



# The *InFormer*



## WINTER 2019/2020



ONTARIO'S  
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

ONTARIO'S  
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

WHITNEY  
GUEST PARK  
1880-1881  
The Whitney Guest Park was designed by the architect John G. Howard. It was a gift to the people of Ontario by the Whitney family. The park is a beautiful example of the architecture of the late 19th century. It is a place where people can enjoy the outdoors and the beauty of the city.

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# DSA Nominations

## *Invitation to Nominate: Distinguished Service Award 2020*

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional career contributions and/or achievements by former Members of the Ontario Legislature. The recipient is not currently elected to the House of Commons or appointed to the Senate, and is living.

The nominator should explain, in not more than 500 words, why this former Member should receive the Distinguished Service Award. The nominator should also provide a curriculum vitae of the nominee.

Please send your nomination to [OAFP@ola.org](mailto:OAFP@ola.org). No later than Saturday, Feb. 29.

Past recipients are:

Hon. Bill Davis  
Lyn McLeod  
Dr. Bette Stephenson

Bob Nixon  
Margaret Birch

Stephen Lewis  
Hon. Roy McMurtry

The recipient of this prestigious award will be honoured at a date to be announced in the spring of 2020.



Photo courtesy of: Victoria Esterhammer

# *Our Annual Holiday Social*

On Nov. 27, 2019, members of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians gathered for the annual Holiday Social. It was truly a night to remember. The board room was filled with great food, high spirits, and old memories. The approximately 40 members who attended spanned more than 5 decades of representation.

Deserving of special recognition is our eldest member, Dr. Charles Godfrey, age 102. Dr. Charles, as he is affectionately known, served one term, 1975-1977. Not only can he party, but he continues to practice medicine as part of the medical staff at the Albany Clinic in Toronto.

As usual, members from across party lines chatted and got caught up on each others' activities. Guests snacked on a diverse, delicious array of appetizers. Deli meats, various salads, and an abundant supply of yummy desserts were accompanied by wine and beer.

Indeed, this turned out to be a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances and spread cheer. We'd like to extend a special "Thank You" to Mobina Bhimani, Rosario Marchese, Judy Marsales along with other board members and Pat Warner for organizing such a lovely evening.

If you missed our Holiday Social, stay tuned for upcoming events at Queen's Park.

All photos courtesy Victoria Esterhammer.





Terence Young, David Turnbull, David Warner, Steve Gilchrist, and Arthur Potts.



Helen Breslauer, Hon. Marilyn Churley and Rosario Marchese each enjoy a glass of wine.



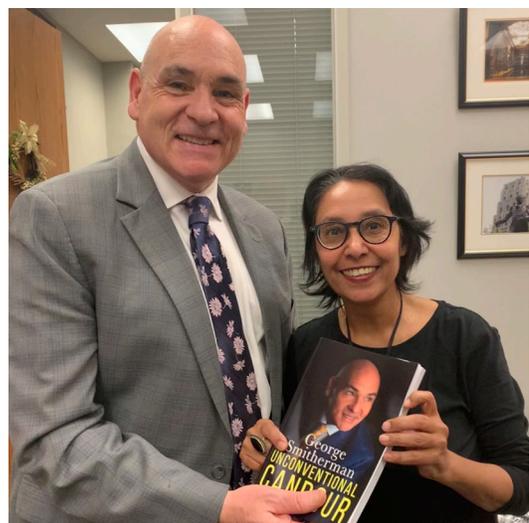
Arthur Potts and Liz Sandals flash their stunning smiles for the camera.



Two happy former MPPs Patrick Reid and Barbara Sullivan.



A very happy John Hastings, deep in thought.

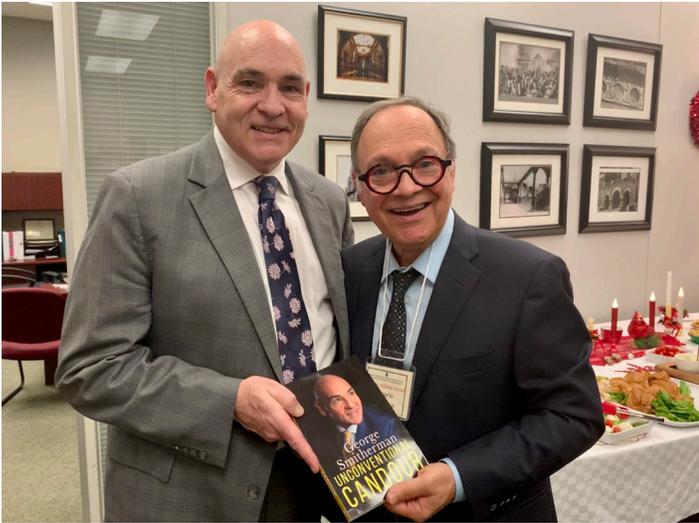


George Smitherman presents his book to Mobina Bhimani.

*Holiday Social*



(Left to right): Morley Kells, Doug Holyday, Liz Sandals and Jean-Marc Lalonde.



George Smitherman presents his book to Rosario Marchese.



Interns Victoria Esterhammer and Victoria Shariati with David Warner and Mobina Bhimani.

## REMINDER: OAFP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Happy New Year! Please remember to renew your membership for 2020.**

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You can easily renew your membership by filling out the form below and mailing it to our office along with appropriate membership dues.

### **ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS** **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2020**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suite:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Town Province:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT: Home:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### OAFP MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$50 For One Year Membership

\$100 For Two Year Membership

\$500 For Lifetime (Cornerstone) Membership

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO:

“Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians”

MAIL TO:

Room 1612, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, Ont. M7A 1A2

CONTACT THE OFFICE AT:

 416-325-4647

 oafp@ola.org

 <https://ontafp.com/>

# OAFP Congratulates



**Bill (Bowtie) Barlow**  
**M.P.P. 1981 - 1987**

**Progressive Conservative,  
Cambridge**

**Inducted into the City of Cambridge  
Hall of Fame  
October 2019**

Bill Barlow, affectionately and widely known as “Bowtie Bill” for his trademark bowtie, was born February 20, 1931 in Galt and has been a lifelong engaged caring community citizen.

He attended St. Andrew’s public school, Galt Collegiate and the Galt Business School.

During these early years, Bill joined the Boy Scouts, was an Air Cadet and met Bernice Hedges, a fellow scout who was also an active volunteer, dedicated to family and passionate about the community and politics. Bill and Bernice got married in 1955 at Trinity Church and raised their 3 children Tom, Janice & Terry. They became leaders and organizers of

various service clubs, community associations and cultural projects.

Bill served as Alderman for the City of Galt from 1967 to 1972 and as Councillor for the City of Cambridge from 1973 to 1977. When he retired from Council he planned to enjoy private time but was asked by many and answered the call to serve and represent them Provincially. He was elected Cambridge & North Dumfries’ Member of Provincial Parliament for two terms (1981 to 1987).

Bill began working at his family’s business at the age 15 and soon after, he joined the Galt branch of Junior Chamber International. For more than 40 years he operated and owned the Barlow Cartage. He also served on local and provincial business and trade associations.

Bill’s activities with many community organizations throughout his lifetime epitomize the Rotary Club’s motto:

'Service Above Self' & 'One Profits Most Who Serves Best', as well as the

Junior Chamber of Commerce's (Jaycee) creed: 'Service to Humanity is the Best Work of Life'.

Bill served for 62 years, off and on, as a Cub, Scout, Rover, leader, executive member and administrator in the scouting movement.

For his duty and service to the community, Bill was named Cambridge Citizen of the Year for 1988 by the Jaycees and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. He was made

a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary and an honorary lifetime member of the Preston Hespeler Rotary Club.

Bill currently supports many organizations and is an active member of: Probus, Trinity Church, the Association of Former Parliamentarians, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario-Cambridge Branch and Junior Chamber International as a Jaycee Senator.

**Claude Bennett  
M.P.P. 1971-1987**

**Progressive Conservative, Ottawa  
South**

**Inducted into the Order of Ottawa  
November 2019**



*The Bennett family: daughter Natalie, grand-son Liam, son Winston and daughter in law*

On 21 November, 16 Ottawa residents were inducted into the prestigious Order of Ottawa. One of them was Claude Bennett, former Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa South.

Mr. Bennett served his community in both municipal and provincial capacities

for five decades. He was elected to the Ottawa City Council as Alderman for Capital Ward from 1961-1969, and then city-wide as a Member of Board of Control. He then served as acting Mayor of Ottawa for nine months from 1970-1971. Mr. Bennett was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa South from 1971-1987, with 14 years in Cabinet as Minister of Tourism and Recreation, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Minister of Industry and Tourism. In 2000-2001, Mr. Bennett served as the Chair of the Ottawa Transition Board, overseeing the amalgamation of the national capital's twelve municipal governments and five public utilities, as well as the election of the new city council.

His passion for public service continued into 1990, when Mr. Bennett served as Chair of the Board, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. He served as a director of the Royal Canadian Mint from 2007-2018 and was president of

both the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada and the Commonwealth Games Foundation. Mr. Bennett also served as chair of the Canada Safety Council.

In addition to politics, Mr. Bennett was also a very active volunteer. He served on the Ottawa Airport Authority Board and was Chair during the construction of the new Ottawa MacDonal-Cartier International Airport (2001-2003). He was a Board member of the Ottawa Heart Institute, the Central Canada Exhibition Association, St. Patrick's Home, and served as Chair of the Board of Ashbury College.

Mr. Bennet is an avid supporter of sports in Ottawa. He was an original member of the Boards of the Ottawa Sooners

Football Club, the Nepean-Canadian Sports Club, and actively worked with his close friend Howard Darwin to establish the Ottawa 67s and Ottawa Lynx franchises. He was the president of the Ottawa Sooners for many years, and served as Chair of the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame.

His long and illustrious history of public service, coupled with an unbridled passion for the Ottawa community, are what make Mr. Bennett stand out as someone entirely deserving of making it into the Order of Ottawa.

Congratulations, Mr. Bennett.



*Claude Bennett receiving the Award from Mayor Jim Watson & Councillor Alan Huble*

# Memories

“When to the sessions of sweet silent  
thought,  
I summon up remembrance of things  
past”  
- William Shakespeare



“My two favourite memories of  
Queen’s Park were being able to pass  
the Accessibility for Ontarians with  
Disabilities Act and Meeting the Dalai  
Lama in 2003.”  
- Marie Bountrogianni

Being a Member of Provincial  
Parliament is a special privilege. It  
brings serious responsibilities, but the  
experience also creates some wonderful  
memories. Requesting former MPPs  
to share those memories has resulted in  
some very interesting anecdotes. Per-  
haps, after reading the ones printed here,  
you would like to share a story or two.  
Please do! I would be delighted to print  
more stories in the subsequent editions

of  
The InFormer.  
- David Warner, Editor



## Hockey Night among the Legiskaters



“One of the few places where the  
increasing partisanship of politics  
stayed in the parking lot during my  
four terms in the Ontario Legislature  
was the locker room and the players  
bench when MPPs and Legislature  
and Ministry staff played exhibition  
hockey games through the years.”

Former MPP Jean-Marc Lalonde (L.  
Glengarry Prescott Russell) was our  
coach and most prolific organizer,  
setting up many games through his last  
terms in office.



### *Memories*

during dinner. He tapped me on the arm, pointed to the cart, and asked if I knew what the object was. I said I had no idea, and we both went over to check out the mystery object. We asked the gentleman pushing the cart toward us what he had. He told us to pull away the blue cloth.

It was the Stanley Cup!

Our brewery sponsors had arranged to bring along the Stanley Cup – the real one, not the Hall of Fame ‘replique.’ With the adrenalin from the game still pumping through both teams, the presence of hockey’s ‘holy grail’ sent shivers up the spine of everyone who touched it. Though we couldn’t pick it up, we were all welcome to embrace the Stanley Cup for pictures. It’s a photo that sat on the credenza of my Constituency Office meeting room for the balance of my time as an MPP, and now sits on a living room shelf at home. That late November night in Oshawa, I came as close as I will get to playing hockey for the Stanley Cup.

For all the long hours, an MPP spends at Queen’s Park, with constituents, and in the community, that Oshawa evening was one of the unexpected pleasant rewards that come from serving Ontarians as a Member of Provincial Parliament.”

- Bob Delaney

Editor’s Note: Bob Delaney was the ‘starting goaltender’ for the Ontario Legiskaters hockey team from 2003 through 2018.

“Our first game against the Durham Regional Police was one of my favourite memories. The game took place during the season-long NHL work stoppage. Following a frantic drive to get out of rush-hour Toronto traffic after leaving Queen’s Park, we suited up for a charity game at the Oshawa Civic Centre, the arena Bobby Orr’s junior stardom built. After warm-up, they gave the ice a flood, rolled out the red carpet, introduced the players, and had a band play the national anthem before the crowd of a few hundred people whose ticket donations went to charity. Most of us who’ve played recreational and industrial league hockey haven’t experienced a pro-level start to a hockey game while standing on the ice, in uniform as players. It was a moment to cherish. I started the game in goal, played just more than half the game, and handed a lead in the game over to a deejay from Oshawa, who played goal for the balance of the game. He lost the lead, and we lost the game.

Afterward, one of the breweries, who had sponsored the game with the rental of the arena for the evening, hosted the players of both teams for a dinner of chicken wings and salad – and beer of course. As the players’ reception got started, someone wheeled in a cart with a large object carefully covered in a blue cloth. Norm Miller (PC, Parry Sound Muskoka) and I were chatting



Joe Spina on the trails near Sherbrooke

- “My wife & I were at the Queen’s reception at Ontario Place with Premier Eves.
- Personal insults/attacks by union goons in Committee room about my Italian heritage on the WCB to WSIB name change-Committee chaired by Liberal member (then) Annmarie Castrilli. Security prevented them from actual physical provocation



A courtesy ride arranged by the Que Snowmobile Federation with BRP Ski-doo

- My carriage of the Bill 101: the ‘Snowmobile Safety and Sustainability Act’ carried over from 1st to 2nd term as PA to MNM and then Tourism....and the research rides with the Quebec snowmobile federation visit to Bombardier HQ which hosted the ride.
- My sitting next to Rosario during his debate speech- and on camera, and heckling him in Italian dialect....
- The original ‘rump’ caucus of

government members sitting next to the 3rd party NDP on opposition side of the Leg. which included Derwyn Shea (a consequence of being at the end of the alphabet! I believe the photo of this is in the OAFP office).

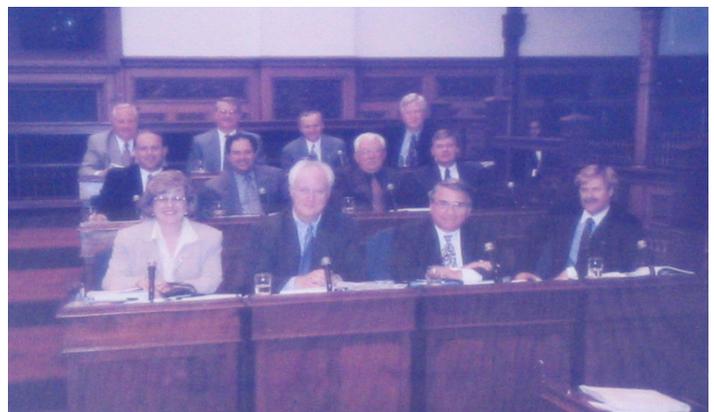
- Return flight on governmentt King Air plane from NOMA in Hearst with Ministers Hodgeson, Palladini and PA Hardiman, myself, and staff. Return to Toronto airport...the ministers got off at an earlier stop, but Ernie, myself and staffers crashed - landed at Pearson when the wheel collapsed on landing....



King Air plane “belly landed” at Pearson Airport, Toronto

- My inaugural flight on the new OPP plane to Thunder Bay for Minister Tsubouchi”

- Joe Spina



Joe Spina is 2nd from the left in the 2nd row (1995)

## *Memories*

“I began my first government job in May of 1975, working for what was then, the relatively new Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I was quite taken with the Legislature building and its history. I used to wander through it, just to soak up the atmosphere, look at the portraits and watch Question Period. Twenty years later, in July of 1995, I walked into the building as the newly elected MPP for the GTA riding of Durham West. I remember very vividly walking down the main hall to the grand staircase, stopping under the chandelier at



its foot and looking up the stairs towards the library; and thinking how incredibly lucky I was, to be given this opportunity to serve. I don't think I have ever felt so humbled or honoured in my life.

In 2002, I was appointed Minister of Finance and I delivered my first budget in June of that year. While I was not the first woman to hold the post – Dr. Bette Stephenson had that honour – I was the first woman to actually deliver a budget. And I was the second Finance Minister to come from my hometown of Exeter, the first being Charlie MacNaughton. Not many Ontario small towns can make that claim. Charlie had passed away by then, but I invited his family to the Legislature to watch my budget presentation and I included a quote in my budget speech from his first budget speech. With his family and mine, sitting in the Speaker's Gallery, it is a day I will never forget.”

- Janet Ecker

“There were many incredible highlights for me during my tenure in the Ontario Legislature. However, one stands out for a variety of reasons.



I was in law school during the patriation of our constitution and had the privilege to be in an environment and with people who cared passionately about the future of our country and the possibilities that were opened to us as a result of abandoning the British North America Act that had governed us since 1867 in favour of our own constitution. We at Osgoode Hall actively engaged in courses and discussions led by a prodigious faculty among whom, for me, Louise Arbour, later of the Supreme Court of Canada and United Nations Chief Prosecutor

of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, stood out.

We applauded the Canada Act of 1982 which included the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, still recognized the world over as groundbreaking legislation. Those were years that were fundamental to shaping my thinking about this country, the rights and privileges it affords and the obligation we have to respect and protect one another. Our constitutional path has often been rocky. Ours is a diverse country and the balancing of rights and freedoms is not always easy. The Meech Lake Accord of 1987 was a first effort to seek a new understanding. I and others campaigned against it always in a spirit to find an accommodation that needed to be as fair as possible for all Canadians.

The Charlottetown Accord followed in 1992, a joint attempt by the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and all 10 provincial premiers to amend the Canadian Constitution, specifically to obtain Quebec's consent to the Constitution Act of 1982. I was a member of a small group of constitutional advisors to Premier Bob Rae during this time. In 1995 Quebec organized its second referendum on its separation from the rest of Canada. I served as Vice-Chair for the Ontario campaign to urge Quebec to stay within Canada.

I was later elected to the Ontario Legislature when the Calgary Accord provided yet another occasion to put constitutional amendments to Canadians. One of the main features of the Accord was that it stated that all provinces must have legal equality. Moreover, powers gained by any province during future constitutional

negotiations would also have to be offered to the other provinces. Ontario decided that it would put the issue to the people by way of written, mail-in referendum. A member from each of the three political parties in the Legislature would oversee the writing of the questionnaire, its distribution and the tabulation of results. The three members chosen were Diane Cunningham, then Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Bud Wildman, then a Member of the Standing Committee on Social Development and myself. When all was said and done, the results in Ontario supported this Accord and advanced the cause of the equality of the provinces.

The reasons why this was a highlight of my time at Queen's Park was twofold.

First because the task continued my passion for an area of the law and for a country that I love.

But, just as importantly, it allowed me to work on a tripartite basis on an issue of national importance with two extraordinary parliamentarians of different political parties. We worked together assiduously and respectfully in the interests of Canada without partisanship and theatrics.

It was an amazing lesson on how government can work successfully and without acrimony in the interests of its people!"

- Annamarie Castrilli

## *Memories*



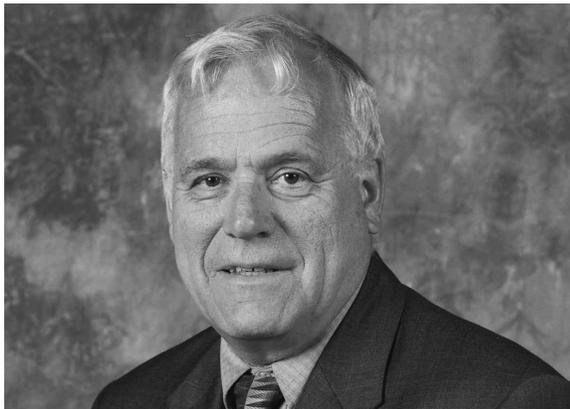
“In my first term as a Liberal backbencher I was one of the fortunate few to have a Private Members Bill become law, except I did not see it! If I recall, it was the last week of the Session, just before Christmas. I knew my PMB, to protect all Ontario Police, Firefighters and Paramedics from having their personal insurance rates unfairly hiked due to an accident at work, had the all-Party support required, after wisely working with Bob Runciman (PC) and Peter Kormos (NDP). But I was advised by the Whip that PMBs would not be called because all three Parties were fully engaged in Parliamentary warfare over a contentious government Bill. It just so happened that environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was invited to speak at U of T. As PA to Environment Minister Leona Dombrosky, I was invited to attend a private dinner in his honour at Hart House, followed by his public speech to a packed Convocation Hall.

I had the permission of our Whip, Dave Levac, to be absent from the midnight Session, but to check my Blackberry periodically in case the bells were rung. I did so dutifully throughout the dinner.

For the speech, I was seated beside Sasha Trudeau, the famous Canadian

documentarian and brother of our current PM. Before long we were having a wonderful time discussing politics. RFK Jr., a gifted orator, was on fire that night. As a rural Liberal, sitting beside the son of Pierre and listening to the son of Bobby, I was hog heaven! So of course, I stopped constantly checking my Blackberry. As I wandered back to Queen’s Park in post Kennedy bliss I checked my BB. To my horror, there were dozens of emails, voice messages and texts, all saying, with greater urgency and increasingly apocalyptic warnings that this lowly backbencher best be in the House asap! I remember sprinting, for the first time in a few decades, through the snow. I arrived winded, just in time to see the staff turning out the lights in the Legislature. Filled with dread I sheepishly walked to the Whip’s Office to hear my fate. It seemed that some unexpected Christmas good cheer had broken out over the problematic government Bill, debate collapsed and the Caucus Whips decided to pass a few PMBs and then call it a night. My friend, Dave Levac, waited as long as he could for his errant colleague to arrive. Fortunately for the benefit of First Responders in Ontario, and a rookie colleague, he took it upon himself to call my Bill, which passed unanimously on a voice vote. I made sure First Responders knew that in an emergency they could always count on Dave Levac! No wonder he was subsequently elected by his peers as Speaker.”

- John Wilkinson



gotten the information. I said from my contacts, not the front page of a paper where most questions came from. We had a good laugh. At the recent annual meeting, I shared the story with Sean and other former MPPs, but Sean didn't recall the question. I do as it was first time, in my experience, that Sean Conway was at a loss for words."

- Rev. Bill C. Davis

"In the late 90s the member from Kitchener Wilmott, the late Gary Leadston would cook a moose roast in his office on the 4th floor. The smell, great one that is, would fill the halls and many members along with staff would join in and enjoy a great meal."

- Marcel Beaubien



"I took my daughter to a reception held by the Honorable David Peterson in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, June 20th, 1986. When I was introduced by David, Her Honour inquired why I had given up being a priest to become a politician. It was a fascinating discussion for about 4 minutes.

Another fond memory was as education critic. Larry Grossman was Party Leader. I finally convinced Larry to let me ask a question of the Minister of Education, Sean Conway, a question that was not on the front page of the local papers. I got to ask the Official Leader of the Opposition second question. I asked the Hon. Minister why he had not fixed the boiler in the Napanee Secondary School which had not been working for several months. As I recall, Sean looked stunned, flipped through his notes and found no answer. He replied that he would look into the matter. Afterwards Sean enquired where I had

# Job Shadow Program



*David Warner, Maya Li Preti, and MPP Andrew.*

“It was revealing to be able to experience a day at Queen's Park from the perspective of an elected official. Particularly valuable were the various meetings you set up with the different MPPs as well as the Speaker and Clerk. Your efforts and the resulting conversations were greatly appreciated. It was very interesting and insightful to get the chance to ask about their

experiences and to get a personal take on what the work is like. I want to extend my thanks to all those I met with for taking the time out of their busy schedules to meet with us.

What I will definitely take with me are the stories I heard from both you and the participants.”

**- Maya Li Preti**

# LGBT Rights in Ontario: The Case for Interparty Cooperation



**By Phil Gillies, Former MPP Brantford**

**The following is a re-print of an op-ed piece published by the Toronto Star on December 21, 2018.**

As a former Ontario Legislator, I understand the role party discipline plays in moving the province's business forward. If you had 122 MPPs all pursuing their own agendas, not a lot would get done. The relationship between government and opposition is often adversarial – that is part of our parliamentary system. But there are times on vital issues that interparty cooperation is vital to advance major issues. I played a part in one such issue.

The year was 1986. December 2, 1986 was the day LGBT rights came to Ontario. On that date the world changed for a

lot of our citizens. Until that day in Ontario an 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”. It's hard to believe that this was the case within the lifetime of many of us reading this today – but it was so.

All this was about to change. David Peterson's Liberal government introduced ‘housekeeping’ amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code. The government did not put the sexual orientation equality provision 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 P.C. 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 – particularly from the religious right. Many clergy and organizations like Real Women and Campaign Life had immediately started putting together a tough campaign to oppose the Bill. I sensed, correctly, that it was going to be a nasty fight. But I decided this was a line in the sand for me. And jumped into the fray up to my neck.

There were a number of legislators back then who were gay and none of us was open about our sexuality. Some came out after leaving politics – Liberal cabinet minister Ian Scott, my Tory colleague Keith Norton and me. Others never did. The political climate back then was such that an openly gay candidate would have had zero chance of being elected to the Ontario Legislature.

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. I knew Larry's

instincts would be to support the Bill. There was no chance most of our caucus would support Bill 7 so a 'whipped' vote in favour was out of the question. What I wanted was a free vote – where PC members could vote as their conscience dictated.

Larry Grossman's problem was this – our party had come through a hard-fought and divisive leadership campaign a year previously. Grossman's support came largely from urban ridings. The other main contender for the leadership, Dennis Timbrell, had been Minister of Agriculture and 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. The perceived risk was this – if Grossman came out for gay rights and Timbrell opposed the Bill – the PC Party could have split wide open.



A meeting was called in Opposition Leader Grossman's office – so down I went. There were about 15 people in the room – mainly staff and advisers and a couple of key MPPs. The majority of them were telling Grossman variations on '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. Dennis will oppose it and your leadership will be in jeopardy. We've got to instruct caucus to vote against'. I knew something, however, that I'm sure most of them didn't.

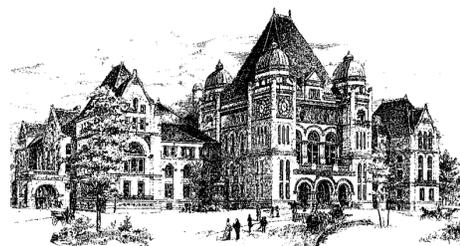
Dennis Timbrell's brother was gay. And not just gay – Dennis' brother Robert was the well-known actor and drag performer Rusty Ryan – a founding member of the celebrated Great Imposters troupe. I knew from sources in the Gay Village that Dennis and his brother were close, and that the former senior cabinet minister was very supportive of his drag queen sibling! One thing we all knew but may have forgotten because of the leadership battle – Dennis Timbrell was an enlightened and progressive MPP. A born leader with a strong social conscience.

So, from the back of the room, 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".

I tracked Dennis down and told him the gay rights Bill was coming before the House. "When is the debate and when is the vote?" I told him. Timbrell replied "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 to the meeting and told the group, "Dennis is voting for the Bill".

Larry Grossman smiled and said, "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 finally called, most but not all of the governing Liberals voted for it. All NDP members in attendance voted for – but 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, voted in favour. This, in my opinion, prevented the Party from splitting wide open. Both Premier Peterson and NDP Leader Bob Rae told me it made life easier for everyone that the PCs had a free vote, and some support for the Bill.



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

I cast hundreds of votes during my time at Queen's Park. This is the one I remember best. 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 a politician that you may have to stand on your own feet whatever the consequences. And on that day, you may or may not be aligned with the majority in your own party.



# Interview with Ross McClellan

M.P.P. 1975 – 1987, Bellwoods (Toronto), New Democrat



Ross McClellan talked about being a welfare worker in Toronto's Cabbagetown in the 1960's. He had a case load of 1,000 people who required disability assistance, at a time when appropriate government programs didn't exist.

"I saw what poverty looked like." Prior to being a teacher at the University of Toronto's School of Social Work, Ross was a community development worker in northern Ontario indigenous communities. "I have always had a commitment to equality; not just equality of opportunity, but equality based on social and economic justice."

## **What Is Wrong With Coalition Government?**

Ross McClellan chaired the NDP negotiating team when the New Democrats and Liberals signed the Accord in 1985 to provide at least two years of governance without a general election. It was not by definition a coalition government. There have been a few coalition governments in Canada since 1867, yet quite a few opportunities to form coalition. Coalition governments are quite common in Europe. I asked Ross for his observation as to why political Parties in Canada usually shy away from coalitions. "The Westminster first-past the post,

winner take all system, doesn't lend itself to a stable minority government or coalition. It is a toxic adversarial system, with parties demonizing each other. The 4 year minority government of 1977 to 1981 was different because of the quality of the Party Leaders (Bill Davis, Stephen Lewis). In 1985 it was obvious to me that the (New Democratic) Party would not accept a coalition. The Accord made sense, and again the leadership of the NDP and the Liberals were able to work together to accomplish a shared agenda. The Accord was the throne speech for the 33rd Parliament (1985-87).

### **A Perfect Opportunity**

I asked Ross how he came to running for public office. He explained the unusual circumstance which led to a 4 term career at Queen's Park. "My wife, Pat, was an organizer for the Party in west Toronto. There was a candidate in our home riding of Bellwoods but he got a promotion at work and decided to not seek election. Pat needed to find a candidate. And Bellwoods ( aka little Italy) was where my Mom and her Italian family had lived until the late fifties, so I was a hometown boy. The sitting Member, the formidable John Yaremko, was invincible but he retired in the spring of 1975. I was teaching at the U. of T. School of Social Work. Classes were over by early May so I had the spring

and summer to canvass my riding three times ahead of the September 9 election. It was the perfect opportunity. I took it."

### **Memorable Moments At Queen's Park**

"One of the best moments was right at the start. I arrived at Queen's Park and right away was paired with Michael Cassidy as the NDP lead to work on Ontario's first Rent Control Bill. I appreciated being a negotiator when we created the Accord with the Liberals. And, as part of the Accord seeing the end of extra billing by doctors and the establishment of a made-in-Ontario social housing programme. Coming back to Queen's Park in 1990 as an advisor to Premier Rae was special. Although not elected, I was able to attend and participate in every Cabinet meeting and to co-chair the Policy and Priority Committee of Cabinet. I also attended the NDP Caucus meetings as well.

I am so grateful to have had this amazing opportunity and so proud of our accomplishments, especially raising social assistance rates to a decent level by 22%, building 60,000 units of affordable social housing and passing North America's best labour law.

### **Banjo Players**

I was surprised to learn that not only is Ross McClellan a banjo player but there

were at least two others at Queen's Park, Larry Grossman and Patrick Reid. Ross explained how he went from the banjo to the fiddle.

“I was with Pat on the El Camino pilgrimage in Spain. I met a fellow pilgrim, Jim, who learned the fiddle at age 64 and now played in the Glengarry Celtic Orchestra. I was then 64, and thought, ‘Well, if Jim could do it, so can I.’ And after a lot of agonizing squeaking, I was eventually playing with the Oakville Celtic fiddle Orchestra.”

### **Life After Politics**

Ross McClellan returned to the Ontario Federation of Labour until 2002 and then was appointed by Premier Eves as a Vice-Chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal, a position he held from 2002 to 2013. He and Pat have lived in a little cottage on the banks of the Credit River since 1998. His twitter motto is:

“Ex-social worker, ex-MPP, ex-PMO, ex-OFL, ex-WSIAT, ex -everything except family, friends, fishing and fiddle. Dolce Far Niente.”



# Prestigious Awards

**Former Members of Provincial  
Parliament**

**Appointed to the Order of Canada:**

Charles Joseph Sylvanus Apps  
Leonard Austin Braithwaite  
Margaret Fasken Baird Campbell  
Hon. Sheila Copps  
Hon. William G. Davis  
Cheri DiNovo  
Nathalie Des Rosiers  
George Drew  
Janet Ecker  
Hon. Leslie Frost  
James K. Gordon  
Jean-Marc Lalonde  
Allan Lamport  
Stephen H. Lewis  
Donald C. MacDonald  
Hon. William Darcy McKeough  
Roland Roy McMurtry Walter  
George Pitman  
Hon. Robert Keith Rae  
Hon. John P. Robarts  
Ian Gilmour Scott  
Gordon W. Walker  
Hon. Robert Stanley Kemp Welsh  
Arthur Wishart

**Former Members of Provincial  
Parliament**

**Appointed to the Order of Ontario:**

Peter Adams  
Isabel Bassett  
Leonard Braithwaite  
Mary Anne Chambers  
Alvin Curling  
Hon. William Grenville Davis  
Charles M Godfrey  
Larry Grossman  
Lyn McLeod  
Hon. R. Roy McMurtry  
Frank Stuart Miller  
Robert Nixon  
Hon. David Peterson  
Walter Pitman  
Hon. Robert Keith Rae  
Nathalie Des Rosiers  
Dr. Bette M. Stephenson  
John Tory  
Thomas Leonard Wells

We believe this list may be accurate but if we have inadvertently left any names off then please do let us know.

# In Loving Memory of Michael (Mike) James Breough



**(September 13, 1942 – November 22, 2019)**  
**New Democrat MPP for the Riding of**  
**Oshawa**  
**Served in the 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th**  
**Parliaments**

Mike Breough was First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, Caucus Chair, Chaired two Standing Committees (Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Legislative Assembly), served on three Select Committees (Highway Safety, Constitutional Reform, Constitutional and Intergovernmental Affairs), a Special Committee on the Parliamentary Precinct and seven Standing Committees (Government Agencies, Legislative Assembly, Procedural Affairs, General Government, Administration of Justice, Social Development, Private Bills).

Mike Breough's working life was one entirely of public service, first as a teacher, then Principal, followed by 21 years of being elected municipally; Oshawa City Councillor (1972 – 1973), Durham Regional Councillor (1973 – 1975), provincially (1975 – 1990) and federally (1990 – 1993).

“Mike Breough was a man of infectious good humour. From the first time I met him in 1975, Mike would usually greet me with a puckish grin and ‘a quip’ that would make me chuckle. He was great fun on any legislative committee not only because of his ability but also because he was such good company. Mike was a smart but practical fellow who wanted results and didn't want to spend all day getting them. In my experience, he could quickly get to the heart of an issue and was almost always part of any solution to the problem at hand. As I recall our 15 years together at Queen's Park, Mike was generally focused on ‘bread and butter’ issues like affordable housing, good jobs and pension protection. Sadly, our paths hadn't crossed much over the past while but I remember him with great fondness and as someone

*Obituary*  
genuinely committed to public service.”

- Sean Conway

“A dear friend and colleague, Mike Breough, passed away on November 22, 2019. He is dearly missed by his family; his wife Andrea, children Erin and Sean, and his granddaughter Kiera, and by his many, many friends, relatives and former colleagues.

The first thing to know about Mike Breough was that he was a proud Irish Canadian from a large Irish clan in Eastern Ontario. Raised in Nappanee, he married his beloved Andrea Toddkill in 1964 and they were together for 55 years. Mike began his career as a teacher, first in Nappanee and then moving to his permanent home in Oshawa, where he quickly rose to elementary school principal. Gifted with what may be considered hereditary political skills, he was soon a successful member of the Oshawa City Council.

A member of the class of 1975, Mike was elected MPP for Oshawa on the NDP wave led by Stephen Lewis and served the people of his hometown in five Provincial Parliaments, from 1975 to 1990. His term in office included the succession of minority parliaments of 1975-77, 1977-81 and 1985-87. Mike brought his charm and good humour and used it to a great effect in those three minority governments, where mutual respect, and consensus building were imperatives. Mike’s ability to build relationships with members opposite contributed to the accomplishments of those minority parliaments.

Back in those days, much of the most important legislative work took place in the Committees, and again Mike’s skills and experience were bought fully into play. Following the election of June 1985, the NDP once again held the balance of power at Queen’s Park, and Mike was appointed by Bob Rae to the three-person negotiating team which included myself and Hugh McKenzie from Bob’s office. The result of our negotiations was the Accord between the Liberal party and the NDP, which saw the first democratic change of Ontario’s government in over 42 years, and led to the successful implementation of a host of progressive reforms.

These included the ban on extra billing, pension reform, Worker’s Compensation reform, and Ontario’s first standalone social housing program which built 70,000 affordable housing units between 1985 and 1995. And not least among the initiatives were reforms to the Legislative Assembly itself, including the limit on the card check, the date Leader’s questions to allow backbenchers more question time, the introduction of member’s statements, and public TV coverage of the Legislature’s proceedings.

In recognition of Mike's committee skills, he was given the chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee which oversaw the implementation of reforms to the Legislature, reforms which many members take for granted today.

Just prior to the 1990 provincial election, Mike ran and won the Federal by-election in Oshawa held after the resignation of Ed Broadbent. He was defeated in the 1993 Federal election (as were 11 NDP MPPs) and Mike retired from politics.

Mike accepted his fate in 1993 with his customary good grace and concentrated his life after politics on his family and friends, and especially on his beloved granddaughter Kiera. At his funeral, attended by a great throng of family, friends and former colleagues, Kiera spoke eloquently about Mike's meaningful presence throughout her life.

He also bought a big boat, in which he roared around Oshawa harbour, and not surprisingly, was shortly elected Commodore of the Oshawa Yacht Club. Mike stayed in touch with colleagues through our Association.

Throughout his political career, Mike was dedicated to representing and advocating for the hard-working men and women of his hometown Oshawa and especially for the thousands of other workers at General Motors. His powerful denunciation of General Motors for the callous layoffs of their hard-working and loyal workforce down through the years were a feature of his speeches at Queen's Park. He had a great love for his hometown and its people, and was a great representative for them. Mike was a great friend and a great colleague, especially to those who served with him and he will be sadly missed. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

May he rest in peace."

- Ross McClellan

"When Mike left the Legislature in 1990 to run Federally I asked to speak on behalf of our PC Party because of the respect I had gained for him over the 13 years that we both had shared in the Legislature from 1977. I mentioned in my speech of his interest and contributions to our parliamentary process while both sitting on the Legislative Assembly Committee and when involved in drafting new standing orders in the late 1980's. He also wrote in the Canadian Parliamentary Review on suggested changes to our Legislature. He brought to the Legislature a practicality and a quick grasp of the issues at hand. While he was very serious about his role as an MPP, he had a great sense of humour. He told me that he quoted some of my parting speech in his Federal election brochures and that is what got him elected. Although I didn't believe him I am not sorry if it did help him. He was a great representative and a wonderful family man."

- Norm Sterling  
*The InFormer*

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