production.

There is for sure a Canadian presence; Barrick Gold, B2 Gold Corp. and Endeavor Mining Corp. are Canadian mining companies operating in Mali. It is estimated that the industrial gold mining output in 2021 was seventy tons and

according to the Minister of Mines, Water and Energy, it may raise to 80 tons in the coming years.”

Consular duties

“Primarily promote trade between Mali and Toronto as well as assist any non-resident Malians living in Toronto or people from Toronto wishing to travel to Mali or make connections there. I have regular communication with the Ambassador madame Fatima Meite, as we’re working on a project that we hope will strengthen Malian women as entrepreneurs.”

Today's Mali

“The current political situation is complex. As I mentioned earlier, besides the political instability, there’s terrorism due to religiously motivated violent extremists. All this has a big impact on poor people and basic needs like access to food and water, etc. Mali is focusing now on its security and its sovereignty all over its territory since one third is occupied by terrorist groups and in setting sustainable democracy by organizing an election in 2024.”

What does the future hold for Mali?

“Mali is a country going through a democratic transition. As you know, since the independence of most African countries, they are seeking their development through good governance and poverty alleviation. The lack to find adequate answers to those issues has led to three military coups, the last one in August of 2020 coupled to terrorist attacks on the population since 2012. However, Mali is standing on its feet because Malians are resilient and have to find answers to their problems to set the road for a sustainable democracy.”

Should Mali's future be brighter, the efforts of this talented, dedicated diplomat will have played an important role, especially in empowering women to be a significant part of a modern-day Mali.

IN CONVERSATION WITH MIKE COLLE

MPP for Eglinton-Lawrence 1995-2018
by David Cassels

Mike Colle's career has seen him working in several different political arenas. He first served on the City of York Council in the 1980s before moving to Metro Toronto Council later that decade. In 1995 Colle was elected to the Ontario Legislature to represent Eglinton-Lawrence. After 23 years in Queen's Park, Colle returned to municipal politics — once again representing Eglinton-Lawrence, but now as a Toronto City Councillor.

Despite having a diverse political background, there has always been one clear throughline in Colle's career — his passion for public transit. He served as the chair of the Toronto Transit

Commission from 1991 to 1994 and in Queen's Park he advocated strongly for the building of the Eglinton LRT along with other transit related issues.

Colle recently took time out of his day to sit down for an interview with our publication, here are some excerpts from that conversation.

I was reading that you were born outside of Canada, could you tell me a little bit about that?

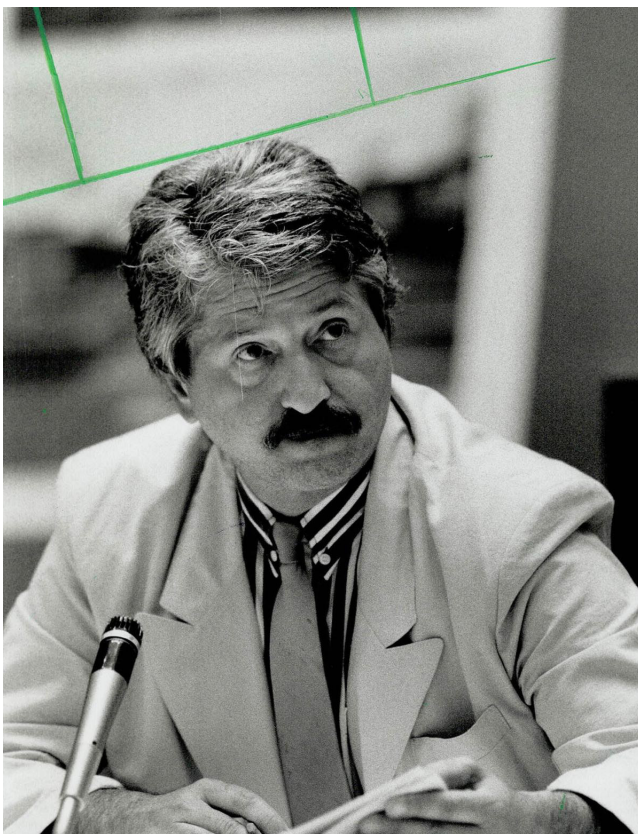
"Yes, I was born in Italy. I came to Canada with my sister and mom in 1950, when I was five years of age. We moved right into Little Italy on College Street in Toronto."

Do you have any memories from your childhood in Italy?

"I do! It's amazing. I remember riding a donkey with my grandfather. And my other grandfather was a fisherman, I remember him being out with the fish. Don't ask me to remember anything from last week, but I can remember that."

What motivated you to first get involved in politics?

"Well, I was a history teacher, I taught civics, and I was always interested in the political system. The first person I ever canvassed for was John Yaremko, in the old riding of Bellwoods. A neighbour of mine got my father, me and his son to just go door to door and put up signs for John. He told us, 'Just tell them at every door: he's not a communist, he's not a communist, he's a good man.' So those were my first talking points I ever got."



Mike Colle in 1990 (photo courtesy of Toronto Public Library)

You're a big advocate for public transport, where does that come from?

"Well, my father never owned a car, he never drove, he was even horrified at the idea of taking a taxi. And we originally lived right off College Street, right where the streetcar ran all the time. So maybe that's where it comes from."

What can be done to improve and develop Toronto's public transport?

"Right now our biggest challenge is getting people back on the trains. Because of the COVID equation we lost around half of our riders. What that does is that it creates traffic jams everywhere, traffic has been a total nightmare in the last three or four months. I've never seen it this bad."

What can be done to get these folks back on public transport?

"The main thing is keeping it affordable. It needs to be easy for people to get on and off streetcars and the subway. What we've got to do is get people to understand that, looking at the cost of gas and insurance that this is more affordable. We also need to make it fashionable, we're lucky that there are people of all walks of life using our transit system and we've got to keep it that way."

Pivoting to your political career, what are some of the differences in the skill set that is needed to succeed as a city councilor as opposed to that of an MPP.

"Well, it is the same skill set — you have to listen to people, and you've got to keep your ear to the ground, and your feet on the ground."

What about the social aspect of the job?

"It's interesting, it was much more social at Queen's Park. I think it's because we hung out in the building forever, morning till night till midnight. We had a caucus lunch once a week. At City Hall, maybe because of COVID, there isn't that same familiarity and collegiality."

Could you tell me a little bit about your campaign to make the tomato Ontario's official vegetable?

"This all started because Warren Buffet bought out the Heinz plant in Leamington, Ontario. And then what happened is that I was trying to get people to boycott Heinz. I thought that I would have a bit of fun with it and make a private member's bill to make the tomato the official vegetable of Ontario. I was basically trying to make people understand how important Ontario jobs are. We used to go into restaurants and get them to switch from Heinz to French's. I found the private member's bill to be an effective way to bring attention to an issue, even if the bill did not pass."

Do you have any advice for others considering seeking office?

"My big pieces of advice are that you've got to like people, you've got to roll up your sleeves and work hard, and you've gotta be interested in causes. I think it really helps if you connect to a certain issue because then you will succeed because you've got this passion and you're not going to get tired of it."



NIAGARA IS MORE THAN NIAGARA FALLS

By Jim Bradley

Virtually everyone is aware that of one of the wonders of the world, Niagara Falls. Trust me that although it is worth the trip to view this spectacular waterfall, there are many more attractions for the pleasure of tourists found throughout the Niagara Peninsula.

Whether it is the miles of cycling trails, renowned golf courses, historic forts, sandy beaches along Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, live theatre at the Shaw Festival and other venues, fantastic farm-to-table cuisine or world-class casinos, Niagara has much to offer visitors from nearby and afar.

Over 120 wineries dot the landscape of Niagara and offer excellent wines and wine tours for visitors. The vineyards and farms offer a variety of products and some sell fresh produce on the roadside. Craft breweries and distillers are also part of the beverage scene here.

The Niagara Parks Commission provides plenty of opportunities for all, with a number of attractions such as the new Niagara Parks Power Centre, the Hornblower Niagara Cruise up to the base of the falls, the Botanical Gardens and Butterfly Conservatory and the Niagara Parkway, a scenic gem in itself.

As one who had the privilege of representing part of the Niagara region in the Ontario Legislature, I have provided helpful hints to potential visitors about all Niagara has to offer, including the Historic Port Dalhousie Carousel

which features rides for 5 cents for riders young and old, the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame, the Welland Canal, Shorthills Provincial Park, the Fort Erie Racetrack, the Niagara Escarpment and the list goes on.

History abounds in Niagara, with Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake, old Fort Erie and the former Underground Railroad and Freedom Trail that provided slaves with a route to freedom which ended at the British Methodist Episcopal Church, Salem Chapel in St. Catharines where Harriet Tubman played a central role as conductor. Various museums and historic sites, including Brock's Monument, point to the past and our War of 1812 with the Americans when Indigenous fighters fought side by side with the British defenders to defeat the American attackers.

Events and festivals draw thousands to our part of Ontario with the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, the Niagara Folk Arts Festival, Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, Welland Rose Festival and the Niagara Jazz Festival, Royal Canadian Henley Regatta and the Niagara Ice Dogs Junior A Hockey Team, the Niagara River Lions basketball team, the Welland Jackfish baseball club and the Junior lacrosse team all providing sports entertainment.

Niagara Falls may be the magnet that attracts folks to the Niagara region, but so many other attractions will keep visitors here for days on end.

CONQUERING THE IMPOSSIBLE

By Thomas Publow

A lookback at some of the brave souls who attempted conquering Niagara Falls and lived to tell the tale

Niagara Falls is one of Ontario's most unique wonders. Each year the stunning Falls attract over 13 million tourists from around the world, all coming together to experience one of the planet's most natural and intimidating forms of beauty. To behold Niagara Falls is to see tangible proof of the sheer power of nature; it is because of this that the Falls have found themselves to

be rather attractive to some of the world's more dauntless adventurers. Over the years, numerous people have attempted to conquer the Falls, very few doing so successfully.

Here is a list of five of the strangest stories to occur at The Falls throughout history in the name of conquering the impossible:

Annie Taylor - October 24, 1901

The first known person to survive this leap of faith was Annie Taylor. On her second attempt, the revolutionary woman successfully completed the jump, sustaining only minor injuries.

Explaining her reasoning for risking her life in such a way, she stated: "For two years I have been constantly studying, when not occupied in teaching, what I could do to make money - to make it honestly and quickly. All kinds of schemes ran riot through my brain. Reading the New York paper about people going to the Pan-American exposition, and from there to Niagara Falls, the idea came to me like a flash of light. Go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. No one has ever accomplished this feat."

With a wooden barrel that had had its air pressure compressed to 30 p.s.i. with the use of a bicycle pump, her reputation as the "Heroine of Horseshoe Falls" allowed her name to be stamped into the history books.



Annie Taylor in 1901

Karel Soucek - July 3, 1984

Karel Soucek was the first Canadian to successfully accomplish the impossible. A stuntman who had already performed a successful act in surviving the Whirlpool Rapids in a barrel made entirely of steel, Soucek looked to an even greater thrill ride in the name of the Horseshoe Falls. In a lightweight, homemade barrel equipped with a two-way radio, (and a preparation price tag of \$15,000) Soucek survived his fall, accomplishing his greatest stunt yet.

In an unfortunate twist of fate, Soucek attempted to recreate this daunting act six months later inside the Houston Astrodome. Things did not go according to plan, leading to the untimely passing of the “Last of the Niagara Daredevils.”

His legacy still lives on as one of Canada’s most prolific stuntmen.



Karel Soucek in 1984

Peter DeBernardi and Jeffery James Petkovich September 28, 1989

Peter DeBernardi and Jeffery James Petkovich are two Ontario residents who made history as the first duo to jump The Falls. Petkovich was a last-minute addition to DeBernardi’s ploy to make history: DeBernardi had always planned on accomplishing this feat with a second person alongside him, but when his chosen friend decided against it, DeBernardi called upon the University of Ottawa student.

In a steel barrel that weighed in at a whopping 1,500 pounds, and read, “Don’t Put Yourself on the Edge - Drugs Kill,” the two men resting head to head descended The Falls, sustaining not a single injury.

They attempted to accomplish this feat a second time but their plans were put to rest by New York State Parks Police when an officer stopped the truck that was carrying DeBernardi’s

Kirk Jones - October 22, 2003

Kirk Jones lives in infamy as being the first person to survive a jump down The Falls sporting nothing but his clothes. Jones was spotted in the water by onlooking tourists, and to their horror, they watched as he went over The Falls without a single piece of protection alongside him. He was rescued near the shore and to the shock of all had only experienced some minor bruising.

that his friend was supposed to have recorded on a video camera that the two purchased second hand. His friend was unable to figure out the mechanics of the camera, so this historic jump went unrecorded, and lives on visually only in the minds of those terrified bystanders. Jones received a fine of \$4,500 and convictions for mischief and performing an illegal stunt.

According to Jones himself, this was not an attempt at taking his own life as many had initially assumed, rather it was an extreme stunt

In 2017, Jones attempted to descend The Falls a second time while in a large inflatable ball, misadventure that devastatingly claimed his life.

Nik Wallenda - June 16, 2012

The final entry in this list of daredevils is not someone who jumped The Falls, rather it is the self-proclaimed “King of the Wire,” Nik Wallenda, who became the first person to walk a tightrope stretched directly over Niagara Falls.

Owing partly to the notoriety attracted by the two-year legal battle involved in his efforts to obtain required approvals from authorities in both Canada and the United States, Wallenda’s stunt was the talk of international news when his

successful walk from the American side of The Falls to the Canadian side was broadcast for the world to see. While walking the rope, he spoke to his father and to ABC broadcasters stating that the walk was a mental and physical drain but that “this is what dreams are made of.”

Wallenda serves as a truly unique entry in a list of exclusively unique events that have gone down in the presence of one of nature’s most extraordinary phenomena.

EMPATHY AND STORIES

A Memoir from East Africa by David Cassels

Storytelling has always been an important part of my life — and here’s why.

When I was in second grade my parents decided to uproot their lives in Kitchener, Ontario and move across the Atlantic to Arua, a small town in northern Uganda. Growing up in Arua we rarely had electricity, had no television and very little to keep a seven-year-old boy entertained.

It was here, lying under a mosquito net, looking up at our papyrus grass ceilings, that my mum began to read to me. First we read Harry Potter together, then Narnia and Lord of the Rings and slowly I became obsessed with stories. I would play pretend in our backyard and make up my own adventures, characters and narratives. These worlds weren’t real, but living in them did have a very real impact on the person I would become.

My childhood was not only about fictional stories however. One of the hardest parts of being a child in East Africa was my proximity to danger. Arua was just a couple kilometers away from where Joseph Kony and the Lord’s Resistance Army had been camped in the early 2000s. My



In Arua, Uganda in 2008

family had contingency plans for what we would do if attacked. I was obsessed with the stories of the LRA — but not in a good way, I was terrified by them and I felt alone.

My parents had been homeschooling me through elementary school, but 6th grade math proved to be their breaking point and they opted to send me to a boarding school in Kijabe, Kenya the next year.

Boarding school was full of people from all over the world, kids who I would have never met otherwise. Once again, I was enamoured by the stories my new friends told me.



*Leaving East Africa, saying goodbye to some of my friends,
Kampala, Uganda, 2018*

In 11th grade, my friend was home with his family in the Central African Republic (CAR) for Easter break. He texted me at midnight on Good Friday, “Don’t tell anyone this,” he said “my town is currently under attack by Séléka. Pray for us.”

The next day, after the town had been raided by the militia group, my friend and his family were able to evacuate safely. When I saw him back at school he told me his story, but instead of telling me about what it was like to be shot at, or how his family escaped, he told me about how much he worried for his friends who couldn’t get out and how lucky he felt.

I realized that storytelling could create a more compassionate world. This story from CAR resonated with me, partly because my biggest fear as a child had happened to my close friend, but mostly because I felt compassion for his friends too. It was the way he told his story, and who he chose to focus on that helped me understand others.

There is an African proverb: “If you want to go fast go alone, but if you want to go far go together.” This quote has been used and reused ad nauseam, but I still believe it holds a tangible truth. I have no interest in going anywhere fast, my only concern is learning how to deeply understand

MY RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

By Larry O'Conner

As an Indigenous person, I have actively worked to reclaim my Indigenous rights and culture. My Father was only 8 years old when his mother died of Tuberculosis. His grandmother was a Residential School survivor. Re-Indigenizing has been a real journey, as I struggled to find and claim my Indigenous family history.

A journey that I have shared on my monthly, Indigenous radio program called: "Tales from the Big Canoe" on CKCH 100.9 Canoe FM for the last six years. I have always felt that with my Indigenous Rights came Responsibilities. I have interviewed dozens and dozens of Indigenous leaders, craftspeople, artists, authors, musicians and more.



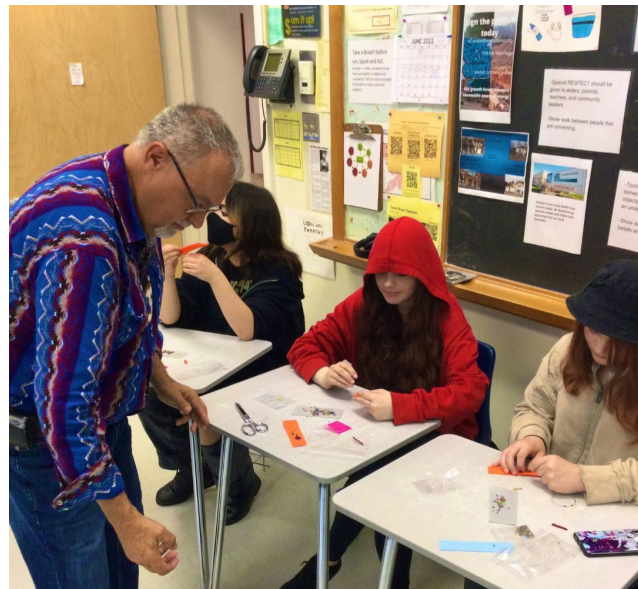
"Tales from the Big Canoe" is the name of my monthly Indigenous radio program.

As a former parliamentarian, it was always a pleasure to be invited into the classroom of a local school to chat. Now as an Odawa Anishinaabe band member of the Sheshegwaning First Nation, it is even more heartwarming when the purpose of the visit is to help share teachings

of my Indigenous culture.

On two separate occasions, I visited schools in Haliburton County where I took part in the Blanket Exercise. In both cases there were two classrooms of students; one being grade eight students at Archie Stouffer Public School and the other grade 11 students at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. It was so nice to see the different reactions both during the exercise and in the follow up conversations.

The KIAROS Blanket Exercise is an interactive way of learning the history of colonization that Canadians, and everyone living in Canada need to know. It is developed to educate by raising the awareness and understanding of Indigenous Peoples of Canada. The workshop is affirming and uplifting. Like most Indigenous teachings we hope to leave the participants in a



good way.

The students start by sitting in a circle. Like the Medicine Wheel, the circle itself is considered sacred. First Nations peoples see the circle as a dominant symbol in nature and it has come to represent wholeness, completion, and the cycles of life.

The Blanket Exercise is experienced in two Parts:

Part I: "Telling the Story"

By role playing, a person plays the part of a Narrator or European as they read from a script. The student participants play the part of an Indigenous person during the exercise. Several students will tell a portion of the story through announcements that are read from scrolls.

The exercise uses blankets to represent Turtle Island, including of what we now called Canada. As participants move around the blankets, the students are asked to imagine themselves as **Indigenous peoples**. The Narrator takes us back in time to when the Original Peoples lived in hundreds of nations before the Europeans arrived. The Indigenous people fished, trapped, hunted, and farmed. Each community had its own language, culture, traditions, laws, and governments. Communities worked together, cooperated, and traded with one another. Before

the newcomers arrived the original peoples, ended disputes by making treaties.

The students learn that the lands and waters are very important to them and their family. All their needs – food, clothing, shelter, culture, and spirituality – are taken care of by the lands and waters, which is represented by the blankets. In return, they learn to take very seriously their responsibility to take care of the land.

The arrival of the Europeans extends the history of treaty-making and acknowledges the problem of treaty-keeping. The colonization of First Peoples meant that European forms of governance, faith and societal views were imposed on them. The story includes the history of the settlers, the church and governments which started the suppression of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples. This sad legacy of Canadian history includes the resettlement of Indigenous peoples, the introduction of diseases which killed them, government policies including the Residential Schools, and so much more.

That part took around an hour to complete and the students lived the history of the colonization, of what was to become Canada over a period of 450 years.

Part II: The "Talking Circle"

Allows students participating to share their feelings after the exercise and ask questions in a respectful way. This process took about 45 minutes. The "Talking Circle" used a talking stick passed around the circle to ensure everyone had a chance to share their observations and feelings. The students, regardless of their age, were quite willing to share their thoughts. The "Talking Circle" is to ensure that by the end of the Blanket exercise, the workshop is affirming and uplifting. We wanted to ensure that all students leave in a good way.

All are welcome and encouraged to participate in The Kairos Blanket Exercise to take part in the action steps toward Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. If you hear of an opportunity in your community, please consider participating.



The classroom visit was an "Indigenous Studies" Class at the Haliburton Highlands High School, where I was teaching beading.

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK AS AN MPP?

“In 2003, I was a very excited rookie eager to attend Orientation Day for New MPP’s, put on by the Clerk’s Office. I left my home in Stratford for Toronto with what I thought was more than enough time. Of course, I quickly learned how bad morning rush hour could be in the provincial capitol.

Arriving harried and late at the west entrance I rushed up to the security guard eager to get my pass. Before I could even say anything, he looked me in the eye, paused and then said; “Good morning, Mr. Wilkinson”. I was absolutely stunned that he knew who I was. I had not even been sworn in yet. I subsequently learned of that fine tradition that if a member of the Legislative Protective Service did not recognize an MPP, said security guard owed said MPP a beer!” - John Wilkinson

“I went into the Legislative Chamber for the first



John Wilkinson

time as an MPP to attend the swearing in of the new Cabinet in 2003. I remember what a class act former PC Cabinet Minister Jim Flaherty was in warmly congratulating me on my election. I received a congratulatory hug from then-Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion. As I sat down to watch the ceremony, it was then I realized

that something life-changing had happened to me by being elected as an MPP. A few years later, I made sure to be among the very first government MPPs to welcome the newly-elected Christine Elliott, Jim Flaherty’s wife, on her own first day in the Legislative Chamber.” - Bob Delaney



Bob Delaney

“My first full day in the Legislature, after orientation, was also momentous as I introduced the Victim's Compensation Act. Charles Harnick, the AG at the time, then reintroduced a similar version on behalf of the Government. They were heady times.” - Annamarie Castrilli



Annamarie Castrilli



Steve Mahoney

“I remember going into the Premier's office for the photograph. There was Bill Ballinger, the new MPP for a riding east of Toronto. He had some little kids for the pictures, even though we had been told not to bring anyone else. Typically he and I became great friends even though he did things his own way. Beautifully we are still buddies today. I got my picture taken. Alone with the Boss. Ce ca!” - Steve Mahoney



David Cooke

“The first morning I arrived at Queen's Park, in May 1985. I was ushered into an orientation session prepared for new members. I particularly remember a talk given by Phil Gillies, who had been reelected as the member for Brantford. Phil's message was to the effect that a number of perks would be available to us if we wished them, but that we should be careful as to which ones we accepted. As an example, he indicated that we would be offered vanity license plates that would indicate that we were MPPs. He suggested that we not accept them, and pointed out any even slightly unacceptable driving, such as the unintended splashing of pedestrians during a rainstorm, might well be the beginning of negative rumours about yourself. This could be particularly true for smaller communities such as Brantford or Kitchener. I took his advice to heart and avoided accepting perks.” - David Cooke (Kitchener)



John O'Toole

“I recall how nervous I was when I made my Maiden speech in the beautiful, historic Legislative precinct. Every MPP has important feelings of both pride & humility. The right and privilege to speak on behalf of their constituents and the people of Ontario is a privilege. I made many friends on all sides of the house and have many wonderful memories.” - John O'Toole



Gillian Sandeman

“I approached the front door of the Pink Palace feeling nervous, ignorant, unprepared and unqualified for the enormous responsibilities of my new job. A young woman on crutches with a whole leg cast hobbled over, addressed me by name and confidently announced that I should hire her. She had worked in my defeated predecessor's office, knew the ropes at Queen's Park and was familiar with the Riding. The NDP caucus was cautious about hiring someone from another party but we interviewed her, were impressed and hired her. I was an MPP for a very few years. She stayed for many years, became a mainstay of the caucus staff, later working for the Leader. 47 years later we are still friends.... Thank you, Elizabeth!” - Gillian Sandeman



George Taylor

“My first day going to my office was all the indoor/outdoor carpeting.” - George Taylor

FAREWELLS

Are Never Easy

Two very talented young people, who have been creating The InFormer publications for the past two years, are now moving along to the “work world”. Not that Cassandra Earle and David

Cassels have not been working. These two Interns have exemplified an amazing work ethic and a gratifying dedication. Now, however, they will have work which pays!

"Working on the InFormer helped me hone in on skills that I developed in school and put them into practice, all with the patient guidance of David Warner and peer support from David Cassels. I learned so much about journalism, writing and politics during my time working on the InFormer, but I learned even more about myself. It is a time of my life that I will always look back on fondly."
- Cassandra Earle



“I have greatly enjoyed my time at the InFormer. The last two years have been anything but easy, the pandemic and the isolation that came along with it has certainly been a challenge. Despite this, it was always a joy to get to interview and work alongside OAFP’s membership. It softened those feelings of isolation and I am incredibly grateful to all members of the association for letting me tell your stories these last two years. All the best!” - David Cassels



WELCOMING

Is Nicer

The Journalism degree program at Toronto Metropolitan University (previously known as Ryerson University) has sent us, without fail, amazing students.

The latest one, who has just joined The InFormer is Thomas Pudlow. Thomas, who is from Kanata, Ontario, is entering his fourth year in Journalism. He is part of the collaborative team.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity granted to me by David Warner. The InFormer is a publication for which I get to truly and tangibly flex the journalistic skills I have been honing in my three years of studies. Not only is it great in that sense, but in this first issue alone I have learned so much about Ontario’s political world and I am incredibly eager to keep that learning going in the coming issues. I am looking forward to great peaks in the coming months!" - Thomas Pudlow



IN LOVING MEMORY OF CARMAN MCLELLAND

(September 22, 1951 - June 1, 2022)

Liberal MPP for Brampton

North, Served in the 34th and 35th Parliaments (September 10, 1987 – June 7, 1995)

Carman McClelland was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Chair, Standing Committee on Administration of Justice, Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on General Government, and served on three other Standing Committees; Legislative Assembly, General Government, Social Development.



Carman McClelland

BACKGROUND

- Born in Angola, Africa and moved to Canada at a young age
- Bachelor of Arts from York University
- Law degree from the University of Windsor
- Board member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities

TRIBUTES BY COLLEAGUES

“Carman was a very talented member. He always speaking strongly at caucus, fighting for his views and his constituents. Carman was also a good friend. He was very supportive whenever a colleague fought for something in the Legislature or in Caucus. He was well liked by folks on all sides of the House and was respected for his views and his dedication to his constituents.”

- Steve Mahoney

“It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Carman McClelland. I first met Carm when he was elected as the MPP for the riding of Brampton North while I represented the riding of Mississauga North. During that time, I was always impressed with his commitment and his even-handedness in addressing the myriad of issues that arise. Of greater importance was his undeniable commitment to the people he had the honour of serving. He cared deeply for his constituents and there was no limit to the effort he would expend in providing assistance whenever and wherever possible. Carm will be deeply missed. I extend my deepest condolences to his family. May his memory always be a blessing.”

- Steven Offer

“Whenever I met Carman I was greeted with a warm smile and a gracious greeting. Carman was a bundle of energy and always on a mission. He was a parliamentarian, always able to chat with members from both sides of the aisle. It was evident, from the conversations I had with him, that Carman cared deeply about children, particularly those he was trying to assist through a Christian charity.”

- David Warner

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROBERT HUGET

(May 28, 1947 - June 1, 2022)
New Democrat MPP, Sarnia
Served in the 35th Parliament
(September 6, 1990 – June 7, 1995)

Bob Huget was Minister without Portfolio, responsible for Economic Development, after serving appointments as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and to the Minister of Environment and Energy. He was also Chair of the Standing Committee on Resources Development, and served on the Standing Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman.

BACKGROUND

- Born in Regina, Saskatchewan
- Worked in several jobs before finding his occupational home in the oil and gas sector
- Moved to Sarnia to work for the Shell Oil company
- Activist in the Energy and Chemical Workers Union (ECWU) and later in the Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union (CEP)
- After leaving Queen's Park in 1995, Bob worked as a regional political leader in the CEP

TRIBUTES BY COLLEAGUES

"I knew and quite liked Bob Huget during our time together in the legislature in the 1990s. What I most admired about Bob was his deep commitment to organized labour. Listening to Bob, one got a strong and principled articulation of the labour point of view on the major issues of the day. It was clear to me that he spoke with real knowledge and deep commitment about such issues as safety in the workplace and labour's important and positive role in a modern society.

I liked his manner of speaking as I always found him to be clear, direct, and not afraid to take on "the establishment" when he found it to be insensitive to the interests of the working class. Apart from politics, Bob was good company and he always had something interesting to say about the news of the day. I was very sorry to hear of his passing."

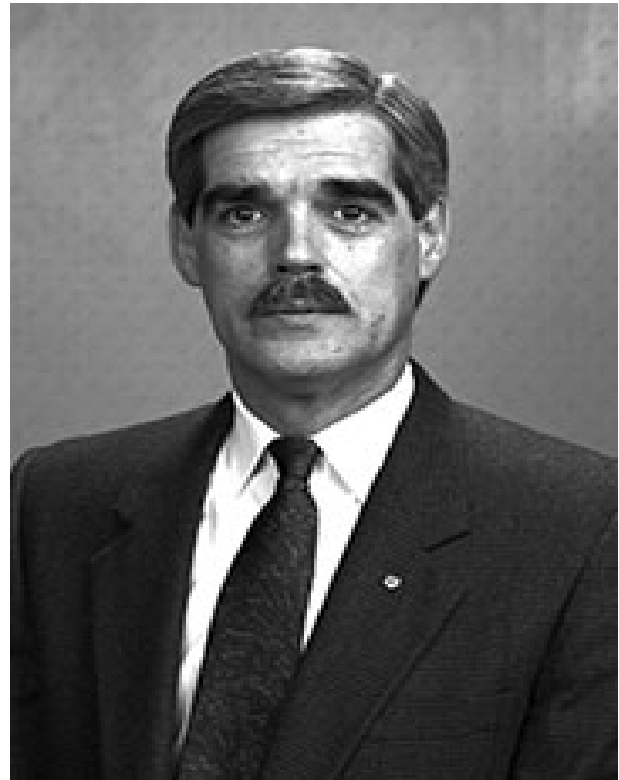
- Sean Conway

"What a sad commentary on our lives that I find myself writing another "few words" about one of my colleagues from our time in the Legislature.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, but nothing to compare with the present; losing another NDP friend who worked with us to represent our constituents, to produce good legislation, to make a difference in our Provincial legacy.

Bob Huget was one of those wonderful friends. He was a tireless advocate for the rights of working men and women, and I am privileged to have worked with him, if only for a short time, in his life as an MPP. He was a gentleman, a man of conscience with a sense of humour that made working with him a pleasure. Rest in Peace, Bob."

- Karen Haslam



Bob Huget

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALAN POPE

(August 2, 1945 – July 8, 2022)

Progressive Conservative Member for Cochrane South

Served in the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th Parliaments

(June 9, 1977 – September 5, 1990)

Alan Pope was Attorney General, Minister of Health, Minister of Natural Resources, and Minister without Portfolio. He was also Parliamentary Assistant to two Ministers: Culture and Recreation, and Consumer and Commercial Relations. He served on two Select Committees: Inco/Falconbridge Layoffs and Health, as well as seven Standing Committees: Statutory Instruments, Government Agencies, Finance, Public Accounts, Social Development, Justice, and Resources Development.

BACKGROUND

- Born in Scotland. Family emigrated to Timmins
- Bachelor's degree: Waterloo Lutheran University
- Law degree: Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto
- A lawyer before entering politics
- Alderman, Timmins City Council, 1973 - 1974



Alan Pope

TRIBUTES BY COLLEAGUES

“It was a sad moment when I learned of the passing of Alan Pope. Alan Pope was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1987, a short 18 months after my first election. It was easy to notice Alan, always looking friendly and walking with a purpose. I enjoyed his company and we developed a friendly relationship.

Alan quickly gained a reputation as a thorough, knowledgeable, and hardworking MPP. I liked how he always kept his constituents and his community of Cochrane South top of mind. I was not surprised to read that the flags at Timmins City Hall would be flown at half-mast for several days to honour him on his passing; a well deserved thank you.

It was during Alan's tenure as Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources (1981- 1985), a mammoth portfolio, where he got his chance to really shine. During this period, I approached him many times with issues affecting my constituency (Essex South). On each and every occasion I was given a fair opportunity to state my case and always received a timely reply. The fact that I was a Liberal was not important to him: The facts surrounding the issues were what mattered to Alan Pope.

When Alan contested the Ontario Conservative leadership in 1985, he ran a forceful campaign. There are several interesting things I remember about his effort: He gave his convention speech from the convention floor rather than the stage. His slogan “Don’t take sides, take Pope” was not only catchy but had deep meaning.

Alan’s contribution to Ontario’s political and civic life was substantial, and will long be remembered. A former member of Timmins City council recently stated, “Alan Pope was a special man, and we’re going to miss him.”

I could not have said it better. We are going to miss you, Alan. Rest in Peace.”

- Remo Mancini

“Alan gave every ounce of his energy to promote Northern Ontario. He loved every aspect of the North, even the challenging winters. He was always happy in a snowstorm in Toronto and called me a ‘city slicker’ when I complained about the cold and ice.

In the November 1985 leadership race first ballot, Larry Grossman had a big lead over Dennis Timbrell, for whom I was working. Before the second ballot, I urged Alan to announce that he was going with Dennis since I expected that all of Alan’s 270 votes would follow him. He responded to me, ‘Alan, nearly all my supporters are from Northern Ontario. People where I live make their own decisions.’

Most of Alan’s votes came to Dennis and Dennis lost to Grossman on the second ballot by 19 votes.

Alan Pope was a decent man through and through. It is hard to believe he is gone.”

- Alan Eagleson

“I remember Alan Pope from when I was Mayor of Kingston in the mid 1980s. We were very concerned in our area about the decrease in salmon at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. He joined me and others on our side of the lake in our efforts to convince our American neighbours that the raw sewage polluting the water was emanating from the sewage treatment plant in Oswego, New York, and that it contributed to the depletion of the salmon population. He came, he saw, and he acted! I will always remember his action and his gracious attitude.”

- John Gerretsen QC

“Alan and I often talked about his Ottawa Valley experience as a teenager working on a farm near Pembroke. He would smile broadly as he recounted his many happy times working on that farm in Westmeath township and learning the ways - and the distinctive brogue - of those Ottawa Valley farmers. We talked often about the similarities of the Ottawa Valley to Northern Ontario, to which so many Valley folk migrated in the early decades of the 20th Century to work in the mines, forests, and railroad-construction projects of that era.

I remember well Alan’s four years as Minister of Natural Resources in the early 1980s. Alan was determined to put his ‘ministerial stamp’ on that important department of government and he certainly did; sometimes to the evident annoyance of the bureaucracy! He was a tenacious fighter for his point of view and he was not at all afraid to take on his colleagues at Queen’s Park - including the premier’s office - if he felt they were not listening to the “Northern voice in Ontario” as policy was being made.

I was disappointed when Alan left the legislature in 1990, having failed to win the leadership of his party. He was 32 years of age when he was first elected in 1977 and 45 years old in 1990 when he left. His energy and his feistiness were certainly missed. To Linda and David, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and I want them to know that I remember Alan with much fondness and good feeling.”

- Sean Conway

“Sad news that will be received sorrowfully by many OAFP members. Alan Pope, former MPP for Cochrane South, has passed away. Alan was a prominent member of both the Bill Davis and Frank Miller caucuses, and held senior cabinet posts in the governments of both Premiers.

Alan had an early interest in politics and government. He was elected to Timmins City Council in 1973 and served one term there before deciding to run as the PC Candidate in Cochrane South in the 1975 Ontario election. He lost that one to the NDP’s Bill Ferrier. He ran again in the ’77 election, and was elected to the Legislature by a margin of just over 2,200 votes.

Premier Davis appointed Alan Minister

and then Minister of Natural Resources after his re-election in 1981. He remained in that portfolio for the remainder of the Davis years. He was appointed Minister of Health in 1985 after supporting Frank Miller's successful bid for the PC leadership.

The fall of the Miller government following the 1985 election led to Miller's resignation and another leadership race. Alan was a candidate in that contest and ran a strong, spirited, but ultimately unsuccessful campaign. He gave a memorable speech on the convention floor, openly criticizing the contention between the eventual winner Larry Grossman and Dennis Timbrell. Alan's slogan became "Don't Take Sides, Take Pope". Following the leadership campaign and now sitting in Opposition, Alan revived his law practice in Timmins and split his time between that and his duties at Queen's Park.

Alan was returned once again for another term as MPP in the 1987 general election. He retired from provincial politics when the 1990 election was called. Speaking personally, I can attest to the skill and energy that Alan brought to Queen's Park. We served together in government and opposition. Highly intelligent and a powerful speaker, his training as a lawyer served him well: Alan was one of the best debaters in the Legislature.

We worked on a few projects together, and that experience made me acutely aware of his substantial strengths. Suffice it to say, I came to have the utmost respect for Alan Pope."

- Phil Gillies

"Alan Pope's riding of Cochrane North stretched across the enormous distance from his hometown of Timmins to the James Bay coast. Both of us being Northern MPPs, we got to know each other rather well, even though we were members of different political parties and often held very different opinions on matters of policy. Just the same, although Alan may not have been the most 'scarlet' of Red Tories, I saw him as a Progressive Conservative.

I don't have to search for words to describe Alan. 'Supreme self-confidence' and 'good sense of humour' come immediately to mind. Alan enjoyed a good joke, even if it might have been at his own expense. He represented his vast constituency well. He fully understood the challenges faced by the North

and the needs and aspirations of both the Indigenous peoples and non-native Northerners and their communities.

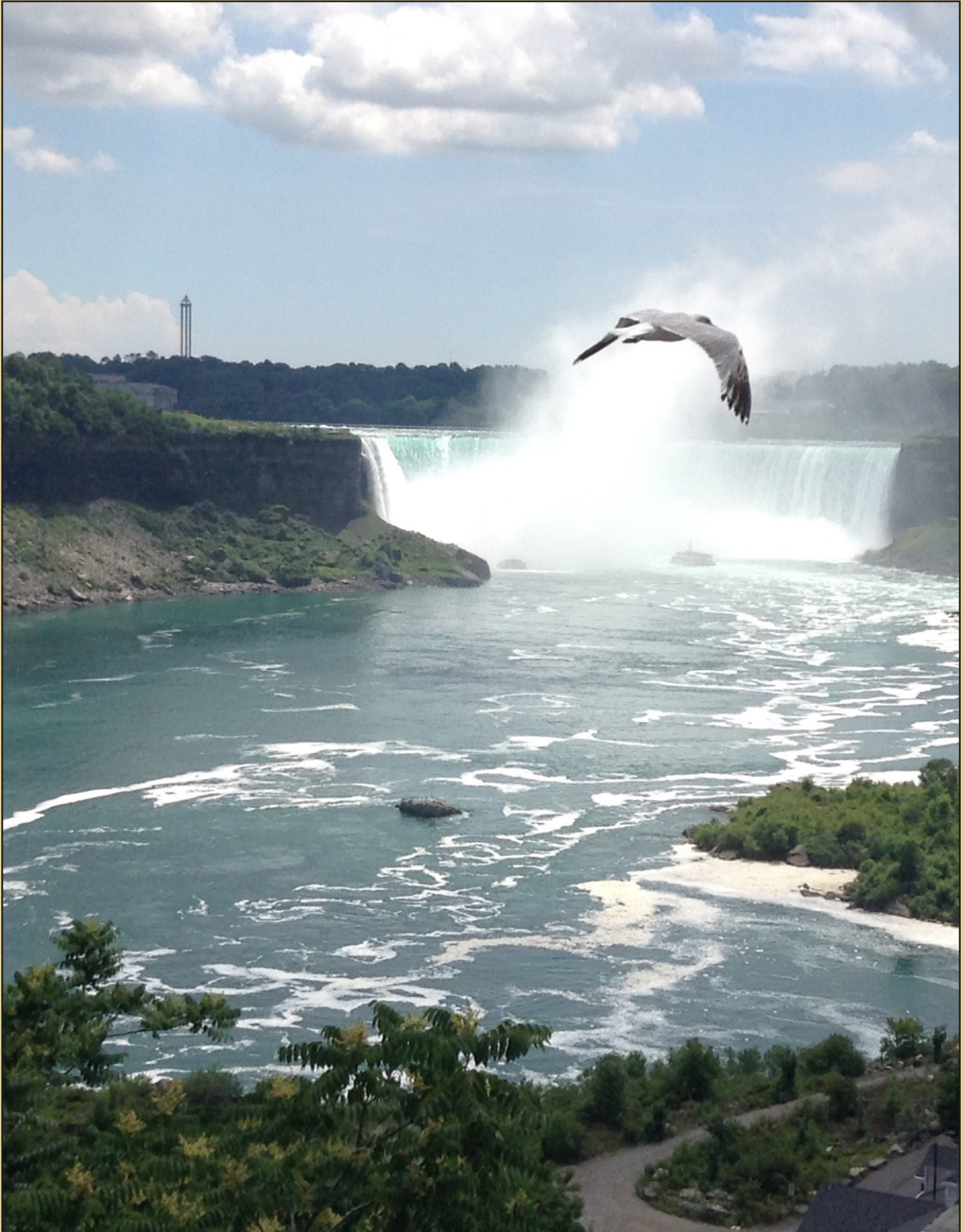
While Alan and I were political opponents and found ourselves on opposing sides on many strictly political issues, he invariably found a way to disagree without being disagreeable.

I also respected Alan's considerable abilities, which were well demonstrated early on after he was appointed Minister of Natural Resources. For example, he was the only member of the Cabinet who appeared before the Legislature's Estimates Committee alone without briefing notes. He answered all questions put to him and defended his Ministry's expenditures without reference to Ministry staff or deferring to his Deputy Minister for assistance. He knew his Ministry and its programs well and was very seldom stumped by opposing arguments.

Alan continued to advocate for Indigenous peoples and Northern communities after leaving provincial electoral politics in 1990. I valued his knowledge and insight and benefitted from his advice myself on a number of issues. I am saddened by his passing. I extend sincere condolences to his family and many friends."

- Bud Wildman

***We wish
our deepest
respects to
the friends
and families
of those who
have passed.***



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS
ASSOCIATION ONTARIENNE DES EX-PARLEMENTAIRES