Welcome, former parliamentarians! Below is a list of what you’ll find in the fall issue of The InFormer.

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October 16 and 17 were two days which featured not only civility, but a genuine warmth which melted the partisan political divisions.

There were tributes in the House to one of Canada’s most distinguished citizens, the Hon. Roy McMurtry, a delightful yet dignified award ceremony, a gracious reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor, our Annual General Meeting and much more.

“Civility costs nothing and buys everything”
- Mary Wortley Montagu
The Hon. oy McMurtry was instrumental in Canada patriating its constitution.
As Attorney General of Ontario he brought in 59 statutes of law reform
- Established Community Legal Services throughout Ontario
- High Commissioner of Canada to the United Kingdom
- Chief Justice of Ontario
- Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Football League
- Race Relations Commissioner for the City of Toronto
- Took the first steps to make Ontario’s legal system bilingual
- Largely responsible for family law reform in Ontario

The following are excerpts from tributes in the House:

“Roy came to this place at a very different time, a time when this House was preoccupied with issues that we now take for granted, and he was one of the people, as part of the Legislature of the day, who moved the yardsticks forward on a number of issues that are extremely important—very controversial at the time, but they were the right things to do. I think he demonstrated that it takes courage—it takes courage, quite frankly, sometimes—to stand up to do what’s right. How many members of this House—new, current and those who were there before—could really look back at their career in this place and look back at their time on the bench and say that the types of differences that they made are so far-reaching that they’ll outlast us?

I think we all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. McMurtry and I just want to say on behalf of the New Democrats, Andrea Horwath and the rest of us—and, I would say, a province that has been well served—that we thank you, sir, for the work that you did. Your legacy will live on forever and we’re extremely proud to have had you as a colleague.”

- Gilles Bisson, MPP

“Throughout my career, I had the pleasure of meeting the Honourable Roy McMurtry on several occasions: first, when I was the president of l’AJEFO, l’Association des juristes d’expression française de l’Ontario, and we were celebrating the anniversary of the Ontario legal system being bilingual. At the time, the Honourable Mr. McMurtry described how he had travelled to the north of Ontario and seen that plaintiffs, defendants and the judge all spoke French, but because English was the official language of the court system, they all had to translate what they had just said. So he promptly decided that, at that time, the system should become bilingual. C’est pourquoi notre système de droit maintenant est officiellement bilingue. Merci, Monsieur McMurtry. After leaving this House, he went on to become the High Commissioner to the UK and then the Chief Justice of Ontario. The ground-breaking ruling in Halpern guaranteed marriage equality for same-sex couples. We’re the better for it. Thank you again.”
He continues to be a voice for reason, a voice for the rule of law in Ontario and in Canada. On behalf of the Liberal caucus, past, present and future, and on behalf of all Ontarians, I want to say merci, meegwetch and thank you.”

- Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP

“Mr. McMurtry’s career in public service is truly inspiring, spanning many distinguished roles: politician, lawyer, judge, ambassador and, I would say, public intellectual.

I am particularly thankful for Mr. McMurtry’s work in bringing forward the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and I deeply appreciate your continued efforts to defend our charter rights to this very day.

I can truly say as a new MPP representing a new party that I have so much to learn from your courage, your integrity and your leadership about how one conducts themselves in this place. Merci. Meegwetch. Thank you.”

- Mike Schreiner, MPP

“Roy McMurtry has also played an important role in the constitutional negotiations that led to the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982. One might even suggest that he cemented his place in Canadian history by hammering out a last-minute deal with then-federal Justice Minister Jean Chrétien and then-Attorney General of Saskatchewan Roy Romanow in what came to be known as the “kitchen accord” of November 6, 1981, arguably the perfect example of the classic Canadian compromise that gave us the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In 1985, he chose not to seek re-election and was appointed the Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, serving in that role for three years before returning to private practice as a lawyer. In 1989 and 1990, he was also the chairman and CEO of the CFL, the Canadian Football League.

In 1996, he became the Chief Justice of Ontario, leading the Court of Appeal for Ontario until his retirement from the bench in 2007. He was selected as a recipient of the Order of Ontario later that year and made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2009.

After retiring from the bench, as if that wasn’t enough, he returned to private legal practice, became chancellor of York University from 2008 to 2014, and continues to practise to this day at Hull and Hull LLP. In his spare time, he has also become a celebrated landscape painter, and savvy art collectors are snapping up his works.

On behalf of our Government and our Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Roy McMurtry on receiving the Distinguished Service Award.”

- Robin Martin, MPP
Three different backgrounds, three different political parties, yet one central message from Hon. Hugh Segal (former Senator), Annamarie Castrilli and Marion Boyd as each paid tribute to our recipient. We are honouring someone who made a profound and substantive difference in our province and in Canada. He personifies caring, courage and civility.

Annamarie Castrilli talked about how the Hon. Roy McMurtry was “polite yet forceful; clear in his positions and not given to exaggeration. He had respect for the opposition, all the while being sure of his convictions.” The Hon. Roy McMurtry, without knowing it, inspired Annamarie, was truly a mentor. “I always knew that I would eventually go to law school, but Roy McMurtry at the time impressed on me what a dedicated visionary in the law could do to create a just society. His enthusiasm for the law, and for the ideals it can bring to reality, have inspired me my entire life.”

Marion Boyd, first woman Attorney General in Ontario, as well as first non-lawyer Attorney General, expressed her gratitude to the Hon. Roy McMurtry for being a mentor, for setting such a high standard and his contributions to law reform, particularly in the area of family law.

Hugh Segal, former Senator, knew the Hon. Roy McMurtry from the early days of the Davis government. In a very humourous fashion, Hugh told the audience how Roy was able to make a lot of things happen by not informing Premier Davis until after the fact.

As with the other presenters, Hugh paid tribute to the Hon. Roy McMurtry having a pivotal role in the patriation of our Constitution.

In accepting the Award, the Hon. Roy McMurtry spoke passionately about civility. He recalled his days at Queen’s Park.

“I feel that serving in the Ontario Legislature as Attorney-General was probably the most interesting largely as a result of the high level of civility and co-operation that generally prevailed. I regret that that culture of civility today appears to have disappeared in most parliamentary institutions in Canada,” he said.

He then talked about his role in the discussions which led to the achievements of patriating our Constitution and creating our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, connecting those monumental achievements with civility.

“Now many of you here may be wondering what our constitutional agreement of 1981 had to do with civility in a parliamentary democracy. The simple fact is that the “three amigos” as Chretien, Romanow and myself were often described in the media were members of three different political parties, three different regions of Canada and three different linguistic and cultural traditions. Some might believe that it was simply the Canadian way but I very seriously doubt that such a political agreement could have occurred even a very few years later as was demonstrated by the failure of the Meech Lake Accord.”
The Lieutenant Governor’s Reception

Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, hosted us exceedingly well. Her Honour had sent a letter of greetings to our AGM. At the reception she elaborated on the theme of Her letter, which read in part, “In my view, former parliamentarians, with their wisdom and experience, can play a key role in finding ways forward and in fostering resilience. You are role models and mentors whose trusted faces and voices can add to the quality of any dialogue as we navigate the changing nature of governance in the 21st century.”

In response, OAFP Chair David Warner expressed gratitude for Her Honour’s remarks and said that perhaps Her office and ours would have an opportunity to work together when the OAFP Educational Foundation is up and running.

The AGM

Two By-law changes were agreed to: increasing the number on board from 9 to 12 and removing the term limit. In the first instance, members have come forward to volunteer their time and talents. The considered opinion of those on the board is to not turn away volunteers if we can help it! The board feels that a term limit has the practical effect of making continuity more difficult.

The Chair reported that the board approached the BOIE about enhancing two of the health care benefits; physiotherapy and hearing aids. The BOIE increased the hearing aid benefit from $1,200/4 years to $2,500/5 years. No increase was approved for physiotherapy. Our board will conduct a survey of the membership to determine what benefits we now have should be increased and if there are benefits which we currently do not have, but should have.

A motion was passed requiring our board to involve Great West Life and Human Resources in a discussions about possible coverage for medical cannabis.

One member of the Board declined to seek re-election, Steve Mahoney. One new member was elected to the Board, Jean-Marc Lalonde.

So, the OAFP Board for 2018–19 is, in alphabetical order (positions of responsibility to be determined at the next board meeting):

Annamarie Castrilli, Steve Gilchrist, Karen Haslam, John Hastings, Jean–Marc Lalonde, Rosario Marchese, Judy Marsales, Doug Moffatt, Mario Racco, Joe Spina, Barbara Sullivan and David Warner.

Our Treasurer, Joe Spina, reported that of our $52,000 budget for 2017–18 we have a balance of $33,897. There are a number of pending expenditures, but we anticipate being within budget for the fiscal year.

Our Membership Secretary, Judy Marsales, reported that we have 161 members. This is out of a total of 320 former MPPs.
The periodic meetings of former members’ associations from Manitoba, Alberta, Quebec and Ontario continue to be an excellent source of ideas. This was our turn to host Manitoba and Quebec. Unfortunately, Alberta was not able to be represented this time.

Membership was a lively topic. We started by comparing participation rates. In Ontario approximately 50% of former members belong to our association, while in Manitoba it is about 25-30% and in Quebec 60%. There was a consensus that a stronger social component and having a spousal program concurrent with an association meeting might encourage more former members to join.

In our discussions about benefits for former members, we learned that while Ontario and Quebec’s former members have benefits which mirror those of current members, in Manitoba former members do not receive health-care benefits. There was a consensus that it might be helpful to compare public service benefits with those received by current and former members.

Manitoba and Quebec were quite interested in the concept of the Educational Foundation, which a committee of our board is busy developing.

We agreed to meet more frequently, by skype or conference call. The minutes of the meeting are posted on our website.

The Social Side of Things

Monday evening found a small group of our members gather at the Royal Canadian Military Institute’s Long Bar to meet those visitors from Quebec and Manitoba who had arrived during the day. The cozy confines of this elegant bar created an atmosphere conducive to lots of conversation. For some, it was “glad to see you again.” This was a good start to our two day event.

On Tuesday morning our visitors found their way to the Legislature by 8:00 a.m. for coffee and then a guided tour of the building, culminating with a group photo on the grand staircase.

That evening saw another group of visitors and our members, but this time dining at the iconic CN Tower. The captivating panoramic view was enhanced with lively conversation.

Wednesday morning, once again our visitors were at Queen’s Park by 8:00 a.m. This time, after coffee, the Inter-Provincial business meeting occurred for a couple of hours before heading out for the Niagara wine region.
We were afforded a private tour of Pillitteri Winery, guided by the owner Gary Pillitteri, former Member of Parliament. We not only learned about the wine making process, but the business side of things. And, lots of fascinating personal stories from our host.

Wednesday evening, for those who didn’t have a flight to catch, featured a dinner at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. A scrumptious meal was surpassed only by the stimulating conversation.

It was an ambitious program. The dedicated work of the Executive, especially Karen Haslam, Barbara Sullivan and Doug Moffatt, as well as Mobina Bhimani, our administrator, made it successful. These were two special days to be long remembered.

Jean-Marc Lalonde chats with Monte Kwinter at the Monday evening reception.
Left to right: David Warner, Gary Pillitterri, Pat Warner.

Left to right: Jean-Marc Lalonde, Manon Voyer (Quebec), a guest, Clif Evans (Manitoba).
Doug Moffatt presents the Distinguished Service Award to the Hon. Roy McMurtry.

Celebrating the Hon. Roy McMurtry.
Jean-Marc Lalonde greets our guests from Manitoba.
The Hon. Roy McMurtry delivers his acceptance speech.
Guests from Manitoba and Quebec enjoy a tour of Queen’s Park.

A farewell dinner at the Royal Canadian Military Institute.
She left home at 15 years old and became self-sufficient. Now, she is a United Church of Canada minister and former Parliamentarian.

After being drug involved and dealing with homelessness as a youth, DiNovo overcame challenging circumstances. “I know what it is like to couch surf and to be a homeless youth. My house was very dysfunctional and could be quite violent. Like many homeless youths, it was just safer to be with friends on the street than to be at my house, so that is the motivating factor [to leave home].”

“I left home at 15 and lived on the streets of Toronto in the summer months. Sometimes I slept in Queen’s Park. Ironically, much later I would be elected and be at Queen’s Park.”

DiNovo recalled an anecdote illustrating a self-reflection which sent her on a better path. “I remember being on Bloor St., realizing I had not eaten in a day and a half and feeling like I was about to pass out. Then I just walked into Swiss Chalet, and had a chicken sandwich. I remember telling myself I need to make changes. I had some help from the United Church.” Through the United Church, DiNovo recalls seeking support from mentors and eventually going back to school to complete her high school diploma. DiNovo’s turning point encouraged her high school completion at Centennial College, followed by her acceptance at York University where she earned her bachelor’s degree in philosophy and psychology, and eventually went on to earn a master’s and doctorate degrees.

“I still speak about those days, because I think it was a story of hope and a story that you can overcome [a difficult past].”

DiNovo grew up in a social justice household, where religion was not on the horizon. It was not until DiNovo lost her husband in 1992 and became a single parent that she witnessed the
community support shown to her and her kids from the church, that her views were extended beyond social justice.

DiNovo was asked to run provincially for the New Democratic Party, but the decision was not a simple one: “it took me about three months to think about it.” In her words, DiNovo shares a couple of reactions regarding running to be elected as a Member of Provincial Parliament:

“I talked to people and asked: ‘do you think I should run?’, and one of them said: ‘Listen, I would not wish that job on my worst enemy, but I think you should run.’ Another person said: ‘well, being asked to run for political party is like being asked to the prom by the Captain of the football team. It is very flattering, but if you say yes, you end up spending the evening with a football player.’”

She eventually chose to run. DiNovo shared how a veteran reporter described the by-election as the worst he had ever seen in Canadian politics. “It was a very nasty campaign, because the liberals were in danger of losing a seat they had held for a long time.”

During the race, the opposing party were not going to give it up without a battle: “being a street kid, they let everybody know I was drug involved. [They] dropped off anonymous papers in people’s mail slots, alleging that in a book I had written, Qu(e)erying of Evangelism, I endorsed the church ordination of pedophiles and axe murderers. It was unbelievable.”

Following the publishing of her book, she won the Lambda Literary Award in Washington, DC, for spirituality and religion.

In 2001, before the law was changed, Reverend Cheri DiNovo performed the first legalized same-sex marriage in North America.

“We did it by reading the bands. We did not have to go down to City Hall, and then we submitted it to the registrar’s office. The original certificate did not require gender identification, it only included “Bride and Groom.” They were two women of colour. One’s name was Paula. The clerk thought that Paula was a man and embedded it.”

Following this event, the Harris government tried to revoke DiNovo’s license. In addition, the United Church of Canada abandoned DiNovo. Following this incident, she asked for an apology from both the Church and the Ontario government. The Ontario government apologized two weeks later. Reverend DiNovo is still waiting for an apology from the United Church of Canada.

A sampling of her many achievements:
- In 2012, DiNovo succeeded in getting Toby’s Act passed, an amendment to the Ontario Humans Rights Code to include gender identity and gender expression—the first of its kind in North America
- In 2015 DiNovo’s Bill 77, which prohibits conversion therapy for youth (therapy intended to prevent young people from identifying as LGBTQ) passed and became law. The legislation also delisted conversion therapy from OHIP. Following the introduction of the bill, President Barack Obama called for a ban of the practice in the United States.
 Cheri DiNovo is the recipient of 9 awards, including the Award of Merit by the government of Ukraine for her work on Canada’s first tri-party bill recognizing the Holodomor as genocide.

- Zena Salem
The story of Gerry Phillips is one of success in business and decades of public dedication. A business graduate from the University of Western Ontario who worked in the marketing department of Procter and Gamble, Gerry later became president of Canadian Marketing Associates. As busy and successful as Gerry was, he also devoted volunteer hours in his community as a Scarborough Board of Education Trustee, and later as one of the Governors of Scarborough General Hospital. He chaired both the Scarborough Board of Education and the Metropolitan Board of Education. At the same time, for more than three decades, Gerry coached community hockey.

I wondered what motivated him to devote so much time in a volunteer capacity.

“I enjoyed my business life, but there was always a greater sense of fulfilment from serving my community in terms of education and health,” he said.

Gerry was a School Board Trustee for 11 years, then switched to spending volunteer time on the Board of Governors of Scarborough General Hospital. Why the change? Why Scarborough General? “The two most important institutions in our society are education and health care. After 11 years on the school board I felt it was time to move on to something else. The hospital is something we take for granted, until you need it. Then nothing else matters.”

Gerry Phillips, during his 24 years at Queen’s Park was a Cabinet Minister and chaired the Management Board of Cabinet. As with anyone who serves a long time, there were many memorable moments. Gerry chose to highlight an interesting variety of events. “I pursued the issue for several years, of having a public inquiry into the events which happened at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995. Following the election in 2003, Premier McGuinty announced the public inquiry.”

[Editor’s note: The inquiry was to examine and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died.]
“I was pleased to be a part of the decision to phase out all our coal-fired plants. Seeing the start of full-day kindergarten was also fulfilling. There was a serious backlog in birth certificate applications. I made a bold promise that if you didn’t get your birth certificate within 15 days of applying, you would get your money back. We didn’t have to return too many cheques. I felt good about eliminating the expiry dates on gift cards.”

One of the more interesting highlights was the unveiling of the memorial wall at Queen’s Park. “There was an interest in having something to commemorate what our military has done for us. I thought the place to start was to enlist the veterans help in creating a fitting tribute. I co-chaired with General Richard Rohmer, a committee of 15 military veterans. We asked for submissions, eventually settling on Alan MacKay’s proposal. Then we sought and obtained the approval of Speaker Curling.”

Since Gerry Phillips had been a Cabinet Minister and Chair of Management Board, I asked him what he sees as the qualities of a good decision maker.

“You need to be a good listener, able to hear the totality of the argument. You also need to be willing to accept that your own view may not be the right one. Stick to fundamental principles and always act in the best interest of the public,” he said.

Gerry expressed what most of us have said or felt, “It was time to move on. I miss Queen’s Park, but I don’t regret my decision to leave. The job is personally demanding, leaving little time for yourself or your family. I now have lots of time to spend with my grandchildren.”

There will be many who will miss Gerry’s annual Christmas-time constituency gatherings and the warm greeting cards.

Ever the volunteer, Gerry Phillips remained for several years as an unpaid advisor to the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury Board. “It was nice to have a parking spot at Queen’s Park, a desk and a phone.” He also served until recently on the Board of Ontario Power Generation.

Although Gerry is spending lots of time with his wife, children and grandchildren, and enjoying time at the cottage, he is, in his words “searching for a new horizon.”

Given his talents, energy and commitment I have no doubt he will find a satisfying “new horizon.”

- David Warner
Ms. Anne-Marie Layne is an experienced career diplomat who was previously posted in Washington, D.C. She holds a masters degree in International Relations from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston, MA. This affable, energetic diplomat has been very active on behalf of her small island nation. In her previous posting at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission in Washington, D.C., she was a team member in the negotiations aimed at resolving Antigua and Barbuda’s Cross Border Internet Gaming dispute with the United States of America. At the Organization of American States, she played a leadership role on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Mission on a wide range of issues related to the strengthening of the OAS development agenda. There is a Canadian connection as Ms. Layne holds a bachelors of arts degree in International Development Studies from Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Ms. Layne, on behalf of her country, continues to tackle a wide range of challenges. Issues of particular interest to her include; advancing women’s rights and gender equity, the socio-economic development of the Caribbean region and diaspora related issues.

What is the importance of having a Consulate in Toronto?

“In the late ’60s and early ’70s a significant number of people from Antigua and Barbuda came to Canada, to take up employment opportunities which were available, and most of them settled in Ontario. Today, there are approximately 10,000 first and second generation Antiguans and Barbudans living in Ontario, most of them in Toronto. One of the core mandates of the Consulate is to provide consular, administrative and representational services to our national communities and others resident in Canada. The Consulate also works to promote Antigua and Barbuda as an attractive country with an enabling environment and service to potential investor and business partners.”
interests. The consulate, through its activities, also promotes Antigua and Barbuda as a destination for leisure travel. Toronto is the Canadian centre for business."

**How is Antigua connected to Canada?**

“Antigua and Barbuda and Canada have strong bonds of friendship and collaboration. Antigua and Barbuda opened its office here in Toronto shortly after independence in 1981, so we have had a presence in Toronto for nearly 37 years. Bilaterally, Antigua and Barbuda have benefitted from its relationship with Canada. Our Parliament building was built with Canadian Development Funds, our Defence Force in the past has received training and equipment from the Canadian Military and many of our students received CIDA scholarships to further their tertiary education in Canada. We believe that Canada has also benefitted from its relationship with Antigua and Barbuda as evidenced by the contributions being made to Antiguans and Barbudans in the areas of academia, culture, [and to] the health care and commercial sectors. The relationship has been mutually beneficial to both countries.”

**In your own field of international diplomacy, have there been changes over the past 20 years?**

“World wide and indeed in the Americas, there have been tremendous advances made in the area of women’s rights and gender equity, but we should not sit on our laurels, there are still challenges. There are still issues such as domestic abuse and sexual harassment and a lack of equal pay for work of equal value. In Antigua and Barbuda, women continue to take advantage of the opportunities [that] are being offered. In our most recent election, the youngest Parliamentarian ever to be elected was a woman. Our President of the Senate is a woman and we have more and more women entering our diplomatic corps.”

**In this world of a global economy and significant trade arrangements between powerful trading blocks, such as the E. U., China, U.S.A., how can the Caribbean prosper?**

“The Caribbean is the most tourism dependent region of the world and for most of our countries tourism is a significant driver of economic activity. I believe our prosperity will be somehow tied to success with the sector – increasing its competitiveness and sustainability. In addition, there still remains scope for other services, including financial services as well as realizing the economic opportunities from the development of cultural products and services and those of the creative economy.”

**Are there issues that are particularly challenging because of being a small country?**

“We are experiencing the effects of climate change. We have not played a significant role in creating the situation, but we are suffering some of the consequences. For example, Hurricane Irma, a category 5 storm, which struck our islands last year, caused approximately $250 million (U.S.) damage to our sister island of Barbuda. We have a small economy and a population of 100,000. The expenses involved in rebounding from the hurricane are extremely difficult for our small country to handle.”
The economic pillars are tourism, fishing and manufacturing. Antigua has been diversifying its economy. Transportation, communications and financial services are becoming important.

Tourism accounts for about half of the jobs on the islands. Easy to understand, given that there are about 365 beaches on Antigua, further beaches of pink and white sand on Barbuda, coves that were once volcanic craters, and luxuriant palms.

Fishing: There are shrimp and lobster farms operating, and the Smithsonian Institute has a Caribbean king crab farming facility for the local market. There is a growing export of the lobster catch to the United States.

Manufacturing comprises enclave-type assembly for export with major products being bedding, handicrafts, and electronic components.
University football teammates become political teammates. A meeting in a pantry brings significant change to Canada. A chance meeting with a famous painter opens a different world. The life of one of Canada's most remarkable citizens, the Honourable Roy McMurtry, is intriguing and never dull.

The U of T Varsity Blues teammate was Bill Davis. In 1970, Bill Davis was seeking the P.C. Party leadership and asked Roy to help: “I wanted to, but a football injury resulted in a back operation and I ended up in hospital for three months. Later, Bill Davis asked me to run in the 1971 election. My three months in hospital meant that there was a lot of catching up to do in my law practice, so reluctantly I turned down the opportunity. The timing wasn’t right for me. I did, however, agree to be the lawyer for the Ontario P.C. Party, a role which kept me in direct contact with the Party leadership.”

Roy ran in the 1973 by-election in St. George (Toronto), but lost to Liberal, Margaret Campbell. In 1975, Roy was victorious in Eglinton (Toronto) and was immediately named Attorney General.

“To argue a case in the Supreme Court of Canada is a great honour. I got to not only be there, but to argue the most important case one could have, patriation of our Constitution.”

“T didn’t start out to be a lawyer. I enrolled in university [University of Toronto] to be a teacher, played football and thought about coaching high school football and hockey. I switched to medicine; thought I would like to be a doctor. One day, I realized I was spending more time coaching high school football than studying science. I am not sure exactly why, but I made an appointment to see the Dean of Law, who suggested I start in the Faculty of Law the next day. I did. So, I backed my way into law.”
Roy McMurtry may have backed his way into law, but once there, started on a path which resulted in truly making a significant difference in Canada. The pinnacle was the patriation of our Constitution in 1982, an agreement having been reached by the “kitchen accord” (so named because the three participants met in an unused kitchen pantry in the Ottawa Conference Centre). I asked the Hon. Roy McMurtry about this famous meeting.

“The three of us, Jean Cretien, Roy Romanow and me, representing three different political parties, three different regions and three different languages and cultural backgrounds were able to find common grounds and an agreement.”

During his tenure as Attorney General of Ontario, Roy McMurtry was able to bring into law 59 Statutes of law reform, much of that time during a minority government. An achievement of which he is most proud.

“Art is a creative way to express one’s appreciation of nature.”

In the summers of 1952 and ‘53, Roy volunteered with Frontier College. The volunteers worked 10 hours each day, six days a week and taught literacy skills, English as a second language, in the evenings. The second-year was spent in the Rockies, near Banff, as part of a railway gang, sleeping in boxcars. Roy was captivated by the beauty and grandeur of the mountains: “I wrote home to my parents, expressing that the mountains were so beautiful, I wished I could paint them. A short while later a paint set arrived in the mail. What little free time I had, I started to paint.”

Roy McMurtry received no formal painting lessons. He believes that a person can be self-taught. Difficult to argue with, when you have seen his paintings. I see an impressionist influence. Roy describes his work as “primitive colourist.”

Along the way, however perhaps fate stepped in. During the early 1980’s Roy was both Solicitor General and Attorney General. It was in his role as Solicitor General that he met A. J. Casson, one of the famous “Group of Seven”, who was often an art expert for the Ontario Provincial Police investigating art fraud.

A common interest became a friendship, then sketching trips. At last, painting lessons! “Casson taught me that it is more important what you leave out than what you leave in.”

“I was shocked and dismayed to learn that not one public gallery in Ontario was exhibiting Indigenous art.”

This was an injustice to be remedied. Of course, bringing this to the attention of gallery management, and suggesting that there be Indigenous art exhibits brought a response that to be ordered by the Attorney General to specifically exhibit certain art would be interference in the cultural independence of art galleries and museums.
Roy’s answer: “You’re right. It would be. And I will, if I need to.”

In 1984, the Art Gallery of Ontario held its first ever exhibit of Indigenous art. The Hon. Roy McMurtry was in attendance, along with the famous Indigenous artist, known as the “Picasso of the North”, Norval Morriseau, someone with whom Roy had become friends.

“Politics these days is characterized by a lack of civility.”

Interviewing Roy McMurtry brought back memories of my early days in the House and how there was always such respect whenever the Attorney General got up to speak. Debate was vigorous, but always respectful. There were no personal attacks. Tough questions were responded to in a thoughtful, informative manner.

What accounted for this decorum? Roy’s demeanour certainly engendered respect. And, to quote Roy, “I always saw the Attorney General’s position as a quasi-judicial one.”

Roy McMurtry wonders if what we are seeing today in terms of political nastiness is a result of what has happened in the United States.

“The culture of division perhaps has drifted northward. And, there isn’t the respect for politicians there once was.”

Roy McMurtry has held pressured positions, having to make important and difficult decisions for several decades. What does he do to unwind, and relax?

“I paint. I lose my self in the painting.”

- David Warner
In loving memory of

James Roos Breithaupt

September 7, 1934 – August 29, 2018

Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener, 1967–1985

Served as House Leader, chaired two committees: Select Committee on Company Law, Standing Public Accounts.

Jim also served on two Select Committees; Ombudsman, Report of the Ontario Committee on Taxation and on seven Standing Committees; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing, Social, Family and Correctional Services, Private Bills, Education and University Affairs, Natural Resources and Tourism, Justice. He was a Commissioner on the Board of Internal Economy.

“I first got to know Jim when I joined the Company Law Committee. Jim was the Chair. He immediately made me feel welcomed to the Committee. Very quickly I realized that Jim was someone who treated everyone fairly. He never let political partisanship get in the way of friendship or of getting things done. And what a gracious host at the annual dinners for those who were MPPs between 1967 and 1985. I had the privilege of being invited to the ceremony when Jim was made Lieutenant Colonel. He was rightfully very proud of the achievement. Jim Breithaupt served his constituency, his province and his country with honour and distinction. I feel proud and privileged to have been able to call Jim ‘my friend.’”

– David Warner

“Jim Breithaupt – or the Colonel as we called him – always demonstrated a quiet dignity. He was unfailingly courteous and respectful of his colleagues. He was ‘a man of the House’, someone who knew the rules of parliament, where they had come from and why they should be respected. Because of his knowledge and bearing, he was an excellent mentor for newly-elected members. He was a great wit and I can’t tell you how many times he delivered a very funny interjection to lighten a dreary legislative debate or a morose caucus meeting. We had many conversations over the years about the history and politics of his native Kitchener and the long and distinguished role the Breithaupt family played in the public life of that community. Part of that Breithaupt family tradition was military service and Jim was particularly proud of his long association with military colleagues and organizations like the Military Institute. An honourable gentleman,
an exemplary member of the legislative assembly, Jim Breithaupt was a great friend whose good sense and good cheer enlivened many a meeting in my time at Queen’s Park.”

- Sean Conway

He was a gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Reserves, becoming Honorary Colonel of the 7th Toronto Regiment. As Chair of the Royal Canadian Military Institute he oversaw the rebuilding of that institution. Of his many service organizations, The Last Post Fund, with its mission to ensure that no veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial due to insufficient funds, was the closest to his heart. His contribution to so many organizations is incomparable!

As a Legislator, Jim was always thoughtful, well researched, a model of reasonableness and decorum; and well respected for his intelligence in debate and in his respect for the Legislature and those who served in it.

He was, An Officer & Gentleman in all respects.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, daughters Jennifer (James) and Martha, and three grandchildren.”

- Patrick Reid

“I met Jim shortly after I was elected to the Legislature in 1977. He spoke often about the Legislature and loved his role as an MPP. His word was trusted by all and was well liked by Premier Bill Davis. It was always pleasant to share time with Jim as he was good-natured and had a great sense of humour. He brought good practical sense and civility to the Legislature.”

- Norm Sterling

Photo: Rick Koza, Waterloo Region Method
In loving memory of

Peter Adams

17 April 1936 – 28 September 2018
Served in the 34th Parliament
Liberal Party Member for Peterborough

Peter served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Chaired the Standing Committee on Social Development and was a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

“Peter was MPP and MP. We shared those responsibilities and had similar ridings in Oshawa and Peterborough. The two communities were similar in nature, being just outside of the large urban centre of Toronto and with a substantial identity and economic base. He was always mindful of this and was able to personify the unique quality of his city. He was always ready to work with others and possessed a unique ability to find common ground with others. It was apparent that Peter represented his riding well and reflected the values of those people. Both federally and provincially, he was a strong and reasonable example of what an elected representative should be. He was a good person with a clear understanding of his role in making the political process effective.”

- Mike Breaugh

“Peter was an ideal MPP and later MP. He was passionate about his constituency of Peterborough and the issues that affected his constituents lives. He had a great love of his country and province. His approach to his work as an MPP was always thoughtful, well researched and never lacking in a wonderful sense of humour. He enjoyed his legislative work particularly on Committees where more time, he believed, could be spent on key issues. Peter was always open to working with members of the other parties in the Legislature to try and find workable solutions. Throughout Peter’s life he continued to make a significant contribution to our province and country through his voluntary work at home, his ongoing interest in the Arctic and the protection of our environment and his championing of a number of post-secondary issues. He was a very worthy recipient of the Order of Ontario in 2012. Peter’s wit and passion will be greatly missed by all who knew him.”

- Charles Beer

“Peter and I ran against each other in 1977, he came third, I second...I lost the seat to the Conservative whom I had narrowly beaten a few years before. He went on to beat that same Conservative, after two more tries, in 1987. And then he became a power house in Peterborough’s
Provincial and Federal political scene.

I went to the Memorial Service for Peter last Saturday afternoon. He, with his wife, Jill, was a faithful member of St John’s Anglican church: every seat and every pew in the church was full and there was an overflow audience in the church hall. In Peterborough we knew Peter as perhaps the most active M.P.P. and M.P. that we’ve ever had: if there was an event in the Riding, Peter was there – sometimes we even wondered if he had cloned himself and was simultaneously at that celebration at the Legion and the AGM of a local non-profit. Peter and I lived in the same neighbourhood and a familiar sight was Peter out for his daily run, always, I seem to remember with a good red Liberal shirt...again the boundless energy in evidence.

Peter and my husband joined the Trent University faculty in the early years. It was an exciting place to be in those early days. Peter’s leadership of the new Geography Department was impressive and his Arctic research has been ground breaking. One of his colleagues who spoke at the memorial service told of the experience of the many students who experienced ice-bound northern trips, all of them learning to drill holes in the ice...none of them ever used for ice fishing. Peter was both an incredibly hard and dedicated worker and a man who enjoyed his family and the lighter side of life. We were reminded of that as we left the formal memorial. The Order of Service read “Recessional Music : A medley of Peter and Jill’s Favourite ‘60s Songs by Elvis Presley and The Beatles.”

Rest in peace, Pete.: Peterborough misses you”

- Gillian Sandeman

“Peter was elected in the Liberal landslide of 1987. Shortly after the election he approached me to learn how the Legislature worked. He was serious and well-meaning in his work as an MPP. He looked and participated in reasoned debate in the Legislature. He expressed support for my work in banning smoking from the workplace. As in his community, Peter continued his work both as a MPP and later as a MP for the betterment of Peterborough, his Province and his Country in an exemplary manner.”

- Norm Sterling

Peter Adams and friends. Photo: Jeannine Taylor
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