



Spring 2016



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Interview: Marc Trouyet Consul General of France in Toronto



There are more than 100 Consulates in Toronto, the second largest consular city in the world. Since most of the world likes to connect with Canada, especially Ontario, we at The InFormer thought it might be interesting for our readers to get a view, “up close and personal” with some of the senior diplomats who are stationed here for three or four years. Who are these diplomats? Why are they here? What do they do? What are the challenges?

Since August 2015, Mr Trouyet has been serving as the Consul General for France in Toronto, with responsibilities for the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. A diplomat for fifteen years, he most recently headed, in Paris, the Department in charge of the French Overseas Development Assistance pertaining to governance issues. In this capacity, he supervised projects and expert missions on different thematics: post-crisis recovery and the rule of law; government reforms and urban governance; public finances; migration, and development.

He was, for four years, the Deputy Head of Mission of the French Embassy in Australia. As Deputy Permanent Representative to the French UN mission in Rome, he engaged extensively with the World Food Program, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Food and Agricultural Organization. He was previously an officer in charge of sustainable development issues in the UN Division of the French Foreign Affairs. He dealt, initially, with consular issues with a view to modernizing the services offered.

Before joining the foreign service, he held, for five years, various positions in the governing Council of the Paris City Council, and prior to that, as a young graduate, he conducted various scientific projects within the French university on town planning and urban issues. A graduate of l'Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA), he holds a Bachelor in Political Science and a Master's degree in Town Planning. Marc Trouyet is married and has three children.

Why choose the life of a diplomat?

I entered the diplomatic service through a special school called ENA. This school is set up to train civil servants. We had to make a choice in terms of the kind of administration we want to serve in once we graduate. There are two special ones—that are offering not a career but a way of life.

“We are trying to foster relationships between Canada and France.”

One is a prefect and the other one is a diplomatic position. In the latter, a diplomat is typically moving every 3-4 years to different places, discovering new environment and meeting various people. You will eventually learn to speak different languages. In that line of work, you embark on a never ending journey, not yourself alone, but your entire family. That is having a huge impact of them all, but it is very much the way of living that I like, and my wife and kids too.

How does this life affect your family?

In a positive way I assume. They would be the best people to tell you if they are enjoying this lifestyle. I do have three children. My eldest is now working in Washington and she has been studying in various places where I have been posted. She has enjoyed studying,

working and living abroad. From being abroad, she has a better perception of the advantages of being French, and of the specificities and uniqueness of Europe, its culture and politics. Also as a family we enjoy having discussions about what we have experienced. I think it's the same way for my other children.

What are some of the challenges of being a Consul General?

The current challenge of a Consul General is to serve best the French community wherever it is. In France we have an extensive understanding of what type of services we can provide to our nationals. We provide all the regular papers but the Consulate has to do that under the constraint of time and limited manpower. Especially in a country like Canada, my colleagues and I have to cover a wide territory. We try to meet the geographic challenge by having honorary Consuls, Consular missions, etc.

“The most exciting part of it is that individuals are coming to you with different ideas that you could not imagine ; and the most frustrating part of it is that you cannot always follow them.”

We are part of a network and part of an action plan through which we are trying to foster relationships between Canada and France. So in addition to this consular mission, my priorities, mostly shared by the other French Consuls in Canada, are twofold: economic and influence. On trade issues—we do have a delegated body, which is called Business France, to help French businesses to either export or implement themselves in Ontario and Canada. We provide support to that mission by meeting with the French companies and setting up meetings here or in France. Business France is also promoting and accompanying Canadian investments in France.

On scientific and university matters, there is already a lot of cooperation going on between Canadian scientists and universities on the one hand and French ones on the other one. We are facilitators here, trying to identify what works, and helping to foster the right processes to develop. For instance, we have been developing exchanges programs for research teams, and some other for start-ups. On trade issues, we do have a delegated body, which is called Business France, to help French businesses to either export or implement themselves in Ontario and Canada. We provide support to that mission by meeting with the French companies and setting up meetings here or in France.

There are plenty of examples of issues that the Consulate is sharing and discussing with partners here. For instance around the digital economies—green tech, smart cities and everything that is a part of the climate agenda because France is hosting the climate change conference in December. There is a set of decisions that have been taken during the conference and we are here to provide knowledge to the general public about the whats and the hows.

The exchange of students is also very common in diplomacy. At the end of the day, what makes a difference in the relations between two countries is the quality and the intensity of the people to people relations; and the best way to start is through young people in Universities. It is important to provide them with a chance to expose themselves to a different culture or academic setting. We are trying to find ways to discuss this further with Universities where we have formed existing links.

“I find it fascinating to meet new people. I learn from meeting people with different ideas, different cultural backgrounds, different suggestions, different appetites, and I am constantly surprised by these interactions.”

Another area where we think we should exercise some influence is the culture at large. There have a lot of events happening in Toronto. If you look at a map of cultural institutions 15 years ago and now, there has been quite a change.

So what we are trying to achieve is to provide an avenue of discussions for Ontario and French institutions, trying to support French artists to come—focusing on creation, books, movies.

We also focus on digital creation because we are convinced that the 21st century is and will be digital, including from an artistic and creativity point of view. That is why we need to fuel the discussions about the legal framework that could provide the right environment and incentives to making this happen.

Finally, I will say that one of the challenges is to make all those efforts coherent and understandable – this is where communication fits in. That is why we have developed different tools; we have a website (www.consulfrance-toronto.org), a Facebook page, an

Instagram page, and we use Twitter (@francetoronto).

The most rewarding part of your job?

I find it fascinating to meet new people. I learn from meeting people with different ideas, different cultural backgrounds, different suggestions, different appetites, and I am constantly surprised by these interactions.

The most exciting part of it is that individuals are coming to you with different ideas that you could not imagine ; and the most frustrating part of it is that you cannot always follow them. There are too many things to do, too many things that are out of reach for you. But at the end of the day, what counts are the people you meet and the pleasure of diversity and confronting ideas.

The Order of Canada

Two more former Members of Provincial Parliament have been recognized for their contributions to life in Canada.

Companion of the Order of Canada

The Honourable Robert Keith Rae, P.C., C.C., O.Ont.
Toronto, Ontario

Bob Rae is deeply engaged in advancing the public good in Canada and abroad. Insightful, diplomatic and charismatic, he is renowned for taking on some of our nation's most complex issues and working to find resolutions. His work with First Nations communities, particularly in the area of treaty renewal, is helping to bring about reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. He has also been sought out by governments in Kenya, Iraq and Sri Lanka for his expertise in mediation and federalism. As a parliamentarian, he was known for his eloquence, good humour and passionate commitment to good governance and consensus building throughout our country. For Bob Rae this was a promotion within the Order.

Member of the Order of Canada

James K. Gordon, C.M.
Sudbury, Ontario

Jim Gordon has made visionary contributions to the social and economic fabric of his community. As Sudbury's longest-serving mayor, he was instrumental in changing the region's business landscape from a mining town to a more economically diverse area that now includes new sectors such as cancer treatment, retail, science and technology. He continues to champion such causes as access to health care, notably by helping to establish the first medical school in northern Ontario.

Remarkable Women Parliamentarians: Christine Elliott



MPP 2006 – 2015 Whitby-Oshawa - Progressive Conservative

“I got into politics in the first place to be an advocate for vulnerable people and I want to continue to do that in whatever path I follow in the future.”

Why did you enter politics?

I was always interested in my community and the services being offered, especially mental health services. Children with special needs require special attention. I wanted to make a difference, help develop programmes for those who are vulnerable.

You have had a long-time interest in mental health issues. Why?

There are a couple of major reasons. I grew up in Whitby where there is a large mental health facility, so I was aware of people in the community with mental health challenges. As well, like most families, I had family members who struggled with mental health issues.

A tragic incident occurred in Whitby, a town which is very welcoming. A person with mental health issues was living in an abandoned house. She perished when a fire destroyed the house. That shocking event highlighted the need for better mental health services, and housing for special needs people. Not just in Whitby but in the Durham region and throughout our Province. Reading the Kirby Report motivated me to be more involved in trying to make changes.

[Editor's Note: The Kirby Report "Out of the Shadows at Last" was tabled by the Senate in 2006]

Until recent times, mental health has not had much of a public focus. Why?

Mental health is not viewed in the same way as physical health. There isn't the same importance attached to mental illness as there is for physical illness. There is a stigma attached to admitting having any kind of mental illness. The reality is that concern for mental health should go across all the Ministries. It is something which needs to be addressed in policing, housing, employment and so on.

In your bid to be Leader of the Ontario PCs it looked for a long time that you would win. There has never been a woman PC Leader. In the final push during the leadership race do you think gender was an issue?

I think that considering having a woman Leader for the first time was difficult for some of our membership. Breaking tradition is not easy for some. I believe gender was a contributing factor. As well, so was the question of age. Interestingly, age seems to be a factor only when considering a woman candidate, not so important when it comes to a man.

There are lots of working couples who are raising a family, but rare (if ever) to find an elected couple raising triplets. What kind of pressures did the two of you face?

Throughout both our careers, Jim and I always tried to have as normal a family life as possible. The biggest challenge was in 2006 when I was an M.P.P. and Jim was the federal Minister of Finance. Our sons were age 14. Jim's position meant substantial travel, being away from home a lot. There were times I felt like a single mom, however there was a retired couple nearby who helped out a lot and Jim always found time for the boys. He was able to get to many of their special events. I have a special needs son. I was able to get to know some of my son's friends and learn more about his special needs community.

Would you describe a couple of memorable moments in your life at Queen's Park?

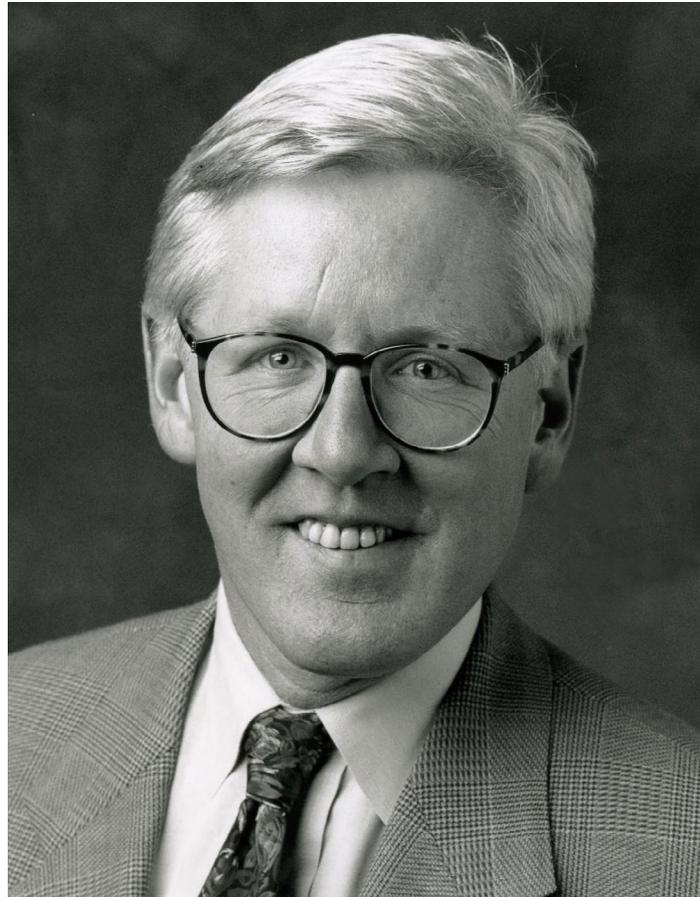
I proposed, by way of two Private Member's Bills, to establish two Select Committees, one, Mental Health and Addictions and the other, Developmental Services. My two Bills passed unanimously, and I volunteered to sit on both. In fact, I was Vice-Chair of each committee. In both cases I found that everyone on the committee were there out of genuine interest. There was a high degree of collegiality which made the experience rewarding.

Tell us something about your new position of responsibility.

(Christine Elliott is Ontario's first patient ombudsman, responsible for overseeing hospitals, community care access centres and long-term care homes) My job is that I try to resolve complaints of patients in public hospitals, long-term facilities or referred by community care access centres. It is very important that people have a place to go to voice their complaints. We work with health care providers in trying to find a path of fairness. I'll be doing an annual report to the Minister of Health. The office has the ability to initiate investigations where we see there are issues.

[Editor's Note: Ms. Elliott is the director of the Abilities Centre, a fully accessible multi-functional facility in Whitby that she co-founded with her late husband, former Whitby-Oshawa MP and federal finance minister Jim Flaherty]

Meet the Premiers: Hon. Bob Rae Premier (1990-95)



Why did you seek elected office?

I was always interested in politics. I had graduated from law school, was single and John Gilbert, the M.P. for Broadview (Toronto) had been appointed to the Bench. John encouraged me to seek the nomination. That was the beginning of my political career and I soon learned that once you are in, it is difficult to get out! Politics becomes an important part of your life.

Of all your achievements as Premier which ones provide the most satisfaction?

The efforts to restore the economy, saving businesses which were suffering badly. We were able to rescue de Havilland Aircraft (Toronto) and Algoma Steel (Sault Ste. Marie), saving thousands of jobs. Establishing better relations with our First Nations in Ontario

was an important achievement. As well, implementing employment equity and affirmative action. We did many things of which I remain proud. Some of our ideas are even being adopted now by other governments.

What were the most significant challenges as Premier?

The economy because we were heading into the worst recession since the Great Depression. We had never been in government so there was a lack of experience. Constitutional debate was crucial.

[Editor's Note: Quebec Referendum was held October 30, 1995]

Aside from political achievements what were memorable moments during your political life?

There have been many...like being part of Prime Minister Chretien's Team Canada mission to China, being present during the patriation of our Constitution, being part of the Charlottetown negotiations even though they eventually were unsuccessful, negotiating the Accord of 1985 with David Peterson and of course becoming Premier in 1990. Trying to meet the challenges of being government was daunting but rewarding. Leadership creates memorable moments, so I can add being Interim Leader of the Federal Liberals (2011-15) to the list. Reconstructing the Canadian Red Cross after the tainted blood issue and rescuing the Toronto Symphony Orchestra from bankruptcy were memorable achievements.

Did your participation in Premiers' Conferences and Confederation discussions affect your view of Canada? Of Ontario's position in Canada?

Context is important here. During the late 70's, early 80's I was part of a generation of politicians who were engaged in constitutional talks. Support in Quebec for separation was up over 50%. I learned from David Peterson that Ontario does not have any natural allies. Provincial and regional differences exist across the country. You learn over time, but there are lots of phone calls and of course you learn from the more experienced Premiers. Above all being part of those discussions reinforced my sense of what a wonderful country we have and how important the unity issue will always be.

What are the qualities necessary to be an effective Premier?

You need to be a good listener, have innovative ideas and vision. Bill Davis, for example, had vision. You should like people and be comfortable making decisions. And never be afraid to learn. Experience does make you a more effective leader.

How did you go about selecting a Cabinet?

I started with talent, considered regional balance and gender balance. Then over the term in office I was like a manager in baseball, having to make changes to the Cabinet because I decided that a change had to be made. Those decisions are never easy.

Do you have any advice for those MPPs who aspire to be Premier?

Remember that it is not about you. The job is bigger than you. Effectiveness in leading will grow as you learn how to bring people along with you.

Were there any disappointments?

Of course, but they are never as great as the real pleasure I got from public life and political responsibility. Of course I would have liked a second term as Premier, because there was still so much to do. As well, I went back into politics in 2006 to become the leader of the federal Liberals, and that didn't happen. But, you get over disappointments and carry on. Resilience is such a key quality, and so is the discovery that there so many ways to contribute. That helps deal with the ups and downs.

[Editor's note: Bob Rae was elected as a Member of Parliament six times (1978-79 Toronto Broadview, 1979-82 Toronto Broadview-Greenwood, 2008-13 Toronto Centre) and to the Ontario Legislative Assembly five times (York South).]

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 1st

Mark it on your calendar! This is one meeting you do not want to miss!

Business meetings are not always exciting, but they are important. This one is especially important as we are proposing some changes to our by-law which we believe will assist our effort to make our organization more dynamic. The proposed changes will be sent out separately to you, well in advance of the AGM.

This year, instead of a dinner we will have a lunch. In addition to the always sparkling conversation, our after lunch speaker will be author Terry Fallis.

Terry Fallis is the award-winning author of five national bestselling novels, including his latest, “Poles Apart”, all published by McClelland & Stewart. “The Best Laid Plans” was the winner of the Leacock Medal for Humour in 2008, and CBC’s Canada Reads in 2011. “The High Road” was a Leacock Medal finalist in 2011. “Up and Down” was the winner of the 2013 Ontario Library Association Evergreen Award, and was a finalist for the 2013 Leacock Medal. His fourth novel, “No Relation” was released in May 2014, debuted on the Globe and Mail bestsellers list, and won the 2015 Leacock Medal. His fifth, “Poles Apart”, hit bookstores in October 2015. The Canadian Booksellers Association named Terry Fallis the winner of the 2013 Libris Award as Author of the Year. Terry has a special connection to Queen’s Park as he worked here in the 1980’s.

10:30 a.m.	Ontario First Nations art showcase	Rooms 228 and 230
11:00 a.m.	Business meeting	Room 230
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	Room 228
1:15 p.m.	Terry Fallis	Room 228
2:15 p.m.	Social time/Cash bar	Room 228

Cost for our four course gourmet presentation:

Cornerstone Members and guest	\$25.00 per person
Members and guest	\$35.00 per person
Non-Members and guest	\$45.00 per person

By now you should have received the proposed changes to our by-laws. Although there was also an explanation included, should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact David Warner [416-291-5030 david.warner@sympatico.ca]

**You can now make reservations for lunch
Call 416-325-4647 or email oafp@ontla.ola.org**

[NOTE: We welcome new membership on your Board of Directors. Time demands are limited but the good works of the Association rely on the input from our members, all across the province. Nominations are accepted, at the meeting, or, if you prefer, you can indicate your interest to our Board Secretary, Karen Haslam, at karenhaslam@wightman.ca”]



Distinguished Service Award

We are pleased to announce that **Margaret Birch** will be this year's recipient of our Distinguished Service Award



Mrs. Birch served four terms in the Ontario Legislature, from 1971 to 1985. She has the distinction of being the first woman to be appointed to an Ontario cabinet. As Provincial Secretary for Social Development she oversaw several different ministries and had direct authority over the policies and directions of the individual ministries. As well, Mrs. Birch was Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier.

She was chair of the Scarborough Board of Health from 1963 to 1971, was on the Mental Health Council from 1967 to 1971, and was vice-chairman of the Social Planners Council from 1967 to 1970. She also served on the Board of Governors for Scarborough Centenary Hospital. When the hospital expanded in 1986 the new wing was named after her.

Margaret Birch became the first woman member of the Albany Club of Toronto, proposed by the then-premier, Bill Davis.

The ceremony and presentation will take place this fall. Details of this special event will be available later on.

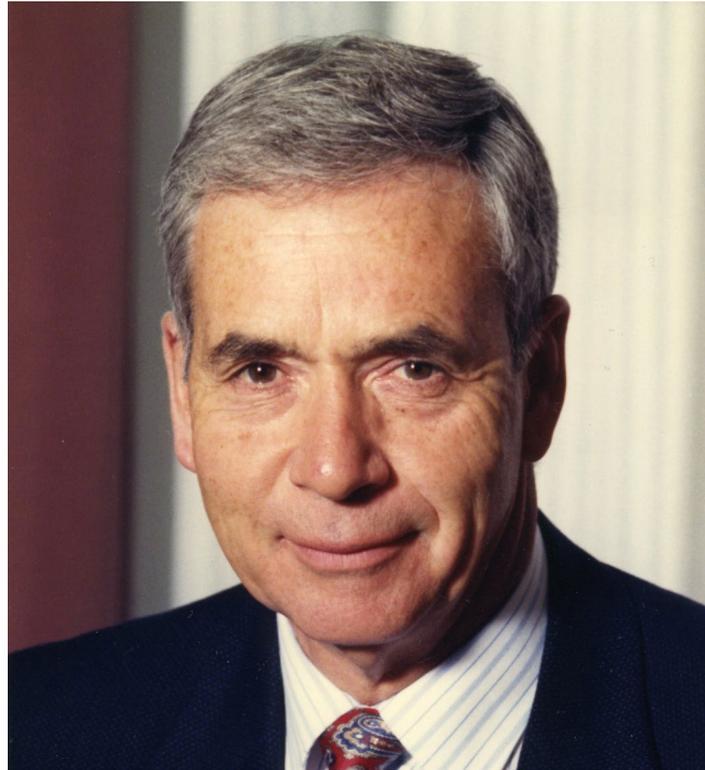
Congratulations to Margaret Birch, a truly remarkable parliamentarian!

Obituary: Charles Murray Tatham

(November 8, 1925 – February 5, 2016)

Served in the 34th Parliament (November 03, 1987 — July 30, 1990)

Liberal Member for the Riding of Oxford



Charles (or Charlie as he was affectionately known) served on 3 Standing Committees (Regulations and Private Bills, Resources Development, Social Development)

Charlie was elected in Oxford County [a Tory stronghold] in the smashing Liberal election of 1987. He was a long-time Municipal politician who had served at several levels of office including Mayor of Woodstock and Warden for the County of Oxford. He was genuinely interested and involved in representing his constituents and solving problems. He was a non-partisan who enjoyed talking with all MPPs on both sides of the house.

During his time at QP I was heavily involved in a campaign to stop smoking in working and public places. Charlie represented many Tobacco farmers and we talked many times about my private member's bills on this subject. He was always respectful and under-

stood my interest and belief in carrying the initiative forcefully forward. He was truly a gentleman and I enjoyed my conversations and time with him. - *Norm Sterling*

“I was very saddened to hear that my old friend and colleague Charlie Tatham passed away in early February. What a warm and wonderful fellow Charlie was. If ever anyone was born to a political career, it was Charlie Tatham who served with distinction and flair as Mayor of Woodstock, Warden of Oxford County and from 1987 to 1990, as the Liberal MPP for Oxford in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

He was simply one of the most gregarious people I have ever known. He thoroughly enjoyed people, the stories they told and the problems they brought to him as their local or provincial representative. He read voraciously and I had many a conversation with him about the storied political past of Oxford County which he knew so well. He could talk knowledgeably about topics as varied as soil conservation and the importance of public libraries.

I remember one late night sitting at Queen’s Park when he undertook to tell me “the real and whole story” about the re-structuring of Oxford County in the 1970s. And nearly 30 years later, I can still see the expression on Charlie’s face as he took me through the endless twists and turns of that tale. I hadn’t seen Charlie since he had retired to British Columbia a while back, but in all my years at Queen’s Park, he was one of the most interesting and enjoyable colleagues I ever had. His long life was distinguished by many different kinds of public service from his time in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War to his several tours of duty in elected office after the war. His service and his spirit were an inspiration to all who knew him and to those of us privileged to have worked with him.” - *Sean Conway*

Obituary: (Elizabeth) Joan Smith

(January 5, 1928 – February 9, 2016)

Served in the 33rd and 34th Parliament (May 02, 1985 — July 30, 1990)

Liberal Member for the Riding of London South



Joan served as Solicitor General, Chief Government Whip, Deputy House Leader, Commissioner on the Board of Internal Economy and was a member of a Special Committee on the Parliamentary Precinct. Additionally, Joan was on the Select Committee on Retail Store Hours and four Standing Committees (Resources Development, Government Agencies, Members' Services, General Government).

Joan Smith was a leader, a pioneer, a mentor, a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, a philanthropist, a wife, a volunteer and an organizer. To me, she was a friend at Queen's Park – someone to laugh with, be serious with, to share frustrations and hopes. And she was a very smart woman.

Joan Smith managed to couple numerous careers into one small body, and she excelled at them all. She was held in respect by people from all walks of life and from all political parties. She died February 11, 2016 in London at the age of 88, after a life that was determined to make things better for people – whether at the Catholic Childrens’ Aid Society, the London Housing Authority, the United Way, London City Council, Madame Vanier Children’s Services or the Ontario Legislature, where she served as Solicitor General in the government of Premier David Peterson.

“Her family has said that she ‘put her values into practice.’ Joan Smith life will be celebrated by those who came to know this extraordinary person for doing just that.”

- *Barbara Sullivan*

“Joan Smith, and her late husband, Don Smith (of Ellis Don Construction note), were a great political team – Don raising huge funds for the Liberals, and Joan the elected political operative. She rose through London City Council, becoming a Comptroller and then won the London South Riding in 1985, and 1987, as a Liberal. An indefatigable campaigner, in her red running shoes and grandmotherly way, she knocked on nearly every door in this very huge riding, winning convincingly (to which I can attest), and soon became party whip and then Solicitor General, the first woman to do so, and a non-lawyer. Her decade in elected office is well-remembered.” - *Gordon Walker*

“Joan Smith was a very capable and serious Minister of the Crown. While being a very strong Liberal Party supporter, she did not respond to her duties as a Minister in a partisan manner. She was pleasant and reasonable to Members of the other Parties being most interested in finding solutions to their problems concerning her Ministry. She was sincere in her approach and able to help solve some of my constituent’s problems. She was very much a class act.” - *Norm Sterling*

“Joan took her responsibilities seriously, but was relaxed and friendly with Members from all Parties. The two of us were part of a Parliamentary fact-finding mission to Nicaragua in 1986. The combination of inquisitiveness and a superb intellect were so valuable in our effort to gain insight into the conflict. On the social side it was delightful to be in her company. She served the Legislature with distinction and dignity.”

- *David Warner*

Obituary: Ian Deans

August 16, 1937 – May 3, 2016



Served in the 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st Parliaments (October 17, 1967 -- February 01, 1979) as the New Democratic Party Member for the Riding of Wentworth.

During Ian's four consecutive terms he served as House Leader, Commissioner on the Board of Internal Economy and was on three Select Committees (Inquiring into Hydro's Proposed Bulk Power Rates, Ontario Hydro Affairs, Striking Committee to appoint members to standing committees, on the OHEPC New Head Office Building) and eleven Standing Committees (Statutory Instruments, Public Accounts, Regulations, Private Bills, Procedural Affairs, Resources Development, Legal Administration, Legal and Municipal, Government Commissions, Highways and Transport, Estimates).

"When I first entered the Legislature in 1975, Ian Deans was certainly one of the most impressive and effective members there. He was colourful, competent and charismatic. His rich Scottish brogue and his stylish manner made him stand out in the crowd. Ian was, as they say, 'first person singular'. He had a very effective parliamentary manner and was a natural house leader. Ian liked a good debate and was certainly not shy about

expressing his views. From my perspective on the Liberal back benches at the time, he was ‘ a charter member ‘ of that very powerful NDP front bench so ably led by Stephen Lewis. Hamilton and the democratic left have lost a strong advocate and a good friend.”
Sean Conway

“Ian was a formidable force, both in the House and in Caucus. One could recognize leadership qualities right away. Ian helped me, as a new Member, to understand how to be effective at Queen’s Park. He was a terrific debater and quite passionate on social justice issues. Ian was tough but fair, and always showed respect for the House and all the Members, not just those in his own Party. If Ian was going to take on an issue in the House I wanted to be there to listen and learn.” David Warner

The Order of Ontario

Two more former Members of Provincial Parliament have been recognized for their contributions to life in Ontario.

Isabel Bassett, East York
Former Ontario Cabinet Minister, MPP St. Paul's

Isabel Bassett has served the people of Ontario throughout her career, first as high school teacher, and then as journalist, writer, broadcaster and member of the Ontario Legislature--all of which made her well-suited for the role of Chair and CEO of TVOntario.

Mary Anne Chambers, Thornhill
Former Ontario Cabinet Minister, MPP Scarborough East

Mary Anne Chambers has served the people of Ontario with a profound dedication. She personally funds scholarships and sponsors an academic mentorship program at the University of Toronto. Two more former Members of Provincial Parliament are recognized for their contributions which go beyond our Province.

Save the Date!

OLIP 40th Anniversary Reception

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme is celebrating 40 years! In recognition of your important contributions to our Programme, we would like to invite you to a special 40th Anniversary Reception that will be taking place 6:00pm - 9:00pm on Monday May 16th in the Main Lobby at Queen's Park.

To celebrate this important milestone, we will bring together current and former Members of Provincial Parliament, OLIP alumni, and a number of other guests who have supported our Programme over the years. We hope that you will be able to join us!

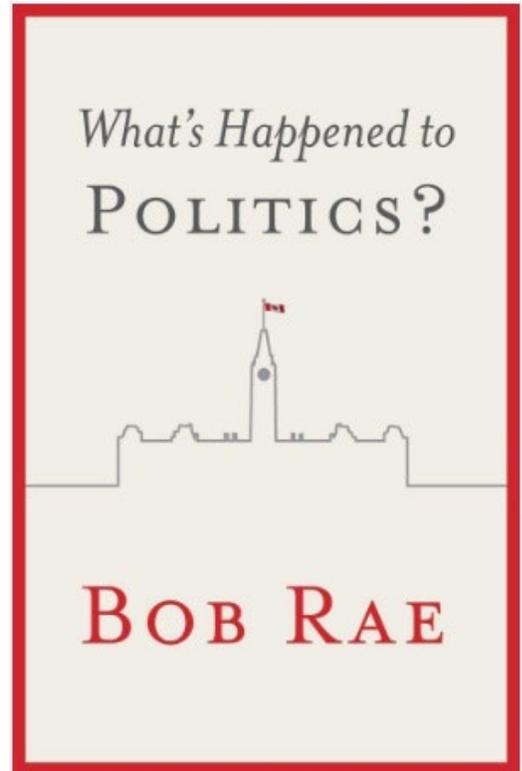
Although a formal invitation will follow, we encourage you to contact Matt Banninga by email (mbanninga@olipinterns.ca) or phone (416-325-0040) if you have any questions about the reception. As always, you can also keep up to date with the OLIP and our 40th anniversary celebrations by visiting our blog, Twitter, Facebook or our new Instagram account.

Matthew Banninga | Legislative Intern
Ontario Legislature Internship Programme
Room 1303 | Whitney Block | Queen's Park
Telephone: 416-325-0040

Follow us @olipinterns : Twitter, Instagram & Facebook

Book Review: “What’s Happened to Politics?” by Bob Rae

Reviewed by David Warner



Photos courtesy of www.bobrae.ca

“The trouble with pursuing politics as a business is that it has helped to create a cynical, fractured electorate that doesn’t know whom to trust or what to do.”

The former Premier of Ontario, who later was Interim Leader of the Federal Liberals, provides a thoughtful and thought provoking look at what has gone wrong, and why. Bob Rae has provided the necessary historic background in order to get a sense of how we have so badly veered off course. Politicians are talking at each other, not to each other. And, we are not listening to one another.

Rather than focusing on issues and seeking solutions, politics has become a contest in branding. Fact based debate is replaced with fear mongering. “And, if truth is the first casualty in war it certainly is in politics as well.”

We rely on our leaders to provide vision and an ability to bring people together for a common purpose. When we consider the inspired leadership of John A. Macdonald and Franklin Delano Roosevelt it is evident that those leaders had a vision beyond being elected for four years. It is also evident that they possessed the power of persuasion and had the skill to implement visionary policies.

It may be that today's leaders have the potential to provide inspired leadership, but their vision is limited by spin doctors, non-stop polling and playing to whatever happens to be popular.

Bob Rae speaks knowledgeably about the history of our Aboriginal Peoples, recounting the duplicitous dealings, attempts at assimilation and the conditions which should be unacceptable in Canada. Studies, Commissions, Accords have taken place over decades, yet problems of poverty, housing, education and governance persist. "For all the rhetoric about nation building, the unresolved relationship between indigenous people and other Canadians and their governments stands out emphatically as nothing less than our national shame."

Bob Rae takes a critical look at the state of our democracy. What he sees is quite unsettling. Excessive partisanship, lack of meaningful debate aided and abetted by undemocratic omnibus bills rammed through parliament, and a penchant for harsher treatment of those who run afoul of the law are just some of the obvious self-inflicted problems we face. Crime rates continue to fall yet we have more people in jail. "Demography has more to do with criminality than anything else, and excessive incarceration can even become a source of higher crime rates."

By now we are well aware that internationally Canada's reputation has been badly damaged by Stephen Harper's policies. Blue berets have been replaced with combat helmets. We have traded the role of mediator for that of taking sides. Instead of being the patient listener we close our Embassy in Iran. Canada played a major role in the founding of the United Nations. Mr. Harper's attitude toward the U. N. was the cause of Canada being denied a seat on the Security Council in 2010.

As a middle power, with great credentials based on our history as a peaceful, multicultural country; a country willing to mediate international disputes and be peacekeepers,

we can make a major contribution to world peace. But, for the past decade diplomacy has taken a back seat to hard-line politics. “Canada’s role on the global stage could be that of a valued source of reasoned, thoughtful advice to powers afraid or unwilling to talk to one another, clear minded about the current risks and dangers in the world.”

“Bob Rae takes a critical look at the state of our democracy. What he sees is quite unsettling.”

Bob Rae does not provide a detailed prescription on how we should go about fixing what is so obviously wrong about today’s politics. Still, this book should be required reading for anyone considering entering the political arena.

Interview: Gordon Carton

Rebel With A Cause

MPP Progressive Conservative, Amourdale, 1963-75

Gordon Carton is a proud Canadian who passionately believes in the world-class potential leadership of Canada, re: world climate change and its citizens, eg. David Suzuki. From the age of 8 to now 95, he has not been afraid to stand up for Canada.



Gordon Carton (middle-left) with intern Lauren Malyk (left) and David Warner (middle-right) at lunch.

“A party needs not only discipline to be effective but the kind of political courage that deepens its character. Mr. Carton has shown resolution and spirit that should be an example to his colleagues.” – “Rebel With A Cause,” reprinted from the Toronto Telegram editorial on March 19, 1964

At the age of 8—Gordon Carton gave a speech on Ontario highways. With the help of his Principal he was able to write the speech—but Carton was the one who delivered it. “I came second at the Cooksville Fair and I was competing with 16 year olds,” says Carton with a smile. Early on, this speech shaped Carton to believe that Ontario has always had the best highway system in the world. But this was his first and last political speech for a number of years.

The next time Carton became involved in politics was with the Conservative Party in the 1950s. He became heavily involved as the President of the York Centre riding and he started knocking on doors for Lex MacKenzie (MPP Progressive Conservative). Subsequently, he helped Fred Stinson (MP Progressive Conservative) and Tom Graham (MPP Progressive Conservative) get elected. A notable loss was the first Lord Thompson of Fleet when he ran federally in York Centre.

Once York Centre was split, his Party told him that it was his time. But he turned them down. “I liked helping people get elected,” says Carton. Eventually his Party prevailed and Carton became the first MPP for the new Riding of Armordale.

Carton’s most notable achievement was speaking up for his Armordale constituents when they faced the construction of a 12-lane highway—this was the future Highway 401. “They were coming within 3 feet of people’s dream homes,” says Carton. “There would not even be compensation for property owners adversely affected by the construction.” He says he felt comfortable, at the time, coming to his Party to discuss the decision. After all he was a Conservative and his party was in power. But it took him three months just to get an appointment with the Premier’s office.

In the meantime he had been visiting constituents’ homes and getting calls from angry residents. Finally he got an appointment with the Premier, but there was a surprise. He walked into a meeting where seated were 4 deputy assistants with the Premier. Before he could take a seat he was advised there would be no change in policy. He immediately left the room with the words “I always thought there would be discussion before decisions”. At the personal request of the Minister he returned. The ensuing discussion proved to be futile for Mr. Carton.

On March 17th, 1964 he made the speech that would change his life.

He pointed out that new legislation was not needed. They were not creating precedents nor would it jeopardize existing highway construction programs. There was nothing, absolutely nothing standing in the way of helping these unfortunate people except the Department of Highways!

Mr. Carton had written to many jurisdictions and studied many expropriation statutes, all to no avail. Oh, yes, I was led nicely down the garden path strewn with legislative flowers.” – page 10 from Gordon Carton’s Legislative Assembly of Ontario speech on Tuesday, March 17, 1964. He remembers members of the Opposition from both Parties filling the seats to hear him speak.

At the end of the speech he received an encouraging note from Premier John Robarts, which he treasures to this day!

That night around 8pm he received a call. The policy had been changed. “I knew I committed political suicide. I knew I would never be in the cabinet. But my citizens got what they needed,” says Carton. During his many years on the back benches Carton served on most Select Committees and Standing Committees, both as member and as Chairman.

In particular, he became Chairman of the Select Committee that introduced the Business Corporation Act for the Province of Ontario. This allowed him to become knowledgeable on business law including boards of directors leading to an offer to serve as President of the Institute of Corporate Directors in Canada, which he declined.

Mr. Carton did not seek re-election in 1975 but returned to the private sector where he served as Vice-President of Silcorp Limited which included Silverwood Dairies, Mac’s Milk and Baskin-Robins ice cream. He later mentored 15 Mississauga-based businesses for 25 years.

When asked about influences in his life other than politics he unhesitatingly related a visit to his old high school in early adulthood when he was shocked to see a montage of 95 of his friends, from one high school, who had been killed. “I vowed they would never be forgotten.” says Carton.

Some years later a group of business associates wanted to establish a scholarship in his name at Vaughan Road Collegiate (now Vaughan Road Academy). As a condition, Mr. Carton requested that the above-referenced 95 names be printed on every graduation ceremony pamphlet. With the cooperation of the Principals this is now in effect. In addition, Gordon Carton’s scholarship goes to the student in the graduating class who “best shows by example the leadership and pride of being a Canadian”.

And, what about the future?

Mr. Carton’s passion for Canada and Canadians has never waned. Recently he started a new business “Happiness Is Inc.” dedicated and trademarked in Canada for casual clothing and athletic wear (happinessisinc.ca) It is his dream that Canada’s 150th anniversary in 2017 will be celebrated across Canada and the world personally and vicariously.

The last word belongs to Mr. Carton “We live in the greatest country in the world! Happiness is Canada!”

Another former Member of Ontario Legislature appointed to Canadian Senate

Frances Lankin



Ms. Lankin spent more than 10 years as the CEO of United Way Toronto. She also served as a provincial Minister and Legislator within the Government of Ontario for 11 years (1990-2001).

Furthermore, she has contributed to a number of diverse government bodies and initiatives, including the Security Intelligence Review Committee, the Blue Ribbon Committee on Federal Grants and Contributions, and is Co-Commissioner of the Commission for the Reform of Social Assistance in Ontario.

She is currently Chair of the National NewsMedia Council, Board Director for Hydro One, and Board Director and Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission, and has extensive previous experience as a former volunteer on several boards. She is a Member of the Order of Canada and has received Honorary Doctorates from Queen's University, Ryerson University, and Nipissing University.

The Back Story: David Turnbull

MPP 1990-2003



What did you do prior to be elected?

I enrolled in a hospitality management course in the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science (now Queen Margaret University College) in Scotland. After graduation like many trainee managers sought food service experience in Europe organised by the British Hotel and Restaurant Association. The application form asked to list first and second choice of placement country. As with most Brits I listed France, thinking all the time Paris. To comply with question on the application I wrote Germany as second choice. And so that was how much to my surprise I ended up in Trier a small historic town on the Mosel in Germany.

A few days into my placement the manager explained that because the hotel was small I would have to serve customers myself rather than just assisting. Easy for him to say, I didn't speak a word of German. When I was told that I would have to cash up and that any shortfall would come out of my pocket, I learned the language, particularly counting, very, very quickly. The acquired language skill proved very beneficial as, later on, I met my wife, Cecile, who is from the German speaking part of Switzerland. She was in London England improving her English.

After getting married, we both worked for a British company who moved us to Vienna where I was in sales of business forms systems to the hospitality industry. We moved to Switzerland to resume working in the hotel industry. After two years jointly managing a resort hotel in Brunnen on the Lake of Lucerne, we decided to get our own hotel or leave the business. We negotiated hard on a small resort hotel in Tessin but weren't able to make the right financial deal, so we decided to emigrate to Canada.

I changed my vocation and sold business forms again, a job which led to being recruited by Xerox Canada. After eight years with Xerox in sales and management and having finished the Canadian Institute of Management course at U of T (the poor man's MBA), I moved into commercial real estate sales.

Why did you seek public office?

A local plaza wanted to expand the size of the plaza. The Ratepayers Association, of which I was an active member, opposed the expansion. During the ensuing discussions and efforts to stop the expansion the President of our Ratepayers Association quit and I was asked to assume the role of President. At the time I was also active in the local P.C. Riding Association. I was approached about running provincially and agreed to give it a try.

Were your previous work experiences helpful when you became an MPP?

My years of experience in the hotel business taught me much about how to relate to people. I learned the skill of effective listening from my time at Xerox., and my professional selling skills certainly came in handy when campaigning door to door.

What have you pursued, both in terms of employment and volunteer engagement since leaving Queen's Park?

I returned to commercial real estate for two years. Then I was recruited by President and CEO of Canadian Courier & Logistics Association, the national umbrella organisation for the express delivery industry, this involves government relations. I was on the executive on the P. C. Don Valley West Riding Association and have continued to do political fund raising. Best of all, I have five grandchildren and enjoy spending time with them when I can. Two of the five are living in Switzerland ironically close to where our daughter, their mother, would have been born had we taken the hotel in Tessin.

Queen's Park To Campus

"I enjoyed the experience very much. The students are smart, well-informed and participated with enthusiasm and respect. They clearly have a good grasp on the challenges facing political decision-makers and offered diverse and interesting suggestions and ideas. I hope they enjoyed the experience as much as I did!" - Marilyn Mushinski

Our programme continues to expand. The time spent in connecting directly with individual professors or the head of a political science department is worthwhile. And, more of our members have stepped up to volunteer. Since Christmas eight more former MPPs have volunteered: Barbara Sullivan, Marilyn Mushinski, John Gerretsen, Mike Breaugh, Marilyn Churley, John Parker, Phil Gillies, Joyce Savoline. A sincere, boisterous "THANK YOU!"

Our estimate is that to date our members have met with over 1,100 students. There are always practical considerations and logistical difficulties. We try to provide the professor with two former MPPs, representing two different Parties as a way to present different ways of looking at the same issue(s). Not always possible and not really a problem as former Members are quite good at being reasonable, fair and objective.

Consider volunteering. Not only is it an interesting experience, but the feedback from professors is that the students find it very worthwhile to be able to ask questions to someone who has been there; debated, passed or defeated legislation. So ... contact our office today (oafp@ontla.ola.org or 416-325-4647) and let us know the name your closest university.

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Introducing our newest intern: Ramisha Farooq



Ramisha is a fourth-year Ryerson journalism student whose background in news editing, as well as her experience with the Toronto Star and the CBC Parliamentary Bureau will be a great asset to our editorial team.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Sadaf Ashan. Sadaf provided a wide variety of skills, not the least of which was a sharp eye for grammar mistakes! At a time when the National Post was reducing their workforce, Sadaf was offered a full-time position as staff writer in the Arts and Culture Department. She has also appeared on the “culture panel” of CBC’s radio program Q. Her infectious enthusiasm, which nicely augmented her superb talents, will be missed, however we are extremely happy about her achievement in acquiring that which she was pursuing.

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