

# Winter 2016



The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians Committee,  
alongside Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdeswell,  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.



## Table of Contents

1. Interview with David Peterson ...pg. 3
2. Interview with Elizabeth Dowdeswell ...pg. 8
3. Interview with Jim Gordon ...pg. 12
4. Interview with Shirley Collins ...pg. 17
5. Book Review: Dalton McGuinty's Making A Difference ...pg. 21
6. Interview with Dalton McGuinty ...pg. 23
7. DSA Announcement ...pg. 26
8. Queen's Park to Campus ...pg. 27
9. Notice: Annual General Meeting ...pg. 28
10. The Back Story: Ron Kanter ...pg. 29
11. The Back Story: Marion Boyd ...pg. 32
12. Christmas Social: Gallery ...pg. 34
- 13.. Membership Renewal Form ...pg. 36
14. Contact ...pg. 37

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# Meet the Premiers: Hon. David Peterson

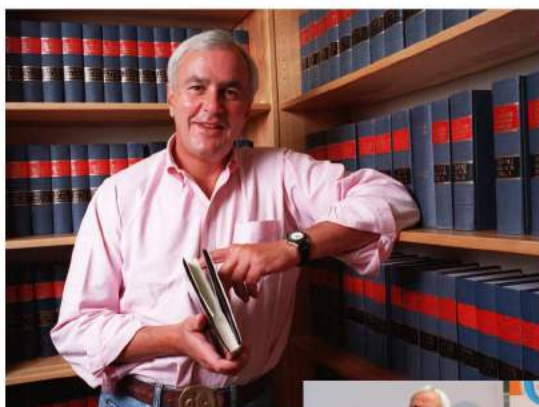
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## MPP (1975-1990)

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## Premier (1985-1990)

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**Above:** Photo by Toronto Star.  
**Right:** Peterson with Liberal MPP Robert Nixon in the Ontario legislature in 1985. Photo by Thomas Szlukoveny/The Globe and Mail.



"My life is a series of accidents—serendipity," says David Peterson, former Premier of Ontario, and the first Liberal to have taken the title in the province, in 1985, after 42 years of Conservative rule—no small achievement, and hardly something one could describe as merely accidental.

But when Peterson describes how he grew up in a political family, his career in the Ontario Legislature does indeed seem to be a serendipitous turn of fate.

Peterson's father, Clarence, was a signatory of the Regina Manifesto and one of 13 children born in poverty in Saskatchewan. He left home at 13, during the Depression, his motivation in life becoming a driving force for his son.

"He ended up in Regina and the only support group he had was the YMCA. He was a young radical on the prairies and became a signatory with the founding party of the CCF," says Peterson. "He was absolutely brilliant, even though he had no schooling. He came to Ontario after the war with nothing but \$50. He was very successful and never forgot his roots. He was involved in municipal politics, once against John Robarts, who ended up being a good friend of mine. John used to say my dad was the best he ever ran against."

Peterson's active political involvement didn't begin until he returned from law school. He attended the University of Western Ontario at a time when most political leaders would come to the campus to speak, including Lester Pearson and Paul Martin.

Once the question was asked, it was hard for Peterson to say no: "I was working out at the YMCA in London on business, and a guy—a big shot in the party—said, 'Why don't you run?' So I decided I would, even though I didn't know anything about running."

That didn't cut his spirit short. In fact, it only added to the fire his father had started.

"I went out and we had the largest nomination to that date in the history of Ontario politics," Peterson says. "We had over 2000 people, and that was in 1975. I sold memberships to everybody who could walk. I got the nomination and ended up winning the seat. We won three seats in London but the provincial result was a minority government."

"Taking the Leadership in 1982 was like taking over a bankrupt company; there was no money, no policies," he says. "We had to put everything together—candidates, money, policies. I traveled the province and went to every little town and met every mayor and everyone that ran the province. That was a very strong learning curve."

Mulroney won in 1984 and when the election was called in 1985, Peterson could sense that the tide was turning: "We had nothing to lose. We had a very progressive campaign; it was good humour, good fun, but we didn't have a lot of money. The real competition was in who was going to gather the anti-government votes, and it turned out to be us."

Taking the Premier's chair in 1985 wasn't the least bit intimidating for David Peterson. In fact, he felt totally comfortable. "I wasn't wondering what I was going to do—I knew! I had sufficient confidence in our judgment. No one had any experience in government. It was the best cabinet ever assembled in the history of Ontario—Ian Scott, Bob Nixon, Sean Conway, Jimmy Bradley, etc.—you can go down the list, it was not much experience, but very capable people. We had some complex, difficult legislation led by a strong group of men and women."

Peterson's team accomplished a great deal in their run, most notably as the first government to amend the Human Rights Code to end discrimination based on sexual orientation; ahead of their time: "We had the moral position, and the NDP support even though the Catholic Church would come out and preach against us."





**Left:** Peterson with Lieutenant-Governor Lincoln Alexander and Queen Elizabeth after her official welcome to Ontario at Queen's Park in Toronto. Photo by Erik Christensen/The Globe and Mail. **Above:** Peterson with Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1987. Photo by The Globe and Mail.

But these milestones were hardly effortless, and although he was a confident leader, Peterson still experienced some major challenges.

"It's the second biggest political job in the country and you carry everything. The heart-break in politics is around your people, those who occasionally let you down," he says. "You're under enormous pressure all the time—not stress, because I wear that pretty well. The opposition is standing up and all they want to do is prove you're dishonest or incompetent. But that's the job and it's the constant scrutiny that's the hard part. Whatever you say, there are a number of people who will be watching to discredit you."

And although he concedes that it isn't a job for everybody, there is one particular qualifier he makes note of: "You've got to be a little nuts."

To this day, it's the cabinet alongside him that Peterson remains most proud of. "Number one, you look for confidence. Your best people are always obvious. You have to look at gender, cultural and geographic balance. It's like a jigsaw puzzle; you put it altogether, move this piece, move that piece, does this person fit here?"

"There's only one qualification in politics, that is to get elected, and it's not about being the best person, it's the luck of the draw; high risk, high reward," he says. "You have to be the right person at the right time. You can be a really good candidate, but get swept out when the tide goes against your party. It doesn't all depend on your abilities, but on some luck. The leaders are the guys who stick their necks out and are prepared to take a risk. Dalton McGuinty was fourth on the ballot. Kathleen Wynne was running a very tough race, defied all the odds, and is doing a great job."

When asked which accomplishments have made him most proud over time, Peterson doesn't hesitate, with more than enough memorable moments to choose from.

"That period was one of the most progressive in the history of Ontario," he says, recalling his time in office. "We reformed everything from gay rights to freedom of information, and we were the first government to balance the budget in 14 years. We were very involved in the national debates. We created the teacher's pension plan. We did so much it was unbelievable, and in conjunction with the NDP. We forgot our extremes and worked together where we had things in common."

*"When you win, there are a lot of people around you.  
When you lose, it's just you. You take the responsibility."*

David Peterson's memorable career started when he was elected as the Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament for London Centre in the 1975 provincial election. A year later, when he was just 31 years old, he ran against Stewart Smith for the Liberal Party Leadership, Bob Nixon having stepped down as Leader.

"I almost won—that was the tragedy," he recalls. "And then I hung around and I won the next time. You make a lot of friends and see a lot of Ontario. You get involved in a lot of issues and in people's lives."

What stood out for Peterson the most as an MPP was the connections he built, however momentary or long-lasting, with the countless people he met.

"In one of the speeches I made about gay rights, I said, 'If one of my children were gay, would I love them any less? No. Would I want them to be discriminated against? No. Would I want them to have a full life? Yes. And I want the same for your children.'"

Since leaving politics in his rearview mirror, Peterson has remained actively involved in countless charitable organizations, and returned to law, as a senior partner and chairman of the Toronto law firm Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP, but the transition wasn't the smoothest.

"I was thrown out of office, so I had to decide if I was going to whine about it or do something else with my life," Peterson says, remembering when his political career had come to a close. "When you win, there are a lot of people around you. When you lose, it's just you. You take the responsibility. You don't sit there and say you saved the party after 42 years—the world moves on."



"My wife was an actress in a big television series and made more than I ever did in my whole life. So I looked after the kids while she was working. Then I started teaching at university, which I loved, and all sorts of nice things happened. Half of my life has been philanthropic since I got out of politics. I was Chairman of the Pan Am Games, totally as a volunteer; appointed Chancellor of the university and I'm the Chairman of the law firm. My life is very full."

*"There's an intensity of experience and a proximity to the action that you'll never duplicate."*

Although he has stayed busy and remains successful in his post-political endeavors, and insists he doesn't miss the lifestyle of a political career, Peterson shares that there is something about that world you can't quite find anywhere else.

"I don't want to live like that again, but it's like asking if you miss the war. Most guys don't miss shooting other people but there's an intensity of experience and a proximity to the action that you'll never duplicate," he says, fondly. "Those friendships, the frenetic activity, the crisis nature of it and just the sheer fun of that were unique. When you're Premier, you have the power to do an awful lot of good things. I enjoyed that part of it. I don't miss going out every single night and day, kissing a million babies and putting up with all the baloney when people come up to you and say stupid things. That's not wrong; this is a democracy, but I don't have the patience I used to have."

*"Success and failure in politics and in life are fickle mistresses; they come and go."*

When asked if he has any advice for those looking to enter politics, he says, with a hard-earned confidence, "Success and failure in politics and in life are fickle mistresses; they come and go. Never get too excited when you're successful and don't get too depressed when you're not. You've got to have a centre of gravity through your life. We won the biggest majority in the history of the country, and I said to the Caucus, 'Don't get too excited. I won this one for you, and you've got to win the next one for me.' Nothing lasts. The best thing I had was a fabulous family. Family lasts forever."

## Interview: Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Photo: OAA



*Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in fulfilling both her constitutional and community role, is letting the hearts of Ontarians decide what she needs to work on to make Ontario better.*

In Her Honour's installation address, she declared that she would not immediately pick a theme. Instead, she has been travelling around the province and listening to a wide range of people to hear what resonates with Ontarians to determine what her focus should be.



"All of this has been to hear what's on the minds of Ontarians and there are two themes that have emerged. One over-arching theme is Ontario in the world," says Her Honour while sipping tea.

"I very deliberately say 'in' and not 'and' because I believe the word 'in' implies being active. We are so prosperous in this country, and in this province. We have so much to contribute to the rest of the world. Certainly in many cases we are doing that—but we're just not telling the story."

She proceeded to add as an example that many people in Ontario would not know that Ontario is famous for medical research and technology innovation. That story is not being told.

"So I humbly say that I have appointed myself, 'The Province's Storyteller,' because it's such fun to go from one community to another and say—did you know that, or hear about this, etc. And often they don't," says the Lieutenant Governor with a smile.

The other theme that has emerged for Her Honour is sustainability.

"There are really three interrelated elements to sustainability— economic development through innovation, environmental stewardship and social cohesion. Together this is how we build just and sustainable communities. As you might imagine as a person engaged in policy throughout my career, what interests me most is how all those dots connect. Each of these sectors is related to the others."

As for the role of Lieutenant Governor, she is "pleased about the degree of validation." Recently, in Picton, when she stopped to see a Gilbert & Sullivan play, people came up to her and thanked her for attending. Several spoke about how they enjoyed seeing a Lieutenant Governor of Ontario come to their small community.

"One of the things that I'm very keen to do is to extend the constituency of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's office. There certainly are groups who have a long-standing traditional alliance with the office, but it matters to me that new visitors throughout the province have the opportunity to visit the Lieutenant Governor's Suite and to learn about and experience the role of the Lieutenant Governor in our system of governance."

"It is a real privilege to travel throughout this province. It's wonderful to meet people who want to show off their communities and they tell me what they want me to see. I've learned so much history going from one community to another. One weekend I was visiting both cemeteries and cow barns - in each community proudly celebrating diverse histories. There's so much military, economic and social history to discover in the development of this province."

Meanwhile, she's had to adjust to her role.

"I remember the first week, one of the things I wanted to do was to hear a particular lecture being organized by The Walrus. I've been a subscriber since the magazine first came out and this lecture was about resilience. I really wanted to hear how people take a concept that is essentially environmental and apply it to social development. The first reaction was—well the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario just doesn't drop in on things."

"My answer was—why not? And how am I going to listen to people if I don't engage with people where they are. So we found a way of respecting the dignity of the office, recognizing that it is not always necessary to play the vice-regal salute or for me to speak. I can be there just to listen."

You have a distinguished career as a public servant in government and as well with the United Nations. You were also a teacher. Have any of those experiences been helpful in fulfilling the role of Lieutenant Governor?

I've had the good fortune to change careers every four or five years of my life. So in that sense, I'm more of a generalist than a specialist in anything. Looking back, I can make a number of observations. Certainly, all of the work that I have done has put me in regular contact with people. Much of my work within various orders of government has involved consultations, public enquiries and royal commissions in an effort to engage with people - to bring the public into public policy making.

In many cases, I've been the interpreter—bringing science and technology to the world of public policy or being a bridge builder between those who develop public policy and citizens and communities. One community has information and knowledge but it may not know how to make it understandable and useful to the other. Those experiences have helped shape my view of the role the public can play in so many of the important issues about which governments must make decisions.



Working internationally changes your perspective totally, in terms of what kind of world we're living in. Not only did I learn about problems other countries were facing and what solutions they brought to the table, but perhaps the most important learning was to see my own country through a different lens, a different perspective. That's why I have absolutely no hesitation in talking about Canada being the best country in which to live. It's something we take for granted. It doesn't mean that we don't have issues we need to address in Canada and Ontario, but it does mean we are so very fortunate relative to others.

*"I have absolutely no hesitation in talking about Canada being the best country in which to live."*

There are always those who question the relevance of the Monarchy in today's Canada. What is the significance of having a Queen's Representative in each Province?

I think that over time the relationship between the Crown and Canada has evolved. The relationship has provided stability in terms of good governance, which is very important in order to allow us to develop as a country and do so in a way that is evolutionary not revolutionary.

The Lieutenant Governor has an important responsibility in ensuring good governance - a Premier is in place and a Legislature is sitting. On the advice of Executive Council, bills are given Royal Assent and Orders-in-Council are signed regularly. While the Lieutenant Governor must be rigorously apolitical her convening power allows her to shine a light on important societal issues that transcend both day-to-day politics and time.

# Meet our newest Board Member: Jim Gordon A Man From the North and For the North MPP Progressive Conservative, Sudbury, 1981-87



This distinguished Order of Canada recipient, former Mayor of Sudbury, and Cabinet Minister was appointed to the Board to serve until our next AGM, and the annual election of the Board.

Jim started out as a secondary school English teacher who was also a Library Science specialist. Over the course of four decades, Jim Gordon distinguished himself as a builder of the North.





**Left:** Gordon shares a laugh with the audience after receiving an honorary doctorate of laws from Laurentian University during a convocation ceremony in the Fraser Auditorium. Photo by Ben Leeson/The Sudbury Star.

He initiated or lent a talented, dedicated hand in establishing:

- The Northeast Cancer Centre
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- Northern Ontario Mayors' Coalition
- Development of mining machinery manufacturing
- Expanding the supply of housing in Sudbury

There is a long list of Awards you have received. Are there one or two which are particularly meaningful to you?

Receiving a Doctor of Laws from Laurentian University of Sudbury meant a lot. Becoming a Member of the Order of Canada; the Investiture ceremony will be held February 12/16. This, to me, represents an endorsement of the work I have done both in Sudbury and throughout the North. The reason I have the Order of Canada today is because the people of the North and Sudbury allowed me to work with them to achieve their goals. In actual fact, they are really bestowing it on the people who I have worked with and been part of.

We have a medical school in Sudbury and Thunder Bay. To be frank, I think that would be my most cherished story. I was approached by Board member Nick Farkouh who enlisted my help. He said, "The Board at Laurentian University is going to make a pitch for a medical school for Sudbury. But they don't stand a chance, because they don't understand how politics work and you do. Would you pursue it on our behalf?" I took a motion to the Regional Council that urged the Ontario Government to establish a Medical School in the North.

When I was elected mayor in 1991, I came to the conclusion that we could be more powerful in our lobbying attempts with the senior levels of government if we established a big city coalition of Mayors. I called David Hamilton [the Mayor of Thunder Bay] with the idea. He liked it, and we were then able to talk about representing over 600,000 people in the North.

We agreed to form an association of the large city mayors of Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario. This decision on our part turned out to be the key to our later success in the establishment of a Medical school in the North.

The commitment of the Regional government and the City of Sudbury gave me the resources I needed to begin pursuing a Medical School for the North. With the City of Thunder Bay and the two universities on board, it was clear that only with the concurrence of the other major cities would we have a fighting chance.

I contacted Mayor Burroughs of North Bay and asked him to put a Medical School on the mid winter Mayors' agenda. I took Jeff Tesson, who was Laurentian's lead with me. The meeting lasted two hours. The stumbling block Jeff and I had to get over was, "What's in it for me?"

Over and over we heard, Sudbury and Thunder Bay will benefit. We won't. Finally, it came down to one holdout. I'll never forget it. Vic Power, the Mayor of Timmins, a longtime friend of mine going back to our university days, said, "Look fellows, if we don't support Jim, if we won't support each other, what chance will we ever have in scoring major projects in the North? What's the point of having a Mayors' coalition?" With that, everyone voted yes. On the drive back to Sudbury I said to Jeff, "It's going to be a long road, but we are going to get that school."

I travelled Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario promoting the benefits that would come to all of us by training young doctors in our communities. After a period of time I was able to secure unanimous support of the two municipal organizations, FONOM and NOMA.

Over those years, I brought numerous delegations to Queen's Park to lobby the Minister of Health, the Minister of Colleges and Universities, all to no avail. But deep in my heart I always believed that I was going to get that school. And I'll tell you why. I had sat in the Ontario legislature for six years, between 1981 and 1987.



In those years, Mike Harris, the MPP for Nipissing, was my seat mate. If anyone knew Mike Harris, it was me. Mike was now the Premier of Ontario. He had taken over a debt-ridden province. He had had to make a lot of tough decisions that had made many sectors of the province angry. Despite that, he was elected more than one term. I believed that rather than adding more medical seats to the current Southern Ontario Medical Schools to relieve the doctor shortage, he, like Premiers before him, would find it hard to resist doing something for the region that he had come from, the North.

Finally, I decided to go for broke. I asked my CAO, Mark Mieto, who had good contacts in the healthcare field, to organize a conference at Laurentian University to which we would invite doctors who headed up rural type Medical schools around the world, to explain how medical doctors could be trained to serve northern areas of the world. On the first day of the conference, Tony Clement, The Minister of Health, who had been invited to be a speaker at the conference, announced that a medical school would be developed in the north.

After it was all over, Premier Harris asked me if I would be the Chair of the Implementation Committee to establish the school. It never would have happened without the politicians and the people of the North uniting as one in their call for better health care by training doctors in the North. The school has been an overwhelming success. An interesting side note is that this was the first time to date that the municipalities of the North united in a project that has had such a profound impact on the lives of their citizens.

### **What has been the motivation for this life-long commitment to community work?**

My motivation came from my family. My father's mantra was that our goal in life should be to make the world a better place for the next generation. He always stressed that we had a duty to make things better. We should take the talents that we had and use them.

My mother believed in being dutiful. She was a great listener and she was always interested in everything I was doing. She played a key role in building my self confidence. That was followed up by the influence of my great uncle, Will Martin, Reeve of Coleman Township, who came from England, had been a soldier in the Boer war and worked for the Great Atlantic and Pacific Company in the Congo. He loved life and always had stories and jokes to tell. He reminisced about travelling to Queen's Park to meet with Premier Leslie Frost. His love of public life encouraged me to pursue a career as a politician. I thought that it would be the most exciting and good-natured life you could lead.

**How would you describe the difference between northern and southern Ontario?**

Northern Ontario has always been the heart of the economy in this province. Much of what the South has been able to use in money, taxes and royalties have come from the mining and forestry industry. This is something that is not going to change. This is unlike the manufacturing processes that is now relocating to the U.S., Mexico and China. The North is still the treasure house of future development, the key to the economic wellbeing of Southern Ontario. I'm not saying that Southern Ontario doesn't return a lot; they do—to us and in variety of ways. It's a symbiotic type of relationship.

**What do you see as the importance of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians?**

I think it's very important because they have an education program. This will allow former members to be matched up with political science professors to give an insight into how government really works. You know, you can read a textbook on what the legislature is, how it works and all the nitty gritty, but to understand how politics really works, what government is all about, and why we should be involved in it is critical to democracy, and there's no one else doing it.

**Any time for hobbies or special interests?**

I sit on six boards; this is one of them. I am Chair of ParkSide Centre (seniors' organization), which has over a 1000 members, Chairman of the board of NetCentral, which has married the telecommunications industry, including Bell and Rogers, with money from the federal and provincial governments to fill in the major telecommunication dead zones along the highways in Northeastern Ontario.

I sit on the Sudbury Theatre Centre board, which is a professional company. I'm doing Sudbury Project Hope to bring in refugees from the Middle East. When I started this refugee business, I knew that there would be many other groups in the city that would want to help. I saw the need for an umbrella group to help facilitate other groups. I set up another organization called Lifeline Sudbury and sit on the board.



# Series: Remarkable Women Parliamentarians

## Interview: Shirley Collins

### MPP, Liberal, Riding of Wentworth East 1987-90

### Minister Without Portfolio

### Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour



Why did you enter politics?

I was a 21-year-old single mother with two small children, a 3-year-old and 3-month-old, when my husband left. For financial reasons, I ended up in a public housing complex in the east end of Hamilton and on mother's allowance. A community meeting was being held in the neighbourhood to discuss local problems. I attended because I wanted a junior kindergarten in the area for my children. The real focus of the meeting though was on gang issues. By the end of that meeting, I was chosen to be the President of this new association. That was the beginning of my political activism..

Our association applied for funding for a legal clinic to help address some of the local issues in this low-income neighbourhood such as landlord/tenant, social assistance concerns, family law, etc. I was hired and trained as a community legal worker. My work was noticed by east Hamilton federal politician, John Munro, who hired me as his constituency assistant. Although I left the clinic, I continued doing a lot of volunteer work. I co-chaired the Pro-Hospital Committee in the east end of Hamilton that later became the East Hamilton Stoney Creek Health Association.

The political and community work of that group and St. Joseph's Hospital resulted in the St. Joseph's Ambulatory Care Centre. But I was also very concerned about the environmental problems in the east end of Hamilton. We had the garbage incinerator, SWARU, spewing out all sorts of pollutants, and there was talk of building an expressway through our Red Hill valley, the last natural green space in the area. Health and environmental issues really concerned me, but no one seemed to be addressing them in the east end.

When Sheila Copps ran provincially for the second time, she asked me to work on her campaign. After she was elected, she offered me a job as her constituency assistant; a job that I did until the municipal election in the fall of 1982. I decided to run for Council because it was time to do something politically about the issues that I cared about. Two aldermen were elected for each ward. The incumbents had been there for 20 and 22 years. Unexpectedly, I got elected in first place the first time out.

That was the start of my own political career. I ran provincially in 1985 and lost against Bob Mackenzie, but I think I came a lot closer than he expected. I remained elected municipally and then was successful provincially in 1987.

### Did you face any challenges as a woman in politics?

When I was out knocking on doors, I had few problems as a woman candidate. I had chaired the volunteer groups as mentioned and I had worked for some pretty high-profile politicians so I think that gave me some credibility.

When I first arrived on City and Regional Councils, there weren't a lot of women elected at that time, though the Regional Chair was a woman, Anne Jones. It was a two tier municipal system so there were a couple of women on Regional Council from the smaller municipalities and another woman was elected to Hamilton's City Council at the same time as me.



There was admittedly a bit of an attitude towards me, I think partly because of my background as a single mother who came out of nowhere. There was a patronizing attitude from some of the veteran male members of council but in spite of that, it was an exciting time. There was a large turnover on City Council during the 1982 election and real change was taking place.

### Were there any female role models for you in politics?

Sheila Copps was a role model. I admired and respected her for following her instincts. She was feisty and didn't worry about what people thought of her. Most people in the east end liked that style. I also respected and admired Anne Jones. She was the first Chair of the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Council and had to lead during a stormy time for the new tier of government. It was a municipal system that was not embraced by all of the smaller municipalities but she was able to keep the Council working together. She was very conservative and we seldom agreed on anything but she was a very good leader for the Region at that time in our history.

### You've worked with a variety of memorable politicians, from David Peterson to John Munro and Sheila Copps, as you've mentioned. What do you learn from each of these people?

Stay on your agenda. As an elected official you know the concerns of your constituents from knocking on doors. Your constituents have to trust you and feel that your actions have their best interests at heart. As a politician, you have to say, 'Here's what I plan to do,' so when you go back and ask them to vote for you again, you are able to say, 'I said I would do this and this is what I did.'

The unexpected does happen when governing. There may be a very good reason why you couldn't do something you had planned on doing. Most people are reasonable and will understand. However, people feel betrayed and mistrustful when politicians make dramatic changes to legislation and programs that they didn't address during an election.

Municipally, you can stand on your own record and reputation. It's a bit tougher in party politics because it is more difficult to influence the decision making process at the provincial and federal levels. You have to be tenacious.

### Do you have any other fond memories from your time in politics?

I'm a very project-oriented person; I like to choose a cause or a project and see it through to the end. It wasn't my intention to just see my name on the wall at the legislature; I wanted to get things done for Hamilton and for the people of Ontario.

I recall being on a committee that studied health and safety in the mines of Ontario. It was fascinating travelling around all parts of the province and touring the different mines with MPPs from all parties. When I was Minister I started to move the yardsticks for people with disabilities, in terms of transportation and employment. I really felt I was accomplishing something worthwhile.

Municipally, I was involved in many projects and issues. As Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee I continued to push for an East Hamilton health facility and as I mentioned that was eventually realized. I fought to keep Hamilton Beach Community alive and it continues to thrive today on Hamilton's Lakefront while giving the public access to Lake Ontario. I was able to convince Regional Council to get the millions of dollars needed from the province to retrofit the SWARU incinerator and lower the pollution levels in the east end. My son, who is now the incumbent Councillor, was eventually successful in having the incinerator shut down.

### Any advice for women who want to enter politics?

It is very important to have the support of your family in politics and just as important that, in spite of all of the demands on your time, you make time for your family. I remarried in 1988 and my husband, who was a police officer, was very supportive of my career in politics. Though I know I missed a great deal when my children were adolescents and teens, I was fortunate that they were very understanding and independent. They didn't forget where we came from and I think they realized that they were being given the opportunity to realize their potential. Both are very successful at what they do. My daughter, Candace, is a 20 year veteran and a Sergeant with Hamilton Police Services. My son, Chad is a 20 year veteran of Hamilton City Council.

*"It is very important to have the support of your family in politics and just as important that, in spite of all of the demands on your time, you make time for your family."*



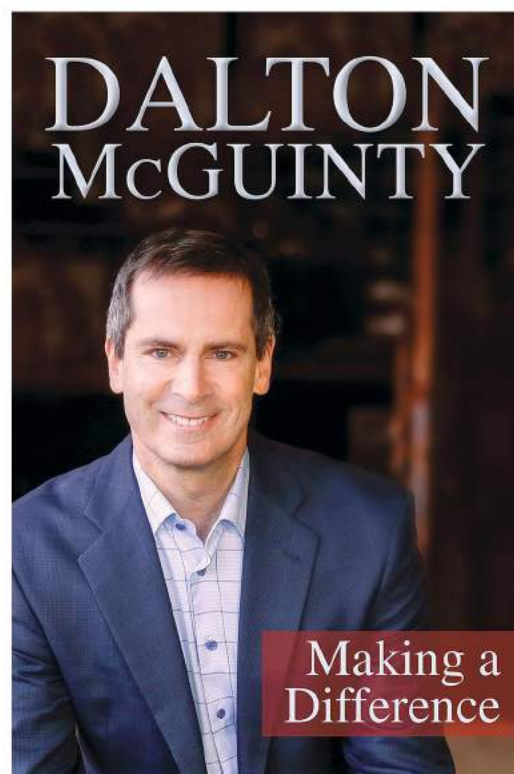


## Book Review: “Making A Difference” by Dalton McGuinty Review by David Warner

*“That’s always been the thing about politics and me.  
It’s been much more an affair of the heart than the head.”*

“Making A Difference” is a very personal account of Dalton McGuinty’s life as Ontario’s 24th Premier. At the heart of the narrative is Dalton’s deep desire to do what is right for our Province.

Dalton McGuinty rightfully takes credit for his many achievements; which include full-day kindergarten, improved high school graduation rates, significantly shorter wait times in emergency rooms, greenbelt protection in the Toronto region, ridding the Province of coal-fired energy plants, shutting down the two unwanted gas plants. It is obvious that the Premier checked his religion at the door when dealing with the issues of same-sex marriage and gay/straight alliance in schools, issues where he is at odds with the Catholic Church.



Openly, candidly, Dalton McGuinty expresses his frustrations and his regrets. Historically, Ontario’s Premiers have always played a role in nation building. Dalton McGuinty is no exception.

But, our Premiers have been able to connect with the Prime Minister of the day in constructive discussions. Alas, as McGuinty found out, Stephen Harper would not meet with all the Premiers, only one on one.

Dalton raises an important issue for all Parties to contemplate. Ontario governments over the years have developed arms-length organizations charged with the responsibility to implement public policy. This is done to try and remove partisan political interference. These bodies have grown in number and complexity. The suggestion in the book is that perhaps that is where some of the problems associated with the gas plant decisions and Omge ambulance rest. Dalton McGuinty raises the question but does not offer any solution.

Central to this book is Dalton's deep devotion to family. Some heart-warming anecdotes demonstrate how the family he came from and his own family are central to his life.

While Dalton raises the issues of the gas plants, e-Health and Omge, he does not provide many details as to how things went so badly wrong.

Political issues aside, the book provides an inside look at what it is like to be Premier of Ontario. And, there are only six other people around who truly know the reality of being Premier of Canada's largest province.



## Interview: Hon. Dalton McGuinty, former Premier of Ontario

In what ways has the journey from 1990 changed you?

I have a much richer understanding of the challenges and rewards of public service. While it is true that politics can be a challenging environment fraught with cynicism and a sometimes poisonous partisanship, I have learned these downsides are more than outweighed by the participation of good and decent people of all stripes seeking to make a difference for their community through politics.



Is it cynical to say that in politics style wins out over substance, or is that the reality of politics?

Style is important in the sense that the right style can facilitate progress while the wrong style can impede it. For example, I feel that a genuine effort to create an atmosphere of civility and respect in the House is much more conducive to legislative progress than an atmosphere heavily charged with partisanship. Tone at the top is important. I always felt a responsibility as Premier to lead by example.

For Party Leaders, especially Premiers, who have young children is there anything which the Legislature can or should be doing in an effort to ease the added pressure which comes from the added responsibility of being a Leader (or Premier)?

I think it would be very helpful for all of us to see each as more than just MPPs of a certain political stripe. We are all complicated people and we have much in common including our devotion to our families. I have always said my most important responsibility in life was being a father.

More informal opportunities are needed for Members to come together, to appreciate the personal side of who we are. The truth is we have much more in common than we recognize.

There is a message in your book about how understanding and cooperation is needed if our parliamentary system is to work. Why should the Opposition be cooperative in a majority government?

I spent thirteen years in Opposition where I learned firsthand about the invaluable role to be played there. Governments will do all kinds of things and hopefully they will do many good things. But they will do nothing perfectly. The Opposition's job is to point out the imperfections in government policy for all to see. A responsible majority government must take those legitimate criticisms into account before acting. If a government gets it wrong too often, their reckoning will come at the polls. This process of making policy can be intense and we all have to be careful not to cross the line of respect. I use an example in the book about how one auto manufacturer does not disparage another auto maker because the result may be that the public will not buy anyone's cars. When those of us in politics keep pulling each other down, we undermine respect for politics and politicians generally. It sticks to all of us.

Did your view of Canada and our Confederation change as a result of attending Premiers' Conferences? If so, in what way?

One of the best parts of the job was the opportunity to travel across Canada and learn much more about who we are as Canadians. I came to understand how Ontario is viewed and it is not always in a positive light. I also learned that we Canadians too often identify with our regional interests. Our country seems to have more centrifugal forces, forces pulling us away from each other, rather than centripetal forces pulling us closer together. We need a greater sense of shared purpose to complement the regional differences that make Canada so interesting.

You raise the issue of arms-length organizations perhaps being a difficulty when trying to implement public policy. Do you have a suggestion as to what changes should be implemented?

There is no neat and tidy answer here. Over time, we have created more and more agencies, boards and commissions, and assigned important responsibilities to them. But the buck must stop with the government. I discovered that the speed at which we create new entities is greatly outpacing our ability to bring the necessary oversight to their activities. There was a time when there were just a few dozen "ABC's". Now there are close to 600.



## Why did you write this book?

Two reasons. I felt a responsibility to share my experiences in politics. People think they know their political leaders but the truth is they only know of us. The Bullfight Poem at the beginning of the book says it well. I wanted to shed some light on politics and public service. Also, I wrote the book to hopefully inspire young people to consider making a difference through politics. For me, politics is a noble pursuit and I hope the next generation will see it that way, too.

### *Editor's Note:*

#### *The Bullfight Poem*

*Bullfight critics ranked in rows,  
Crowd the enormous Plaza full,  
But only one is there who knows,  
And he's the man who fights the bull.  
-Domingo Ortega*

# 2015 Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians Distinguished Service Award

## Criteria:

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 Senate or the House of Commons and has demonstrated remarkable community contributions since leaving elected political life.

Explain, in less than 500 words, why this former Member should receive the award and provide a brief biography.

The deadline for submissions is midnight, **February 28, 2016** to:

Room 1612  
99 Wellesley St. W.  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A2

Or email: [oafp@ontla.ola.org](mailto:oafp@ontla.ola.org).



## Queen's Park to Campus



"You study the science of politics, we practice the art of politics." With that opening remark I, along with my former colleague Sean Conway began a two hour session with Professor Carlo Fanelli's political science class at Ryerson University. Sean and I had a delightful time answering questions about how political issues are resolved, the development of bills, how different communities are impacted differently by the same legislation. The students were keenly interested. There was no shortage of questions.

Prior to Christmas former Members engaged political science students at Ryerson, U. of T. and McMaster. Rave reviews from all the professors. The sessions are a valuable part of the students' educational experience and knowledge on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy.

In the short time we operated the Queen's Park to Campus program we impacted nearly 600 university students. We thank all the former Members who volunteered and participated in it: Mario Racco, Joyce Savoline, Steve Gilchrist, Sean Conway, Barbara Sullivan, Giorgio Mammoliti, Dr. Charles Godfrey, Colin Isaacs, John Gerretsen, Caroline Di Cocco, Phil Gillies, David Boushy, John Hastings and David Warner.

We also thank all the University professors who collaborated on this project: Prof. Carlo Fanelli, Ryerson University; Prof. Joanne Heritz, McMaster University; Prof. Ludovic Rheault, University of Toronto; Prof. David Pond, University of Toronto; and Prof. Nadine Changfoot, Trent University.

Due to the success of the program and positive feedback, we hope to expand it to more universities and colleges of Ontario this year (2016). So please sign up. We need more volunteers! We will keep you regularly informed on requests received from various Universities. Should there be a topic you are interested in or wish to speak at a university close to you than do let us know at: 416-325-4647 or [OAFP@ontla.ola.org](mailto:OAFP@ontla.ola.org). Thank you.

# Hear ye, Hear ye



This year's Annual General Meeting will be extra special. Details will follow soon, but for now... book **Wednesday, June 1** to be part of our meeting.



# The Back Story

## Interview: Ron Kanter

### (MPP 1987-1990)



**What did you do prior to being elected?**

I had gone to law school and practiced quite briefly. Then I was elected to Toronto City Council. Most Toronto City Councillors do it more or less full time. I did some teaching at York University while I was on City Council.

**Why did you enter politics?**

I remember in high school that I won a trip to Washington and New York through the Odd Fellows, a United Nations involvement. I was the speaker of the UN Model Assembly at the University of Waterloo and was accepted as a parliamentary intern. At the time, I wasn't sure if I would go on in political science or law. I went to law school and joined the neighbourhood residency association and was elected Vice Chair. Our local, popular City Councillor, Susan Fish, didn't run municipally because she had decided to run provincially. So I ran municipally and I was second when there were two people elected. Almost everything I was interested in was controlled by the province, such as land use, environmental issues and things like that. Although I had spent one year in Ottawa, I was much more interested in provincial politics than federal politics.

You worked as a Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General, Joan Smith. What was that like?

That was very good for a couple of reasons. Joan was from London and I was from Toronto, so we had gender and geographic differences. I thought quite early on I should try and carve out a couple of things I was interested in. Community-based policing was a current issue and I was involved in changes to the Police Act.

Joan was a really smart, kind, wonderful person to work with. Then two things happened: Joan got into trouble for helping a constituent. Somebody rang the bell and she was no longer Assistant General. Then I got into trouble because of the Patti Star thing. After those two things happened, it was pretty clear I was not going to be in cabinet. So I was in a bit of a funk and I tried to figure out what to do.

We had a young family and we went on an outing to a conservation area. I knew that the government could really do a better job on these conservation areas. I went to the Premier and said I'd like to work on growth and conservation in the GTA. I was ultimately appointed to head up a single-person commission on the Greenlands in the GTA. I was mandated to speak to regional governments, municipal governments, conservation authorities, etc. It was intellectually challenging and I ended up submitting a report to the government in June 1990.

In July, Peterson lost. The NDP came to power. Then the Conservatives came to power. Nothing much happened to my report until Al Palladini passed away and there was a by-election in Vaughan. Suddenly, the Conservatives decided that conserving land in the GTA was a good idea. They then submitted a draft Oak Ridge Moraine legislation.

I was here for three years and I am pleased to say that the Greenlands study I did is referred to from time to time by other academic commentators.

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

I was a lawyer, and particularly interested in municipal land use. You can see the connection between that and the study I did. My experience was helpful at Queen's Park because it focused me. Also, my political experience at city hall, because I knew about development and the Planning Act. I tried to do a balanced report.



After I was back in the private sector practicing law, the environmental folks didn't think I was environmental enough and the development folks thought I wasn't developer-focused enough. So I didn't get a lot of work as the result of that report.

Losing was a difficult experience. When you are here you feel like you are at the centre of things. Whether you are or not is a different matter. But you certainly feel like you are.

I did find a job with a law firm and managed to carve out a small niche in the municipal and planning area. And I've been practicing ever since.

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

When people ask me if I really miss politics, I say no. I miss the policy aspects of it—the fundraising, the subway stopping—hardly at all. When I got out of politics, I tried a couple of boards and I discovered two boards in very different organizations—one was a very small conservation group.

The other was a community-based recreation group. I discovered the main emphasis of those boards was raising money—fundraising wasn't really my thing. Then I tried the Toronto Board of Trade and I remember when a guy would come down to City Hall and say to reduce property taxes, whatever the problem was. This was not my view of the world. I was also appointed to a City of Toronto committee on Casa Loma.

*“When you are here you feel like you are at the centre of things.  
Whether you are or not is a different matter.”*

# The Back Story

## Interview: Marion Boyd (MPP 1990-1999)



### What did you do prior to be elected?

I attended Glendon College, York University, Honours English and History. My goal was to be a teacher, however I got married in 1966 so it was almost impossible to get hired. School Boards didn't want to hire married women because they might end up leaving to raise a family. So, I got a job as a Library Technician at York University. Later, I worked with the Staff Association at York, became Personal Assistant to the President of York and, as Executive Assistant to the Faculty Association, helped organize the first faculty union.

I organized the 4th Annual Conference of Women in Colleges and Universities. For six years I was the Executive Director of Administration of a large non-profit child care centre. During those years, I also taught a College Tutorial at York on the topic of feminism.

When our family moved to London, I became the Executive Director of the Battered Woman's Advocacy Centre, was on the Board of the Cross Cultural Learning Centre, and served on many other community-based organizations.

### Why did you seek public office?

In 1984 I was on a search committee to find women candidates, according to the NDP policy to actively recruit diversity candidates. When we couldn't find a candidate for London North in 1985, I agreed to stand. I lost that election, but gained valuable experience. I then ran in 1987, in London Centre against Premier Peterson and lost again. I ran unsuccessfully in the federal election of 1988. In 1990 I was successful in London Centre, beating the Premier with a large plurality.

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

Absolutely! I had learned how to listen, how to work with other people, and how to work toward consensus. I was now able to effectively build team work with staff, both political and civil service. Because of my years in the non-profit sector I understood budgeting and accountability in lean economic times. And, when our government got heavily involved in long-term care, my experience of providing that care to my parents was very helpful.



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

I was on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for 13 years. I was an ex-officio member of the Law Society of Upper Canada. In 1987, I was appointed as a Lay Benchers of the Law Society and continue to do extensive policy and adjudicatory work there. After extensive consultation with concerned groups, I authored a report for the Ontario government, entitled "Dispute Resolution in Family Law: Protecting Choice, Promoting Inclusion." I remain active with the United Church of Canada, both locally and with our area Presbytery.

*"I had learned how to listen, how to work with other people,  
and how to work toward consensus."*

*Editor's Note: Marion Boyd was the first woman appointed to be Attorney General and the first non-lawyer to hold that position.*

# Christmas Social 2015







## OAFP Membership Renewal Form 2016

**Reminder:** Time to renew your 2016 Membership! Please complete the form below. Thank you.

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