





*The InFormer*

THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS

WINTER 2018



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# Meet The Interns

**Emerald Bensadoun** is a freelance journalist and communications specialist who creates digital content.

Fascinated by governance and policy, Emerald is interested in learning more about journalism in politics, and looking for opportunities to apply existing skills and knowledge to solve the challenging problems facing Canadian politics, society, and institutions. Emerald began working with the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians to learn about the parliamentarians behind the policy and has thoroughly enjoyed her time working with OAFP.

**Dylan Freeman-Grist** is a journalist and communications professional currently completing his journalism degree at Ryerson University.

An aspiring arts writer Dylan hopes to one day work in arts media while finding new platforms to advocate for and examine contemporary Canadian culture.

Dylan joined the InFormer and the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians as a way to sharpen skills and learn first-hand from those who have served in office how government and policy can impact communities.



*Linda Kooluris Dobbs enjoying a laugh with Phil Richards*



*Pictured from left to right: Karen Haslam, Dave Levac and David Warner*



*Alvin Curling and Doug Holyday smile for the cameras*

# The 2017 OAFP Holiday Bash

Our annual gathering at the end of November is always a joyous social event. It is a great time to catch up with former colleagues, chat with the Speaker, other current MPPs and usually there is someone we haven't seen for a long while. This year's social was all of that and more.

We had some special guests, three portrait artists who have painted Premiers and Speakers. Gregory Furmanczyk, who did Speaker Alvin Curling's portrait, Linda Kooluris Dobbs, who painted Premier David Peterson and Phil Richards who created the portraits of Premier Bob Rae and Speaker Gary Carr. Mr. Richards has also painted Canada's official State Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

There were two presentations, one to Speaker Dave Levac and the other to Clerk Todd Decker. Speaker Levac, who has been strongly supportive of our Association had publicly announced that after 5 terms in office, spanning 19 years, he will not be seeking re-election. By June of this year Speaker Levac will have been one of the longest serving Speakers in our history, having been elected Speaker twice, a total of nearly 7 years. A Certificate of Appreciation and a gift were presented and of course with expressed wishes for his joining our Association after June 7th. Todd Decker, who also has been very supportive of O.A.F.P., providing various forms of assistance, was presented with an Honorary Membership in our Association.

Food, beverage, lively conversation all contributed to a delightful event.



By David Warner

# Campus program: an afternoon with a fourth year Political Science class at York University

John Parker and I spent a couple of hours with a class of political science students. What an exhilarating experience! Lots of interest. Thoughtful questions. A great dialogue. Professor Fanelli reported later that the discussions carried on for some time after John and I left.

*“I am a student in Professor Fanelli’s labour class to which you had come to speak in. Thank you for taking time out of your day to come and speak with our class and provide us with an experience which brought our studies to life. Having the first-hand experience to listen to former MPP’s speak about issues currently affecting the Canadian Labor Market and their political views on it was a refreshing break from the course text. This experience opened my eyes to the similar, yet different, views of each politician and how they felt about the issues we addressed to them. Once again, thank you for coming to our class and inspiring us to take a political stand so that we may help our current and future generations, and the Canadian labour market.”*

— Matthew

*“I felt the visit was very informative and brought real world aspects of our studies to life. It was great having former MPPs visit bringing their experiences at Queen’s Park to current work and labour issues faced by Ontario today. It was also great to see different political party perspectives giving us students a very holistic view of different lenses on labour issues.”*

— Shaan



## **We need more volunteers!**

This is a valuable, worthwhile program, appreciated by faculty and students.

Please contact our office by phone or email so that you too can enjoy a unique opportunity while providing insight about parliamentary democracy for today's students.

**416-325-4647**

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



*NDP MPP, Fort William 1975-1977*

By: Dylan Freeman-Grist

# A Q&A with former MPP Iain Angus

## What got you started in politics?

That's a good question. I always knew I was not academically inclined. Over time I realized I had ADD, which was not a surprise let me tell you. So I knew I would never work my way up through the system but I wanted to make changes and I realized the only way to really do that, within my capabilities, was to skip a whole bunch of bureaucratic steps and go into politics.

I had the opportunity to be the media and promotions coordinator for the 1974 Ontario Winter Games in Thunder Bay and that was a six-month full time gig.

Through that I got to know the chair of the cultural committee, Dusty Miller, who later on was elected Mayor of Thunder Bay. Dusty was a longtime New Democrat and over scotch one night after the games were over we talked about my future and next thing I knew, at end of January I was invited to join the party and I did.

In February I became membership secretary. In March I became the candidate and in September I became the MPP, a very whirlwind courtship. And I got hooked.

Even though I only lasted for 22 months in the Ontario legislature, I was hooked.

## What were the differences between working in the three 'orders' of government?

Well, certainly the similarities between Ontario Legislature and the Canadian Parliament is the distance you are from the taxpayer and certainly the federal one is

much more distant. The federal order does less and less on a day-to-day basis that impacts people.

The Municipal order has the most contact. You're not out of town 5 days a week, at least in terms of us northerners, everyday you're face-to-face with the people you serve and they corner you in the beer store and they corner you in the grocery store and at the gym so you're much more connected, and the other thing is that at the municipal order decisions happen much faster.

## Can you tell some more about being the NDP recipient for Transport 2000 Orange Award?

Well at the federal, for my full nine years, I was a member of the standing committee on transport. I sought transportation as a critic area because it's an essential part of Northwestern Ontario and Thunder Bay. We are a major marine port, a railway hub and a trucking hub. Not just products that we produce or receive, but as a transfer facility for grain and other products. So I recognized that there was political value in me becoming involved in that field.

One of my key focuses was on VIA Rail. In fact I took the federal government to court over their decision to slash the funding to VIA. The court action was based on the fact that they hadn't done an environmental assessment and we went up to the level before The Supreme Court. We lost in both cases because the government had reported that they gave us a two page envi

ronmental assessment. The Orange award is really because of the work that I'd done on VIA Rail for exposing what the government was up to and continuing to push back.

### **How did you achieve the Seaway Person of the Year Award?**

Well one of the first things I did on getting elected in '84 was to spend a lot of time with the operators of the elevator systems in Thunder Bay to understand how the system worked. I became the champion of the industry. No one had championed the St. Lawrence Seaway ever in the House of Commons and I was able to facilitate the creation of a subcommittee on the seaway on the Standing Committee on Transport.

One of my last questions in the House of Commons was asking to have an environmental assessment done on the system because we knew that we were having and were going to have problems over the years in terms of water levels and as the water lowers the volume of what each ship can carry through the locks and the rivers decreases so that has economic impact.

I said 'we need you to study the system to understand what the implications are and we need to put in place plans to lower the river bed in order to accommodate the larger ships and even the current ships in times of low water.

They poo poo'ed me, as they usually did, and said 'well no we're not going to need that' but in the last 10-15 years we've had a real crisis in Lake Superior and Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and Lake Ontario in terms of water levels that are way down and there's been an impact on the shipping.

### **What drew you in specifically to**

7

### **Transportation policy?**

It goes back to looking for issues that made sense for my constituents, that they would accept me working on that file, as opposed to Foreign Affairs or the Environments or what have you. So I chose that but as I got into it I really begin to understand it.

### **What Advice would you give to someone entering politics for the first time?**

Take your time. Learn the issues. Learn how to speak in public. Be fair. Don't be partisan, although I mean from time to time you will have to be partisan, but don't automatically rule out the other people or parties' opinions or positions.

We're all in it for the same thing, the betterment of Ontario or Canada or the municipality. Learn to do it with respect and you'll go a lot farther. And be prepared to be knocked down. I mean I was abnormal in that I got elected the first time out. Our old friend Mel Swart, took 27 tries before he got elected and then they couldn't get rid of him until he was ready!



*Photo courtesy of Emerald Bensadoun*



# An interview with John Hastings: a lifetime of service to the public

What makes a politician? For some, it's an innate inclination to evoke change or an overwhelming desire to lead. Others rely on their personal experiences and hardships to propel them towards the political arena. But for John Hastings, it was a matter of becoming the type of leader he looked up to as a child.

For as long as he can remember, his father had taken him to watch the House sit at Queen's Park. Just a small boy at the time, John Hastings regarded politicians as heroes. Back then, he said, debate was civil and respectful, which were key factors in his first impression of provincial politics. Those impressions, he said, shaped the trajectory of the rest of his life.

The mayor of Toronto, Ont. at the time of his childhood was Graydon Kohl. Hastings described him as a business guy, and was drawn to his skills as an orator. "Because of the way he spoke, his bearing he had, he was the mayor, he was a leader but very quiet and confident, not boastful but open." His other political heroes include Mike Harris, Brian Mulroney, Stephen Harper and Margaret Thatcher, whom he describes as a "very strong leader."

Hastings also nodded to fellow Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Doug Holyday as a politician he's admired over the years.

Motivated by his experiences as a young boy, once he was accepted to Western University in London, Ontario he immediately became involved with student government.

He joined the United Nations club and the Oxford Debate club. Years later, he joined the Progressive Conservative Party and in 1995, he became an MPP for the Etobicoke-Rexdale riding.

Having done extensive political research, worked for a Cabinet Minister, been elected to City Council, Toronto District School Board trustee and the Legislature and more than 40 years of political involvement, John Hastings has built up an impressive portfolio.

Looking back on his career, Hastings is most proud of his effective constituency work. Representing your local riding, he said, comes with a lot of local responsibilities. Hastings, who served as a hydro commissioner in 1985, and a city council member in Etobicoke for two and a half terms, was providing playground equipment for parks where the parks equipment was desperately needed after hearing of a young child who passed away after her scarf got caught and wrapped around an outdated slide in a playground in Thunder Bay, Ont.

Resonating with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Hastings helped develop new standards to get safer playground equipment in the late '80s.

Canadian youth being a top priority for him, Hastings said he was especially proud of his work while he was on the school board. For Hastings, the appeal of being a school board trustee was, "not the politics, but getting things for kids. It was all about music



*Progressive Conservative, Etobicoke-Rexdale 1995-1999, Etobicoke-North 1999-2003*

programs, environmental programs, getting them to be better leaders in their student council, or grants.

“We ran a sports program to improve boys’ literacy with basketball, we even got the Raptors involved,” he said.

Today Hastings plays a major role in the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians’ (OAFP) Campus Program, whose fundamental purpose is to enjoin with post-secondary learning institutions to look at the real practice of public service in politics. His goal, he said, is to bridge the gap between political theory and the actual practice of politics, cabinet government and cabinet responsibility and practical consequences.

“The real purpose is to try to get young people, the millennial generation, to see the significance of government in their lives,” Hastings said in the interview. “Most people today go ‘I don’t want to talk about that, that doesn’t affect me’, but it sure does when you look at a lot of the decisions that are made in legislatures and then carried out by the bureaucracy.”

He pointed to highway safety, taxation, air emissions, health care, and education as primary examples of governmental cause and effect.

With regard to millennial Canadians, Hastings said the program is integral to getting young learners to understand, despite their perceived apathy, what the “practical intricacies of parliamentary governments are in democracy, because it does have an impact on peoples’ lives.”

All politics aside, Hastings likes to make room for the great loves in his life: golf, film, art and jazz—although not necessarily in that order.

While he said downhill skiing was his passion when he was younger, today he is

an avid golfer and art collector. When asked about his favourite artists, his immediate response? AY Jackson, of the famous Canadian Group of Seven.

Jazz is another love of Hastings’. This year, he’ll be donating to Jazz FM in order to provide scholarships for the Jazz FM Youth Big Band, who do a lot of community outreach with elementary schools.

In his spare time, Hastings is fascinated by cinema. “I love action, black and white detective series,” he said. “I love Hollywood, Chinatown, anything with Humphrey Bogart, I’m a romantic, I love the old films, French films too.”

When it comes to political life, Hastings would define politicians as “servants of the voter.” He hopes, he said, that younger generations will learn from their older predecessors in order to solve the existing problems in Canadian society.

“We need to have people engaged in government to be able to make effective and practical decisions that will improve people’s lives instead of passing things off,” said Hastings. “We need to work to solve the problem, and that all starts with getting younger Canadians involved.”

By: Emerald Bensadoun

# An interview with Michael Prue

Michael Prue was Mayor of East York from 1993 to 1997, then after the Toronto Amalgamation, he was a City Councillor from 1998 to 2001. This background helped shape Michael Prue's approach to the political arena of Queen's Park.

He hadn't been at the "Pink Palace" too long before a Municipal Affairs Bill came forward for debate. This would be Michael's first speech in the House. "I talked for 53 minutes, ran out of things to say, so I sat down. The Whip was upset. Apparently I was supposed to keep on talking, even if I didn't have anything more to add to the debate." Michael went on to explain how different it is at Queen's Park than at city council. "At East York Council the debate had to be focused because there was a 5 minute limitation on speeches. That limitation prompted a good quality of debate. As well, things got done a lot quicker than at Queen's Park."

Michael Prue was Mayor of East York during very difficult economic times. I asked him how he and Council approached the challenges associated with plant closures and dwindling revenues. "With our tax base eroding and not wanting to cut services to people, we needed something dramatic. We needed to attract industries. So, we did something no other Toronto municipality was doing; we guaranteed a 90 day turnaround on an application for a business to locate in East York. That 90 days included a 30 day appeal period. As a result several large industries came to us. Chief of those was Dorothea Knitting

creating 400 jobs. As well, we wired the municipality, fibre optics through the hydro lines. That innovation in the industrial areas was extremely helpful to businesses. We were able to increase our tax revenues without increasing taxes."

## **Is there an advantage to being elected municipally prior to being at Queen's Park?**

"Absolutely. All politics is local. You know the people and they know you. At the local level you learn how government works and how to sell an idea."

## **Comments from various media and former MPPs state that there has been for some time a lack of civility in the House. If true, how could that be changed?**

"When the Council meetings were over, all or most of us would gather somewhere to socialize. Alliances were formed around issues, rather than partisan politics, so there was a good atmosphere of collegiality. So, at Queen's Park perhaps more committee work, especially travelling out of Toronto, would help develop a better atmosphere. I also like the circular formation of seats in the European Parliament, rather than a space two swords lengths apart."

## **What are some of your treasured memories?**

"It was quite personally rewarding to go through the recession attracting indus

tries and paying off our accumulated debt without raising taxes. Ironically we paid off our debt in 1998 the same day amalgamation occurred.

I worked with the local M.P.P. Gary Malkowski, to establish a child care centre which would serve as a training facility for early childhood education students. We donated the land and the province provided the funds and Centennial College the students.

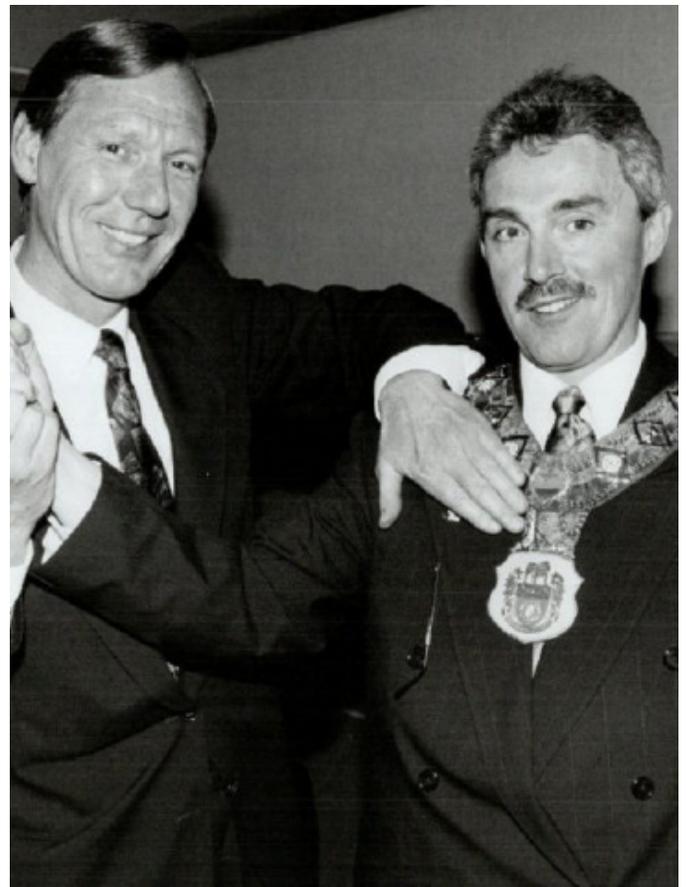
In 1994 we approved the building of a mosque. That by itself might not be big news, but it was controversial and located next to a Greek Cypriot community centre, there was some pushback. That became news which travelled through the Muslim world press. Council was split. Eventually the Muslims and Cypriots found a way to share their facilities and respect each other. Another great Canadian moment.

We were able to erect a monument to the Greek Pontians, the only one of its kind in the world. [353,000 Pontians were subjected to ethnic cleansing by the Turks during the period 1914-1923].

At Megacity, wanting to be an environmentally responsible municipality, we stopped sending our garbage to the Adams Mine in Kirkland Lake.

**What advice do you have for someone thinking about running for public office?**

“Seek election municipally. It is easier to get elected and you will find out if you like political life.”





*New Democrat, Beaches-East York, 2001-2014*

# Advice from former Parliamentarians on entering politics

**1** “Have one policy area/idea/concern that motivates and energizes you. It should be specific enough to be relatable. Even better if it has real cogency in the community in which you live. Try and give speeches about it. Try and get a column in the local paper. In other words, be known for something other than just having an interest in running” - *Tim Murphy. Liberal. St. George—St. David ‘93 - ‘95*

**2** “Consider it a term of service-not a life long career. Enter politics, give it all your energy and leave so others can do the same. Your political experience will continue to enable you to contribute well after you leave the profession.” - *Dr. Marie Bountrogianni. Liberal. Hamilton Mountain. ‘99 - ‘07*

**3** “One characteristic of a good politician is patience. The wheels of government turn slowly. Nothing happens as quickly as you would like. You often have to be persistent and patient to get things done.” - *Phil Gillies. Progressive Conservative. Brantford. ‘81 - ‘87.*

**4** “Be true yourself no matter what.” - *Richard Patten. Liberal. Ottawa Centre. ‘87-‘90; ‘95-‘07.*

**5** “Believe in what you are doing. Include your constituents in your decision making. Always remember being a politician is an honour and brings with it a responsibility to always do the honourable thing. Finally, enjoy the experience.” - *Rick Bartolucci. Liberal. Sudbury. ‘95 - ‘14*

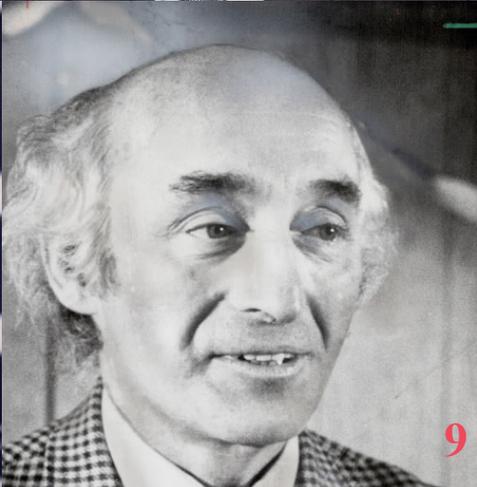
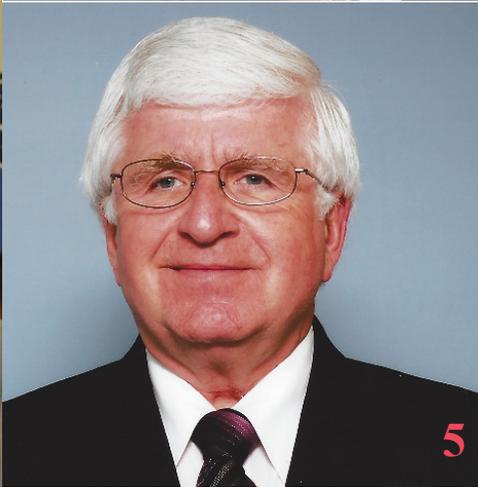
**6** “The public office you are seeking is a complex job, and time management will be the biggest challenge. Besides the official duty as legislator, you are also an advocate, a constituency worker, a party representative, and a facilitator - all of which can be demanding. I often describe politics as a black hole: it will suck up as much energy as you put into it - it is never satiated. So it is important to set priorities, draw some lines, and excel at time management, while at the same time you try to stay healthy, maintain family relations, and, most important, keep your sense of perspective. Good luck!” - *Alex Cullen. NDP. Ottawa West. ‘97-‘99.*

**7** “The most important question that all candidates must answer (for themselves and others) is WHY. There is no right or wrong answer so long as it is genuine.” - *David Caplan. Liberal. Don Valley East. ‘97 - ‘11.*

**8** “Do it for the pension! Seriously, if you get to help some people it is a great reward that you carry with you forever.” - *Ted Chudleigh. Progressive Conservative. Halton. ‘99 - ‘14.*

**9** “Realize that your recreational hours are forfeited; that your relationship with wife and family are changed; that you need a special course in developing patience with well-intentioned voters and that your secret dreams will most likely not be achieved.” - *Dr. Charles Godfrey. New Democrat. Durham West. ‘75 - ‘77*

**10** “*Politics attracts two types of people.*”





*Either you are a somebody, or you desperately want to be a somebody. Only the former need apply, for they will enjoy bringing their unique skills to public service. The latter are doomed to experience the heart break of politics.” - John Wilkinson. Liberal. Perth-Wellington. ‘03 - ‘11.*

**11** “Make an appointment with a psychiatrist. It sure isn’t the same as it was in our day. Some of the comments in the Legislature are ill-mannered and too personal for my liking. Stephen Lewis and Murray Gaunt were in opposition parties to mine, but both were friends and we socialized outside the Legislature. The iPad and cell phone and Facebook and other social media platforms seem to have put an end to those type of relationships.” - Alan Eagleson. Conservative. Lakeshore. ‘63 - ‘67.

**12** “Enjoy the ride...and even if you don’t get elected you’re a “winner’ for having made the commitment and, if you do get elected; take

the work and responsibility seriously but don’t take yourself too seriously.” - Carman McClelland. Liberal. Brampton North. ‘87 - ‘95.

**13** “While there may be a certain cachet to being an elected official, in order to be an effective, productive and deliberate office holder, you need to, first, answer the question “why do you want to serve”?. - Steve Gilchrist. Conservative. Scarborough East. ‘95 - ‘03.

**14** “Prepare yourself and your family, emotionally, to be fully transparent. In other words, you have to assume that the rest of the world will be as if they were part of your intimate family.” - Dave Cooke. New Democrat. Windsor-Riverside. ‘77 - ‘97.

**15** “Get involved in politics for the right reason.” - Karen Haslam. New Democrat. ‘90 - ‘95. Perth.

# It's time for the Distinguished Service Award nominations

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

This is your opportunity to nominate a former Member of the Ontario Legislature to be the recipient of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians Distinguished Service Award.

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

Nominations are to be sent to the O.A.F.P. Office at Queen's Park and can be sent up to midnight, February 28.

Mailing address:

99 Wellesley Street West,  
Room 1612, Whitney Block,  
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1A2

Previous Recipients:

Hon. William G. Davis.  
Robert Nixon,  
Stephen Lewis,  
Margaret Birch,  
Lyn McLeod



*Last year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Lyn McLeod along with Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell*

# Looking back with former Liberal MPP Dr. Marie Bountrogianni

Although born in Canada, English and French were not Marie Bountrogianni's first languages. Painfully shy as a child, Bountrogianni didn't speak a word of English. Because of this, Bountrogianni was placed in a slow learners class even though she was reading Greek by the age of 3.

When Bountrogianni became Chief Psychologist of the Hamilton Board of Education in 1989, she noticed an over-identification of minority children labelled as special needs. She kept thinking, "are these kids really slow, or did they have a case similar to mine, where they just didn't have the English skills?"

"Do you have to be labeled as having a disability to get help?" said Bountrogianni in an interview. She noted that her early childhood education could have been different if school psychologists had the appropriate training for assessing children whose first language was not English. Cutting the false identification of minority students significantly was her proudest achievement prior to her life in politics.

Dr. Marie Bountrogianni was still Chief Psychologist she decided to enter politics. Her personal experiences, she says, drove her to change and amend policies throughout her career. Her parents were small business people working seven days a week, with no vacation and no benefits—despite the fact that they employed hundreds of people over the years. Watching them struggle under the Bob Rae government, she says, was her greatest incentive to run. Wanting to learn more about run-

ning for office, Bountrogianni called the Liberal Party headquarters for more information. The first time she called the Party they thought it was a prank call. At the time she didn't know what a Riding Association was, but she persisted and her questions were answered.

Although she lost her first election by 600 votes in 1995, Bountrogianni was undeterred. She ran again in 1999, but her motivation to become a parliamentarian was completely different by then. The Mike Harris government, she said, was having a negative impact on poorer families.

"I saw firsthand what the cuts did to education, to hospitals, to social services. I was on a hospital board and I was chief psychologist and I taught at McMaster. In all of the spheres, I saw what the cut backs were doing," says Bountrogianni. "Kids that were ordinarily waiting three months to see my department of psychologists were waiting a year with the cut-backs. Behavioral problems increased because of the 20 per cent decrease in social services... Right or wrong politically, I knew it had a negative impact."

Running as member of the Ontario Liberal Party, she won the 1999 election becoming both the first woman as well as the first non-Anglo Saxon to win the Hamilton Mountain riding provincially. She describes her win as a, "glass ceiling" kind of moment for constituencies, and to this day, prides herself in what her win represented for Canadians with immigrant backgrounds. Once elected, Bountrogianni went on to hold four cabinet posts—



*M.P.P. Hamilton Mountain, Liberal 1999 – 2007*

and almost always two at the same time.

Consulting, drafting and bringing to final reading and royal assent the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), she says, was her greatest accomplishment as a politician. The AODA, which aims to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people with disabilities, is still used as the model for Ontarians with accessibility needs today, a rarity for politicians and legislation.

“As politicians,” she notes, “often what we do changes or gets wiped off the map with a change of an election. But not the AODA—I’m very proud of it, and I’m proud of the way we did it.”

Another rarity was that in writing the bill, Bountrogianni arranged the first-ever formal business meeting between business people, government and people with disabilities to create an appropriate framework. The bill later passed unanimously within the cabinet and unanimously within the house, something Bountrogianni says “almost never” happens.

Two of her other greatest achievements include negotiating the first immigration agreement for Ontario, and campaigning for the preservation of the Henderson Hospital, later renamed the Juravinski Hospital during her time in opposition. Keeping the hospital open, she said, was one of the largest campaigns she’s ever been a part of, wrangling 80,000 signatures against its closure without the help of the Internet. Prior to the immigration agreement, Ontario’s immigration ratios were lower per immigrant than any other province. This was rectified with the Immigration Agreement.

Today, as the Dean of the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University, Bountrogianni continues

to strive for her vision of the future.

“I am actually very fortunate that I work at a university that really matches my values. We’re all about community engagement, about diversity, giving people opportunity,” says Bountrogianni of Ryerson.

Her commitment to providing help for those in need led her to aid in the creation of the Veterans Transition to Education (VTE) program, that provides academic and non-academic peer assistance to the veteran community and currently serving soldiers, as well as strongly support the previously established 50 plus program, which aims to expand learning, redefine retirement and increase engagement among older adult learners. She also co-founded a program for internationally trained physicians to achieve leadership positions while they wait to practice medicine in Ontario/Canada.

Dr. Bountrogianni recently launched the Accessibility Project which funds up to \$25,000. per project to students to develop technology and/or programs for people with disabilities.

Looking back on her political career, Bountrogianni affectionately refers to her time in Queen’s Park as a “term of service.”

“When you leave, the skills, contacts and knowledge that you will have acquired in politics will benefit wherever you go,” says Bountrogianni. “Your employer, your personal life, it will follow you. You will contribute the time you were there and you will continue to contribute afterward because you learn how the system works and you learn how to advocate more effectively for good causes. And when you help others it comes back to you.”

# Queen Park's Staircase to Nowhere

Reprinted from the Green Gargoyle newsletter, Office of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Employees of the Legislative Assembly may have wondered, at one time or another, about the exterior staircase on the north-east corner of the building. After climbing about 15 steps you find yourself on a small landing, faced with a brick wall. What could be the purpose of a staircase that leads to nowhere? A little digging in Eric Arthur's *From Front St. to Queen's Park* (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1979), shows that the staircase once led to the Department of Immigration, but the only other information given is that it was subsequently "closed by masonry". Why was it closed? What happened to the Department of Immigration?

Although today immigration is a federal responsibility, in pre-Confederation times, immigration was associated with settlement and the encouragement of emigration from Europe to the 'new world'. When the Loyalist refugees began to arrive from the American colonies in the 1780s, the British Army played a role in settling them in British held lands in Upper Canada. Shortly thereafter, the Military Settling Department at Quebec assisted new immigrants until 1822 when it was disbanded. In 1828, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, Sir John Colborne, directed the Commissioner of Crown Lands to take on the role of processing immigrants as they arrived in the colony. Colborne made this move to help take pressure off of the emigrant agent at Quebec City. Even with this support, large numbers of immigrants arriving in 1831 and 1832 proved to be a great burden on Crown Lands agents. In 1833, on Colborne's advice, AB Hawke was appointed Chief Agent of a new Emigrant.

Office and that same year the first immigration office opened in Toronto. The office of Crown Lands continued to have a close association with the Emigrant Office for some time, although mostly with the responsibility of promoting immigration to the colony.

throughout both provinces. In the early 1850s, the Emigrant Office was placed under the Bureau of Agriculture which later evolved into the Department of Agriculture and Statistics. After Confederation in 1867, the British North America Act stipulated that both the federal and provincial governments were to be responsible for immigration. In 1874, the Ontario government created a new Department of Immigration with the dual purpose of encouraging emigration to the province from Europe and assisting newly arrived immigrants. Finally, in 1900, the government created the Bureau of Colonization and made it a branch of the Department of Crown Lands.

Although no records have yet been found detailing why the staircase was blocked off, perhaps the need for additional office space for Government offices was the reason. It is known that at the time of the fire in 1909, the Government had run out of room for its departments in the Legislative Building.

One of the most important elements of architect Richard Waite's plan for the building was symmetry. Both wings of the building were designed to be alike inside and out. On the west wing, the twin of the immigration staircase is the staircase leading to the Speaker's Apartment (now the Lieutenant Governor's Suite). The west wing staircase is still functional today, and acts as a private entrance

to the Suite. A variety of different styles of columns grace the stairs leading to that entrance. The stone work here is much more elaborate, perhaps indicating an entrance of higher importance than the east wing staircase where the stonework is much less detailed.





# IN LOVING MEMORY OF RON VAN HORNE

(October 24, 1932 - November 2, 2017)

Served in the 31st, 32nd, 33rd and 34th Parliaments (June 09, 1977 -- December 31, 1987)

Liberal Member for London North

*“Ron always had an upbeat, optimistic approach to life. He was easy to talk to, never letting political partisanship get in the way of friendship. Ron worked hard for his constituents and our province, but family came first. I truly enjoyed his company. He was a good man.” — David Warner*

*“I was very saddened recently to hear the news of Ron Van Horne’s death. I have many fond memories of working with Ron over the ten years we spent together at Queen’s Park. Because I hailed from the far east of Ontario, I was always impressed by how well Ron understood western Ontario and I don’t just mean the city of London where he served as a member of the legislature from 1977 till 1987. Ron knew areas like Huron County very well and could regale one with great tales about summer escapes along the Lake Huron shore. When I became minister of education in 1985, Ron was a constant source of good advice and wise counsel to me. His passion for and concern about young people with special needs was evident to anyone who knew him and he never let me forget how much we had to do in this critical area of public policy. Anyone who knew Ron knew that his first loyalty was to his family, followed by a keen interest in his community and, of course, his church. Whenever I think of Ron Van Horne, I see a broad, smiling face, of someone anxious get on with a job that needed to be done and of someone with a great capacity for hard work. And yes, someone keen to talk about golf if you were willing to let him go there!” — Sean Conway*



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