



The *InFormer*



**WINTER
2022**





CONTENTS

- 3.** A New Look
- 5.** Truth & Reconciliation
- 10.** Private Members Bills
- 20.** Discover Ontario
- 26.** Interviews
- 29.** Obituaries

A NEW LOOK

by David Warner

Derwyn Shea's leadership was instrumental to the founding of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. He knew that communication was fundamental if the Association was going to fulfil its mandate. With that in mind, he created The InFormer (including its whimsical name.)

Initially, the production of this newsletter was a largely solo effort on the part of Rev. Shea. A Ryerson Journalism student was soon added to bolster its content and publication frequency. Over the years The InFormer has morphed from being occasional to quarterly, from a handful of pages to 32, and from hard copy only to on-line. The next step was to have two journalism students help with production and to include the occasional Special Edition. To date we have published six Special Editions. A year ago we engaged the volunteer services of three former members to serve as



David Warner, Editor of the InFormer

proofreaders, a contribution that has improved the quality of our publications.

The next step is to print the quarterly for our membership. Yes, membership has its privileges. There will be a new look to the publication, which will include a change of font, the addition of graphics, and a greater emphasis on photos - especially those submitted by members. We will continue to focus on making our publications member driven.

We at The InFormer hope that you will like the new look.

A new look, a new year, a new venture. Our Association has established a Truth and Reconciliation Committee. As this committee explores how to make a meaningful contribution to this significant national issue, The InFormer will endeavour to provide relevant information - engaging former members in our publications.

As you will read in this edition, our Association is taking a fresh look at how best to connect with students and the general public in the process of understanding our parliamentary democracy.

The InFormer encourages your suggestions on topics you would like covered. Volunteering to write about the area in which you live, or perhaps where you spent your childhood, is appreciated.

Our publication team, which includes our Interns, David Cassels and Cassandra Earle, is excited about this new chapter in the life of The InFormer.

“ Nobody is ever too old to dream. And dreams never grow old.

- Lucy Maud Montgomery

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TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

by David Warner



Unveiling of the "Seven Grandfather Teachings" carving in Queen's Park

At its first meeting, the new Board of Directors for 2021-2022 created a new committee by the name of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. Doug Moffatt volunteered to serve as its Chair.

"This initiative picked up on a discussion at a meeting of the outgoing board last fall, which itself was prompted by a CBC radio program featuring an interview by Rosanna Deerchild with Sen. Murray Sinclair. The interview centred on the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada chaired by the Senator and the lengthy series of hearings and fact-findings underlying the report.

The interview was noteworthy and the Senator's comments resonated with many of our board members.

The new board came to the view that the issues surrounding recognition of and respect for the original people of Ontario, and the influence of non-indigenous settlers in the lives of the original peoples, was worthy of more investigation by our Association. Hence the formation of the new committee.

The committee has been given a mandate to explore methods of recognizing and acknowledging Ontario's original landholders and to develop suitable expressions to be employed at our meetings accordingly. It is also anticipated that appropriate elements of the committee's work may be included in the program for school outreach carried out by our education committee.

In all, it is hoped that the Association's new committee may advance some of the ideas reflected in the recommendations set out in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.

David Neumann, Larry O'Connor, and Dave Levac have all volunteered to serve as members of the committee. They have indicated that the work of the committee would benefit from the addition of other members, so they would welcome some additional people to join with them.

We will be holding a meeting in early 2022."

- Doug Moffatt, Chair



CARVING UNVEILED

SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS CARVING UNVEILED

On November 18th, 2021, a new wood carving showcasing the Seven Grandfather Teachings guiding principles was unveiled in the Legislative Chamber. The carving is located above the interior Chamber entrance. The carving serves as a permanent reminder of the ongoing role played by Indigenous peoples in the creation of Ontario, and symbolizes the continuing renewal

of Ontario's relationship and connections with Indigenous peoples living in the province today.

THE STORY OF THE CARVING

There were Seven Grandfathers who were given the responsibility by the Creator to watch over the Earth's people. They saw that life was not good, so they sent a helper, the Oshkabaywis, to walk among the people and bring them someone who could be taught how to live in harmony with Creation. It took seven tries but eventually the Oshkabaywis brought them a baby and they were happy. They instructed the Oshkabaywis to take the baby to every corner of the earth to see all of Creation. This took seven years and when they

returned, each of the Grandfathers gave the child a gift – a teaching – to share with all the Earth’s people.

THE SEVEN TEACHINGS

Zaagi’idiwin – Love - the eagle

Nibwaakaawin – Wisdom - the beaver

Debwewin – Truth - the turtle

Dabaadendiziwin – Humility - the wolf

Minwaadendamowin – Respect - the bison

Aakode’ewin – Courage - the bear

Gwayakwaadiziwin – Honesty - the raven

THE ARTIST

Garrett Nahdee is a self-taught artist from Walpole Island First Nation. He served as an active-duty United States Marine for four years, participating in humanitarian missions. After his honourable discharge from the Marines, he spent five years as a truck driver, travelling all across Canada and the United States. It was in his truck that he first started drawing. Realizing he had a passion for art, he soon started painting and carving. He began getting requests to create custom pieces, and is now a full-time professional artist. About the Seven Grandfather Teachings, Garrett says they are “great leadership traits, and when they are practiced in everyday life, you will see changes in your life. Burdens will be lifted, and bitterness will deplete. Uplifting your spirit to soar to another level of progress. I truly believe in the Seven Grandfather Teachings, and teach them when I can.”

THE CREATION OF THIS HISTORIC OCCASION

The process of bringing Indigenous artwork into the Chamber began after Indigenous community leaders joined party leaders in addressing the Legislature in recognition of the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at an event in May 2016. Following

this event, consultation with MPPs from all parties and Indigenous leaders took place and it was decided to add a carving by an Indigenous artist in the Chamber. In April 2018, a call for submissions was put out to invite Indigenous artists to submit a carving proposal. After careful consideration, an all-party panel and then-Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald (now the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations) chose Garrett Nahdee as the successful artist in November 2020. Mr. Nahdee completed his carving in June 2021, and it was then transported to the Legislative Building and prepared for installation in the Chamber.

AN ALL-PARTY LEADERSHIP

The Indigenous artwork all-party panel was created in 2017 to assist in the process of bringing a carving created by an Indigenous artist into the Chamber. Many Members of Provincial Parliament have contributed to its work since its inception, assisting former Speaker Dave Levac and current Speaker Ted Arnott in the submission and selection process.

MPPs on the committee: Gilles Bisson (NDP), Paul Calandra (PC), Nathalie Des Rosiers (LIB), John Fraser (LIB), Sophie Kiwala (LIB), Sol Mamakwa (NDP), Ross Romano (PC), Mike Schreiner (Green) & Lisa Thompson (PC)

“Ontario’s Legislative Chamber contains a number of ornate wood carvings,” said Speaker Arnott. “Although these pieces enhance the detailed decorative atmosphere of the Chamber and reflect the history of the building, until now, they have lacked representation from the Indigenous people in Ontario. I’m thrilled that we now have this beautiful piece done by Mr. Nahdee in the Chamber. Not only is it incredibly important to have an Indigenous perspective represented, but the Seven Grandfather Teachings are a universal set of guiding principles that we can all relate to, regardless of our background.”



REFLECTIONS ON THE CARVING

by Dave Levac

“I was honoured to be invited back to the Legislature for the unveiling of the carving now gracing the House. It’s a beautiful piece that reflects the “Seven Grandfathers” and “Seven Generations”.

It was very nice to see a few former members and present members attending. Yasir Naqvi, former MPP (and now MP) from Ottawa approached me one day right after Question Period and floated the idea of using some blank space in the House to have Indigenous carvings done. He was motivated by the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. I loved the idea as I had just completed my other idea of creating space in the Legislative building dedicated to First Nations of Ontario. I felt the idea fit perfectly with the times and needed to be done as another step in “Polishing the Silver Chain of Covenant”. Building a better and respectful relationship is never a bad idea. I felt humbled and proud at the same time. Many important guests were invited and had “good words” to share.

The present Speaker, Ted Arnott, along with the fantastic staff of the Legislature, did a fantastic job (as always) in organizing the event. The Speaker gave a very memorable and meaningful speech that moved many in the room, including me.

Finally, the artist delivered a masterpiece that will stand the test of time and reflect a part of Ontario history not often considered. That day delivered a meaningful message of hope. I hope this helps.”
- former Speaker, Dave Levac



Former Speaker, Dave Levac



REFLECTIONS: SOPHIE KIWALA



The most poignant part of ‘New MPP Orientation’ for me was learning about the significance of two important carvings in the Legislative Assembly. One is an owl carved in the centre of the east wall which looks down on the Government side of the House reminding the government to use its powers wisely. The carving on the opposite side is of an eagle and it reminds opposition MPPs to keep a watchful eye on the actions of the Government. I thought of the significance of these pieces on numerous occasions throughout my time at Queen’s Park.

Given my long-standing advocacy for

Indigenous Peoples, it was a tremendous honour to be the government representative in an all-party committee to install an Indigenous carving inside the Chamber. As we honour Indigenous heritage through the presence of this carving, we also pay tribute to new connections, relationships, and opportunities at the first entry point as you cross into the Chamber from the main doorway. Let the sound principles of the Seven Grandfather Teachings guide those who represent communities across this province with a steady, compassionate and loving hand for generations to come.”



PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

by David Warner

A cornerstone of our parliamentary system of governance is the private Member. It is the Member that is referred to in the Standing Orders, not political parties.

THE PRIVATE MEMBER'S IMPORTANCE IN THE 1600'S

At least as far back as the early 1600's, Members of Parliament would draft legislation themselves. This was so because their purpose was often to further their own interests. In fact, most Commons' bills in the early days resulted from the initiative of private individuals or independent corporations:

The puritan firebrand Nicholas Fuller, for instance, regularly produced bills addressing the shortcomings of the Church. There was some opposition to allowing Members to draft a private bill, as voiced by Thomas Crewe in 1621 "for he is a judge and ought to be indifferent". However, a ban would have removed a powerful motive for entering Parliament, and besides, the Commons was perfectly capable of deciding whether or not a bill was in the public interest, regardless of the identity of its author.

Andrew Thrush and John P. Ferris, ed. 2010: The

History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1604-1629.

Initially there was no distinction between a Private Bill and a Private Member's Bill, so when an individual member introduced his Bill, it was called a Private Bill.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S IMPORTANCE CONTINUES BEYOND CONFEDERATION

There is a long, proud, tradition in Ontario of private members introducing bills that are substantive in nature. During Ontario's first Parliament (1867-1871), Mr. Adam Oliver's Private Member's Bill to protect Butter and Cheese manufacturers was given Royal Assent on March 4, 1868.

In covering the Legislature on Mar 26, 1891, the Globe newspaper (1844-1936) reported on Mr. Tait's bill calling for the "establishment of a College of Embalming and Organic Chemistry." The Attorney General told the House in debate that, while it wasn't a Government bill, the Government thought it was in the interest of public health. The bill passed second reading and was referred to a Select Committee.

PRIVATE MEMBERS GAIN PRACTICAL SUPPORT

The work of the (Dalton) Camp Commission in 1973 brought about major changes in the recognition of the importance of the private member. One significant new measure was to place responsibility for drafting Private Member's Bills with the Office of the Legislative Counsel (OLC), a part of the Ministry of the Attorney General. While OLC is part of government, it operates as independently as possible, and has close proximity to the Legislature so that private members can consult its staff readily, without having to attend a dedicated government building/office to do so. (The costs associated with drafting Private Members' Bills are covered by the Assembly, not by the Government.) Further, in order to comply with the requirements of the French Language Services Act in regard to all public bills, the Ontario OLC is qualified to provide drafting services in both official languages. Access to the OLC thus provides the private member with essential research and legal support in drafting legislation, a solid underpinning enabling the private member to bring well researched, expertly drafted legislation to the House.

PMB BY THE NUMBERS

“Between 1976 and 1996, only about 30 PMBs passed, although in the 1993-4 session an astonishing 18 private members' bills passed, more than had passed in the previous four decades” - Graham White, 1997, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*

This number was matched in the first session of the 41st Parliament and appears to have stood until the first session of the 42nd Parliament (2018-2021), when 29 Private Members' Public Bills were passed. - Legislative Library Research 2022

Of the 1,844 Private Members' Public Bills

introduced over the period 1999 to 2018, 89 became law - Larry Johnston, Research Officer, Legislative Research Service, July 2018, *The Role of the Private Member*, Research Paper 11 -05

IS THERE A TROUBLING TREND?

“Some believe that Private Members' Public Business is a time when party discipline,

which otherwise informs almost all parliamentary activity, should be greatly relaxed,

if not absent altogether. Recent trends in Ontario's Legislative Assembly suggest the

opposite, as reflected not only in votes on Private Members' Bills, but in statements

made in debate indicating that a party caucus has taken a position on the bill in

question.” – Larry Johnston, Research Officer, referenced above.

The collection featured here is a sampling of the initiative of individual Members of Provincial Parliament to effect change. There is a wide variety, not only of topics, but also of approaches. Some Members on the Government side were able to persuade the Government of the day to adopt their bill. Some Members on the Opposition side of the aisle garnered support from all three parties before proceeding with 2nd reading debate. At least one Opposition Member succeeded in persuading the Government to accept his bill. A few Members achieved co-sponsorship of their bills. This pinnacle of tri-party sponsorship is reached twice in this sampling.

The two examples of a tri-party approach - The Holodomor Memorial Day Act and The Right to be Free from Discrimination and Harassment Because of Gender Identity or Gender Expression Act, illustrate how Members can “hang their cloak of partisanship” at the door and focus on an important issue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH/CHAD GRIETER

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL ACT

by Ted Chudleigh



Former MPP, Ted Chudleigh

“It was a very special evening in the Ontario Legislature when The Holocaust Memorial Act passed third reading in November of 1997.

How did it happen? Well, the subject itself is very compelling. Other jurisdictions were looking at similar legislation but no one had yet passed a similar bill. Ontario was the first jurisdiction in the world outside of Israel to do so.

Of course several Jewish Associations were very supportive and effectively lobbied to see the bill pass.

One of the key elements to passing the bill was to keep it very non-political.

There was a little hic-up in this regard but was straighten out quickly by opposition members.

The bill, of course, created a day to remember the lessons of the Holocaust that civilized people everywhere respect and honour. That day is 27 Nissan in the Hebrew calendar, which falls in late April or early May.

The Ontario Legislature marks this day with the Members commemorating one of the most horrendous events the world has ever seen and hopefully will never see again.

TOBY'S ACT

by Cheri DiNovo

Right to be Free from Discrimination and Harassment Because of Gender Identity or Gender Expression (Bill 33 - 2012)

The first jurisdiction of any size to get Trans Rights, (Gender Identity and Gender Expression) as a part of its Human Rights Code in North America is Ontario because of my Bill, Toby's Act. I tabled it multiple times and it was shot down over and over until I convinced Yasir Nacqvi and Christine Elliott to co-sign it in its last iteration. It was the first tri-party Bill that wasn't an easy sell and was profoundly significant politically.

Toby was my Trans Music Director at my

then Church, Emmanuel Howard park United (now Roncesvalles United). It took six years and four attempts to get the amendment passed.

“I'm proud, so proud, to be an Ontarian and so proud to be a Canadian and so proud to be part of an assembly where we're all on the same page about this,” said DiNovo, praising Progressive Conservative MPP Christine Elliott (Whitby—Oshawa) and Liberal MPP Yasir Naqvi (Ottawa Centre) for co-sponsoring her bill.”



Former MPP, Cheri Dinovo

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH/TEDDY OSTERBLOM



Former MPP, Gerry Phillips

LOAN BROKERS

by Gerry Phillips

I got The Loan Brokers Bill 157 passed on Dec. 8 1994---Speaker Warner in the chair.

It stopped fraudsters from getting up front fees to get you a loan and never getting the loan. It passed for 3 reasons---1. public wanted something done. 2. media was pushing for action--- particularly Linda Leatherdale at the Sun. 3. I worked closely with Government to get bill in useable form. Marilyn Churley was very helpful. Would never have passed without Government support. The Bill ended up leading to many convictions.

SANDY'S LAW

by Ernie Parsons

The passing of my Private Members Bill in 2004 was a very bittersweet event in my life.

Our 25 year old son Sandy had died very suddenly and unexpectedly in January while our family was vacationing in Florida. He had joined us at age 2 and within a matter of minutes became 'family'. His background information indicated that his birth mother had consumed alcohol regularly during the pregnancy but this meant nothing to us other than a sense of relief that he was out of that environment. Several years later he was diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, the only preventable form of intellectual impairment.

Sandy was a wonderful individual who possessed what my family described as "the gift of helps". On the horrible drive back home from Florida my wife Linda and I vowed that something positive had to come of his death.

I learned from my research that alcohol has its greatest detrimental affect on a fetus on the 19th day after conception, a time when a woman is not even aware that she is pregnant. It is a problem that is not unique to any one segment of our society.

Recognizing that the best way to reduce or eliminate FASD was to educate women who are sexually active and not using birth control as to the dangers of consuming alcohol. I therefore prepared a Bill which would require all retail outlets selling or serving alcohol to prominently display a sign advising women of the detrimental effects of drinking alcohol while pregnant. The Honourable Jim Watson and his staff were extremely supportive in designing the sign.

My colleague Michael Gravelle was gracious enough to trade his Private Members Bill time slot

with me, allowing me to quickly introduce Sandy's Law.

Events during this particular time in life were basically a blur for me. Memories that still stand out are:

When I stood to introduce "A Bill to Amend the Liquor Control Act", I recall a number of Members jokingly heckling. However, when I spoke to the purpose of the Bill, all heckling immediately stopped, and the Chamber was absolutely silent.

Following the vote at First Reading, Members from both sides of the Legislature approached me to indicate that they would like to speak in favour of the Bill at Second Reading. A number requested information on FASD.

Wonderful remarks by colleagues of all parties were made during Second Reading. It passed unanimously, with a large number of Members present. I was emotionally overwhelmed when I realized that the Premier and Members of Cabinet attended for the Second Reading vote to support the Bill.

Sandy's Law passed unanimously at Third Reading, and was Proclaimed shortly thereafter.

I believe that my Private Members Bill was passed successfully not because of any brilliant oratory on my part, but because of the humanity of all of the Members. I left Queen's Park convinced that the vast, vast majority of individuals become MPPs to make our Ontario a better place. I believe that they shared Linda and my hope that if this Bill prevents one child from becoming a victim of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, then we have done a good thing. We miss our son every day, but have the consolation that other children have a better life because of his inspiration for my Bill.



Former MPP, Ernie Parsons

THE TICKET SPECULATION AMENDMENT ACT



Former MPP, Sophie Kiwala

by *Sophia Kiwala*

On September 29, 2016 I introduced Bill 22, The Ticket Speculation Amendment Act, to prohibit the use of 'ticket bots,' the software that bypasses security measures used in online ticket sales.

The motivation for this bill came from the fiasco surrounding the last Tragically Hip concert. Tickets were bought up within minutes and quickly reappeared for resale for massive markups. (The ones that were made available by resale were affordable to the affluent only - with one notoriously priced at \$5,500 for a ticket that started out at roughly \$125.)

The public went ballistic.

My bill passed second reading with all-party support. I was asked shortly thereafter what I thought about the possibility of the government adopting it as a government bill. Naturally I was thrilled. To me, having the legislation pass was much more important than having my name on a private members bill that could have sat in a committee's queue until the next election.

Access to cultural opportunities is important - it touches who we are as a people. Constituents throughout the province and people across the country were keen to weigh in on the

subject matter of my bill. We received more than 24,000 engagements within the first 48 hours of starting our online consultation on it. This was the highest level of online engagement for any bill in the provincial government's history.

The Government Bill was introduced and tabled by our Attorney General at the time, Hon. Yasir Naqvi. He graciously commented in his remarks that, "the Member for Kingston and the Islands spent tireless work on this issue, [which] has led to the legislation that is before us today. I want to thank the member, because she took the time not only to do her research to talk to the industry, artists, and others alike in crafting this legislation, but she also engaged me in the file from the get-go. It captured me, because I was scratching my head to see what can or cannot be done. I really want to thank the member because it's that collaboration that results in something very substantial and transformative."

Where there is outrage about an issue, that is often where the nugget of a good PMB resides. The essence of good legislation is knowing what is important to your community, collaborating with all stakeholders at all levels of government, and speaking to federal and provincial industry professionals to understand all perspectives.

To my disappointment, despite the fact that this legislation had all-Party support when it was introduced and adopted, the new government repealed the law in July of 2018.

FOOTNOTES

(1): The federal Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries has shown an interest in Sophie Kiwala's Bill (Law) as being important in the context of the public's access to culture.

(2): CBC, July 4, 2018 Premier Doug Ford's office confirmed late Tuesday his government is suspending a portion of the law, introduced by the Liberals, that would have outlawed resale of tickets at markups of more than 50 per cent above face value, which was set to take effect July 1. "The previous government attempted to institute a cap on ticket resales with no way to enforce that cap, resulting in less consumer protection," Ford spokesperson Simon Jeffries wrote in an email statement. "We have paused the implementation of this section until we can review this provision in full to make sure it is in the best interest of Ontarians."

HOME FIRE SPRINKLER ACT

by Linda Jeffrey

I was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 2003 and while I served as a backbencher, I spearheaded three separate attempts to change Ontario's laws to mandate sprinklers systems in all new residential construction using private member's legislation.

Over 220 jurisdictions in North America had already passed residential sprinkler legislation. In 1990, Vancouver, British Columbia, became the first Canadian city to enact a residential sprinkler bylaw. Since its enactment, while there were a few deaths in homes that were unsprinklered, there had not been a single accidental fire-related fatality where a properly installed and functioning residential sprinkler was present. Over the years professional fire services were vocal about their support for automatic sprinklers systems because they knew this technology would reduce firefighter fatalities. For decades nearly a dozen coroner's juries, and inquests had recommended changes to the Ontario building code to include residential fire sprinklers.

As many former members know Private Members' Public Bills rarely receive Third Reading or Royal Assent. However, they can help bring matters that concern private members and their constituencies to the attention of the House, the Ministries, the media and the public. Private Members Bills (PMB) may – and in my experience, ultimately did impact government policy.

I introduced my first PMB entitled the Home Fire Sprinkler Act on November 2, 2004. Bill 141 would have amended the building code to prevent any person from constructing a new detached, semi-detached home or row house that was not equipped with a sprinkler system. It died on the order paper.

In October 2005 I introduced the Home Fire Sprinkler Act Bill 2. This new and improved bill would have amended the Building Code to prevent anyone from constructing any dwelling not equipped with a sprinkler system. Simply put, wherever you sleep, you would have been protected. It died on the order paper.

While my bills awaited hearings, I used the time to raise awareness on this issue writing editorials and speaking to firefighters across the Province. At the same time, I publicly supported both government and opposition legislation, looking to craft amendments which would incorporate the best recommendations to promote fire safety, because I believed the issue went far beyond partisan politics.

In May 2008 I introduced Bill 72 which would have amended the Building Code to allow municipalities to enact a bylaw that would prevail over provincial laws, requiring fire sprinklers to be installed in all new residential occupancies.

In June 2008 I learned, through the media, that the provincial government was going to change the Ontario Building Code to make it mandatory for all new condos and apartments higher than three storeys to have sprinklers.

The changes took effect on April 1, 2010.

When I became the Minister responsible for Seniors in October 2011, I lobbied my Cabinet colleagues to make automatic sprinklers mandatory in care homes for seniors, homes for people with disabilities, and vulnerable Ontarians. At the time more than 50,000 seniors lived in about 700 retirement homes in Ontario.

On May 9, 2013, the province announced that Ontario would be the first province in Canada to make automatic sprinklers mandatory in care homes for seniors by amending the Fire Code and Building Code. Under the Ontario Fire Code retirement home operators had license conditions that stipulated that they must have fire sprinkler systems installed by January 1, 2019.



Former MPP, Linda Jeffrey

PUBLIC HOSPITALS CROWN FOUNDATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

by John Hastings

In the autumn of 1995, my name was drawn from the Private Members' Bill name list as one of the MPPs to be able to introduce a PMB in the spring of 1996.

Having had some early talks with the CEO's of both the Etobicoke Public Hospital and the Etobicoke Hospital Foundation, I was ready with the subject matter of the bill I intended to introduce: The unequal tax treatment between a donation to a health foundation and a donation to any other charitable donation.

At that time, the tax benefit of a donation to a hospital foundation was calculated on only fifty percent of the total donation amount, as contrasted to the full 100 per cent that applied in the case of any other charitable donation.

Thus was born my bill to establish the Public Hospitals Crown Foundations Amendment Act.

When the bill was introduced I was surprised to find that it created a bit of a furor: some members argued that it was a money bill, and thus fell outside the ambit of private member's legislation. In due course the Speaker ruled that the bill could proceed if the wording of the bill were to be amended to adopt language describing the specific call to action as a recommendation for committee consideration as distinct from a change to applicable laws or regulations.

With a bit of deft linguistic surgery to the required effect, the bill was allowed to proceed to debate.

While the bill was under consideration I rallied support from a number of hospital boards, foundation boards, and hospital volunteer groups - women's volunteer groups being prominent among them. We brought their message to the attention of Finance Minister Ernie Eaves. He listened carefully to their urgings and expressed his own support in principle for the bill's substance. Ernie's support was put into effect at the very next opportunity: His 1996 provincial budget included a declaration of a regulatory change allowing hospital foundations to compete for donations on an equal footing with other charitable entities.



Former MPP, John Hastings

The fruits of this initiative began to appear right away: The response from the health sector - particularly from the smaller hospitals - was almost immediate. Fundraising campaigns sprung up to replace out-dated old equipment

and buy badly needed new equipment that was put right to work for the benefit of patients.

It was no small satisfaction to see my private member's bill go from an idea to adoption to actual change - if only a small one - and to see that change benefit others.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH/JUSTUS MENKE

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE ACT (BILL 70)

by John Hastings

As was my experience in my first term (1995-1999), in the 1999 to 2003 Parliament I again drew a low number in the draw for presenting a Private Member's Bill.

At that time the World Wide Web was really becoming a key instrument in technology, having an impact on all things in society, including the advent of online commercial transactions for goods and services. This prompted my Executive Assistant to suggest to me the idea of recognizing legal digital signatures in connection with these transactions. Out of this idea emerged my private member's bill, the purpose of which was to give substance to that concept in the case of transactions involving the government.

Shortly before proceeding with my bill I had a brief meeting with the new Finance Minister, my caucus colleague Jim Flaherty. The Bill to enact the Electronic Commerce Act was then introduced in the Legislature in 2000, passed second reading, and was included in Minister Flaherty's 2001 budget.

Given the number of private members bills that die on the order paper, I have always considered myself lucky to have had success with both of mine. In each case I had the good fortune to attract the support of the government of the day. In each case I was also able to see a bill introduced by me proceed through to adoption and implementation; in this case effecting a change – albeit a modest one – in exchanges between government and business.

Which just proves that staff often have excellent ideas, and that Members are wise to listen to the ideas of staff and constituents: some of them could have an effective, long term, impact.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH/JASPER GARRET

5 PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS IN ONE TERM

by Arthur Potts

As a one term member, I had some success in getting five PMBs passed in my one and only term. The secret to success is that the Bill has to be a popular topic, which speaks to the broad public and not anything partisan.

My first bill was The Tipping Bill, which stopped restaurant owners from sharing in the tip pool, unless they had actively participated in the customer experience. The Bill had been introduced by the former member for Beaches-East York four times, but it never passed. I had the support of the NDP on this one due to its history and got the support of the PCs by removing one clause that required a restaurant to set up a committee of employees to be in charge of distribution of the tip pool, an obvious headache for an employer. As you know House Leaders decide on which PMBs will go forward in a "horse trading" session. With all party support, this bill got passed in my first year in office in 2014.



Former MPP, Arthur Potts

DAVE LEVAC'S PRIVATE MEM- BER'S BILL

O.A.F.P

As a sidebar, I was on the committee that passed the first ever Standing Committee to have a bill pass. Steve Gilchrist was the Chair of the Committee. The Bill created the "Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians".

FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY ACT

My first PMB was "The Fire Fighters Memorial Day Act" (2000) when I was in opposition. The Government liked the intent and told me they would support it. Passed unanimously.

SABRINA'S LAW

The second was "Sabrina's Law" (2005). It was designed to improve the rules and health and safety of children with Anaphylaxis in schools. Again, it passed unanimously.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO ACT

The third was the first dual party bill to be passed in Ontario called: "An Act to Amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act" (2008). Working with France Gelin, of the NDP, we amended the Smoke Free Ontario Act to include banning Flavoured and single/small packaged Cigarillos. The Government sided with us when we passed around samples of the types of tobacco available for sale. We argued it was directed at pre-teens and teens. Passed unanimously.

THE HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY ACT

The fourth Bill was the first ever tri-party sponsored Bill called: "The Holodomor Memorial Day Act" (2009). On this occasion, it was the third attempt to get it passed. Knowing the rules that allowed more than one person or more than one party that could sponsor a bill, I "worked the room", as they say, and invited Frank Klees and Cheri DiNovo to join me in getting it passed.

My general overview is that Private Members Bills are underestimated and are one of the highlights of how the place can work for the betterment of the people of Ontario. Of course some will say most PMBs are fluff and waste of time of The Legislature. I say take a step back and really understand the power and scope of the PMB. They speak directly to groups of people who want/need statements of who they are and what they are fighting for. Real grass roots issues.

I have had the privilege of having 4 of my many PMBs passed. I will say for most members, their PMBs are either picked up by the Government of the day or found within someone else's PMB. Credit must be given to Government Ministers who work with members capturing the intent of their PMB. I have had several of my PMBs show up in the more extensive Government Bills.

The real issue is having the patience, desire and facts on your side to get it done. It takes lobbying, educating and having champions outside of the Legislature to support the bill.

When it does happen, (as rare as that is) it is very rewarding seeing the faces of the people most impacted. I still get comments from various groups thanking me for being a champion for their cause.



Former MPP, Dave Levac

WINTER 2022



DISCOVER ONTARIO

PETERBOROUGH

Forever Hometown and Proud

By Jeff Leal

I cannot think of a better time to reflect on one's hometown than at the start of a new year.

Peterborough is nestled amongst seven glacier-formed drumlins between Toronto and Ottawa. One of its most significant features is the beautiful Otonabee River, which flows into Little Lake; a wonderful focal point in our downtown. The Otonabee River and Little Lake are integral parts of the Trent-Severn system, which stretches almost 500 kilometres between Trenton on Lake Ontario and Port Severn on Georgian Bay.

The majestic Peterborough Lift Lock is located about halfway along the length of this magnificent waterway system. It is a feat of engineering that serves as an iconic symbol of our community with world-wide recognition. Built in 1904, it is still the highest hydraulic lift lock in the world.

During the Great Depression, the federal government led by Prime Minister Bennett considered filling in the Trent-Severn System as a cost cutting measure. Thank goodness an election in 1935 changed the trajectory of that story. Today, the Trent Canal is the lifeline to our summer tourism industry. We are grateful that Maryam Monsef, M.P. for Peterborough-Kawartha from 2015 to 2021, launched a \$500 million rejuvenation program that continues today. Did someone say "hockey"? I would be remiss if I did not mention Peterborough's celebrated Major Junior "A" franchise, the Peterborough Petes! During my travels across Canada, everybody knows about this storied hockey team. Until 1967, the Petes were a farm team of the Montreal Canadiens (my team).

In 1956, the Petes played their first game

in the new Memorial Centre, dedicated to the veterans of World Wars One and Two and the Korean War. In 1959, the Canadiens assigned a 25 year old to coach the team. His name was Scotty Bowman. The rest, they say, is history. (Some readers may also recognize the name of the team's coach for ten years starting in 1966: Roger Neilson.)

In 1996, the City of Peterborough hosted the Memorial Cup Tournament, the showcase of junior hockey in Canada. Mayor Jack Doris assigned me as the City Council representative on the organizing committee. One of the many highlights of this event that sticks in my mind relates to the Memorial Cup trophy itself. For twelve hours it was entrusted to my personal care. For those twelve hours this unique and priceless paragon of hockey history, with its many plaques of championship teams dating back to 1919, rested on the kitchen counter in my house.

The Chair of the organizing committee was Doctor Robert J. Neville. Dr. Neville was also my family physician. (In a community like ours, no matter who you are, your paths in life always seem to cross!)

For many years, the Toronto Maple Leafs held their training camp in Peterborough. Pre-season games at the Memorial Centre were a must see. Many of my elementary school friends would rush over to the arena to seek autographs of the Leaf stars. (On a personal note, I took great delight when the Canadiens beat the favourite Leafs in the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs. The Canadiens/Leafs rivalry is very intense in our community because of the shared hockey history.)

For well over 100 years, Peterborough was the home to a giant in the world's manufacturing field, Canadian General Electric. My father had a career there for 40 years. At its all-time peak in 1974, the plant had 4,980 employees. C.G.E. had a presence in other Ontario communities as well: Guelph, Trenton, Barrie, Oakville, Cobourg, and Toronto. The operation in Peterborough was the flagship, often referred to as "Schenectady North" (so-named after its parent company's home in New York State.)

Significant in the long history of C.G.E. Peterborough is its role in the development of CANDU nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

In 1952, the Government of Canada formed the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for research and development of peaceful uses of atomic power. (The essential ingredient was readily available: it was recognized that Canada had large high-grade uranium deposits at Elliot Lake.) In 1955, C.G.E. formed the Civilian Atomic Power Department, where 30 experienced Canadian physicists and engineers came together to design and develop the CANDU reactor.

Ontario Hydro commissioned the first prototype CANDU power plant near Chalk River at Rolphton, Ontario, in 1962. AECL then delivered the proven CANDU technology to plants in Ontario located at Douglas Point, Pickering (A and B), Bruce (A and B), and Darlington. Across Canada, CANDU plants were installed at Gentilly in Quebec and Point Lepreau in New Brunswick. International sales of CANDU technology were carried out in Pakistan, Argentina, Korea, and Romania.

In 1991, as a City Councillor, I attended GE Peterborough's Centennial Ball. It was a great occasion to celebrate both past and present. Unfortunately, the kick off for the next 100 years lasted for only 26; the company closed the plant in 2017 and sold its nuclear business to the American nuclear technology company BWXT. (Happily, BWXT continues to lease buildings on the Monaghan Road side of the GE site and still employs over 300 individuals in its local business.)

CGE kicked off a very important initiative in the 1960s. Working with Trent University, they

instituted a payroll deduction program to support the construction and growth of the university in its early days. This program received overwhelming support from CGE's employees. Their investments through the program enabled their sons, daughters, and grandchildren to obtain higher education without leaving their hometown and produced a legacy that continues today. Today, Trent is ranked first amongst Ontario universities for its undergrad program.

Perhaps the development that changed the modern face of Peterborough most significantly was the establishment of Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College. Their respective founding Presidents, Dr. Tom H.B. Symons at Trent and David Sutherland at Fleming, were remarkable visionaries in the field of higher education. My wife, my son, and I are all Trent graduates.

As both institutions grew over the decades, Trent students and faculty have contributed mightily to building a vibrant arts and cultural community for everyone in the region to enjoy. Trent and Fleming attract students from around the globe, proudly increasing the diversity of our community. In the result, Peterborough has grown into a much more cosmopolitan city.

Trent President Tom Symons had a great interest in public affairs and helped shape public policy in Ontario, Canada, and elsewhere in the world for many decades. During my time as MPP, he would often invite me to have tea with him and his wife Christine. As we concluded our chats, he would always give me an inscribed book to mark the occasion. Tom has recently passed, I will always have fond memories of our time together.

In 2008, Peterborough opened its doors to a new state-of-the-art hospital facility, Peterborough Regional Hospital Centre. PRHC provides comprehensive regional care and also cardiac and cancer care. The hospital is an economic engine for the area, attracting many specialists and other healthcare providers. PRHC continues to be a source of pride that anchors this community.

These days on my daily walk, I witness the beginning of the construction of the new Canadian Canoe Museum on Little Lake, south of

the Peterborough Lift Lock, a legacy of the life's passion of a great Canadian, U of T professor Kirk Wipper. This museum showcases our Canadian history by celebrating the canoe, a marvel created by Indigenous peoples. These light-weight vessels were historically used for travel, exploration, commerce, and trade. At its new site by the water, the museum will be enjoyed by visitors from across Canada and from around the world for years to come.

Peterborough was the place of my birth 67 years ago and is the community that gave me the enormous privilege to serve in public life for 33 years: City Councillor from 1985 to 2003 and Member of Provincial Parliament from 2003 to 2018.

As the commentary above should make clear, it has changed dramatically over my lifetime.

My political career represents an incredible journey for an individual who grew up in the town's south end, the "blue collar " part. This journey has had some very sad moments: my father never lived long enough to see me serve in public office and my mother died during my second term on City Council. It also includes some joyous ones: my wife Karan (a leading educator as a teacher and principal with the local Catholic school board) and our children, Braden and Shanae, experienced several election wins and two inductions into Cabinet.

Karan and I are also very proud of our children - Braden is a graduate of Trent University (Honours Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Science) and Shanae is a graduate of Laurier University (Honours Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies with a specialist in Digital Media Studies). They are happy and healthy and we are excited for their journey ahead.

Peterborough is a beautiful city, rich in history and blessed with talent. I will always remain confident about the future of my hometown, this wonderful Peterborough.



PETERBOROUGH LIFT LOCK
PHOTO COURTESY OF TOSOMEPLACENEW

TORONTO-DANFORTH

By Marilyn Churley

The riding of Toronto-Danforth is bounded by the Don River on the west and north, Coxwell Avenue on the east, and Lake Ontario on the south. Elections Canada reports that the population is 109,713. I represented the people of much of what is now Toronto-Danforth as MPP from 1990 - 2005 and a portion of what was then known as Toronto's Ward 8 as City Councillor from 1988 - 1990.

The provincial electoral district first took on its current general configuration in 1914, at which time it was named Riverdale. That name remained in use until 1999, when a major reduction in the number of seats in the Ontario Legislature resulted in the then provincial riding of Riverdale being merged with a part of the then riding of York East to mirror the larger federal riding that covered the area.

The consolidation of provincial ridings at that time coincided with the forced amalgamation of Metro Toronto's constituent municipalities to create the present City of Toronto. Communities all over Metro rose up and fought hard against the creation of the "megacity", but in my view, no community fought as passionately and ferociously as did the residents of East York.

East York in those days proudly branded itself as "Canada's only borough" until it was erased by the creation of the megacity. People who lived there were proud of their identity. But the fight was lost and on January 1, 1998, East York was amalgamated with the cities of Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and Toronto.

Eventually the riding name was changed to Toronto-Danforth, ostensibly to make its geographic location more recognizable going forward, particularly to non-residents. Understandably, the people of East York were not amused. Michael Prue (the last Mayor of East York and later MPP for Beaches East York) and I worked with the residents and lobbied for the new name to include the term East York but still, to this day, East York is not included in the riding name.

I still live in the riding and can't imagine living anywhere else. Here's why: Toronto-Danforth is a progressive, diverse, and vibrant community, consisting of a dynamic mix of residential and commercial neighbourhoods including Danforth by the Valley, Greek Town, Leslieville, East York, North and South Riverdale, Riverside, Leslieville, East Chinatown, Gerrard India Bazaar, Pape Village, Old East York, the Portlands, Cherry Beach, and the Film District, to name a few. Within the boundaries of this area you can enjoy some of the best food, entertainment, and shopping in the entire City of Toronto, (dare I say it, some of the best in the province).

I moved to the riding in 1978 as a single parent to a toddler. I was existing at the time on a low income. Luckily for me, I came across the Bain Apartments Housing Cooperative, a mixed income community where I qualified to receive subsidized rent. As I transitioned from being a full-time student to being fully employed, I began paying full market rent.

The Bain Co-op is one of the most beautiful and engaged communities in Toronto. Home to residents from a variety of backgrounds, it is a perfect example of a "village within the city." Moreover, its operating structure is set up to foster co-operation and empowerment by learning how to run things democratically. In fact, I credit the co-op with helping me learn how to organize and to develop other skills needed to run for political office. I knew Robert's Rules of Order well before I was elected. I became accustomed to chairing some seriously raucous meetings; I am not kidding when I say that those meetings prepared me well to make a pretty good Deputy Speaker of the Legislature!

I have always been very proud of Toronto-Danforth's residents for being inclusive and for being fierce advocates for social justice. For instance, when the future of the Red Door Family Shelter was in jeopardy and our city councillor Paula Fletcher put out the call for community support to keep it open,

our community answered in an unprecedented way: over a period of two years, over 50,000 people signed a petition to keep the shelter open and hundreds of residents came to community meetings and attended City Hall meetings in support. As a result, the Red Door Shelter was saved.

In Toronto-Danforth you can easily “get out” of the city and imagine that you are in complete wilderness. This is important to me because I am a Newfoundlander who grew up on the banks of the mighty Churchill River (the Indigenous Innu name is Mishta-shipu) in Labrador. The Leslie Spit and the Outer Harbour East Headland (Tommy Thompson Park) are within walking and/or cycling distance from where I live, and I routinely stroll or cycle along trails by the lake. There are swimmable beaches, sailing clubs, and many recreation and community facilities. Like many people these days I own a fit-bit; having convenient access to the beautiful waterfront area makes it easy for me to get well above my recommended ten thousand daily steps.

And then there is the Don River. The Mississauga First Nation named it the Wonscotonach but in the 1790's Governor Simcoe's wife Elizabeth “discovered” the river while out exploring and decided to call it the River Don, after a river in far off England. Indeed, shortly thereafter Simcoe officially renamed it the Don River. Indigenous people had a long history with the river going back at least 4,000 years. But they left no “footprint”. So, as was the “logic” of those days, if you were not using the land to its full capacity you were wasting it and therefore had no claim to it. And use it the newcomers did! Soon, sawmills, tanneries, and other industries populated the banks of the river. Eventually, deforestation and toxic by-products poisoned the river and killed off all the fish. A Heritage restoration plan and the Clean up the Don movement (which I co-founded in 1989 along with fellow Toronto City Councillors Barbara Hall and Jack Layton) has cleaned it up significantly

in recent years but, of course, it is unlikely ever to be brought back to its original pristine abundance and beauty. And I like the original name so much better.

Riverdale Park which spans the lower Don River between Broadview Avenue and Cabbagetown provides one of the most popular views of Toronto's downtown skyline, as well as stunning sunsets. The long hill and deep slope is perfect for tobogganing and attracts kids and adults alike on snowy winter days.

Every day on my way to work at Toronto City Hall I used to cycle by the infamous Don Jail, a looming presence at the corner of Gerrard Street and Broadview Avenue. Known to many as the “lion's den”, the “black hole of Calcutta” and even worse names, at the time it opened in 1864 it was lauded as a “palace for prisoners.” Compared to other prisons of the time, that's what it was. Imagine that... The site was finally completely shut down as a prison in 2013 and the original jail was extensively renovated and integrated with the wonderful new 10 storey Bridgepoint Health facility located immediately to the north. The visitors' tour is well worth taking: about 20 per cent of the former jail's heritage interior was preserved and some say that ghosts of the past still linger.

The history of the Don Jail is fascinating. If you are interested, I recommend that you read *The Don; The Story of Toronto's Infamous Jail* by Lorna Poplak. And if you want to learn more about the history and presence of First Nations in Toronto, read the wonderful essays in *Indigenous Toronto; Stories That Carry This Place*.

Toronto-Danforth is a great and interesting place to live and I hope it stays that way. The riding, of course, is changing because of the monumental costs of housing; only those with large incomes or private wealth can afford to buy or rent here anymore. I fervently hope that more affordable housing is built here and that the diversity of our great neighbourhoods is maintained and fostered.

A CONVERSATION WITH BRIAN CHARLTON

By David Cassels

“I really enjoyed getting to work with other members,” Brian Charlton reflected on his time in Queen’s Park, “although, there were some situations that were obviously more enjoyable than others,” he chuckled.

The InFormer had the chance to sit down with Brian, who spoke to us over the phone from his apartment in Hamilton, still living in the same community that he represented over 25 years ago. Brian detailed everything from his role as a Cabinet Minister and then as House Leader, to his life since and his wife’s time as a Federal Member of Parliament.

Here is an abridged version of that conversation:

Q: When was the first time you ran for office?

A: “I ran for the first time in the 1975 election, about 18-months before I ran again and won. That was my first election as the candidate, I had gone for the nomination before but hadn’t been nominated.”

Q: After losing that first election, what encouraged you to get back on the horse and go for it again?

A: “Even though I had lost in that election, in 1975, I had lost by only by about 1,500 votes, I can’t remember the exact number of votes from memory. But it was a small loss, and it gave us in the Riding all the hope that we could have a real shot at the next election, and we were right because we won it.”

Q: How was the collaborative aspect of the job? Did you enjoy getting to work with your colleagues in Queen’s Park?

A: I really enjoyed getting to work with other members, although there were some situations that were obviously more enjoyable than others. For example, in 1979 there was a private member’s bill that gave domestic workers the same protections as regular workers with respect to the minimum wage. That bill never became a reality, it was blocked by the Tories. There was always frustration like that, but even those situations allow you to develop some

credibility on a particular issue or set of issues.

Q: What about relationships? Were you able to form close friendships during your time?

A: There were lots of great relationships with members of my own party, and occasionally some unexpected support from across the aisle. For example, there were some regional issues with respect to local government in Hamilton that I got some support from the Liberals on

Q: What have you been up to since leaving Queen’s Park?

A: For four years, after I lost my seat, I worked as an executive assistant for Howard Hampton, who was the Leader of the Party at the time. And hopefully I was of some use in that role because I had been the House Leader. I had a fairly good idea of where the Liberals and the Tories stood on different issues, so I was able to provide Howard with some advice that he probably wouldn’t have considered.



Former MPP, Brian Charlton

And then I spent 15 years on the board of Green Venture in Hamilton, it's an environmental organization that came out of some of the legislation we passed in '94. I served as Chair for six or seven years and then as a board member beyond that.

My wife was elected Member of Parliament in 2006 until 2015. I very much enjoyed being the spouse of a sitting Federal member and Chris did a great job.

Q: Moving to your time in Queen's Park, you served both in opposition and in government, did you have a preference between the two?

A: "I guess from a personal perspective; I prefer being in opposition. In opposition I was allowed to pursue issues more from a position that was mine as opposed to the party. I spent a decade in Environment and Energy and in general the positions I took in consultation with the Caucus became the Party's positions. Once you become government then the cabinet directs you to push forward particular issues from a position that the government is comfortable pursuing.. The positions you took as a critic frequently disappear.

Q: What are some of the important qualities that make a successful Cabinet Minister?

A: "You have to be in tune with your party. In other words, being a Cabinet Minister doesn't necessarily mean you get to choose what you're going to do, it's up to the party, the party's strategy and the party's wishes as to what role you'll take on as Cabinet Minister; but it is also important that you are not only somebody in line with the government's position, there's a balance there."

Q: What about as House Leader? What qualities make a successful House Leader?

A: "House Leader is substantially the same basis [as Cabinet Minister], but quite a distinct perspective. As House Leader you have got to be on top of the whole spectrum of issues, you decide the Cabinet's direction in regard to the role of particular ministers you've got to be in touch with and understand the policy positioning of the government."

INTERVIEW WITH DAVE LEVAC

By David Warner

"Being elected was an extension of my work in the community."

Dave Levac is from a large family. He grew up with six siblings, in a family which placed high value on helping each other and their community. "I learned about the importance of volunteering at an early age. I was greatly influenced by my mom who was constantly helping others."

AN EVER-EXPANDING CIRCLE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE

"As a teacher I could influence children in a positive way. Being involved in local sports also presented the opportunity to be a role model. As the Principal of an elementary school, I could widen my circle of influencing. Deciding to seek public office was simply an extension of my work in the community. A factor at the time when I sought the provincial nomination was my distaste for the 'wedge politics' which was prevalent. Politics can be done in a more civil way."

QUEEN ELIZABETH II ROYAL VISIT TO BRANTFORD IN 1997

Who better to coordinate a high profile, extraordinary visit than an extraordinary volunteer? Dave Levac's extensive experience organizing a wide variety of organizations and his known commitment to community made him an obvious choice. The obvious question is what is involved in organizing a Royal visit?

"There is layer upon layer of protocol to follow. Everything is timed right down to the second. That second-by-second schedule needs to appear as a spontaneous event. There were seven different police forces to be involved, each one having their own priorities. Careful planning and the minutiae aside, this was an experience of a lifetime."

One event during the visit stands out. Her Majesty visited the Bell Homestead. I had completed the seating arrangement. Her Majesty's Handmaiden asked where I was going to sit. I responded that I would be at the back. She said 'No. You need to be seated at the front as Her Majesty would like to see you.' At the end of the Royal Visit, I received a hand-written note from Her Majesty's Handmaiden, telling me that Her Majesty was very pleased with the arrangements for her visit."

BRANTFORD'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR IN 1997

Take the list of volunteer endeavours, mix in the list of honours and awards, and add the coordinating role for the Royal visit and it is no surprise that the City of Brantford would name Dave Levac Citizen of the Year in 1997.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE'S LONGEST SERVING SPEAKER

The norm has been that the Speaker of the House serves one term. Dave Levac was twice voted, by the Members via secret ballot, to be their Speaker. "It is special to be chosen by your peers. It was a distinct honour to be voted Speaker the second time."

When asked what contributed to his success as Speaker, Levac replied, "I think my life experiences, community background, former years as a teacher, then Principal all aided as I took on the new role of Speaker. That said, it is difficult to truly appreciate what it is like to be Speaker until you have sat in that chair.

The ceremonial part of the job is truly interesting and special, getting to meet Heads of State. I cherish the times when I met the Queen of the Netherlands, the British Royal family, the President of South Africa and so many other notable people.

ON THE BOARD OF OAFP

"The mandate of the organization (found on its website: ontafp.com) is compelling. There is an

opportunity to accomplish something worthwhile which isn't politically partisan. It is a good counterbalance to the sometimes-skeptical view of the public. I am looking forward to working with everyone on the Board."

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Founded and chaired the "Walter Gretzky, CNIB Celebrity Golf Tournament"

Founding "Friends of the Fire Fighters" (Brantford and Brant Fire Departments)

Chaired the "Thank-A-Vet Luncheon"

Founded and chaired Brantford's "Walk of Fame"

President of Brant Regional CNIB

Chair of the Heart & Stroke Foundation

Vice Chair United Way Campaign

Honorary Chair of the MS Super Walk

Parkinson Society of Canada

Board member of the Brantford International Jazz Festival

Co-Founded and Co-Chaired the "Lifetime Achievement Awards for Volunteerism"

Provincial Board member of Special Olympics Ontario

Honorary Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign to purchase a home for "Crossing All Bridges"

Chairperson of the New Hospital Task Force

Co-Chair of the Brant United Way 2020 Capital Campaign

Founding Member of The Coalition for Canadian Police Reform (C-CPR)

"Founding Member", Board of Directors, Casa Laximi, a private world-wide boarding school in Florida

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Canada 125 Medal

Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal

Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal

YMCA Canada Peace Medal

Chevalier of Ukrainian Order of Merit Medal

Mikhnovsky Medal of Merit

The Joseph Brant Award from Robert Land Academy for "Loyalty, Labour, Courage, Commitment and Honour"

Eagle Feather from Six Nations of The Grand River Territory

Friendship Wampum from Mississauga of The Credit River Territory

"Council of State Government Paul White Award for Distinguished Service" 2018. One of only two Canadians to receive in 52 years.

Named One of Top 100 Grads- Wilfrid Laurier University



Former Speaker, Dave Levac

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD PATTEN

(May 13, 1942 – December 30, 2021)

Liberal MPP, Ottawa Centre, 1987-1990, 1995-2007

Richard Patten served in the 34th, 36th, 37th and 38th Parliaments. He was Minister of Correctional Services and Minister of Government Services, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and three other Ministers; Training, Colleges and Universities, Economic Development and Trade (Innovation), Education. During his four terms he was a Member of the Select Committee on Electoral Reform, Chair, Standing Committee on Social Development, Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts and a member of two other committees; Ombudsman, Justice and Social Policy.

TRIBUTES BY COLLEAGUES

"I served with him in the Ontario Legislature and always found him to be smart, generous and a great advocate for his constituency. He was one of the kindest people I have ever met and a gentleman in every sense of the word. I am sure he will be missed by all who knew him. I for one will always remember his smile and his grace very fondly. May he rest in peace, secure in the knowledge that he worked so very hard for his riding, his province and our great country." - Annamarie Castrilli



Former MPP Richard Patten

"Richard Patten was a colleague and a friend to me and many. His commitment to public service transcended his political stripe. He was a proud partisan, but he was prouder still of his privilege to serve in Ontario's legislature with "all my friends on all sides" as he was fond of saying.

Richard never forgot who sent him and what he was sent to do. Even while he served with distinction in cabinet, his highest devotion was to the people of his riding of Ottawa Centre. He frequently commented that it was helping people overcome their challenges that he found most rewarding.

Had you asked Richard what his greatest political accomplishment was, he would have pointed with great pride to "Brian's Law", his private member's bill which led to the

"I got to know Richard Patten through his 15 years of service at the Legislature and meeting with him at many common political events in the City of Ottawa. He was always pleasant but very forthright about his opinions on issues. He was quite frank with me when he disagreed with his own party, and we were able to work together toward the best solutions for our City and area of the Province. I was not happy when he was omitted from the Cabinet of the McGuinty Government as I believed he was reasonable and would be a good advocate for Eastern Ontario. I was happy when he served on the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature which I chaired from 2003 until his retirement in 2007. He helped in framing and supporting reports of the Committee that brought greater efficiency to the

Government even when he had to ignore guidance by political staff to do otherwise. He wanted to do the best for the Province and the people he represented. Although we came from different political parties, I attended his retirement party for which he was very grateful. Richard was an outstanding MPP who worked closely with his beautiful wife Penny to make his Community and Province better. Last, but not least, he was always fun to be with. I shall remember him with great fondness."
- Norm Sterling

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History and Philosophy of Religion, with a Certificate in

Applied Social Science, Sir George Williams University, Montreal

Worked as a manager with the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association)

President of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation

On an NGO advisory committee to the World Bank while with the CCIC

Private Member's Bill on amendments to the new Mental Health Act,

adopted by the Conservative government as "Brian's Law"

LIFE AFTER POLITICS

Water colour painting – learned at the Ottawa School of Art
 Richard Patten Aboriginal Bursary Fund at Algonquin College
 Served on community Boards:
 Institute for Mental Health Research
 Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
 Tulip Festival
 Shaw Centre,
 Lord Stanley Commemoration Group
 Botanical Garden Society

**IN LOVING
 MEMORY OF
 JAMES POLLOCK**

(July 8, 1930 – October 28, 2021)

*Progressive Conservative Member for Hastings-Peterborough
 Served in the 32nd, 33rd and 34th Parliaments (1981-1990)
 James Pollock served on 2 Select Committees; Company
 Law, Energy and on 5 Standing Committees; Ombudsman, Reg-
 ulations and Private Bills, General Government, Social Develop-
 ment, Public Accounts.*

James Pollock served on 2 Select Committees; Company Law, Energy and on 5 Standing Committees; Ombudsman, Regulations and Private Bills, General Government, Social Development, Public Accounts.

POLITICAL LIFE

1975 – 1980 Reeve of Rawdon
 1978 Warden of Hastings County and an Ontario MPP for Hastings-Peterborough
 1981 – 1990 MPP Hastings-Peterborough

An Active Community Life
 farmed entire life until age 89 (2019)

Spring Brook United Church
 AOTS (As One That Serves),
 United Church of Canada

Masonic Lodge
 Trent Valley Shriners
 Stirling Legion.



Former MPP James Pollock

RIBUTES BY COLLEAGUES

“During my 34 years as an MPP in the Legislature, I never met a more sincere hardworking politician than Jim Pollock. I am proud to say that Jim and I were close friends often sharing a story or talking about his constituents' problems. Jim and Jean have given much of their life to all of us. I will always remember his smile and good deeds to our Province. We will miss him very much.” - Norman Sterling

"I remember Jim Pollock very well. He was one of the most decent and public-spirited MPPs I knew during my long years at Queen's Park. A gentle man with a warm smile, Jim was someone who really loved farming so much so that he continued farming till he was 89 years of age. He was an active member of his community serving as Reeve of Rawdon Township and later as Warden of Hastings County. His farming and municipal experience made him a very respected member of the legislature and its committees. Jim was also a pleasure to work with and to be around. I never heard him utter a cross word or engage in any of the loud and disruptive antics that too often characterize modern parliamentary proceedings. One lighthearted story that often brought us together in conversation was my question, "Jim, what is it that makes Stirling butter the best in Ontario?" He would smile and simply say, "Well you know, a lot of good products and good people come from Hastings County." His life and his work are a testament to that reality." - Sean Conway

“Jim passed away on October 28, 2021, in his 91st year. He is survived by Jean, his wife of 68 years and four children, Virginia, Lyle, Kevin and Heather. He also had two grandchildren, Nikki, and Sasha.

Jim was a kind, compassionate person with a keen sense of humour and deep rural roots in agriculture. He continued to actively farm until he was eighty-nine years old.

While not part of his legacy, in the mid 1970's Jim floated the idea of naming the new Toronto baseball team, the Blue Jays. Some critics were quick to point out the negative characteristics of the bird being aggressive, fighting and stealing other bird's nests. However, when all four thousand suggestions were reviewed, the most popular name was Blue Jays. Jim must have felt vindicated and always proud of the Toronto Blue Jays.” - Elmer Buchanan

PARLIAMENTARIAN AS AUTHOR

Rev. Cheri DiNovo

The Queer Evangelist

"In *The Queer Evangelist*, Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo (CM) tells her story, from her roots as a young socialist activist in the 1960s to ordained minister in the '90s to member of provincial parliament. As the New Democratic member representing Parkdale-High Park in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 2006 to 2017, DiNovo passed more LGBTQ bills than anyone in Canadian history. She describes the behind-the-scenes details of major changes to the law, including Toby's Law, the first Transgender Rights legislation in North America in a major jurisdiction. She also passed bills banning conversion therapy, proclaiming parent equality for LGBTQ parents, and for enshrining in Ontario law the Trans Day of Remembrance. On this day in the legislature, the provincial government is mandated to observe a minute of silence while Trans murders and suicides are detailed.

Interspersed with her political work DiNovo describes her conversion to religious life, her theological work, and her ongoing

struggle with the Christian Right. Cheri DiNovo's story shows how queers can be both people of faith and critics of religion, illustrating how one can resist and change the repressive systems from within. Her book is the story of queer justice realized and a story of hope for queer (and other) kids everywhere." excerpt from Cheri DiNovo's website, www.cheridinovo.ca

Reviews

"Minister and former Canadian legislator DiNovo blends left-wing politics and religion in her excellent debut memoir. . . . DiNovo's remarkable life story serves as an impressive example of the possibilities of the religious left." - Publishers Weekly

"Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo's book *The Queer Evangelist* tells an insightful tale of trauma, identity and perseverance. It does an exceptional job of tackling intergenerational issues such as violence, homophobia, and religious exploration. DiNovo's riveting personal anecdotes mixed with in-depth analysis about hot-button social issues make this memoir a must-read." - Broadview Magazine

Note: The InFormer relies on former members letting us know that one of our colleagues has published a book. So....let us know.



PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF O. A. F. P.

"After running the 'Queen's Park to Campus' program for a number of years, it has become apparent that there was a critical need for relevant and basic educational guidelines in our outreach to college, university, and high school students.

Jean-Marc Lalonde, our Former Education Committee Chair, worked hard to make improvements. In 2019, he developed a bilingual power-point presentation that Former MPPs could use in their speaking engagement. This tool is a step-by-step presentation on how the Ontario Parliament functions and the roles and responsibilities of sitting MPPs.

The Education Committee has revisited the program and is recommending additions. We have developed guidelines for Former MPPs called the 'Outreach Proposal'. It is a guide for MPPs. It aims to engage students in the democratic, political process with the hope of building civic participation amongst youth.

We are hoping to engage all Former Parliamentarians as ambassadors of this 'Outreach' project. Former Members know their communities well. As such, they can more easily contact their local school boards, college and university teachers and introduce this project as a topic for discussion in their classes." - Rosario Marchese, Chair

A PROGRAM HIGHLY VALUED BY PROFESSORS

"The OAFP provides an invaluable learning and mentoring opportunity for students interested in getting active politically in their communities. From technical know-how such as how parliament works, to spirited debate about the most pressing social, political and economic issues of our time, OAFP campus visits give students an opportunity to engage – often for the very first time – key decision-makers in the modern history of Ontario. In this regard, I would highly recommend a campus visit from the OAFP." - Carlo Fanelli, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Work and Labour Studies, York University

"Former politicians sharing their perspective in the classroom has always been a standout activity for my students. Universities place much emphasis on providing different types of learning, to ensure that future graduates get familiar not only with theory but also with the concrete reality of the field they are studying. The 'Queen's Park to Campus' program has been instrumental in that regard. The hands-on experience of former parliamentarians visiting my classes has been a formidable source of insight into the functioning of democracy, from the thrills of the campaign trail to the inner workings of the executive branch. And the Q&A sessions give students a rare opportunity to ask questions that can only be answered by someone who served in office. I have no doubt that these visits leave a lasting impact, in addition to their pedagogical value. It's an opportunity to inspire the next generation. I have students who still remember the politicians they met in my classes years ago." - Ludovic Rheault, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto.

A PROGRAM HIGHLY VALUED BY STUDENTS

"I really gained a much deeper understanding of the role of elections in our lives which runs contrary to the conventional thinking of voting in any type of election in which citizens not only can vote but become potential candidates if we want to. I must say that Mr. Gillies did an outstanding job of relating his experience as a candidate and how elections can impact our lives. It was a most compelling eye-opener for me and some of my friends in Prof. Rheault's course. Keep introducing real politicians to this great course." - Katelyn

Those of us who have participated in the Campus Program have experienced the satisfaction of an engaging discussion with students eager to learn more about our parliamentary democracy. When our post-secondary system returns to in-person learning, the opportunities to participate will once again emerge. Stay tuned!



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS
ASSOCIATION ONTARIENNE DES EX-PARLEMENTAIRES