



Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

OAFP

Association ontarienne des Ex-Parlementaires



Communiqué Vol 4, July 2024

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OAFP 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - April 25, 2024 Queen's Park



OAFP members, Grand Staircase, Queen's Park.

Message from Co-Chairs of OAFP Communiqué Committee

Welcome to the 4th issue of the Communiqué from the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. Our aim with this newsletter is to keep all our Members informed.

The Awards Committee is excited to be recognizing Sean Conway, on Thursday October 17 at a luncheon at Queen's Park with the OAFP Distinguished Service Award. Please hold that date in your calendar. More details will follow.

We are pleased to share with you the overview of the 2024 AGM in this issue. It was our extreme honour to have with us, on this occasion, Her Honour Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, as our Guest of Honour. In addition, we had as our Guest Speaker Steve Paikan who provided his recollections of his time reporting on Queen's Park goings on. You may enjoy the video of the AGM. This is the link to the video: [OAFP Annual General Meeting - April 25, 2024.](#)

Many former Members were in attendance and enjoyed a wonderful lunch together. They were able to reminisce and to catch up on many topics. It is always so enjoyable to meet up with former colleagues and the AGM was a perfect opportunity for many former Members to be able to enjoy one another's company.

The new Board of Directors for 2024-2025 was elected at this AGM. They are already beginning to tackle some issues on behalf of former Members, as well as plan events so that we can all stay in touch.

The Educational Foundation has a full agenda planned for the fall. Please see their comments in the body of their report.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions and we welcome submissions from Members on topics of interest to you and your ridings.

We welcome Dennis Timbrell and Phil Gillies as new Members to the board. Dave Levac, welcome back.

We also thank Marilyn Churley and Karen Haslam for their work and contribution to the board. They will be missed.

Enjoy your summer!

Caroline Di Cocco and Joyce Savoline
OAFP Co-Chairs Communique Committee

OAFP Website: <https://ontafp.com/>

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGM

The meeting was led by Judy Marsales (OAFP Chair). She began with the land acknowledgement. Marsales welcomed everyone and then introduced our Guest of Honour: The Honourable Edith Dumont, Ontario's 30th Lieutenant Governor and the first Francophone to hold this position.

REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE EDITH DUMONT - LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO



Steve Paikan and The Honourable Edith Dumont.

The Honourable Edith Dumont—Ontario's recently appointed Lieutenant Governor—graciously presented remarks at the meeting.

Madame Dumont started by saying she is new to the parliament, and learning every day, while eager to pick up some pearls of wisdom that the OAFP's members have to offer. She pondered on the work of former parliamentarians, saying that democracy is in a reflective process.

"Everyday we have opportunity to learn and improve as a society," said Dumont, who added this is done by building on the work of those who came before us.

As a former educator, Madame Dumont said she was happy to see the OAFP's focus on educational initiatives, such as visits to student groups and internship opportunities, as well as the association's future ambitions for an educational foundation.

Immediately following Madame Dumont's remarks Judy Marsales offered a toast to King Charles III.

PRESENTATION BY STEVE PAIKIN

Following lunch, Ms Marsales introduced *TVO* journalist Steve Paikin as guest speaker. She also remarked that she has been a neighbour to his parents in Hamilton for many years.

Mr. Paikin reminisced on his some 40 years as a reporter. He reviewed what amounted to the "ups and downs" of Ontario politics from the mid 1980's to the present. During this period each of the three major Ontario parties have formed government. He also repeatedly emphasized that, contrary to popular belief, politics at Queen's Park is not boring.

- As a cub reporter for the *Hamilton Spectator*, when he was 19 or 20 years old, the first Minister "he put a microphone in front of" was Dennis Timbrell. He then warmly acknowledged Mr. Timbrell in the audience.
- Mr. Paikin also reminisced on when he was a teenager and won a lunch with his local MPP. At the time this was Dr. Stuart Smith who was Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party (Liberal, Hamilton West, 1976-1985, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party 1976-1982; died June 10, 2020). Five years later Mr. Paikin began his career as a journalist at Queen's Park.
- He said in the early 1980's it was assumed that "Tories always win" at the provincial level. However, in June 1985 after 42 years of Conservative dominance, the Liberal government of David Peterson was sworn in with the support of the NDP.
- In 1987, the Liberals won an overwhelming majority. However, upon calling an early election in 1990, the Liberals lost after being ahead in the polls. The NDP under Bob Rae won a majority government.

- Mr. Paikin said the NDP governed during a difficult economic period where the business community and the media were hostile to the government. The Social Contract—a measure to control government expenditures at the time—was controversial.
- He indicated that during the 1995 campaign, the Ontario Conservatives under Mike Harris moved from third place in the polls to first place and won a majority.
- The Harris years were different in that they were, according to Mr. Paikin, a “more controversial style of government.” He expressed the view that Mr. Harris “was an outsider who made it.” Mr. Paikin noted that “[Mr. Harris] won back to back majorities”, something that Bill Davis never did.
- Regarding Ernie Eves, Mr. Paikin remarked that “the people around him were not his people” and he essentially inherited his staff from Mike Harris. Eves also faced difficulties related to “mad cow disease”, SARS [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome], and the North American blackout [August 2003]. Mr. Paikin also said delivering the Budget in a Magna auto plant was not a good idea. Mr. Eves admitted that, in retrospect, he should have called a snap election when he became leader in 2002.
- Dalton McGuinty won a new seat as a Liberal in 1990 when the party and Liberal government were defeated. At a luncheon with Mr. Paikin in October 1990, Mr. McGuinty expressed the desire to be leader of the Liberal Party one day. In December 1996, he became Liberal leader, and in October 2003, Mr. McGuinty won a majority government and became Premier. He won three elections in a row, although in October 2011 he was one seat short of a majority. Mr. Paikin noted that he left office in February 2013 under difficult circumstances.
- He went on to say that in January 2013 Kathleen Wynn delivered the best convention speech ever, in which she appealed to the better angels in everyone for tolerance and became leader of the Provincial Liberals and subsequently Premier in February 2013. She won a majority government in the election of June 2014 and served as Premier until June 2018.

- In March 2018, Doug Ford became Leader of the Conservative Party. He won a majority government in June 2018 and became Premier. Mr. Paikin remarks that Mr. Ford is “lucky and has a superpower” as a politician. He went on to say Mr. Ford is able to admit at times to have made mistakes and has been given a second chance. Mr. Ford won re-election as Premier with a second majority in June 2022.
- The above observations by Mr. Paikin reaffirm that Queen’s Park is *not* boring!

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO GUESTS

Dave Levac thanked Mr. Paikin on behalf of those present and the OAFP, indicating that a donation had been made in his honour to the Hamilton Music Collective. Mr. Paikin in appreciation noted that his parents, including his recently passed mother, were strong supporters of this organization that supports music education for children.

Judy Marsales then thanked both Mr. Paikin and The Honourable Edith Dumont for their attendance.

Ms Marsales then moderated questions from the audience to Mr. Paikin.

Q&A with Steve Paikan



A variety of former members and staff including Daiene Vernile, Callum Denault, David Turnbull, Terence Young, Ron Kanter, Steve Gilchrist, Marilyn Churley and John Wilkinson asked questions, the responses to which are highlighted as follows:

Mr. Paikin has written eight books and the last one was about John Turner. He does not have another book planned, but admitted that he has not written a book about a woman, and will consider it.

In response to a question about if he is criticized for not staying neutral, Mr. Paikin said that he is accused of this often, but that he does his best to deal with it.

Mr. Paikin indicated that he does not have any insights or knowledge about how to deal with American State or Federal administrations.

In response to the possibility of working in the U.S., Mr. Paikin indicated that he is content to work and stay in Canada and Ontario.

When asked about the future role of journalism, Mr. Paikin admitted that traditional journalism is certainly changing with challenges, but that there is still a place for journalism. He indicated that *TVO* has established a presence on social media, and also indicated that social media makes it more challenging to be in politics today.


HIGHLIGHTS OF OAFP BUSINESS MEETING

Judy Marsales (Chair, OAFP) called the meeting to order, She moved approval of the Agenda and approval of the minutes of the AGM of November 1, 2022 both of which were moved and accepted.

Tribute to Members who have Passed

Tribute was then paid to the following Members who passed away since the last AGM, and a moment of silence was observed in their memory.


**Those members who have passed away
since our last AGM**
They served their constituents, their Party and their Province



Monte Kwinter
March 22, 1931 - July 21, 2023
Liberal, Wilson Heights 1985-1999
York Centre 1999-2018

Darcy McKeough
January 31, 1933 – November 29, 2023
Progressive Conservative, Kent West 1963-1967
Chatham—Kent 1967-1978





Ted Bounsall
November 6, 1935 - December 8, 2023
NDP, Windsor West 1971-1975
Windsor—Sandwich 1975 - 1981


Andy Brandt
June 11, 1938 – December 22, 2023
Progressive Conservative, Sarnia 1981-1990






Albert Kolyn
November 13, 1932 - January 17, 2024
Progressive Conservative, Lakeshore 1981-1985

Jack Riddell
December 10, 1931 - January 23, 2024
Liberal, Huron 1973-1990





Daryl Kramp
June 14, 1947 – February 8, 2024
Progressive Conservative,
Hastings—Lennox and Addington 2018-2022

Roy McMurtry
May 31, 1932 - March 18, 2024
Progressive Conservative, Eglinton 1975-1985



Collage created by Nokomis O'Brien, photographer for the Legislative Assembly

Highlights of Recent Business

Ms Marsales paid tribute to the Board of Directors as well as the hard work and continued dedication of David Warner and others such as Joyce Savoline, Caroline Di Cocco, Steve Gilchrist, Marilyn Churley, and Rosario Marchese involved in various Committees of the OAFP.

Mention was made that Jerry Richmond, a retired Legislative Researcher, and Callum Denault, an intern, have been brought on board to assist with the preparation of a revamped Communiqué or newsletter, along with Joyce Savoline and Caroline Di Cocco as co-chairs.

Appreciation was expressed to the Speaker's Office, the House Leaders, and the Offices of the Assembly for their support of the OAFP.

Appreciation was also expressed to Mobina Bhimani for her work with and support of the Association.

Special Appreciation

The OAFP very much appreciates the ongoing support of Speaker Ted Arnott for his endeavours, and notes that wine for this AGM was donated by the Speaker.

Special appreciation is also due to Jeff Goodman, Operations Manager, and his colleagues from the Legislative Assembly's Broadcast and Recording Service for the preparation of a very professional video of this AGM.*

*For Members interested in viewing this video, please [click here](#).

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COMMITTEE REPORTS*

FINANCE

John Parker (Secretary/Treasurer) reported that to the end of March 2022 the OAFP Member funds totalled \$111,589, which comprises a GIC with RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) maturing in July 2024, and an RBC current account.

The OAFP received a Legislative Assembly Grant of \$52,000 and recorded a deficit of \$1,181 at the end of fiscal year 2022. This was largely due to the OAFPs aggressive publishing program during the year. The deficit was immediately retired by payment out of the current account.

For both 2022-23 and 2023-24 the Association showed a surplus of \$2,142 and \$9,128 respectively.

Adoption of the Treasurer's report was moved and adopted.

*NOTE: Detailed, printed versions of the various Committee reports are available from the OAFP Queen's Park office.

MEMBERSHIP

Steve Gilchrist indicated that the current OAFP membership of 217 is the highest total in its history. There are some 384 living former MPPs who are potential members. Membership therefore comprises more than 50 per-cent of living Members.

There are 35 annual paying members. Honourary memberships are now granted at age 75 rather than 80. Members are now also offered honorary memberships for the first year after their retirement as sitting members.

Adoption of the Membership Report was moved and adopted.

EDUCATION

Rosario Marchese (Chair - Education Committee) highlighted the opportunities of former Members to speak to high school students enrolled in civics and social science classes. This was done in a non partisan fashion to explain our roles as MPPs and how politics impacts the daily lives of students. Mr. Marchese said this activity is important for young people to understand and become engaged in politics. He also noted that these efforts could combat current trends of low voter turn out at all levels of politics.

Mr. Marchese reviewed his outreach initiatives to the Toronto District School Board as well as the Minister and officials in the Ministry of Education. Direct interaction was however curtailed by the pandemic.

Recent outreach through a high school principal has achieved success. David Warner has made a presentation to Stephen Leacock Collegiate and John Parker has appeared at York Mills Collegiate and another school. Mr. Marchese also has visits pending to other Toronto area high schools. Other Members in the Toronto area are welcome to become involved.

Messrs. Timbrell, Young, and O'Toole participated in the discussion of this topic.

This model could also be broadened to schools outside of Toronto by former Members reaching out to school boards and individuals in their areas. Mr. Marchese welcomes any suggestions and is willing to further assist in this regard.

Adoption of the Education Report was moved and adopted.

COMMUNIQUE

Joyce Savoline reported on this matter where a Communiqué Committee was struck in the spring of 2023. It was agreed that a continued OAFP publication was important to connect with the membership. The Communiqué team involves Caroline Di Cocco and Joyce Savoline as co-chairs with Randy Hope and Rosario Marchese as members.

As was already the practice with the *InFormer* publication, a journalism student - Callum Denault - was hired to assist in the publishing. Jerry Richmond, a former legislative researcher, was also brought on board to be part of the Communiqué team with the board's approval.

It has been decided to replace the excellent *InFormer* with a Communiqué, or newsletter, mainly as an electronic publication. A paper copy may also be mailed to Members when requested.

The first Communiqué was produced and sent out in the fall of 2023, a second one in January of 2024 and the third one distributed at this April 2024 AGM. The plan is to prepare at least four Communiqués a year.

Three Zoom meetings were also held during 2024 related to the Communiqué.

Jerry Richmond and Callum Denault act as the creative team. The co-chairs review the content and the draft documents. David Warner and John Parker proofread the final draft.

The Committee is determined to continuously improve on its work, welcoming input and ideas from the membership.

Adoption of the Communiqué Report was moved and adopted.

AWARDS

Marilyn Churley reported on this matter where she and Joyce Savoline act as co-chairs. She noted that the award luncheons bring former Members together in a non-partisan manner to reflect on their experiences and build friendships.

The pandemic put a damper on this process. The Awards Committee has held four successful award events in the fall of 2022 and fall of 2023 as follows:

- On November 15, 2022, Jim Bradley, Floyd Laughren, and Norm Sterling were honoured with the Outstanding Legislator Award;
- On November 24, 2022, Bob Rae was presented with the Distinguished Service Award;
- On October 5, 2023, David Warner was presented with the Distinguished Service Award;
- On November 30, 2023 three former Members who all served as Health Ministers - Elinor Caplan, Evelyn Gigantes and Elizabeth Witmer - were presented with the Outstanding Legislator Award.
- Appreciation was expressed to Joyce Savoline as co-chair and Mobina Bhimani for their work on the awards. It was noted that Members don't have to be on the Board to become involved in the awards and volunteers would be welcome.

Adoption of the Awards Report was moved and adopted.

INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Information was presented by Annamarie Castrilli and David Warner on recent activities of this Foundation. Graham White—a former Committee Clerk at Queen's Park, leader of the Internship Program, and retired political science professor at the University of Toronto—is also involved. Steve Gilchrist has also been involved in formative work on this organization. Charles Harnick, a former Member and Ontario Attorney General, will also be involved.

The Foundation is incorporated as a non-profit organization at the federal level, and is also recognized as a registered charity to receive donations.

The original intentions were for the foundation to operate internationally, but it has since been recognized that Canada itself offers a sufficient variety and range of governmental organizations for analysis. These range

from federal and provincial governments to aboriginal forms of self-governance. For now, the focus is therefore within Canada.

During this coming fall, the Foundation will launch a pilot scholarship program consisting of an intensive one week exposure to parliamentary life and the courts in Toronto (Queen's Park) as well as Ottawa (House of Commons, Senate and Supreme Court). The scholarships cover accommodation, travel and meals.

For this pilot, six students—second year or above—will be selected based on a rigorous application and interview process. Initially students will be selected from the three Toronto universities (U of T, York, and TMU) with the intention in later years to expand to other universities across Ontario.

The intention of the program is to provide information to students on the reality of what it is like to be elected, as well as the connection to and role of the courts. In later stages, the intention is to include the National Assembly in Quebec City and Iqaluit in Nunavut.

In discussion with the audience, it was indicated that a questionnaire and survey will evaluate the success of the pilot program.

It was also recognized that contact with senior members and representatives of the bureaucracy at various levels of government would be valuable. The Foundation members agreed that this matter should be incorporated in The Foundation's program. Assistance from former Cabinet Ministers would be welcome.

In closing, although separate from the OAFP, it was stated that the activities of the Foundation complement the objectives of the OAFP. The Foundation welcomes input, advice, and support from OAFP members.

NOMINATION REPORT FOR OAFP BOARD 2024-2025

Steve Gilchrist lead the presentation of this matter to receive nominations for the new OAFP Board of Directors. He indicated that 12 names of former Members had responded and are being advanced for election to the

2024-25 OAFP Board of Directors. The number 12 coincidentally also corresponds to the number of Directors that comprise the Board.

The names advanced for election to the 2024-2025 Board are: Annamarie Castrilli, Caroline Di Cocco, Steve Gilchrist, Phil Gillies, Randy Hope, Cam Jackson, Dave Levac, Rosario Marchese, Judy Marsales, John Parker, Joyce Savoline, and Dennis Timbrell.

Since no further nominations were put forward, nominations were declared closed and the 12 persons indicated above were declared the incoming Board of Directors for 2024-2025.

Mr. Gilchrist indicated that the Educational Foundation is also seeking a Director.

Judy Marsales and Joyce Savoline both expressed appreciation and thanks to Marilyn Churley for her service on the Board.

Judy Marsales then declared the meeting closed and the remainder of the time consisted of a social event.

MATTER OF NOTE FROM 2022-2023 OAFP AGM - November 1, 2022

At this meeting there was a Report from the Chair (Judy Marsales) on the matter of the “Insurance policy death benefit” available to former Members.

In the sad case of the accidental death of former MPP David Caplan at the age of 54 in July 2019, it became evident that the lump-sum death benefit only applies when the death occurs after the the fifty-fifth birthday of the deceased. The OAFP has begun efforts to have this policy restriction deleted.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Appreciation is due to the OAFP Board of Directors and Members-at-large who are listed on the last page for their hard work and dedication in keeping "the OAFP going". David Warner, former Chair of the OAFP, has been a stalwart of the organization.

The 2024 AGM marks almost a quarter century since the OAFPs founding in the spring of 2000. Former MPP involvement demonstrates the social values of membership where former Members of all parties can gather in a welcoming non-partisan setting to chat, exchange friendly "war stories," and reminisce about their times at Queen's Park. Some of the former Members in attendance, such as Messrs. Gilchrist, Warner, and Marchese, were involved in the deliberations that led to the original establishment of the OAFP and have institutional knowledge of the organization.

The educational outreach and planned Educational Foundation activities of former Members, as outlined above, demonstrate the relevance of these activities to promote knowledge of our democratic values and system of government to young people and students. This is at a time when some of our democratic values and principles seem to be under threat.

After the restrictions of the pandemic, it is worth noting that a total of 28 former MPPs attended this AGM. Former Members in attendance in alphabetical order include:

Annamarie Castrilli, Marilyn Churley, Murray Elston, John Gerretsen, Steve Gilchrist, Chris Hodgson, Cam Jackson, Ron Kanter, Dave Levac, Ross Maclellan, Kathryn McGarry, Rosario Marchese, Judy Marsales, Doug Moffat, Marilyn Mushinski, John O'Toole, John Parker, Anthony Perruzza, Gerry Phillips, Joyce Savoline, Gary Stewart, Dennis Timbrell, David Turnbull, Daiene Vernile, David Warner, John Wilkinson, Bill Wyre, and Terence Young. Many former Members travelled to Queen's Park from outside of the GTA.

Current MPP Aislinn Clancy (Green, Kitchener Centre) also attended a portion of the AGM.

SITES OF INTEREST

This additional component of the Communique features brief profiles and photos of Queen's Park as well as other sites and landmarks of interest in Ontario and elsewhere. Future contributions from the membership are, of course, welcome!

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GROUNDS OF QUEEN'S PARK - Spring 2024



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (158 Sterling Rd., Toronto)



This emerging cultural venue in west central Toronto demonstrates the transition of the area—adjacent to a rail corridor—from industrial to other residential, commercial, and cultural uses. The Museum moved into this location in the first three floors of the 10-story Auto BLDG in September 2018. Up until 2006 this site was used for industrial production associated with aluminum products.

The building dates from 1919 and was designed by Winnipeg architect John Woodman. It employed innovative flat concrete slab construction techniques from the time which are still visible in the gallery. It was once the tallest building in Toronto.

The current Greater Toronto Art 2024 exhibit by more than 25 artists consists of a variety of modern painting, photography, sculpture, sound, and performance works from the 1960s until the present. As a treat there is also the fine Forno Cultura coffee, pastry shop, and eatery in the lobby.

MOCA, through support of sponsors, offers “free Friday evenings” and “free first Sunday of the month” admissions.

The area near the gallery is becoming the site of other ever changing attractions such as a cafe, Italian restaurant, and brewery. South of MOCA is the historic legacy Nestlé chocolate factory where, if breezes are from the south, the appealing aroma of chocolate is in the air.



Left: Red Hot by Michael Thompson, Canadian artist, 2024.
Right: Tempus by Oreka James, Canadian artist, 2024.

OMEGA

This section is included as a tribute to former Members who passed shortly after the AGM and prior to the release of this Communique.

John Hastings (March 16, 1942-May 15, 2024; 82 years old)

John served as the Progressive Conservative MPP for Etobicoke North from 1995 to 2003. During his years of service he also served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministers of Citizenship, Energy and Transportation. He also achieved the passage of nine private member's bills through to legislation.



John was also a committed member of the Select Committee on Alternative Fuel Sources (2001-2002). The consensus Final Report of this Committee set the stage for later energy policy initiatives to close the coal-fired power stations of Ontario Power Generation and establish time of use power rates across Ontario.

Steve Gilchrist, Marilyn Churley and John O'Toole, who have been involved with the OAFP, were also members of this Select Committee and would have interacted with John. Jerry Richmond served as the researcher on this assignment and remembers John as reserved, respectful to staff, and intelligent.

Prior to his service at Queen's Park John served North Etobicoke as City Councillor (1988-1995) and as School Board Trustee (2006-2014).

He was also past President of the Toronto West Rotary Club. His personal interests included listening to jazz, supporting the arts and fundraising for the Rotary. He was also a collector of fine art.

Following his time in elected office John was active in the OAFP. David Warner remarked that he “embraced OAFP. He believed in the ideals of the organization and devoted his energy to supporting everything we did.” John Parker noted that he “embraced the role of Education committee chair and set up a large number of visits by our members to classroom settings at schools, colleges and universities.”

Flags at Queen’s Park were flown at half-mast on June 20, 2024 in his honour and memory.

In closing the OAFP is grateful to John for his many years of service to Ontario and North Etobicoke and his contributions to the the OAFP, and expresses its condolences to his family and associates for their loss.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Judy Marsales, Chair

David Warner, Past Chair

John Parker, Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Gilchrist, Membership and Website

Rosario Marchese, Education Chair

Caroline Di Cocco, Communiqué Co-chair

Joyce Savoline, Communiqué Co-chair, Awards Chair

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Randy Hope

Cam Jackson

Annamarie Castrilli

Phil Gillies

Dennis Timbrell

Dave Levac

OAFP STAFF

Mobina Bhimani, Administrative Assistant

Jerry Richmond, Communiqué writer

Callum Denault, Communiqué Student intern

[Email:oafp@ola.org](mailto:oafp@ola.org)

Phone: 416-325-4647

www.ontafp.com