

The *InFormer*

Winter 2019



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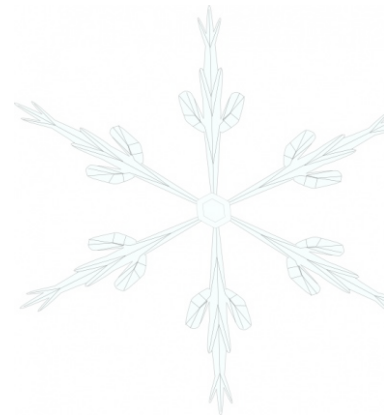
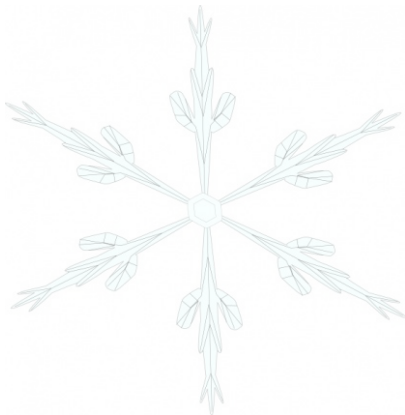
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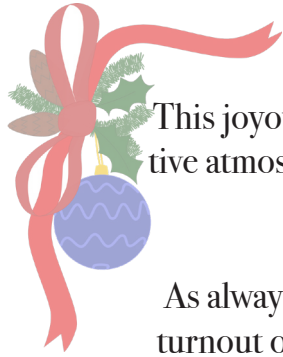
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At the back of this newsletter, please find attached the 2019 OAFP membership renewal form.



# Our Annual Holiday Social



This joyous occasion was held in our newly renovated board room. The festive atmosphere was enhanced with delicious food, refreshing beverages and sparkling conversation.



As always, Joe Spina brought some fabulous Italian pastries. It was a great turnout of current and former Members. The gathering of about 60 people included Professors Fanelli and Olinski, two very strong supporters of our Campus Program, former Premier Kathleen Wynne, several newly elected MPPs, Legislative staffs, numerous former Members and our two Interns, Victoria Shariati and Zena Salem.

A Special guest was Speaker Arnott. We took the occasion to present Speaker Arnott with the scroll proclaiming him an Honorary Member of O. A. F. P.

The warmth of the occasion was wonderful, as you can tell with the photos we have included.



All photos by Zena Salem.



David Warner and Jean-Marc Lalonde



OAFP Scroll for Speaker Arnott



The many food options.



And more food options....



Doug Moffatt and Nokomis O'Brien



David Warner and Speaker Ted Arnott



Speaker Arnott receiving Honorary Membership Certificate from Chair, David Warner and Karen Haslam, Secretary





A festive poinsettia.



Enjoying good food!





OAFP members chatting



A group photo. Many thanks to all who came. See you next year!

# John O'Toole

M. P. P. 1995 – 2014, Progressive Conservative, Durham

Photo: Ontario Legislative Assembly.



*“Always be true to your own set of values and at the same time always listen to your constituents. You work for them.”*

The above advice from John O'Toole is likely a major reason why he was elected for more than three decades, a political career which started in 1982 and encompassed the positions of school board trustee, local councillor, regional councillor and M.P.P. John elaborates on advice for anyone thinking about entering politics. “Be involved in your community. If you are engaged as a volunteer your community will get to know you. Having lots of life experience before entering politics can make you a better decision maker.”

## Motivation

*I asked John about the motivation to be so deeply involved in politics.*

“I have always been involved in my community. I coached swimming, soccer, hockey and helped raise funds for our local library as well as local municipal recreational facilities. My motivation was just an honest effort to help my community in whatever way I could. I was approached by some community leaders and asked to run for office. I admit being surprised since I didn't have a membership with any political party. I said yes and that was the beginning of more than 30 years of political service to my community and the Province.”

## Political Atmosphere

*A lot happens in thirty years. I was curious about John's observations about how politics has changed.*

“From the 1980's and onward, more lobbying and interest groups have been created. With greater empowerment of the groups has come polarization; politics has become more adversarial and more aggressive. I think that what happens is that groups are so focused on their issues that they don't see the bigger picture. Social media has been an important new tool to giving voice to more and more groups to mobilize their followers. Make one mistake and the world will know about it. Today, the media is generally more tilted to interpreting the news as opposed to just reading the news. Today, everyone knows about events all over the world. Sometimes we know more about the USA than we know about Canada or the very community we live in.”

## 1845

The O'Toole family emigrated here from Ireland in 1845 because of the potato famine. As John O'Toole explains some of the family history, I can't help but think that perhaps there is a 'political gene'. If so, that gene is in the makeup of the O'Toole family.

"The O'Tooles settled in the Peterborough area. In fact, the 1845 family farm has just recently been sold. From all accounts they were deeply involved in their local community life.

Some members of the O'Toole family have run and been elected to local school boards, hospital boards, received PhDs and have served as senior civil servants municipally, provincially and federally. In fact my son has been a Federal Minister and is the current MP for Durham. We were the first father and son to serve the "same riding at the same time Federally and Provincially."

### **Memories from Queen's Park**

With the spring of '95 arriving, so did five Blue J's from Durham; John, Janet, Julie, Jerry and Jim. Those five Blue J's (that is John O'Toole, Janet Ecker, Julia Munro, Jerry Ouelette and Jim Flaherty) developed a wonderful friendship.

*John O'Toole was a very active Member during his five terms at Queen's Park. I asked him to select a couple of highlights.*

"I introduced a legislation restricting the use of cell phone while driving. The Bill didn't pass at the time, but some time later, Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation, brought in a Bill and when introducing the Bill gave me some credit. I was able to get the Irish Heritage Day Act (2004) passed, and a Bill allowing for the vintage cars license plates."

### **Family**

"Family first! My wife Peggy, a retired teacher, has always been very supportive. We have five children; three girls and two boys. Our three daughters are married and live in England, Italy and Hong Kong. Our two sons are married and live in Ontario.

We have 12 grandchildren and try to visit and support our family. We remain active in our church and community in our retirement.

### **Who was your political mentor?**

"That's an easy one. Garnet Rickard, former County Warden and Mayor Walter Beath, a former Warden and the first Chair of Durham Region. The Hon. Alan Lawrence who is the only person who has served as both the Attorney General in Ontario and as the Attorney General federally. Alan has received many awards and took the time to give me confidence in myself."

# Cindy Forster

M. P. P. 2011-2018, New Democrat, Welland



Photo: NiagaraThisWeek.com

Cindy Forster has been a nurse, a union organizer, Mayor of Welland and Member of Provincial Parliament. Then, her political career came to an abrupt halt. The first part of this journey was nursing at Welland Hospital, a job which Cindy found gratifying.

“I loved nursing. As a nurse you can make a difference in someone’s life each and every day. It was a fulfilling and rewarding job.”

While Cindy enjoyed being a front line nurse, she gravitated to being a union representative. “I have always been an activist, interested in social causes, so I went from working at Welland Hospital to working for the Ontario Nurses Association.”

In 1994 Cindy Forster was elected to Welland City Council. “It seemed natural to go from being a union rep for the nurses to serving on local council.” After serving two terms as a municipal councillor, Cindy was elected as Mayor of Welland. In 2006, she was elected as Welland’s representative to Niagara Regional Council.

## **Being Mayor of Welland**

“Being Mayor was interesting, but it was also very challenging. Our community was going through some very tough times. Plants were closing or downsizing. Some were moving jobs to Mexico or other places. Small and large businesses were being affected. People were struggling. At the same time, working on Council with people who came together regardless of their political affiliation was a good experience. And, we had successes. As Mayor I met interesting people from all walks of life I would not have met had I not been elected.”

## **Memorable Moments As Mayor**

"There were a number, but to put them in context it was at a time when the term of office was three years. The first year you are trying to learn all about the new council, their goals and projects, in part started from last Council. So a lot has to be done in a short time. Commonly there would only be one woman on the Council! I encouraged quite a few women to run. We ended up with 5 women on a 13 member Council.

With the help of federal money for renovations, the city purchased a church from the Salvation Army and established a homeless shelter in partnership with Community Resource Action Centre.

In 2017 that shelter was closed to make way for more transitional housing. A cooperative effort involving Niagara College, the Town of Pelham, the City of Welland and the upper levels of government resulted in a new Y. M. C. A. As part of our economic plan, we established some industrial parks. There are now quite a few successful manufacturing companies occupying the industrial parks."

## **Partisanship**

"At the local level, partisanship was never glaring. Sure, people had their political views, but those views were tempered in an effort to collectively solve challenges. Things were different at Queen's Park. During minority government there was some collegiality, a sense of trying to improve legislation for all but majority government seems to be focused on winning the next election instead of doing what is best for the people and the province."

## **A Political Career Comes to a Halt**

*Cindy Forster was elected Provincially in 2011 and again in 2014, both times by wide margins. Why would she choose to not seek a third term?*

"In 2016 my husband Brian was diagnosed with cancer, a lymphoma. He broke his leg, required extensive chemotherapy, surgery and radiation treatments, which meant being house bound. The good news is that the cancer is in remission. His health has improved enough that we can travel a bit and it was time for me to support him as he had me for the last 25 years in politics."

## **Advice For Those Seeking Public Office**

"The most important thing is to be yourself. Be active and involved in your community so that people get to know you and what you know and what you stand for. Always make time for your family and friends, in the sometimes, frenzied life of politics."

## **What is Cindy Forster Doing These Days?**

"I worked in this last municipal election trying to get new people elected with some success as 75% of the Niagara Region Council are new. Since my husband Brian is feeling better and able to travel, we spent nine weeks traveling in our RV down east, visiting Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. And of course with a federal election in the horizon, I know what I can fill some hours with in 2019."

# Sandra Pupatello

M.P.P. 1995 – 2011, Liberal, Windsor West

*“My political life started when I answered a phone call which was 'on behalf of Herb Gray'.”*



Sandra Pupatello, Woman of the Year, Chair of Hydro One, a Leadership candidate, five Cabinet posts and Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition.

Impressive accomplishments. How did it all start?

“Early on I realized that you can influence events through politics, but the real beginning was in high school.” Sandra Pupatello explains that there was an atmosphere at school and home conducive to being interested in politics. “At one time there were three elected people, an M.P., M.P.P. and the Mayor of Windsor who had all graduated from my school, Kennedy Collegiate.

When I was 14 years old my history teacher announced that Herb Gray was looking for volunteers. I put my name down. I was surprised when the phone rang at home and the call was on behalf of Herb Gray. Years later, when I decided to seek the nomination to run provincially, Herb Gray nominated me. I was able to return the favour, years later, by nominating Herb Gray the last time he ran.”

*It is common in government for a Minister to have a portfolio for two or three years, then be given a new assignment. Sandra Pupatello held the position of Minister of Economic Development and International Trade for six years. What was it about the posting which was so attractive to Sandra?*

“I have always believed that Liberals could relate to the business community. That we understand the world of business. I had the opportunity, as Minister of Economic Development, to demonstrate that in government we could attract new investment, and stimulate the economy. I also enjoyed being Minister of Community and Social Services.

We closed three remaining government-operated institutions for developmentally disabled adults, and assisted the occupants with moving into more integrated community facilities.”

*When I ask who was Sandra’s mentor, the response was quick and decisive. “Herb Gray. He was all about the institution of parliament; what it stands for and why it is important.”*

*It is clear that Sandra Pupatello enjoyed the challenges of being an M.P.P. and the responsibilities of a Cabinet Minister. So, why did Sandra not run in the 2011 general election?* “It seems to me that you either serve for a couple of terms or you continue for 30 or 40 years. When I started on this political path I thought I would serve two terms, then go back into the business world. Through circumstances I ended up with four terms. In 2011, I thought it was time for me to try the world of business.”

*Sandra has some thoughtful advice about why young people should have an interest in politics. “It is more important today than ever for young people to have an active interest in politics. What happens in the world has an impact here. If young people want to have some measure of control over their lives, they need to be tuned in politically.”*

What was the best part and the worst part of being elected?

“You can effect change, especially if you are in government. You can also be effective when in Opposition, but being in government gives you the position needed to make change. Being elected takes you away from your family. Today, there is also a new level of intrusiveness, social media gets some of the blame, and its hard to watch.”

Sandra Pupatello was selected as Windsor’s Woman of the Year in 2003. What is the importance of the Award to Sandra?

“Our annual Women In Politics conference was a very hands-on opportunity for young girls to see women in action on the political front. Maybe that had a hand in that award! Young girls need to see women in leadership roles, and in positions that are non-traditional. I always hoped that I provided some of that insight for them to take the leap and get involved.”

# Nokomis O'Brien

Official Photographer of the Ontario Legislature

*“Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communications, offers an infinite variety of perception, interpretation and execution.” - Ansel Adams*

*Ansel Easton Adams (1902 - 1984) was an American landscape photographer who had a profound impact on advancing photography as an art form.*

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Nokomis O'Brien, the official photographer for the Ontario Legislature, has a deep appreciation of photography as art. Depending on when you were sworn in as a Member of Provincial Parliament, you likely had your official photograph taken by Nokomis. Personally, I was so overwhelmed by the honour of being sworn in, that I didn't take note of who was taking the pictures.

In addition to the swearing-in ceremony Nokomis has a long list of duties; create the composite photo for each Parliament, design and prepare booklets, brochures, posters and print materials for Members, create copy and photos for the various exhibits which are hosted at the Legislature, do archival work and always be available to photograph visiting dignitaries.

Nokomis' professional path started with taking a course in photography at high school. She then went on to complete photography courses at Humber College (Toronto) and then a degree at Ryerson University (Toronto).

Over the years at Queen's Park there have been quite a few memorable moments for this talented professional photographer. “Certainly, it was special to take photos of visiting Prime Ministers, Harper and Trudeau, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Prince Harry, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Roberta Bondar, just to mention a few.”

Does Nokomis pursue photography outside of her job at Queen's Park? “Not as often as I would like. But, when I get a chance I like to do documentary projects. Something which captures moments in time, a social documentary. Photographing old stores and businesses in an area of Toronto can tell a story about how a city or neighbourhood evolves.”

It has been more than 25 years since a book was published featuring photographs of our beloved “Pink Palace”. With Nokomis as the photographer, Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations has just completed a new book of photos, Ontario's Legislative Building, which capture the beauty, elegance and history of Queen's Park.

When asked about the importance of photography, Nokomis replied, “It is an art form. The camera is a way to document history, to have a glimpse into peoples' lives and our society.”



# Catherine Hsu

Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office



Photo: Victoria Shariati

## **Tell us about your professional background.**

I majored in political science and I'm a career diplomat. Besides Toronto, I have also been posted in Seattle, Geneva and Washington, DC. I think that to work with the Taiwanese government in foreign service, you have to have a deep commitment to the country. This has to be a cause that you've devoted yourself to.

I really enjoy working in Canada because I find so many similarities between Taiwan and Canada. Taiwanese people and Canadians are both extremely nice and friendly. We also have a very inclusive and diverse culture in Taiwan. We have Indigenous peoples and many immigrant communities. Given Taiwan's location, we're like a transportation hub in the region, so we're exposed to foreign cultural influences. We had some Dutch,

Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese influences in the past. And now there is a new wave of immigrants from ASEAN countries. This is very much like Canada's multi-cultures.

## **Why is it important to be in Toronto?**

We have three offices across Canada representing Taiwan's interests. Our headquarters is in Ottawa and two other offices are in Toronto and Vancouver, where we have a larger Taiwanese community. Our mandates include providing consular services, as well as promoting trade, cultural and other relations between Taiwan and Canada.

Taiwan and Canada have very close exchanges in many ways. There are, according to Canadian statistics, over 250,000 Taiwanese living in Canada. There are 60,000 Canadians living in Taiwan.

That's one of the largest overseas Canadian communities.

Since 2010, Canada granted Visa waivers to the Taiwanese. That makes the exchange between the two countries even more frequent and easier. There are 28 direct flights every week between Canada and Taiwan, run by two Taiwanese airlines, EVA Air and China Airlines, and Air Canada.

## **Are you able to maintain relationships with other diplomats here?**

We're not a member of the diplomatic corps, but there are other opportunities to connect with and attend various events with other diplomats in Toronto.

### **What is the trade between Canada and Taiwan like?**

Taiwan is Canada's 5th largest trading partner in Asia and 12th worldwide. The trade volume was over CAN\$7 billion in 2017, a 7% increase from the previous year.

Canada has been thinking to diversify its market. We've been adopting a similar approach in Taiwan. China is our largest trading partner, with the US coming in second. We're also looking now at countries in ASEAN and South Asia such as India, as well as Australia and New Zealand. We call this the 'New Southbound' policy. This isn't just about trade, but also cultural, people-to-people exchanges.

Taiwan is small in size. It's almost the same size as the Netherlands, or the size of two Ontario lakes – but we're not small in terms of economy and trade.

### **How is Taiwan overcoming its challenges without diplomatic status?**

We have to work hard. We have to work very hard because of the unique international situation we face. Despite the lack of diplomatic ties, we have over 110 offices like TECO around the world, maintaining substantial relations with countries like Canada. Our passport is so popular that our citizens can travel to over 150 countries or territories enjoying visa waiver or landing visa convenience.

How can Taiwan maintain close relations with non-diplomatic allies? I think there are several ways.

First, for example, with Canada, we share common values such as democracy, freedom, human rights and rule of law.

Second, there are shared interests. We're the

world's 18th largest importer and exporter, and famous for our ICT (information and communications technology) strength. Taiwan plays a vital role in the supply chain and promotes innovations as well, so we can partner with many countries.

Third, we do a lot of humanitarian relief work around the world. That work comes from the government and many very active NGOs that are doing an incredible job. These earn us recognitions and friendship.

### **What is Taiwan's role in the international community?**

Taiwan is a very responsible player in the international community. Even though we're not a member of the UN, we're members to many intergovernmental organizations, such as the WTO and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). For those international organizations that we're not able to become members of, we still try to make contributions by voluntarily complying with the rules and norms set by those bodies.

Take the WHO for example, we're not a member, but from 2009 to 2016 we were invited as an observer to the WHA (World Health Assembly), which is the highest decision-making body in the WHO. However, at all times, we abide by all of their recommendations or resolutions voluntarily. Virus knows no borders. In the early 2000s, when SARS hit Canada, Taiwan too was one of the serious victims. This is why Canada supports our participation in the WHO. We greatly appreciate that.

### How do you give your input to these organizations?

We take the initiative and try our best to relay our information to them. The hard part is how to receive information from them in a timely manner. Not having official status is a barrier, especially under the UN system. Taiwan has been trying its best to be a helping hand in the international community. When dealing with the cross border issues, we need all stakeholders' joint effort. I hope this will help us win more international support.

### Do you see a time when the differences between China and Taiwan will be resolved?

The differences are the key point. We are very different in political system, values and people's way of life. When asked about the cross-Strait relations, the majority of the Taiwanese people, over 80% in opinion polls, are in favor of maintaining the status quo. Our President Tsai Ing-wen called upon China to bravely move toward democracy, as this is the only way they can understand what the Taiwanese people think and commit to. She also called for peaceful talks to manage the future development of the cross Strait relations, based on China's respect of our democracy and freedom.



Photo: Lonely Planet

# The Artists Who Created The Art At Queen's Park

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During your time at Queen's Park you walked the halls of the main legislative building. Perhaps you took time to admire some of the paintings. Ever wonder about the artists who created the paintings? Or, perhaps, while walking to and from the "Pink Palace" you ambled past the statues and monuments which beautify the property.

Ever wonder about the artists who sculpted those statues and monuments? Or maybe, while seated in the Chamber, during a quieter time, when you had a chance to look up or around, did you wonder who created the murals or carvings on the ceiling and walls?

It is hard to believe, but until now no one has ever produced anything which focuses on the artists whose work adorns the walls and property of our Legislature. But now, the O.A.F.P., your Association, has created a unique publication that tells the stories of many of those artists, and you will be receiving an invitation to attend the launch of that book

The evening of Thursday, March 7 is dedicated to the artist. There will be live music, refreshments, and a chance to meet some of the artists featured in our publication. And we will formally present the book, a gift from O. A. F. P. to the Ontario Legislature, to Speaker Arnott. The event will take place in "The Gathering Place," (otherwise known as rooms 228-230.)

This is a significant event in the life of our Legislature, one which your Association, along with the generous support of the Honourable Henry Jackman, former Lieutenant Governor, is proud to have made possible.



Photo: Victoria Shariati

# Political Mentors

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“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of becoming.” - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“The first time I sought public office was 1972 when I was the NDP candidate in the federal riding of York-Scarborough, a sprawling urban riding with a population of 250,000 people. The guest speaker for the nomination meeting was Donald C Macdonald, former Leader of the Provincial New Democrats. Donald became known as the “happy warrior”. He was someone who was always upbeat, optimistic and energetic. I won the provincial elections of 1975 and 1977, then lost the 1981 election. In large part, it was what Donald Macdonald meant to me that served as a catalyst for seeking a return to Queen’s Park. At Queen’s Park there were two other members who were great role models; a brilliant lawyer James Renwick who was not only an excellent orator but could swiftly dissect a Bill, and Stephen Lewis with his razor sharp debating skills. Stephen was also someone to emulate when it came to Question Period, demonstrating how to be effective without relying on printed questions.” - *David Warner*

“I was blessed to have three political mentors, all former or current MPPs. The first was Sean Conway, who encouraged me to consider putting my name on the ballot and importantly, introduced me to the newly minted Ontario Liberal Leader, Dalton McGuinty. The second was family friend Hugh O’Neil, who taught me, as an underdog, how to win my first and hotly contested nomination battle. Finally, Nancy and Hugh Edighoffer, who generously taught my wife and I on how to balance the demands of family life with elected life. My eight years at Queen’s Park would never have happened without them.” - *John Wilkinson*

“As a Young Liberal from Sudbury, I had the great privilege to have campaigned for Elmer Sopha who served from 1959 until 1971. He always chose to find time for anyone who was interested in politics. He taught me the importance of treating people with respect, understanding and commitment. His lessons were simple politics - all politics are local and you represent the people of Sudbury. These lessons were lessons I followed for my almost twenty years as an MPP for Sudbury. Mr. Sopha continues to be a political hero and a role model for all Liberals in Sudbury.” - *Rick Bartolucci*

“I first got interested in politics in Grade 10 when my favourite history teacher David Shanoff at Bloor Collegiate ran for School Trustee. We knocked doors for a couple of days with him and he won. My first lesson: winning is better than losing!” - *Terence Young*

“While a student at Western, I was heavily involved in the PC campus movement. I decided to run for the Party executive at the Annual Meeting in 1976, at the old Inn on the Park in Toronto. My friends and I put together a good campaign “Gillies 11th” as I was running for the 11th Vice-President, a dedicated youth position. Around this time, a new young MPP came to speak to the Western PCs –

*Larry Grossman.*

“I was entranced by this dynamic, articulate fellow. After this one meeting I decided, rather brashly, to ask Larry to nominate me at the Party convention. We met over lunch in his downtown Toronto riding – he quizzed me on a few things. I remember him asking me – who did you support for the federal PC leadership a few months ago? I replied, “Flora MacDonald”. He immediately said, “I’ll nominate you”! He gave a rousing speech putting my name forward which I’m sure gained me a lot of support. I won that race, beating my opponent two to one.

So began a friendship that endured for two decades. After I was elected in 1981, we were caucus mates and eventually sat in the Cabinet together. I was the first member of the PC caucus to endorse Grossman for the leadership after Premier Davis announced his retirement. I stood with him through two tough leadership campaigns in 1985 – losing one and winning the next. In the 1987 general election campaign when we were both going down to defeat, Larry came to Brantford and gave an electrifying speech to a crowd of over 400 people. In private life we continued to work together on several projects. I was so sad at Larry’s untimely death in 1997. I felt like I had lost a brother. I’ve rarely had such a loyal friend. He was a brilliant man and a great politician.” - *Phil Gillies*

“Coming from an Italian family very much interested in politics, as a child part of what my parents and I would watch on television were the proceedings in the Ontario Legislature. I remember as a child watching Bill Davis, Stephen Lewis and Roy McMurtry in awe. McMurtry in particular was my idol, a fact I have related to him in recent years. I loved the way he would present issues in the Legislature and how he could convince you with facts and reasoned arguments. I marvelled at the fact that Davis and Lewis could spar so elegantly and then go out to dinner together. It taught me that you could be adversaries and still treat one another with respect. It was an amazing introduction to this country.” -

*Annamarie Castrilli*

“My political mentors were my parents Sterling and Margaret Campbell. My father Sterling was a candidate for Alderman and lost by 14 votes. As a veteran he went door to door and as a young teen I helped to distribute flyers. I include him because he fell with a couple of days left. This fall reactivated his war wounds and he was bedridden. Two years later he was producing the Cannonball trucking TV series and encouraged my mother Margaret to run. I was able to campaign with her and saw the value of the personal contact. She won and eventually became the Liberal Member for Toronto St. George riding. I watched as she suffered discrimination as a female politician. I vowed to always remember that lesson and support women in politics. After she retired she always came out to support those candidates whose values matched hers. Even though as a ten year veteran alderman and a ‘one term wonder’ MPP for Sudbury I took pride in the values instilled in me by my political parents.” - *Sterling Campbell*

“I can still see in my mind’s eye a 6’ 8” athletic gentleman at the front of the Grade 10 World History class at Collingwood District Collegiate Institute, starting another exciting class dealing with world leaders from many viewpoints. Mr. Gough taught his classes not from a dates perspective but from a perspective of influential figures and what roles these folks played through all cycles of history. Bill

Gough’s approach to history teaching was the very opposite of a dates review.

His approach was one of great and intriguing narratives; whether the Roman Empire or any empire preceding the Roman reign, from the European, American, Latin American, or from the Asian perspective. Stories held the fundamental key to revealing motive, and to outcome. He encouraged all his students to read biographies or autobiographies to understand the world around them and to proceed from there to develop critical insights about leadership.

This gentle giant did not just focus on military, political, or religious leaders, but explored the world of Arctic or Antarctic explorers, to what was going on in all societies from the individual level to exploring the worlds of science and sports, from music to the arts, the history of technology and invention, to the history of outer and inner space and any other subject from a historical attitude.

He strongly believed that the history of narrative, through the use of biographies and personal diaries, was the great pathway to learning about people and the world and how potential solutions could be developed from lessons learned.

Bill Gough was truly inspiring and a door opener for all his students to develop into great and involved citizens. He challenged all his students to expand their horizons and outlooks. I caught the bug from his great teaching and moved into the world of politics, public service and history.

He was my historical and political mentor; someone who was insightful, imaginative and truly humorous. A teacher and a leader.” - *John Hastings*

“I was a new young lawyer in Barrie coming from Toronto. I had mentors in law but on arrival in Barrie I was soon involved in politics as always since 1957. Eventually Art Evans the MPP retired and I was sought after for his job. During my nomination campaign Heber Smith, an across the street lawyer, from my office and the former MP for the area, would attend upon me unannounced and offer advice on literature, lay low or speak up, or other actions of campaigning life. That continued. I even recall a conversation in which I had indicated that, "I had never been approached or offered a bribe." His reply to my humorous comment was, "I had no power"! I also had assistance, as I spoke on his behalf in some elections, from Dr. Rynard, MP for the area. The riding was forever being rearranged.” - *George Taylor*

“I was lucky enough to have Jack Layton as my political mentor. In 1988 I was elected as an Alderman for what was then Ward 8 in Toronto and Jack was the sitting Alderman for Ward 6 (yes, that’s what we were called at the time but my motion changed our title to City Councillor). Jack was upbeat and positive no matter the situation and he tended to look for the good in people. I learned from him that you can work hard and have fun doing it. And boy did we have fun! Perhaps the most important thing I learned from him is this: Jack would say, ” don’t just come to me with a problem. Suggest a solution too, and I’ll work with you to try to make it happen. The implication was of course he didn’t have the time to listen to people complaining just for the sake of complaining. It is something I practice to this day.” -

*Marilyn Churley*

# The Unveiling of Speaker Levac's Portrait

November 20, 2018



Photo by Nokomis O'Brien

Portraits of the Speakers of Ontario's Legislative Assembly date back to 1792, however all of the ones prior to Confederation are to be found in the House of Commons, Ottawa. The Assembly does have reproductions of the earlier Speakers. The introduction of an actual Speaker's portrait may have been started under Premier Hardy, who was Premier from 1896-99.

Until the 1940s, each outgoing Speaker from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario received the chair he sat on in the Chamber as a gift of thanks for their service to the Province.

From that time to today, Speakers receive the gift of their portrait instead, which is then placed on the 1st floor wall of the Legislative Building. Similar to the Premiers, Speakers may choose the artist.

Speaker Ted Arnott presided over this special occasion, one which nicely blended formality and casualness.

Speaker Levac, his family, friends, former colleagues from both sides of the aisle gathered at the foot of the Grand Staircase to unveil his portrait. Wonderfully warm speeches, paying tribute to Speaker Levac's achievements and sprinkled with good humour, were delivered by four MPPs; Hon. Christine Elliott, Percy Hatfield, John Fraser and Mike Schreiner.



Dave Levac is the longest serving Speaker in Ontario's history. During his tenure he launched the Speaker's Book Award, which recognizes and celebrates Ontario authors and their books. He also created two permanent exhibits; A Remarkable Assembly, which features women who have contributed greatly to our Province and The Gathering Place, which showcases the artwork of Ontario's indigenous peoples.

There were actually two unveilings. The first was a Lego caricature of Speaker Levac as a measure of appreciation for the Lego model of the Legislature. The second unveiling was an absolutely superb oil painting by Juan Carlos Martinez, an award-winning artist from Toronto who was trained in a classical realist tradition here and in Florence, Italy.



Portrait of Speaker Levac painted by Juan Carlos Martinez. Photo by Nokomis O'Brien

# Spotlight on History

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Henry Corby (1806-1881)

A Former M. P. P. whose legacy is on the shelves of the L.C.B.O.

*“Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whiskey is barely enough.”  
- Mark Twain*

*The following is but a snapshot of an interesting man whose legacy is a well established, successful company with the motto: “Never Stand Still.”*

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Corby’s Spirits and Wine was founded in the 1840’s by Henry Corby.

Henry Corby, of French Huguenot stock, was born in the village of Hanwell, near London, England. He learned the baking trade in London, before immigrating in 1832 at age 26 to Canada, where he set up a small food shop and bakery in Belleville, Ontario. After military service in the 1837 Rebellion, he sold his bakery and bought a St. Lawrence steamer.

Henry’s involvement in buying and selling grain led him to establish a gristmill on the banks of the Moira River. Farmers would bring their grain to be ground into meal and would reserve a portion of it to be made into whisky. So Henry Corby became interested in the distilling process. He was soon making his own brand of whisky for local consumption as a sideline to the main milling operation. By 1859, the distillery operation was incorporated and equally important to Henry as the mill operations. Henry Corby was not only a successful businessman, but a successful politician. He was elected to a two year term as Mayor of Belleville, followed by two consecutive terms, 1867-1874, representing Hastings East in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as a Conservative. He retired from public life in 1875 and returned to the milling and distillery business and began selling whisky in bulk.

Today, if you are looking for a B & B to stay at while visiting beautiful Belleville, you might check out The Henry Corby House. This is the house built by Henry Corby when he retired in 1875. Over the years, the Corby Spirits and Wine Company expanded their product lines so that today they have the following products: J.P. Wiser’s Canadian whiskies, Lamb’s rum, Polar Ice vodka and Mc-Guinness liqueurs. Corby also represents leading international brands such as ABSOLUT vodka, Chivas Regal, The Glenlivet and Ballantine’s Scotch whiskies, Jameson Irish whiskey, Beefeater gin, Malibu rum, Kahlúa liqueur, Mumm Champagne, and Jacob’s Creek, Stoneleigh, Graffigna, Campo Viejo, and Wyndham Estate wines.

Post Scripts:

- World War II forced Corby’s distillery to suspend normal operations and produce alcohol for munitions.
- Canada’s first recorded distillery was established in Quebec City in 1769.

# Behind the Scenes

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*The December 30, 2018 Toronto Star newspaper printed the article below, by Phil Gillies. The details of how a significant decision was made are likely not known by many of us.*

*If you would like to share the details of a political event, to which you were connected, please send it along.*

The Case for Inter-party Cooperation – LGBT Rights in Ontario  
Phil Gillies – Former MPP Brantford  
December 21, 2018

---

I understand the role party discipline plays in moving the Province’s business forward. If you had all 124 MPPs pursuing their own agendas, not a lot would get done. But there are times that cooperation – within the party and between parties – is vital to advance major issues.

I played a part in one such issue.

It was December 2, 1986 the day LGBT rights came to Ontario.

Up to that point, an Ontario employer could legally refuse to hire a person because they were gay. A landlord could say “I won’t rent you this apartment – I don’t rent to gays.” Even the government itself could rule “you are not eligible for this service because gays and lesbians are ineligible.”

All this was about to change. David Peterson’s Liberal government introduced ‘housekeeping’ amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code. The sexual orientation equality provision was not initially included in the Bill – this came by way of an amendment by NDP MPP Evelyn Gigantes. Premier Peterson, to his credit, decided to accept the amendment. The now controversial legislation came to be known by supporters and foes alike as simply Bill 7.

Back then, I was the PC MPP for Brantford. Young and ambitious. I had already been a Cabinet Minister at the age of 31. I was also gay and in the closet.

I split with most of my own Party’s MPPs and a large part of public opinion at the time by immediately announcing my support for the gay rights Bill, and my intention to campaign and vote for it. I knew there would be backlash from many. Many clergy and organizations like Real Women and Campaign Life were already putting together a tough opposition campaign. I sensed, correctly, that it was going to be a nasty fight. But this was a line in the sand for me.

A group of activists coalesced around Bill 7 and a campaign started – led by U of T professor David Rayside, the Reverend Brent Hawkes and others. They started contacting MPPs they thought would be supportive – zeroing in on my friend Susan Fish, who represented the eastern half of downtown Toronto and me. They knew we were in. The big question mark in our Party was our Leader, Larry Grossman.

Larry was a classic Progressive Conservative – fiscally prudent but socially forward thinking. He represented the western half of downtown Toronto. While Larry’s instincts would be in support, a ‘whipped’ vote in favour was out of the question. What I wanted was for PC members to vote with their conscience.

The problem was this – our party had come through a hard-fought and divisive leadership campaign a year before. Grossman’s support came largely from urban ridings. The other main contender, Minister of Agriculture Dennis Timbrell, drew his support heavily from rural and small-town parts of the province. Dennis was himself a Toronto MPP, representing Don Mills, and very much a moderate Tory.

If Grossman came out for gay rights and Timbrell opposed the Bill, the PC Party could split wide open. A meeting was called in Opposition Leader Grossman’s office. There were about 15 people – mainly staff and advisers and a couple of key MPPs. The majority of them said variations of the same line: “We know you want to support gay rights for all the right reasons, but you can’t. This is such a hot button issue – it will split the Party. Your leadership will be in jeopardy. We’ve got to instruct caucus to vote against.”

But I knew something that I’m sure most of them didn’t.

Dennis Timbrell’s brother, Robert, was gay. And not just gay – he was well-known actor and drag performer Rusty Ryan, a founding member of the celebrated Great Imposters troupe. I knew from sources in the Gay Village that Dennis and his brother were close, and that the former senior cabinet minister was very supportive of his sibling!

We all knew, but may have forgotten, that Dennis Timbrell was an enlightened and progressive MPP. A born leader with a strong social conscience.

I asked the assembled Tory brass, “Has anyone bothered to ask Dennis how he intends to vote on the Bill?”

Silence.

Grossman looked at me and said “Good question. Find Dennis and ask him.” And so, I tracked him down.

“When is the debate and when is the vote?” Timbrell asked.

I told him.

“Tell the Leader that I will be coming to the House to speak in favour of the Bill and to vote for it.”

I raced back down and told the group, “Dennis is voting for the Bill.”

Larry Grossman smiled. “This meeting is over. We’re having a free vote.”

The debate on Bill 7 was one of the most divisive and bitter that I saw in my seven years in the Legislature. When the vote was called, most but not all of the governing Liberals voted for it. All NDP members in attendance voted for it (some didn't appear for the vote). And four of us PC members, out of 51, voted in favour. But the two most prominent Members, Larry Grossman and Dennis Timbrell, were among us. This, in my opinion, prevented the Party from splitting wide open.

And so gay rights came to Ontario in the closing days of 1986. With at least some support from all three parties.

I've never regretted it for a minute. In that moment I became a true representative. When I advise candidates to this day, I tell them this story. The time will come in the life of any politician that you may have to stand on your own feet, whatever the consequences.

I cast hundreds of votes during my time at Queen's Park. This is the one I remember best.



Photo: A 1970's Pride Week, as photographed by Jearld Moldenhauer.

In loving memory of

# John Roxborough Smith



Photo: lifenews.ca

(November 10, 1939 – December 6,  
2018)

Served in the 28th, 29th and 30th  
Parliaments

October 17, 1967 – June 8, 1977  
Progressive Conservative Member for  
Hamilton Mountain

John Smith held two Ministerial posts, Correctional Services and Government Services. He was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Industry and Tourism and to the Minister of Education. Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Human Resources, Member, Select Committee on Rules, Standing Orders and Procedures, member of 10 Standing Committees (Legal Bills and Municipal Affairs, Education and University Affairs, Labour, Health, Government Commissions, Private Bills, Social, Family and Correctional Services, Striking Committee to appoint members to standing committees, Estimates, Procedural Affairs).

After leaving Queen's Park, John sat on the Immigration Refugee Board of Canada for four years. His last quest in life was to convince the Provincial Government to replace the statue of Chief Tecumseh in the lobby of Queen's Park. During the exodus of refugees from Vietnam, he invited a small group of friends to form a federally registered charity known as The Mountain Fund To Help The Boat People.

Over a period of fourteen years, the group brought hundreds of Vietnamese men, women, and children to Canada. In John's final days they came from everywhere to hold his hand. Late in life John was Ordained into the Reformed Episcopal Church (Anglican). He served as Rector of St. George's Hamilton for ten years and remained as Archdeacon.

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of John Smith, another old friend and colleague.

John was a veteran Member of the Legislature when I arrived in 1971, and I was honoured to be appointed to serve with him in Bill Davis' Cabinet. His contribution to Ontario on behalf of his constituents in Hamilton went far beyond his active political years, with his drive and determination ongoing to better the lives of his community and those seeking to join it.

His community work went from organizing and supporting hundreds of families coming to Hamilton during the exodus of refugees from Vietnam, to finding his final and most rewarding service in a new Ministry, well beyond Ontario's Cabinet.

John's selfless work as an Episcopal Minister will long be remembered by his many family and friends in his own community, and among those of us who had the honour to work with him years ago." - *Claude Bennett*

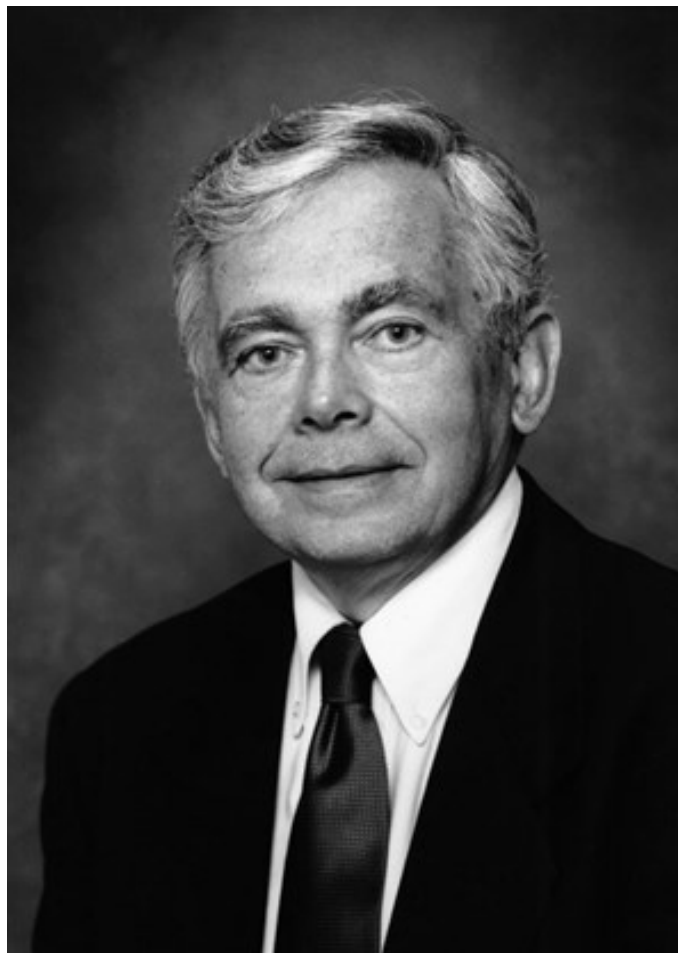


Photo: *Hamilton Spectator*

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