



The *InFormer*



**SUMMER 2020**





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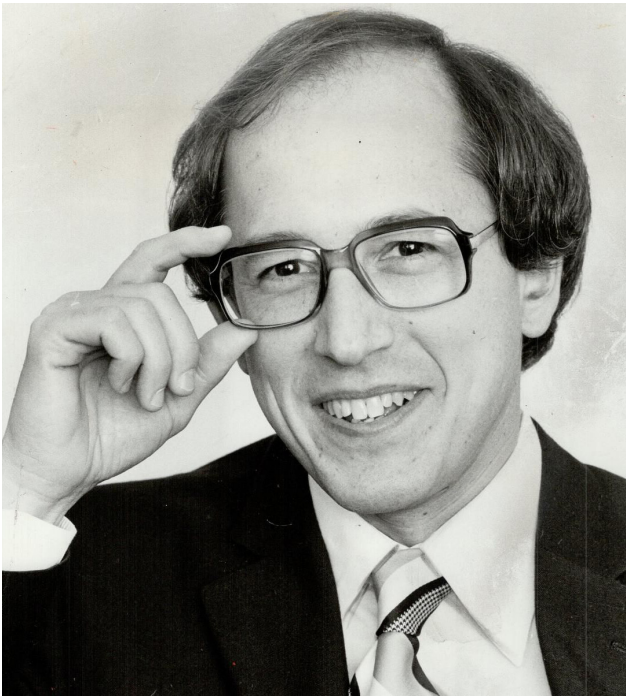
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# In Loving Memory of Dr. Stuart Smith



(May 7, 1938 – June 10, 2020)

Served in the 31st, 32nd and 33rd  
Parliaments (September 18, 1975 – January  
24, 1982)

Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament  
for Hamilton-West

**Dr. Stuart Smith served as Leader of the  
Ontario Liberal Party from January 25,  
1976 to January 24, 1982.**

## **Student Days at McGill University**

President, McGill Student Society  
Winner of Reefer Cup (Debating)

1957: Organized a student strike against the Maurice Duplessis government

1962: One of 5 university students chosen from across Canada to participate in  
the first exchange with students from the Soviet Union

Co-hosted CBC program “Youth Special” produced in Montreal in the early  
1960s.

## **Science, Technology, Medicine and Education**

Chair, Board of Governors, University of Guelph-Humber

1982-87: Chair, Science Council of Canada

1991: Chair, Smith Commission - state of post-secondary education in Canada

1995-2002: Chair of the National Roundtable on the Environment and the  
Economy

Founded Rockcliffe Research and Technology Inc.

Director of Esna Technologies

Director and long-time Chair of the Board of Ensyn Technologies

As a physician at McMaster University he presented “This is Psychiatry” on  
CHCH-TV

*Continued ...*



## **Lively Interests**

2005: Co-founded Muddy York Debating Club (Toronto)

2012: Commissioner, Inter-county Baseball League

An avid baseball fan. Montreal Royals as a youth, later a Blue Jays fan.

Interviewed Jackie Robinson on television

### **Former Leaders Remember Stuart Smith**

“Stuart Smith was a brilliant, complicated soul. His passion for social justice and national unity, and his inspired oratory allowed him to leap quickly to a major leadership position in Ontario politics, and he was the only Ontario politician I knew who could go toe to toe with Steven Lewis in the Legislature. His lasting contribution was to drag the Ontario Liberal Party into the modern world and lay the foundation for its recent decades of success. The tragedy is that he never achieved the success he deserved or craved. We, and particularly me, owe him a lot. May he Rest In Peace!”

– Premier David Peterson

“Dr. Stuart Smith had a genuine passion for national unity. He was a man of integrity, whose debating skills provided some lively exchanges in the House. Being on the opposite side of an issue never affected his respect for the House or other Members. Stuart Smith, with his intelligent, engaging approach, provided significant leadership for the Ontario Liberal Party.”

– Premier William Davis

“In the midst of almost any tumultuous Legislative exchange, I would glance over at Stuart Smith and he’d be sliding lower and lower in his seat as though to sink entirely from public view. A fine speaker, an intimidating intelligence, with inordinate command of material and a sly humour, he just couldn’t stand the hurly-burly, the cut and thrust of noisy, abrasive debate. He was an elegant psychiatrist in the midst of the unruly mob. I suspect that as he looked around the Chamber, he saw an endless array of therapeutic possibilities. He was a respectful, decent practitioner of politics, but ultimately it wasn’t his world. We never met in the aftermath, but I always hoped that his post-political career gave him greater satisfaction. He should be remembered as bringing a touch of patrician nobility to the political arts.”

– Stephen Lewis

### **Tribute by Steve Paikin, Host of “The Agenda” on TVO**

“Stuart Smith was surely one of the first politicians I ever met, given that I grew



up in Hamilton and he represented Hamilton West in the Ontario Legislature. While Mayor Victor Copps (Sheila's dad) was surely the biggest political star in Hamilton, Stuart Smith wasn't far behind, given that he was a major party leader, leader of the official opposition, and had considerable profile.

In the mid-1970s, my parents purchased in a charity auction the opportunity for my brother Jeff and me to have lunch with Dr. Smith at the Queen's Park dining room. I still have such vivid memories of that experience. First and foremost, you can imagine that a political party leader has 1,000 things more pressing to do than have lunch with a couple of teenagers. But Dr. Smith treated us both so generously. He engaged with us. I remember him asking: "Do you have any idea of some of the policy ideas I stand for?" Fortunately, I'd done a bit of homework and for the next several minutes, we talked about his hopes of eliminating OHIP premiums, which he considered a regressive tax. (I note with interest that when the Liberals eventually did form government in 1985, one of the first things Treasurer Robert Nixon did was get rid of OHIP premiums). Many have pointed out that Dr. Smith had a big brain. He was a giant intellect. But he was in a business that didn't always give you marks for that. And you could tell that was an issue for him. He wasn't a back-slapping kind of politician. He didn't love question period or the rubber chicken circuit. But he had great integrity, was in politics for the right reasons, and ultimately left his mark."

### **Members on Both Sides of the House Pay Tribute**

"It was 1978 or 1979. I'm not sure which. I'm sitting beside Stuart Smith at the opening ceremonies of the Multicultural Folklore Festival in Thunder Bay. He's the keynote speaker. The rest of the dozen dignitaries are supposed to keep their remarks to two or three minutes. Unfortunately, many, like our erratic mayor at the time, seem to think they are there to deliver the keynote address. The opening ceremonies seem interminable. Stuart leans over and whispers, "Jim, when is this going to end?" I reply with one of Bill Davis's famous lines, "In the fullness of time." He gets it and smiles. We sit back, resigned to our fate. Although I sat on the NDP benches, I admired both Stuart Smith's keen intelligence, and the way, as Leader of the Opposition, he developed an incisive, effective questioning of the premier and the cabinet. Most of all, it was obvious to anyone who watched him, that he entered politics for the best of all reasons. He wanted to make the province and therefore, the world, a better place. I wish I had got to know him better."

—Jim Foulds, New Democrat, Port Arthur 1971-1987

*Photo from The Toronto Star.*

# Positivity in a Pandemic

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## Isolation in an Earlier Time

By David Warner

“I attended elementary school in the late 1940s and early 1950s, then high school mid to late 1950’s. I must admit that at the time I did not fully understand the significance of the occasional bright yellow sign on a house door, with the word diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough or poliomyelitis boldly printed on it. At age 9 or 10, I did understand the word “quarantine.” Reasonably, I should have learned what quarantine meant much earlier. As a preschool child with chicken pox I slipped out of the house while my mother was hanging up the wash in the backyard. I nimbly mounted my three-wheel bike and headed off for parts unknown, only to be brought back home by some officially officious person from the Public Health Department. My mother was mortified.

Those were scary times for parents. Children died, others were scarred for life. Fast forward to March of this year. A type of quarantine for an entire country. Self-isolation for those returning from an out of country journey, or if one has been in contact with someone who has the silent killer, COVID-19. Many public places no longer accessible to the public. Work places simply shut down. Too frightening to get on a bus or ride the subway.

A time like no other for not just Canada, but almost the entire planet. Death for many, a lasting physical damage for others. Yet through this anxiety inducing time there have been remarkable acts of kindness and courage. Positivity has prevailed. An attitude of we are in this together and we will overcome the pandemic together. Many of our members have kindly and generously shared their stories which reflect ‘making the best of a bad situation’.”

***“Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.”***

– Jonas Salk (discoverer of the first polio vaccine)



## **Positivity in a Pandemic: Our Members Share Their Stories**

“The current pandemic lockdown is the first time my wife, Loretta, and I have been together, 24-7, for more than 12 days in the past 17 years (since my initial election in 2003). We are now on week 10 together. It has been a wonderful reminder of why we got married 36 years ago!”

- John Wilkinson

“1. Regular delivery of Roll Away the Black Clouds.  
2. Daily 7:30 pm episodes of banging pots and pans with my neighbours.  
3. Everyone seems to be making a point of being pleasant with one another all the time everywhere and under all circumstances.  
4. I am reading more books.  
5. Discovery of Meet the Press and Face the Nation on Sunday mornings  
6. Daily episodes of the What-Will-Trump-Do-To-Disgrace-Himself-Today show.  
7. But, most seriously, 3 above. (And 1 above, of course.)”

- John Parker

“My wife Nancy had a minor surgery on her leg on May 14. We have dealt with one surgeon, one assistant to the surgeon, and five nurses during the last eight days. Every one of them has been kind, courteous, and committed to her, despite the Covid-19 threat they face every day. We thank all front-line workers.”

- Alan Eagleson

“I am one year away from mandatory retirement. However now working only every second day because of pandemic so am home much more. In the last 2 months I have realized how much I enjoy spending more time with my wife. Now looking forward to next year.”

- Ernie Parsons

“One of the wonderful things about ‘Covid house arrest’ is how much time my husband and I are now spending together. Over the years, our careers frequently took us away from each other so now we are enjoying making up for lost time!”

- Janet Ecker

“For me the most positive aspect of the restrictions has been to establish closer connections with immediate and extended family through social media, FaceTime, Zoom and phone calls because everyone’s lives have slowed down

to a pace allowing a breather for all to catch up. In addition, having spent the better part of the last five years at multiple medical appointments and procedures with my partner Brian, telephone and virtual appointments have been much shorter and welcomed, something that could at times continue after Covid-19.”

- Cindy Forster

“This evening, I experienced my first Zoom virtual reunion with some of my former staffers from my MPP days (1996 to 2004). It’s difficult to describe the sheer joy of sharing reminiscences from memorable days’ past. Notwithstanding the challenges that Covid has wrought upon us all, I truly believe that our Canadian culture has equipped us with a far better way forward in forging our future because, no matter what, notwithstanding our political divide, in times of crisis, we need to, indeed **MUST** stand together. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts and for everything you’re doing to help us keep it together.”

- Marilyn Mushinski

“The current house arrest has been kind enough to put my hands to the keyboard and my search to Safari to prepare my next lecture at the Military Institute on ‘War and Poetry.’ Much obliged, Covid.”

- Charles Godfrey

“I have had a different experience than most. Just as the virus started I fell and broke my hip and I just got out the hospital on May 20th.”

- Noel Duignan

“Our grandson in Toronto, has cerebral palsy. At age 6 he had a very tricky but successful operation in Montreal severing a few nerves in his spine so the spasticity was eliminated, but his balance is somewhat fragile. However, now 13, he can walk, swim, run; he is very good at computers, builds complicated fine-pieced Lego at lightning speed, does math and plays soccer using his walker. His memory is better than average. However, he cannot, and will never be able to learn to read. So, because he loves stories, Judy and I are reading Gordon Korman books for an hour to him via Facetime every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. He curls up with his dog, Charlie to listen in Toronto while Judy and I sit on our couch in Thunder Bay with my laptop and Judy’s iPad and read. During Covid-19. Life doesn’t get any better.”

- Jim Foulds

“I have enjoyed having the time to clean out my kitchen cupboards; what a pleasure to rediscover recipes, some that have been unused for years since the



children left home. For example, there is my good standby meatloaf, and cider-braised chicken with figs, and oatmeal chocolate chip cookies with desiccated coconut. The latter have proved to be a particular hit with grandchildren; they have been shared on the deck, at a great distance, of course.”

- Susan Hunt

“Low mileage on car to refills at drug store, low credit card sums, our local son buys all groceries/deliveries and from time to time delivers a fully cooked Keg style meal. I have made many personal telephone calls and one Zoom reunion. I do not need to go to funerals of which there have been some in the 77 days of isolation. Up to date on my reading book, and some office clean up. My cooking is only slightly improved. Grand-dog visit not hindered by Covid and does not change as he is just as crazy and excited to barge into the house on grocery delivery to get the treats.”

- George Taylor

“....We had experienced something magical: the birth of a new life who had to fight to be born, who asserted his existence forcefully through his cries, and the love of a young mother prepared to do anything to ensure his survival. The last three months have been a joyous and thoughtful period for our family. During difficult times, and with all the suffering and deaths that have occurred the world over, a little baby and his mother have taught us something important: that hope exists even in the most uncertain times. And their smiles confirm that every day.”

- Annamarie Castrilli

Editor’s Note: This entire engaging story will be in the upcoming Special Edition: “Former Members Rolled Away the Black Clouds”

“All Parliamentarians can attest to the fast pace of life with little time typically left for those we cherish the most when in politics. A positive experience over the last few months has been the slower pace of life especially at home spending time with our family.”

- Michael Harris

“The LCBO was named an essential service and has remained open!”

- Patrick Reid

# Culinary Corner

## *Papa Giuseppe's Bruschetta*



### Ingredients:

- 3 fresh Roma or San Marzano tomatoes
- Virgin olive oil (use “light” for flavor not so strong)
- 2 large garlic cloves (3 smaller ones)
- 1 Tablespoon chopped sweet basil
- 1 Teaspoon chopped oregano,
- Optional spices: rosemary, parsley, sage – all chopped. ½ tsp. max. each.
- Salt & pepper to taste... very little!
- Italian crusty bread

Cut tomatoes into ¼” slices.

Carve out seeds with point of knife and then chop tomato pieces into smaller than ¼” chunks. Put into a small 6” bowl as they accumulate. Pour olive oil in to half depth of tomatoes in bowl.

Chop garlic finely. Add to bowl. Add chopped spices. Mix thoroughly with a tablespoon until all ingredients seem to be on all tomato pieces.

Smooth top with a spoon – so all spices are into the oil/tomato mix. Cover and let stand for a minimum of 3

hours so flavors blend.

If using dried spices, use about 2 teaspoons, maximum. Also, allow at least 5 hours to marinate, so the flavors can blend.

Refrigerate, if keeping out more than 5 hours. If fridge is too cold, olive oil could solidify a bit – if so, just put on counter for about 1 hour before using.

To prepare bread, use either a “French” stick or an Italian Calabrese “round” ring loaf.

Cut the stick slices about ½” thick, and make the cuts slightly diagonal to get a larger surface to spread bruschetta mix on. With the ring loaf, slice the bread in the same ½” slices as you go around the ring. Spread slices on a tray, and put into oven at 400 degrees until tops of slices start to brown. Remove quickly, let cool for 1-2 minutes, then spread bruschetta mix with a teaspoon onto each slice, and serve while warm.

Optional: Spread Tomato mix over bread before putting it into the oven. Sprinkle shredded mozzarella or provolone (stronger flavor) cheese over the mix on the bread. Place pieces on tray, and put into oven. When cheese is melted, remove quickly, and serve while warm.



**Find the recipes for Gill Morin's Old Fashioned Penuche Fudge and Joe Spina's Sinking Titanica Seafood Pasta posted on the OAFP Facebook page.**



Joe Spina participated in several 'Celebrity Chef-Men Who Cook' competitions, an annual charity fundraiser for the 'United Achievers', a local Caribbean club. Joe had helped with the business component of the club. His 2008 culinary contribution was "Sinking Titanica Seafood Pasta." (Photo retrieved from the culinary archives)



# Touring the Southwest Tri-County Region of Sarnia-Lambton, Chatham-Kent, Windsor-Essex

Photo by Melanie Borrelli/CTV News



By: Dave Cooke, M.P.P. Windsor-Riverside 1977-1997

## Lambton

I bet few people know that the first oil boom in North America took place in Enniskillen Township, in the heart of Lambton County, in 1858. At its peak, there were no fewer than 400 wells operating full tilt, primarily in the tiny Village of Oil Springs.

It was and still is the smallest municipality in Lambton County, but by 1864 Oil Springs could boast that it had 20 working refineries. Despite having only seven, nearby Petrolia got -- and keeps -- the title of "Canada's Victorian Oil Town." Today, of course, Petrolia is better known for delighting audiences at its historic 400-seat Victoria Playhouse than for anything to do with oil.

But Sarnia, the largest city in Lambton County, continues to be a big player in the petrochemical industry. The Polymer Corporation was established there in 1942, and the city played an important role in producing synthetic rubber during World War Two. Today, Sarnia-Lambton represents Canada's second largest cluster of companies in the petrochemical and refining sector. All this because in the 1800s, oil was discov-

ered just up the road.

Sarnia-Lambton is part of what's known as Ontario's Blue Coast, located east of Lake Huron and sharing a border with Michigan along the St. Clair River. The twin-span Blue Water Bridge links Port Huron, Michigan to Sarnia, and it's the fourth busiest crossing between Canada and the U.S., transporting thousands of people and goods each day.

I have a soft spot for Lake Huron. It was always my favourite lake to swim in when I was young, because of its clean water, and because it had good waves for body surfing. And the nearby Pinery Provincial Park was always my place of choice to go camping with friends.

I gave up camping when I could afford a hotel later in life, but generations of families continue to go there to enjoy the great outdoors, hiking and canoeing in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. There are lots of other beaches and small towns worth the visit -- too many to mention -- but I'd be letting you down if I didn't point out that Grand Bend is a great little resort town on the shore of Lake Huron, and it's a legendary destination attraction. The population of 2,000 swells to 50,000 on summer weekends and holidays thanks to the fact it has some of the best

beaches in Canada.

Lambton County, like the rest of the tri-county region, has a thriving farm and agriculture sector. It's the second-largest economic driver for Lambton, thanks to soybeans, corn, dairy, beef, hog, and poultry operations. But people there, especially people in Oil Springs, never forget their roots.

### **Chatham-Kent**

Did you know that Wheatley is the largest freshwater commercial fishing port in the world? It's located in Chatham-Kent along Lake Erie, just a few miles east of Leamington. Lake Erie itself is brimming with yellow perch, pickerel, smallmouth bass, smelt, salmon and more.

Travelling along the northeast end of Chatham-Kent, and reaching far into Essex County, Lake St. Clair is known for its great sports fishing. Pickerel, perch, bass and muskie are plentiful here, and every year thousands of eager anglers arrive to try their luck and see what's biting.

Chatham-Kent also has two provincial parks. Wheatley Park is known as Ontario's "deep south" park, and is famous for its Carolinian Forest. Rondeau hosts the annual Festival of Flight and is world-renowned as a bird-watching destination.

The City of Chatham is located on the Thames River and because of its proximity, it served as a naval dockyard in the late 1700s. Of course, we all know Chatham as a manufacturing and agricultural city now. It is also home to one of the largest ethanol production plants in the world.

Chatham-Kent, and Windsor-Essex, were instrumental in freeing thousands of enslaved African-Americans in the mid-19th century through the Underground Railroad. As a result, this region is part of the African-Canadian Heritage Tour, with many museums and historical sites dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of their journey to freedom.

Along with former PC cabinet minister Darcy McKeough, known as the father of modern municipal government, there are many notable individuals who called Chatham-Kent home at some point in their life.

Former Major League Baseball pitcher Fergie Jenkins is one of those stars. He also ran against me in the 1985 election for the Liberals.

However, Chatham-Kent's greatest, and most controversial claim to fame, might be the fact that it's where the pineapple pizza was born. Restaurateur Sam Panopoulous came up with the idea in 1962, and it's been pitting pizza purists against non-conformists ever since.

### **Windsor-Essex**

Here's another "did you know" moment ... 25 per cent of the world capacity in tool and die is located in Windsor and Essex County. This industry, linked so closely to the auto sector, services many other sectors of the world economy as well, and requires thousands of skilled trade workers with state-of-the-art expertise. Windsor has been known as Canada's Automotive Capital since 1904, and the industry remains the backbone of the city's economy, even though GM no longer has any facilities here, and both Ford and Chrysler are a fraction of what they once were. Still, there at 90 auto and parts manufacturers in Windsor-Essex and the sector serves all automotive companies in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

Windsor's significant auto industry history goes hand-in-hand with the history of the labour movement in Ontario and Canada. A high standard of living for auto workers was achieved over decades of hard-fought negotiations and, when necessary, strikes. The most famous was the Ford strike of 1945, which lasted 99 days. On November 5, a blockade of vehicles, including public transit buses, surrounded the plant. Many political leaders of the day were there to show their support for the workers.

The agreement to end the strike sent the most contentious issue, dues, to arbitration. The outcome was the Rand Formula. It meant that while you didn't have to join the union, you still had to pay mandatory union dues. Anyone who reaped the benefits of a collective agreement, higher wages, health insurance, grievance representation, had to contribute to the cost of running the union. The Rand Formula still holds today. Trade between Canada and the U.S. takes place primarily over the Ambassador Bridge. It's the busiest international border crossing in North America, with



an estimated 8,000 trucks and 68,000 travellers going over each day.

However, the current, privately owned bridge can't handle the volume, and trucks are often backed up for miles, clogging city streets and making travel difficult for local commuters.

The new Gordie Howe International Bridge, jointly owned by the Canadian government and the State of Michigan, is expected to open in Windsor in 2024. It will connect directly to Hwy 401, thus allowing trucks to bypass city streets.

This is considered a win not just for local residents, but for the entire economy. No wonder they call Windsor the Garden Gateway to Canada.

Cross-border travel for work, shopping and entertainment is a given for those living in Essex County and Michigan. Caesars Windsor remains a big draw for our neighbours, with thousands of Americans coming over daily ... when we don't have a pandemic, that is. Mostly, it's the rich variety of food and drink that makes this area such a tourist draw. Erie Street is referred to as Little Italy, with amazing Italian restaurants, and the city is known for its Mediterranean and Asian cuisine. In fact, Windsor is recognized as one of the most multiculturally diverse cities in Canada, and our fine dining reflects that.

Throughout Essex County there is a thriving wine industry, with 17 unique wineries producing award-winning selections. Many venues also include wonderful bistros and facilities for weddings and other events. Point Pelee National Park, at Canada's most southerly point, is world famous for bird-watching, hiking, swimming and its marshland.

The \$1 billion green house industry is having a tough time right now because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but when life returns to normal, it's worth the drive to Leamington and Kingsville to see the massive climate-controlled greenhouses, with thousands of acres of what's essentially indoor farming.

Pelee Island, about 12 miles off the Lake Erie coast, is a popular spot for tourists. Margaret Atwood and former MPP Margaret Birch like to spend their summers there, and island residents are happy to let them vacation in peace.

But it's not all rosy: High lake levels and eroding shorelines have become a huge and costly challenge for the entire tri-county area. Pelee Island is no exception.

North of Windsor -- yes, the United States is north of Windsor -- is Detroit, a city of 670,000 people that's being revitalized and making a remarkable comeback. Magnificent old buildings, with their beautiful architecture and rich history, have been restored for office space, condos, retail and hotels.

A new 80-storey office tower is under construction. Detroit is home to 5 professional sports teams; football (Lions at Ford Field), baseball (Tigers at Comerica Park), hockey (Red Wings at Little Caesars Arena), basketball (Pistons, also at Little Caesars Arena) and soccer (Detroit FC at Keyworth Stadium), all within close proximity to each other. When I want to go to a ball game, it's 30 minutes to drive from my home in Windsor, cross the border, park, and be in my seat or go to a great restaurant before the game.

There's also no shortage of cultural opportunities when I pay my toll to cross by bridge or through the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel. There's the Detroit Institute of Arts, featuring more than 100 galleries in 658,00 square feet, and one of the best museums in the U.S. Closed during the pandemic, it reopens later this summer with a showing of Great Lakes photographs by Jeff Gaydash.

There's also the Detroit Opera House, located in the Grand Circus Park Historic District. This jewel originally opened in 1922, and has room for 2,700 guests to comfortably enjoy performances.

Nearby is the glittering Fox Theatre, which was the Fox chain's flagship when it opened in 1928. One of the best examples of Art Deco styling, it was lovingly restored in 1988 and is the anchor for what's known as the Foxtown District.

Well, there you have it. I've tried to give you a brief snapshot of what the area has to offer, and to also show what a deep connection we have with our nearest neighbours to the north.

Our tri-county region is a wonderful part of Ontario, where about 600,000 people live and work and raise their families. It's well worth the visit.

# An Interview with George Taylor



*M.P.P. Simcoe Centre 1977-1985*

*By: Victoria Esterhammer*

George Taylor is a cheerful man with a good sense of humour. The interview began with a question about when and why he decided to enter politics. He responded, “First of all, I was born in Hamilton...”, humorously suggesting that this would be a long story.

The former MPP explained that his political activity intensified in the 1950’s when Diefenbaker entered the scene. At the time, he was practicing law, living in Toronto, and campaigning for different people; namely Art Meen MPP (1967-1977) and Dalton Camp where he met Roy McMurtry. In 1968, George moved to Barrie where he was first elected as a school trustee for the Simcoe County Board of Education. He was eventually

defeated, and upon reflection, believes that the teachers didn’t particularly like him. “I made some comments about spending habits to the extent on the number of sport whistles used following which one surprisingly showed up on my office desk.”

“I’d always been interested in politics, so when someone asked me I tried.”

“People followed up with me,” explained George. The Conservative Party, which he had always been involved with, happened to be represented in Barrie. “I was on the executive of the Local PC association which at that time was a large association geographically. It went from Penetanguishene in the North down to Bradford in the South,” said George. “So, I worked on the campaign for the MPP at the time, Arthur Evans, assisting the campaign manager. When [Evans] retired after the 1975 election, he said that I should try for the nomination. That I did.”

Indeed, George was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1977 to represent the Simcoe Centre riding at Queen’s Park. He served as a government backbencher for the next four years, until he was re-elected in 1981. First, he was appointed by Premier Davis as Parliamentary Assistant to Attorney General Roy McMurtry. Then, on Feb. 13, 1982, he was appointed to cabinet as the Solicitor General for

ince of Ontario.

During his three-year term as Solicitor General, George was responsible for managing a multimillion dollar budget, staff more than 6000 people-- including the Ontario Provincial Police, public security responsibilities, emergency measures, coroners, private detectives, firefighters, a forensic laboratory, the Police College and the Fire College. He frequently referred to it as the TV ministry in that all his responsibilities had TV shows.

### **Losing Out**

“I supported Larry Grossman for the leadership, contrary to being a Frank Miller supporter. So, Frank Miller had a discussion when he was choosing Cabinet Ministers and said to me that I was not going to be in his cabinet, notwithstanding the fact that Premier Davis said I should be; and [Miller] fired me essentially,” explained George. Rather than a second term in Cabinet, Taylor claims that Miller promised him a Judgeship.

“I was under the impression that I would get a judgeship as promised... So, I left in ‘85 to allow that to happen, but, about two weeks after the election I got a call from John Crosby saying, ‘We’re not going to appoint you’.” That was a surprise to me and meant my return to a legal practise.

“You get headlines when you’re appointed and you get similar headlines

when you get fired.”

“I met a lot of people who I enjoyed on both sides. I have friends that are NDP, friends that are Liberals, sometimes they stayed on as friends long after... You get to do many opportunities that come with the MPP position like a charity skate with Booby Orr, meeting Queens, Popes and astronauts, as well other interesting events like playing hockey with Eddy Sargent in Maple Leaf Gardens he being a friend of Harold Ballard.

“The sad feature is when you get fired all your staff gets fired. With your success goes their success.” I helped many constituents and to this day I get stopped on the street to a thankful nod for my help but more likely the constituency staff.

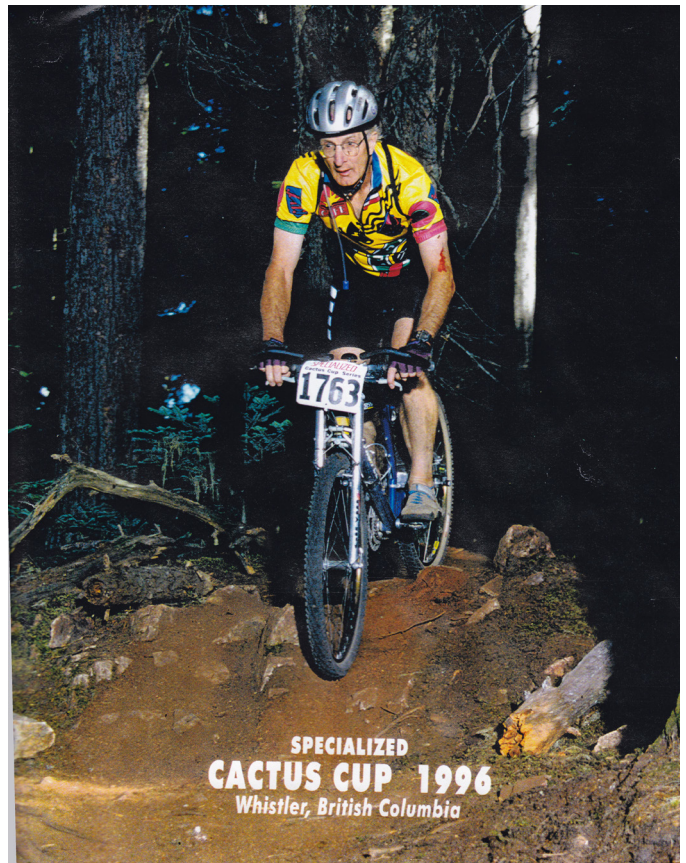
### **Life Outside**

George revealed that in the other part of his life, he has always been a jock. Back in elementary school he played for many of the sports teams and continued to do the same throughout high school, university and law school. Some of his hobbies include tennis, skiing, mountain biking, road biking and golf. He played varsity hockey, football, and was a track star on the Canadian Cross Country Relay Team. George remembers having great success playing varsity football for the Ontario Championship alongside quarterback, Russ Jackson, who later went on to the Hall of Fame.



To this day, George is an avid cyclist who loves to keep active. “More recent-ly, I switched from mountain biking to road biking,” he said. “Four years ago, six of us local riders were cut off ironically by strong supporter of the Liberal party whom I knew. I crashed and had a severe concussion which still bothers me today with the loss of balance.”

Something many people don’t know about George, is that he was an Olympic Participant. “Well, with a little stretch of imagination...” he joked. In fact, George was an Olympic Torch Bearer in 1988. He explained that after buying gas at Petro Canada station every day for a while, he won a draw to participate; and added that he still has a nice jacket from the event.





# An Interview with Mavis Wilson



*M.P.P. Dufferin-Peel 1987-1990*  
*By Victoria Shariati*

## Opportunities for Advocacy

Q: You were Minister Without Portfolio in the Peterson government. What were your responsibilities?

A: I was first Minister for Senior Citizens' Affairs, which is an advocacy role in government. I remember the first year, when it was Seniors' Month, which is the month of June. Our poster line was, "Opportunity is Ageless." There are so many opportunities available and you can always make your life bigger no matter your age. The Alzheimer's Society presented me with their award of recognition at their annual convention for my work in bringing public attention to Alzheimer's and dementia. Opportunity taken!

Q: What were some of your best memories from Queen's Park?

A: I travelled throughout the province with M.P.P.s and they would show me around each of their ridings, attend events together, meet constituents. I learned a great deal about the whole province and I really enjoyed those days with the M.P.P.s. I came to realize that the Members look like their ridings. I thought to myself, do I look like Dufferin-Peel? I really hoped I did because the people of Dufferin-Peel were really wonderful people and I took very seriously my responsibility

Mavis Wilson was leading the busy life of a successful potato farmer, wife and mother of three children when she decided to start her political career.

After strong encouragement by friends, family and neighbours, she ran for school trustee. Eleven years on the Board later, including three as Chair, she realized that to make "the big decisions" on education, she needed to be at Queen's Park. She then ran for Member of Provincial Parliament for Dufferin-Peel. Mavis Wilson won the 1987 election and shortly thereafter was appointed as Minister Without Portfolio, responsible for a newly created department of Senior Citizens' Affairs.

to represent them effectively. Queen's Park was a really busy place to be and it was quite impressive to come into the Legislature and sit down and look around and take it all in and think, "Whoa I have a big responsibility here." It was that feeling that made the job seem worth it to me. And I also had a great deal of respect for Premier David Peterson. He was tough. He didn't take any nonsense. He had important goals and I appreciated that.

Q: What are you most proud of from your time in politics?

A: When I was Minister for Women's Issues, I announced 12 new shelters throughout the province, and then, a couple of years ago at a meeting I was introduced to a woman from The Redwood, which is a Toronto shelter. She invited me to come to the 25th anniversary of The Redwood. And then I started to think about it. And I realized The Redwood was one of the shelters I had announced 25+ years ago. I was just so overwhelmed by it, after all these years, how many women's lives have been changed for the better, in some cases, saved, because of the supports they received at The Redwood.

### **The Pursuit of Justice**

Years before I ran for election provincially, a woman in our community was charged with murder in the stabbing death of her husband. I happened to be in Orangeville at the time of the trial, and I drove by

the courthouse, and thought I'd go in. On her deceased husband's side of the courtroom, there was quite a big crowd. His family and extended family had come from out of province for the trial and many of his friends were there also. Jane's\* side of the courtroom was empty. There was a woman I knew standing in the back and I asked her, "Where are Jane's\* friends?" She said, "Jane\* doesn't have any friends." When I got home I called my Mom and my sisters. I knew a women's shelter had recently opened in Orangeville, called Hillside House. And later when the organization expanded its mandate it became known as Family Transition Place. I phoned and told them the situation, and they called their volunteers.

On the next morning in the courtroom, seated behind Jane\* was a whole crowd of supportive women and the vibe in the courtroom changed dramatically. The whole impression now left for the jury was a very different one than what I had walked into the day before. On the stand, Jane\* described how her husband was a heavy drinker and when he came home and she could tell that he had been drinking, she and her young daughter would crawl out through the bathroom window and spend the night in the ditch. And she was trying desperately to get away. She had no friends because he kept her isolated, which is a very usual factor in intimate partner violence. She was in the process of trying to save first and last month's rent for an apartment when



he came home one night, very drunk, and she didn't get a chance to get her daughter out of the back window in time.

He attacked her and she saved herself by stabbing him. And that came out in court. The defense called a witness from Hillside House and she testified as to the profile of a typical abuser and how he keeps his victims in his control. And the jury found her not guilty. From then on I realized how important it is for others to stand up for victims and to help.

And years later, with my appointment as Minister for Women's Issues, I was given the gift of the opportunity to change women's lives for the better in an official capacity.

### **Keeping In Touch**

Q: Do you still keep in touch with anyone from Queen's Park?

A: The OAFP provides an important opportunity for us to stay connected. Outside of that there are four of us former Cabinet Ministers from David Peterson's government and we still get together regularly for lunch, and for the first 10 years at least, we talked politics. And now, 30 years later, we talk about our families and our travels and yes, politics. So we're still in the game. We have these critiques, ideas and thoughts, and so the work is never done. Things change, but the work is never done.

That's what politics is about. It's about creating opportunities for people which

ultimately makes Ontario a better place to be.

For me, the loss of the next election was heartbreaking. Cut off at the knees. So many people let down. So much work to do. So much left to accomplish. Hey, I was just getting started.

*"That's what politics is about. It's about creating opportunities for people which ultimately makes Ontario a better place to be."*

*- Mavis Wilson*



# An Interview with Bud Wildman



*M.P.P. for Algoma 1975 – 1999*  
*“I always listened, was respectful and frank when working with Indigenous communities.”*

*By: David Warner*

who later was elected as a New Democrat M.P. for Sault Ste. Marie, helped influence Wildman’s interest in electoral politics.

## **1975 Ontario Provincial Election**

Bud Wildman grew up in a political household in Manotick, a small community not far from our nation’s capital. His father was an administrative official in the Department of External Affairs (the federal Department of Foreign [or Global] Affairs). There was no shortage of discussions on social or political issues at the dinner table. It is likely that background which helped forge a vociferous advocate for social justice issues on the campus of Carleton University in Ottawa. Bud was active in the 1960’s anti-Vietnam War movement and peripherally in the civil rights movement.

After graduating from Carleton, Wildman accepted a position teaching history at Sault Ste. Marie Collegiate in Northern Ontario. The head of the History Department, Cyril Symes,

Wildman was asked to run for the NDP nomination in the large rural Algoma District, a sprawling, mostly rural riding surrounding Sault Ste. Marie. The Algoma constituency was about 625 kilometres in length, stretching from Blind River, half way between the Sault and Sudbury, to White River and Hornepayne, half way between Thunder Bay and the Sault. The largest town in the riding was Wawa, a couple of hours drive north of the Sault near the eastern shore of Lake Superior, with a population of about 5,000. He spent the summer becoming acquainted with Algoma Riding, its people and their concerns.

I asked Bud Wildman about the local issues:

“A major election issue promoted by the NDP was the loss of farm land from agricultural production. That was an issue that resonated in the

agricultural region of Algoma, east of Sault Ste. Marie. Other locally focused issues were related to the forest industry, health care, particularly the shortage of doctors, decent roads, unorganized townships not having fire protection, Treaty rights for Indigenous people, rights for tenants of mobile home parks, education and language rights for Francophone communities. Overarching these issues was the general sense of Northern alienation—a feeling that Northern issues were largely ignored at Queen’s Park.”

Bud Wildman won that election and then the succeeding four elections before getting the opportunity to be a member of the governing party.

### **Mentors At Queen’s Park**

“The ‘75 election resulted in doubling the number of New Democrats in the House. Every new MPP was assigned a mentor. My mentor was Floyd Laughren. He was great, letting me know that he would always be available to be of assistance. As well, two other very experienced MPPs were especially valuable as mentors. Jack Stokes and Elie Martel were both not only superb constituency representatives, but had an extensive knowledge of the North and its issues.” Wildman said he quickly learned from these MPPs the important role that Opposition MPPs play in the legislative process, not only by holding the government to account, but also by advocating for their constituents

and proposing alternative policies to respond to important issues.

### **First N. D. P. Government in Ontario’s History**

When the New Democrat government was elected in 1990, Wildman was appointed Minister of Natural Resources and Minister responsible for Native Affairs. Later from 1993 to 1995, he held three Cabinet portfolios: Native Affairs and Environment and Energy combined. As a Cabinet Minister, Wildman tackled some very controversial issues. I asked Bud how he successfully resolved disputes around Treaty rights, as well as settling Indigenous land claims.

“The key is to be open and honest about controversial issues with both Indigenous and non-Native communities; to listen and to try to accommodate their concerns in the final settlements,” he said.

“In that summer prior to the 1975 election and since I continued to meet Elders of the various First Nations in Algoma and provincial organizations. I listened and learned as women Elders shared tea with me. I respected their wisdom and knowledge and took their concerns seriously. I earned their respect by publicly advocating for the recognition of Indigenous rights, even though that was not always popular in some quarters. I endeavoured to be transparent and frank in my responses to the questions they posed to me. And on many occasions, I



brought their issues to the floor of the Legislature.

“A widely respected Elder, the hereditary Chief of Garden River First Nation, Dan Pine, demonstrated that I had gained the respect of Indigenous people when he granted me the great honour of an Ojibway name, Buhkwujenene, which means ‘Man of the wilderness’. “When I was Minister of Native Affairs, I continued to approach Indigenous issues transparently. Early on in our mandate, with the strong support of the Premier, our government was the first government in Canada to recognize the inherent right of self-government of First Nations. And, I decided that if I, as Minister, was going to resolve land claims and Treaty rights challenges across Ontario, I needed to start with those issues in my own riding. If I could be successful, despite some vociferous opposition in Algoma, then I had a better chance of being successful elsewhere. In the end, we were able to settle a number of difficult land claims and return so-called ‘Crown lands’ to First Nations.”

### **Competing Interests in All Four Ministries**

“Whether it was trying to recognize Indigenous rights, to protect the environment of the Niagara Escarpment, the Rouge Valley and the Oak Ridges Moraine or to promote ecosystem management for biodiversity, there would be conflicting interests. The forestry industry, non-

Indigenous hunters and anglers, the tourist industry, other commercial developers and conservationists and other environmentalists often put forward conflicting demands. Remaining focused on good public policy, while continuing to listen and balance the competing concerns and interests, made it possible to adjust government policy and to innovate legislatively.

“When I was appointed Minister of Natural Resources, I had the advantage of having been immersed in the issues related to forest management, the needs of the pulp and paper and lumber industries—harvesting, regeneration—, fish and wildlife management, tourist outfitting, outdoor recreation and parks and Indigenous rights, as a Northern Member of the Opposition for the previous 15 years. I had a reputation of knowing the issues.

“Previous to 1990, in opposition, the Northern NDP MPPs had carried out an extensive consultation with industry and labour representatives, community leaders, academics, environmentalists and others across the North about resources management in Ontario’s forests. It became obvious that the Ministry could not maintain an accurate inventory of the province’s forest resources and regeneration to balance adequately the various interests involved in utilizing and sustaining those resources.

“I initiated Ontario’s first independent audit of the province’s forests. The audit report pointed clearly to the

need for change. The Ministry had concentrated on timber management. Even timber resources had not been adequately regenerated to meet the industry's future needs. It was obvious that the Ministry would have to move to an ecosystem approach to resources management for sustainability and biodiversity. It would have to take into account fish and wildlife habitat, conservation, the tourist industry, the cultural and recreational aspects of our forests, Indigenous rights and environmental concerns. After conducting extensive consultations with representatives of these many competing interests, the new legislation was passed making it the industry's responsibility under the Ministry's oversight to manage the forest resources much more holistically."

### **Life After Queen's Park**

The New Democrats lost the 1995 election and shortly after Bob Rae resigned as Leader. Bud Wildman, having been re-elected, served as Interim Party Leader and, subsequently, as NDP House Leader until 1999. After the 1995 election defeat, Bud had been approached about running for the party leadership, but, having served as an MPP already for 20 years, he declined the opportunity. Later, he decided not to seek re-election in 1999. I asked Wildman about these events as they unfolded.

"My wife Anne and I had a serious discussion about whether I should run

for the leadership. The timing was not good. We had experienced a family tragedy in 1993 with the death of our young daughter. And, in late 1995, we had happily welcomed another daughter into our family. Should I be elected Leader, I would be making a commitment of at least another eight years. So, we decided it was best for our family and for me to serve out the term and then retire from Queen's Park."

### **Reflections On The House**

"During my time in the Legislature, even in opposition, it was possible to get amendments passed because the governments listened to reasoned debate. The committee system worked. MPPs actually listened to each other. Members of other parties were political opponents, not enemies. "I recall two issues in particular, where, as a rookie Opposition MPP in the late 1970s, I successfully lobbied for changes in Ontario. I introduced a Private Member's Bill and after debate the Conservative government accepted the principle of the Bill. Tenant protection, under the Landlord and Tenant Act, was extended to mobile home park residents. Also, I was able to obtain government funding for fire protection equipment and training for many small Algoma communities without municipal organization or tax base.

There was always lots of vigorous debate, but there was also civility and often compromise."

# In Loving Memory of...

## Robert Walter Elliot

(October 17, 1933 – June 4, 2020)



Walter Elliot had a Master's Degree in Education from McMaster University, taught mathematics at high school and was a Principal prior to being elected in 1987. He was also an investment advisor.

Walter Elliot's extensive connection to community involved: United Way, Children's Aid Society, Ontario Agricultural Museum, Halton Region Museum, Milton Historical Society, Halton Recovery House, Liberal Party of Ontario and Canada, Ontario Region of the Scottish Elliot Clan Society, McMaster University, Oakville Art Society, Grace Lutheran Church in Oakville.

*Served in the 34th Parliament  
(September 10, 1987 – September 5,  
1990)*

*Liberal Member of Provincial  
Parliament for Halton North*

Walter was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Housing, Chaired the Standing Committee on General Government, was a Member of the Select Committee on Constitutional Reform, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman and a member of the Standing Committee on Social Development.

Official Recognition of Walter Elliot's Community Service:

- Lifetime Achievement Award from Milton Chamber of Commerce – 2005
- 125th Anniversary of Confederation Community Service Medals
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, presented by the Governor General of Canada.

### **Former Colleagues Fondly Remember**

"In all my years at Queen's Park, I never met a more kind and caring



member of the Legislature than Walt Elliot. He was always interested in having a reasonable discussion about the issues at hand with genuine concern for those with greatest need. He was not naive about politics and sought compromise to find answers to difficult problems. He often talked of his family and friends who were so important to him. He served us all well and will be remembered for his many contributions to his community and our Province of Ontario.”

- Norm Sterling

Some thoughts about Walter Elliot by Barbara Sullivan: “I first knew Walt in the late 60’s when he was an active Liberal in what was then Halton County. A math teacher, he engaged daily with young people whom he wanted to persuade that being involved with political activity was a good and respectable thing to do.

He brought those young folks together in various campaigns with some stunts – like printing paper towels that challenged the then Davis government to clean up – and his young Liberals put these towels under windshield wipers throughout the constituency. More than that, however, he urged those young adults to consider the public policy that they could shape through their involvement. Many of his young volunteers now have leading roles in public policy formation. That is one of his lasting tributes.

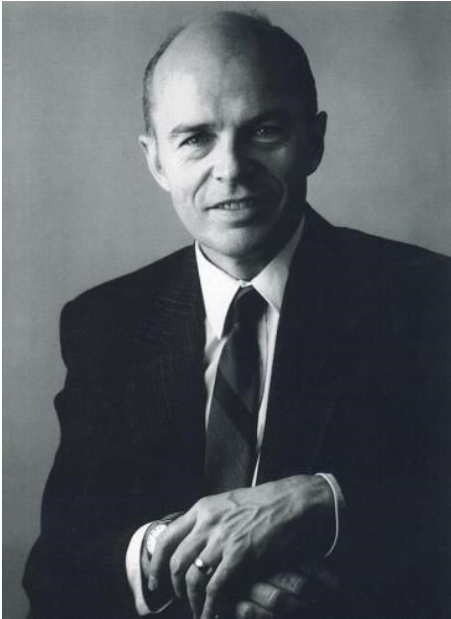
In his time as a member of the Liberal caucus at Queen’s Park, he spoke forcefully and regularly about how life was changing in Ontario, and that

people should be aware of the changed sociological issues emerging in the areas around Toronto – he always called this “the 905’s”. His words had an impact, and possibly led to the creation of the “Green Belt”, that might ironically have led to his defeat. Walt was known as Mr. Community’ in Halton, and his work with numerous organizations was renowned. He was a dedicated member of the Elliot clan, and often regaled his friends with stories of various national and international reunions, of which he was an important organizer and participant. At Queen’s Park, he was known as a decent, kind person of integrity who wanted to represent his constituents and further the public policy agenda. When legislators gather, it is well to remember the kind of silent strength that Walt offered, not only to his community, but to the province. He gave us a lot.”

# In Loving Memory of...

## Dr. Donald James (Jim) Henderson

(August 7, 1940 - May 2, 2020)



*Liberal Member of Provincial  
Parliament for Etobicoke-Humber*

*Served in the 33rd, 34th and 35th  
Parliaments (May 2, 1985 – June 7,  
1995)*

Jim Henderson was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Colleges and Universities and the Minister for Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy. He served on two Select Committees (Environment, Health) and four Standing Committees (Ombudsman, Finance and Economics, General Government, Social Development).

### **Biographical Snapshot**

- Jim Henderson was a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who served as:
- Director of Psychiatry at the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital (Toronto)
- Director of Psychiatric Services at Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie
- Associate Professor, Department of

Psychiatry, University of Toronto  
- Psychiatrist in Chief, University of Toronto Student Health Services  
- Masters degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University  
- Diploma from American National Board of Medical Examiners  
- Guest Lecturer, University of Havana, Cuba (lecturing in Spanish) where he assisted in re-introducing the practice of psychoanalysis  
- Jim's specific psychiatric focus was on children, parenting, and community care.  
- One practice was in the remote Indigenous community of Bella Coola, B.C., 1000 km. north of Vancouver

“I first met Dr. Henderson at a meeting at the Etobicoke Civic Centre where he, as the MPP was speaking to the issues of the day and at the time there was a discussion about the role of a provincial member of parliament and their relevancy. I was so impressed with his approach for the need for autonomy of a member, respect for the member and the voice of a member. Ultimately, I came to know Dr.

Henderson through my involvement in politics. He was a mentor, maybe not in the way most mentors are. It was his words that I always remembered and just as important he was someone I looked up to and was inspired by his approach to government. He was approachable, a caring and wonderful person who will be missed by many. Over the years, I came to know Karen, his wife and what a great lady, and like Dr. Henderson so supportive. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.”

- Donna Cansfield

“My friendship with Jim began because of a debate in the House. We were on opposite sides of the issue. Jim delivered his speech with sincerity and conviction. After he sat down I sent him a note across the floor commending him on a well-constructed, logical argument, although I didn’t agree with his conclusion. That note was a catalyst for a friendship which has spanned more than 30 years. When I was Speaker Jim asked me to lead an all-Party delegation to Cuba, a country I had never visited. Several visits followed and with each visit I learned a bit more about the amazing work of Jim Henderson. His humanitarian feats were substantial; 100 city buses donated, \$250,000 of medical supplies and much more. He organized small groups of Canadian business people to travel to Cuba to meet with the appropriate officials to make agreements which were good for both Cuba and Canada. There was

never any monetary gain for Jim, just a desire to assist a struggling Cuban economy. His herculean efforts over the years earned him a private, two-hour meeting with President Fidel Castro.

Jim and I both lost the 1995 election. To solve world problems, we would meet up every occasionally, at a Greek restaurant on the Danforth. Always a delightful evening, even if the problems of the world continued to exist.

Jim was modest about his talents, and his accomplishments. He possessed a brilliant mind. His observations were thoughtful and thought provoking. Jim’s family was central to his being. Jim Henderson brought civility to the political arena. He was a true parliamentarian and a true friend.”

- David Warner

“Although Jim came from the Liberal Party he was always very open and trustful with me. He was most supportive of my efforts to get Legislation banning smoking in the workplace and public places. While respectful of his Party he sought change that was reasonable and rational and had an independent streak in him. I had many wonderful discussions with him in the Legislature as we did our “House Duty”. He was a kind, thoughtful, intelligent MPP. I always considered him a friend and cherish the times we had together.”

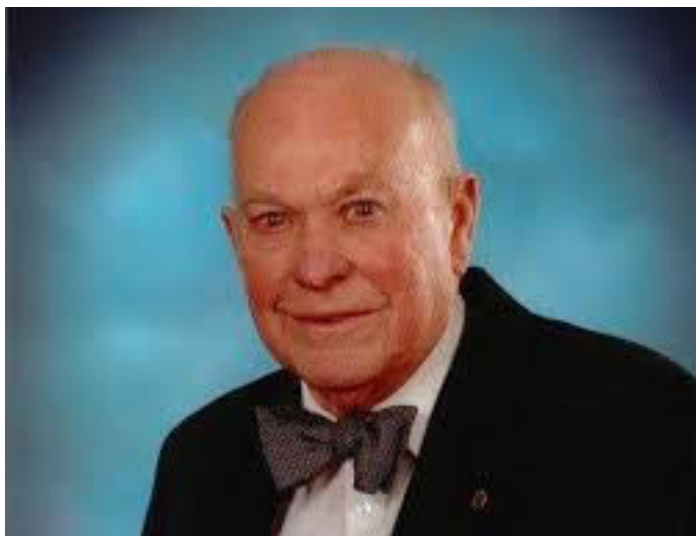
- Norm Sterling



# In Loving Memory of...

## William Walter (Bill) Barlow

(February 20, 1931 – July 5, 2020)



Bill Barlow was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour and Chaired two Standing Committees; Resources Development and General Government. He served on three Select Committees, Economic Affairs, Retail Store Hours, and Ombudsman. As well, Bill served on three Standing Committees; Public Accounts, Finance and Economic Affairs, Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments.

### Background

Bill attended St. Andrew's public school, Galt Collegiate and the Galt Business School. He began working at his family's business at age 15 and soon after joined the Galt branch of Junior Chamber International. During the more than 40 years he operated and owned Barlow Cartage, he served on local and provincial business and trade

*Served in the 32nd and 33rd  
Parliament*

*(March 19, 1981 – September 9, 1987)*

*Progressive Conservative Member of  
Provincial Parliament for Cambridge*

associations.

### Political Life

- 1967 to 1972 Alderman, City of Galt
- 1973 to 1977 Councillor, City of Cambridge
- 1981 to 1987 Member of Provincial Parliament, Cambridge

### Community Recognition

- 1988 Cambridge Citizen of the Year by the Jaycees for his duty and service to the community
- 2002 Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal
- 2012 inducted into the Cambridge Hall of Fame
- Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary
- Honorary Lifetime Member of the Preston Hespeler Rotary Club

### Former Colleagues Pay Tribute

"I was very saddened to hear the news about the passing of Bill Barlow. Bill was one of the most decent people I ever met at Queen's Park. His warm smile was his passport, his bow-tie

was his trademark. He was someone genuinely interested in finding solutions to society's problems and I found him a pleasure to work with. For me, Bill Barlow was a great example of civility in politics. Bill was always keen to talk about the wonderful people of Cambridge, about their ingenuity and their enterprise. He was a tireless ambassador for his city and his service to his home community over a lifetime was quite extraordinary “.

- Sean Conway

“I did not know Bill Barlow as well as I would have liked to when we both were in the House between 1985 and '87. It wasn't until both of us would show up at the OAFP annual meeting that I got to really know Bill. Warm, friendly, nattily attired and always with his signature bow tie, Bill was someone I quickly came to like. Bill was a solid supporter of our Association and attended almost all of our events. It was at those events where I would visually scan the room, in search of a distinguished looking gentleman wearing a bow tie, so that the two of us could catch up on personal news. Bill Barlow always did his best to assist in building and maintaining a vibrant, cohesive community. The significant demands of public life never diminished his commitment to family. I will miss those chats. I will miss a man who was a wonderful role model for anyone considering a political life.”

- David Warner

“Affectionately and widely known as “Bowtie Bill” for his trademark bowties, Bill was part of the ‘class of ‘81’ – the group of PC MPPs elected March 19th, 1981 – the cadre that gave Premier Bill Davis his second majority government. Bill had already had a long career in public life – having served as an alderman of the City of Galt from 1967 to 1972 and as a councillor for the City of Cambridge from 1973 to 1977.

Bill had worked in the family business, Barlow Cartage, from the age of 15. He was heavily involved in community activities – particularly with scouting for which he had a passion. Over 62 years Bill was a Cub, Scout, Rover Leader, executive member and administrator. He was also active in Rotary; Jaycees, Probus and Trinity Church in Cambridge. Bill had married the love of his life Bernice in 1955. They then raised three children – Tom, Janice and Terry.

It was in 1977 that Bill and I became friends. He was nominated as the PC Candidate in Cambridge that year and twenty km down the road I was the Candidate in Brantford. Neither of us won in '77 but we both ran again in 1981 and were elected. We were both re-elected in 1985 and both taken out in the Liberal sweep of 1987. Our caucus in those days was a tight-knit group that included three future premiers (Frank Miller, Mike Harris and Ernie Eves), a future High Commissioner to Great Britain

and Chief Justice (Roy McMurtry) and party leadership stalwarts (Larry Grossman, Andy Brandt and Bob Runciman). There were night sittings in those days on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so there were many dinners and nights on the town. I might write about those someday but only when I'm too old to worry about being sued! It sounds like a cliché – but everyone loved Bill. He was unfailingly cheerful, and his smile could light up a room! I said in an obituary notice that I 'never heard Bill say a bad word about anyone' but at the funeral service I was corrected on this by Terry Barlow. Terry said in his remarks 'you didn't live with him'! Family members assured me that Bowtie Bill had no difficulty at all in stating his opinions on people – not always favourable!

A note for Legislature history – Bill was the first committee chair to convene hearings on the lawn at Queen's Park. His General Government Committee was conducting hearings into the then Workers Compensation Board (now WSIB). The clerk told him a huge crowd was expected for the meeting – far too big to be accommodated in one of the Legislature's committee rooms. Bill said 'fine, then let's use one of the big rooms in the Macdonald Block'. Reports then came in that the crowd would still be too big for even the largest room there. While some said 'let's cancel, or break the meeting up into groups' Bill said no. The meeting will go ahead on the front lawn with a

p.a. system and rows of chairs set up for the crowd. And so, the hearings went ahead with the hundreds of participants accommodated. A simple, practical solution. That was Bill. Bill's long-time assistant Joan is married to our colleague Norm Sterling. Joan was always a great ambassador for her Member. The graveside service for Bill Barlow on Tuesday, July 14th was beautiful, held under sunny skies. Many of us were unable to attend because of the pandemic situation, but we joined by webcast.

A poem written by Bill's beloved Bernice was read. It was called *The Gate*. The first stanza:  
It's old and small and mellowed by time  
Its voice not more than a creak.  
What tales of laughter and tears would unfold  
If only that gate could speak."

- Phil Gillies



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