





The InFormer

THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS

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Our Annual Holiday Social

Monday, November 27

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Lewis Room # 1641 – Whitney Block

“I always look forward to meeting former colleagues whom I haven’t seen for a long while. I must admit I also enjoy the delicious food, free beer and wine. I ate quite a quantity of desserts last year, so I’m surprised to be invited back!”

— Anonymous

Special guests include

The shy and retiring Speaker Dave Levac – well, maybe not shy, but he will be retiring, so our opportunity to say “Thank you for being Speaker and a strong supporter of our Association”

The Clerk of the Legislature, Todd Decker – we will be honouring Todd for steadfastly assisting our office, especially with our special projects.



Broker of Record for Judy Marsales Real Estate Ltd. Former M.P.P. for Hamilton West from 2003 to 2007

POLITICS, BUSINESS AND A PASSION FOR MUSIC: AN INTERVIEW WITH JUDY MARSALES

By Emerald Bensadoun

Real Estate Broker by day, leader of the first ever female politician band by night, Judy Marsales is the furthest thing from retired. In an interview, Marsales said she still enjoys a wonderful career in real estate working 24/7 to support her company's customers, clients, and sales representatives. Her political career, she says, did not stop her from continuing to do what she loved.

Marsales said it was her love for the city of Hamilton, Ontario that stimulated her interest in the political arena. It was also important to her that her government have a presence of some female ideas relative to creating appropriate legislation, creating a balanced direction and to show leadership.

Her proudest moments come from the amount of input she's had in a variety of issues and singing in the legislature. Marsales recalls travelling around Northern Ontario, getting a firsthand glimpse of the struggles faced by Indigenous communities and having an opportunity to speak to education as some of her most memorable. While travelling Northern Ontario and acting as a Member of Parliament, her real estate company, comprised of three offices and 53 sales representatives continued to thrive under the direction of wonderful managers.

Another very proud moment was announcing the birth of my grandson in the Legislature. "As a Mom of two married daughters Andrea and Allison, I am so very proud of their families including my three grandchildren which I believe provides the best stage of life being a Grandma. I get to sing, play, and learn from these amazing little ones."

"We're one of the strongest independent real estate companies and are celebrating our 30th Anniversary in January, 2018." We are very involved in our community and one of our Sales Representatives is the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce in Dundas, Ontario. Other sales representatives in our office are very involved in many community projects including fundraising marathons, theatre groups, and always doing their best to support our local healthcare and education facilities." Marsales said of Judy Marsales Real Estate Limited, her real estate company. "I'm very passionate about Hamilton still, continuing to grow our real estate company, in addition to offering leadership support to the community in many different capacities. And music gives me balance to occasional stressful days."

Political career aside, in an interview, Marsales revealed her other passion in life: her music.

When asked about her band, Marsales chuckles. “We’re called Judy and the Noteworthy’s. They’re noteworthy, I’m just Judy.”

“I have four wonderful guys that I play and sing with every Wednesday. We do an interactive music night at the Coach and Lantern at Ancaster where the audience selects the music,” said Marsales.

Her band is comprised of Guitar Player, Mike McCurlie, Bass Player, the award-winning Bob Doidge, keyboard player Vince Renaldo, who has a Doctorate in Music and is a professor at Niagara College. The band’s Drummer, Steve Ruddick, is also a celebrity as the weather man on CHCH. They play together once a week.

“We’ve been doing it together for almost 10 years at the Coach & Lantern, but I’ve been doing this gig for almost 20 years at different locations,” said Marsales. “I’ve sung in support of Theatre Aquarius doing a fundraiser called Discovering Elvis.” In her spare time, Marsales also sings with the St. Joseph’s choir in Hamilton as a soprano. Marsales also enjoys singing as “June Carter Cash” with the amazing Paul Anthony who is reputed to be the most authentic Johnny Cash singer.

“Music is about co-ordination and balance. One might draw some similarities to government. Good decisions are made with government legislation if they have considered the various elements that they’re trying to touch on in the over all scheme,” said Marsales. “The success of that legislation will come with the best information, balance, and co-ordination of talent.”

Judy Marsales Real Estate Limited also has a radio show on CHML 900 once a month called Sold on Hamilton, which brings one guest from the music industry, one guest from the Hamilton community to talk about the city of Hamilton. CHML 900 also shares all the latest real estate information with its radio listeners.

When asked what advice she would give to youth looking to consider a political life, Marsales offered the following words of encouragement to young people:

“Be a part of the leadership of a future generation, and be a part of the creation of a vision for a better future.” She also advised youth looking to enter the political arena to avoid getting caught up in what they see on social media. “Talk to people in real time, get involved, and enjoy the experience.”

“There will always be things that people can complain about, but on the other side of that there are always things that someone can do something about,” said Marsales. “Be a part of the bigger picture, as opposed to being caught up in the minutia.”

She recalled her own time as a woman in politics, and thinking about the growth in female politicians which resulted in a record winning number of women getting elected. While Marsales acknowledged tremendous growth

in female involvement, she said “it’s a matter of trying to grow that perspective so that there is more support, more buy in and more understanding.”

“I think the barriers sometimes are—with respect to our female perspective in how we look and identify certain issues,” said Marsales. “How we participate in certain issues. How we’re called out in certain issues. And I reflect on how sometimes I might have been a bit outspoken. I have a passion for economics, and in that sense, perhaps that has not always been appreciated.”

Advice to women looking to lead political lives

“Be courageous. Be well-informed. Understand what you’re trying to achieve so that you can formulate a good perspective to move that forward,” said Marsales. “Engage other people who have some experience that can help and perhaps focus your direction. But also, not to give up and not to be bogged down by small actions of distraction, like criticism.”

At the root of it, Marsales said that governance was a lot like running a business.

“There are many challenges of moving any particular perspective or agenda through the stream of the hierarchy,” said Marsales. “When you’re in a business, you look at the pros and cons of every decision, you bounce those off the people who are close to you, but at the end of the day, you make the decision. Good, bad, or indifferent. . . . Its your decision. When it comes to government legislation, as you know, there are many levels that one must go through before it even gets to the point of consideration at a much greater level and perspective. I think that’s the challenge and one has to be patient enough to be able to understand the parallels or the differences.”



Judy Marsales being interviewed by senior intern Emerald Bensadoun

Photo: David Warner

FROM SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT TO POLITICAL ACTION: AN INTERVIEW WITH DONNA CANSFIELD

By Emerald Bensadoun

With her 26-year career in the Etobicoke Board of Education, then Metro then Toronto District School Board, and the 11 years at Queen’s Park serving three consecutive terms as both a backbencher and Minister of Energy, Transportation and Natural Resources—there is no denying that Donna Cansfield is a remarkable woman.

A mother of two, Cansfield said while her best job was being a stay-at-home mom, a life of provincial politics was a close second.

While working as a Member of Provincial Parliament (M.P.P.) wasn’t without its challenges; during her time as a trustee she recalls being “burned in effigy in front of the Toronto District School Board” for failing to negotiate what they wanted—Cansfield remarks upon her time at Queen’s Park as one filled with wonderful people, three impressive portfolios and “some really interesting other things.”

*“Meeting all of these remarkable people,
I’ve been blessed”*

A lifetime of memories

When reminiscing about her time at Queen’s Park, Cansfield said her most prominent memories weren’t necessarily comprised of moments in time, but rather a culmination of all of the friends she’d made over the years and the impact the ideas they’d come up with had on the world.

She affectionately refers to her mentor, former politician Dwight Duncan, as an “extraordinary individual” and a “party animal.” Make no mistake: while this term might typically be used to describe heavy drinkers and night club-goers, upon clarification Cansfield explained that to her, a “party animal” is someone “all about the [political] party.”

When asked what she misses most about Queen’s Park, it was no surprise that the people, the time spent with with them, and the “aha moments.”

“Those are things that I remember most about the place,” Cansfield added. “Meeting all of these remarkable people, I’ve been blessed.”

“I just thought I could do a better job”

Cansfield’s rise to provincial politics began while she was a stay-at-home mom. When she got her start as a school trustee in 1987, Cansfield said it was the lack of engagement of the individual who was representing her on the dais at the Etobicoke Board of Education that attracted her to positions of higher power.

“It was just simply her lack of engagement,” Cansfield said. “I just thought I could do a better job. How can I change it? Become the Chair. I discovered over there that you have to get engaged with the people who make the final decision, and that’s the province,” said Cansfield. “I became Chair so I could talk to the province.”



Former M.P.P. 2003-2014, Etobicoke Centre

*****Editor's Note: Donna Cansfield's political path was - Trustee Etobicoke Board, Representative Metro School Board, President Ontario Public School Boards Association, President Canadian School Boards Association, Chair Toronto District School Board and then 2003 elected as an M.P.P.**

A lengthy list of accomplishments

Cansfield was appointed Parliamentary Assistant (PA) to her soon-to-be mentor and Minister of Energy Dwight Duncan on October 23, 2003. She was later appointed as Minister of Energy on October 11, 2005 when Duncan was appointed Minister of Finance.

When asked about her proudest moments during her time in provincial politics, Cansfield blushed and let out a big smile. Modestly, she replied "There's so much that I'm proud of."

During the interview, Cansfield said she remembered the day she first got involved with energy. The former Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, told her to "spread [her] wings and try something else like energy." And then she flew.

The then Minister of Energy said she met Marion Fraser, who worked with her while she was Parliamentary Assistant to Duncan. Together, they were given the responsibility of introducing Bill 21, The Sustainability Energy Conservation Responsibility Act (SECRA). The first conservation Bill in Canada, SECRA would require municipalities to prepare, implement, and report on annual energy Conservation plans, including prescribed energy conservation targets.

"We worked tirelessly trying to bring people together on an issue that some were really engaged in and some were not," said Cansfield of Bill 21. "We were trying to build into this Conservation Bill the concept of sustainability." She chuckled, revelling on actually getting the word 'sustainability' in the Bill. Duncan, ultimately, put through the Conservation Act.

Reassigned to the Ministry of Transportation in 2006, a year later Cansfield would be responsible for one of the fastest pieces of legislation ever passed in Ontario. Passed in one day and gaining additional Royal Assent in one day, Cansfield remembered having "the absolute pleasure" of signing the Bill to rename a portion of Highway 401 the Highway of Heroes.

Welling up with tears as she spoke, Cansfield explained her most proud moment as a Member of Parliament was the day Gerry Martiniuk submitted the Ukrainian Heritage Day Act. The former Conservative M.P.P. is described as a "dear friend" to Cansfield, who grew up with his sister as one of her best friends.

While putting the Bill forward, Martiniuk spoke about how his parents immigrated to Canada from Ukraine and how they built up their lives. Trying to describe the pride she felt watching Martiniuk present the bill to the House, she said, "His parents were like my parents. I was just so proud of Jerry and what his family had accomplished."

What now?

While most would retire to a life of relaxing in the sunshine, in her "retirement," Cansfield still sits on seven different not-for-profits boards. "I made a decision when I retired that I was going to give back to the community that supported me for 26 years," said Cansfield.

She loves to garden and was proud to announce that she had taken up painting in her spare time. While she admits that painting might not be her greatest talent, she takes solace in the knowledge that many successful painters also paint from looking at pictures and comfort in the realization that artists use a variety of different brushes to paint.

"As you get older one of the things I've discovered is that you just enjoy every day," said Cansfield. "I used to say to my kids 'when you put your head on the pillow at night, sleep well because you want to wake up early in the morning and do it all over again' and that's what I do. I have full days and they're wonderful."

AN INTERVIEW WITH LINDA LEBOURDAIS-NEAR

FORMER M.P.P. LIBERAL, ETOBICOKE 1987-1990

By Dylan Freeman-Grist

You've had such a diverse career, you've done so many different things. I wanted to start by asking what attracted you to the world of politics.

"I was initially attracted to politics because quite simply 'I felt I could do the job'. I didn't have any grand plans, I wasn't going to cure cancer, I wasn't going to fix the world's catastrophes, I just felt I could do the job of an M.P.P. I enjoy helping people and I enjoy interacting with people. My parents although not active in politics were Quebec liberals so I just seemed to have an early leaning in that direction. The Liberal party has the policies and approach to issues and life with which I am most comfortable. I had been involved in local politics with the Etobicoke West Liberal Association and as President of the Women's Liberal Commission in Etobicoke. 1987 was a good year to be a Liberal and although I had a difficult nomination process which went to a three day arbitration process before finally being settled, I thoroughly enjoyed the brief three years I had."

What inspired you to write a children's book?

"I didn't specifically set out to write a children's book. I always felt that I would like to write a book but that it couldn't be a biography. I was looking for a project for Canada 150 and had what I felt was a cute idea in my head featuring a goose named Gander. The idea of Gander the Goose and his journey across Canada developed and I just kind of went with it. I also thought it would be a fun thing to do and a nice legacy for my own four grandchildren who live in the United States. I want them to know as much about Canada as possible. I'm now retired and have more time to spend on creative initiatives. I hope, if book sales ultimately go the way I want them to go, to continue Gander's journey but on a different track. I'd like to see Gander become, an icon, for children's diversity, inclusion and self-confidence, so that all children regardless of their race, creed, or colour can feel a part of things in the way that Elmer the Safety Elephant was an icon for traffic safety. All schools knew about Elmer and flew a safety flag as long as the school remained accident free. If there was a traffic accident or a child was hurt the flag came down. The police department visited schools and gave talks featuring Elmer the safety elephant. School children benefited greatly from this program. On the cover of the book



Photographed is Linda LeBourdais-Near being interviewed by junior intern Dylan Freeman Grist Photo: David Warner

Gander is a bit shy looking, his head is down, he doesn't have the confidence that a proud Canada goose should have. His travels through the provinces and territories of Canada boost that confidence. The cover also reflects children from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds."

Do you have any memorable moments that stand out from your time at Queen's Park?

"Oh everyday was a special moment. You never knew what was going to happen and how your day would unfold. Because I had a background in the fashion industry Premier Peterson appointed me as an advocate for the clothing and apparel industry, during the free trade negotiations. I was very proud to represent the Ontario Garment Industry and Canadian fashion. The fun side of that, as a women, I made sure to always be wearing Ontario fashion. I had the opportunity to go to London, England when liberty of London had a whole week dedicated to Ontario designers which was a great opportunity to promote Ontario fashion and I was also sent on a trade mission to Japan to attempt to bring Ontario fashion to the Japanese market. Additionally, it's all the people that you meet, some famous some not famous doing good work. It's an exciting job if you like people -- I feel now that we're 20-some-odd-years-passed the time I was in the legislature there isn't the camaraderie amongst member of all parties. There was more respect among members, there was more cordiality, yes we had our biases but we got along: we went out for supper and coffee and so on with other members. There weren't the barricades that I feel exist now. Although the press was the press -- it just had a different nature, people weren't always looking for you to stumble and there wasn't the degree of cynicism that now exists. Overall though It was enjoyable experience, at least for me."

Do you have any other interests besides children's literature and politics that you've pursued over the years?

"I retired as a member of the Social Benefits Tribunal where I served as a member for ten years. That was another opportunity to learn about disadvantaged people on a daily basis. You're there to make a judgment call on whether someone is going to receive government assistance to help them get a leg up -- hopefully for a brief period of time. Being a member of the Tribunal certainly introduced me to a whole segment of society, who, for a variety of reasons, need government support, usually for medical or mental health reasons, in order to move forward, I know I had a very high grant rate, higher than some of my colleagues but I felt at the end of the day I had to make a judgment call, and though many of my colleagues may have made a different decision, I was comfortable with my choices."

Why do you think young people should have an interest in politics?

"Because you exist in an environment in which you can affect change. Because it allows you to implement your ideas and take legislation in a direction that you feel will benefit people. Not easily and not quickly. Good legislation takes time and thought. When you think about it right now some of our key leaders are young. Our Prime Minister is approximately 45, the Conservative leader is 38, the new NDP leader is 38 -- my generation, I'm now 72, has had its say. A new generation is taking over with their own thinking and I believe that's a good thing. There are lots of important things to do and I think young people need to be engaged. I think far too many people aren't. The complex world we live in doesn't just happen it must be molded and shaped."

“GANDER THE GOOSE CELEBRATES CANADA”

BY LINDA LEBOURDAIS-NEAR: A BOOK REVIEW

By David Warner

“Gander made the decision to visit all the official birds from each province and territory to learn what they sounded like. He wanted to be just as special as they were. And Gander was one very determined bird”

What a delightful contribution to celebrating Canada’s 150th birthday. Young children will enjoy either reading or having the book read to them. Gander the Goose meets the official bird of each province and territory as he flies coast to coast to coast. The adventure starts in Atlantic Canada and as it progresses, one official bird after another joins the group. Meaningful repetition, helpful for beginning readers, adds to the excitement of this unusual adventure. There is a colourful depiction of each bird met by Gander. There is also an appendix which has a beautiful illustration of each bird, accompanied by a clear, concise description.

Near the end of the book the flock of official birds meet up with Canada’s famous, jet propelled “Snowbirds”. The ending is perfect! The sweetest sound is that of our national anthem being sung in Ottawa on Canada Day.

“It was at that moment that Gander heard the most beautiful song he had ever heard”

The illustrations by Janice Barber are excellent and are found on almost every page, something which I think is important in a child’s book. The illustrations might even inspire some artwork afterwards. The information about the birds and the sounds they make is excellent; sufficient detail without being overwhelming. If an adult is reading to a child, there are opportunities to talk about our provinces and territories. Linda LeBourdais-Near has written a fun book with learning opportunities.



THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY



Celebrating the accomplishments and service of former M.P.P. Lyn McLeod
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Photo: Emerald Bensadoun

AN INTERVIEW WITH LYN MCLEOD AND HER DAUGHTER, DARA MCLEOD DURING THE D.S.A.

By Dylan Freeman-Grist

Prior to the Distinguished Service Award Ceremony, I was able to ask the recipient, Lyn McLeod and her daughter Dana Wright a few questions. Here are their responses:

Ms. McLeod, what's your favourite memory from serving as an M.P.P?

“There would be so many, that's a really really difficult question to answer. It's hard to identify one but if I were to identify what comes to mind when you ask that question it would be coming home to Thunder Bay right after the leadership to the reception that the people at home had for me. That was really a wonderful moment because they had been so supportive from the time I first ran to the leadership bid and they were so proud. It was one of those absolute pure joy moments.”

What motivated you to be a politician and what still motivates you today?

“Well I first got involved with local politics, for school board politics because there were no services for kids with special needs in our area at that time. I go back a long time so it's hard to imagine that now but there were literally no services for kids with special needs.

That got me on to the school board and I served in the school board for 16 years, then left because we accomplished a lot and it was time for me to focus on what I was going to do, so I went back to school, retrained and went into working with children and youth as a psychologist and realized their were a lot of situations where policies were getting in the way of providing services for kids and so that made me think that maybe ..

You know people learn to put “x's next to your name, there is a certain magic to it but once that happens you're seen as being a good candidate. You are a potentially winnable candidate, so I'd been approached to run and I thought maybe that's where we'll be able to contribute more -- is to be able to actually create an environment where on the front lines people can actually provide better services.”

Would you have any advice for someone entering politics today?

“It depends where they're entering. If we're talking about encouraging someone to run for provincial or federal politics I think it's really important to start at the community level, it's incredibly important to start at the community level and have a community base, you have to understand why

you're doing it.

I think most people who run for office do come in it with a public service motivation, typically that public service motivation is going to have led you to do some other things at a community level and that's the basis that's what you take into a larger, wider arena."

Are you looking forward to tonight, Ms. McLeod?

"I think so .. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of people I haven't seen for a long time it's absolutely wonderful to connect with people I am feeling rather overwhelmed by it. I'll be honest with you I look at the list of people who are speaking and I think why is this award not being given to anyone of them for the service they provided. The leadership they provided. So that's what makes it a little overwhelming I feel like I should be paying tribute to each of them in return. But yes I'm looking forward to it."

Dana, can you tell me your favourite memory of your mom serving as an MPP ?

"You know it was kind of neat because I wasn't living at home when mom ran, I was in university I graduated from Queens and she was the Minister of Colleges and Universities and she gowned me at my commencement which was very neat to have this huge commencement.

I had always followed politics and found it interesting but mom has always had a knack for keeping her spheres separate so when we got together as a family it was about the family and she didn't bring work home. You didn't hear about the challenges she faced at Queen's Park so it's been interesting following her career. She's done a lot of different things. She's left politics, she's served in many different ministries and different roles since she's left here. So it's hard to pick out one event."

Would you say your mom had a huge influence on you?

"I'd say both of my parents had a huge impact on me for sure. They raised us to believe that you give back which I think they emulated in their lives and I think we were raised in a household where gender was irrelevant, you know you do what you want to do because you want to do it—we were raised in a household where you pursue what your strengths were and you don't let obstacles stand in your path.

Both of them gave that to us, and obviously her being the first female leader of a major party I was very proud of my mother absolutely."

Are you looking forward to tonight, Dana?

"Oh sure! I love stuff like this and I teach politics so it's interesting to meet the folks that make policies and get a chance to chat with them."



Former M.P.P. Lyn McLeod with Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdsell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun



Former M.P.P. Lyn McLeod with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and family

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun



David Warner welcomes former M.P.P. Lyn McLeod's granddaughters Grace Wright and Aila Price to Queen's Park

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun



Lyn McLeod with family, friends, Premier Kathleen Wynne, current and fellow former M.P.s

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun



From left to right: David Warner, Pat Warner, D.S.A. chair Doug Moffatt and former M.P. Lyn McLeod

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun



From left to right: Mobina Bhimani, Lyn McLeod, Dana Wright and Karen Haslam

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun

A (VERY) DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD DAY

By David Warner

A very special day unfolded, starting with tributes in the House to our Distinguished Service Award (D.S.A.) recipient. The following are excerpts from Hansard:

Peggy Sattler (M.P.P. London West)

In 1992 she permanently cracked a glass ceiling in Ontario politics, becoming the first woman to lead a major political party, the first provincial leader from Thunder Bay, and, as she frequently notes, the shortest Liberal leader ever.

Lyn McLeod's path to political office is typical of so many women in politics. She began her career with the school board and moved to the provincial level once her children had finished school. Throughout her 33 years in elected office, she faced the barriers and the stereotypes and the double standards that continue to confront women in public life. After the disappointment of the 1995 election, McLeod worried that her election loss may have set women back. There is no question, however, that the glass ceiling later shattered by so many Canadian women Premiers started with the crack that Lyn McLeod had made.

Patrick Brown (Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition)

In our profession, as elected representatives, there have been outstanding individuals whose legacies live on. Lyn McLeod is one of those individuals.

It goes without saying that she paved the way as the first female leader of a political party in Ontario. When I speak to my colleagues Jim Wilson and Ted Arnott, who remember her well, they tell me how kind, smart and compassionate Lyn was in the House. These are all things constituents should expect out of an elected representative.

As we researched this to pay tribute to Lyn, one of the quotes that stuck out to me was Steve Paikin describing Lyn McLeod as "truly one of the nicest people I've ever met in public life." There are a chorus of others who would say the same thing about Lyn.

Kathleen Wynne (Ontario Premier)

I also want to just reinforce something that has already been said: Lyn McLeod is a warm, loving human being. She is beloved because of the way she has treated people throughout her life. That is why it is such a pleasure to be able to speak to her today.

I don't think it is too much to say that she inspired a new generation of female politicians to put their names on a ballot and make a positive difference in public life. Lyn made it possible for me to stand here today as the first female Premier of Ontario.

I remember, particularly, coming to a committee where the discussion was about the effects of the Education Accountability Act and what the impact on our school system would be. The government of the day was proposing to take resources out of the classroom. I knew that these changes would harm our students. Lyn was on that committee, and she listened to our concerns. She listened to them, she responded respectfully, and she responded wisely. That was, for me, an introduction to how legislators should treat the public when they come



Lyn McLeod and Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

Photo: Emerald Bensadoun

to Queen's Park.

Throughout this special day Lyn was accompanied by seven of her family members: her sister Dana Wright, daughters Dara McLeod and Kristen McLeod, granddaughters Grace Wright and Aila Price and grandsons Kieran and Ewan Price.

The Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Elizabeth Dowdswell, invited Lyn McLeod for tea in the Vice-Regal Suite. That was followed by a reception in the Legislative Dining Room. The reception turned out to be a great time for current and former Members to chat, meet Lyn as well as her family.

A festive atmosphere pervaded the dining room. Former colleagues reminisced, introduced themselves to Lyn's family. Along with a delicious 4 course gourmet dinner, there were speeches from the Deputy Premier, Hon. Deb Matthews, 5 former M.P.P.s; Dianne Cunningham, Marilyn Churley, Mavis Wilson, Lily Oddie and Sean Conway, also Jim Hinds, Chair of the Ontario Power Authority. Their warm, congratulatory addresses underscored remarks made earlier in the House, of how Lyn McLeod made history by being the first woman to be elected Leader of a political Party in Ontario. As well, they paid tribute to her leadership skills, dedication and determination and of course, her devotion to family.

In Lyn's acceptance speech, she told a humorous story about a mechanical podium which was supposed to raise or lower so as to accommodate Lyn's shorter height, but malfunctioned creating a challenge for Lyn to match its ups and downs.

Lyn McLeod now joins a select list of former parliamentarians who have received the Distinguished Service Award; Hon. Bill Davis, Bob Nixon, Stephen Lewis, Hon. Margaret Birch.

CHARLES GODFREY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

By David Warner

Dr. Charles Godfrey stood at the door of U of T's Faculty Club to greet everyone to his 100th birthday. The guests reflected the wide and varied parts of Charles' amazing life, one which started during World War I. Later, he would serve for 5 1/2 years in World War II.

There were people who still fondly remember Charles' devoted and ultimately successful fight to stop the Pickering Airport in the 1970's. That fight propelled Charles into the Legislature in 1975, for one term. There were those who had worked with Charles during his international aid efforts.

Charles had chaired the international health advisory committee of C.A.R.E. Canada. He and his wife, Margaret, an R.N., helped set up a hospital in Afghanistan during the Russian invasion of that country.

This recipient of the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada has lectured in Canada and internationally, topics ranging from rehabilitative medicine to international aid. For more than 20 years he was a professor in the department of rehabilitative medicine at the University of Toronto. He found time to write a very scholarly book, *The Cholera Epidemics in Upper Canada, 1832 – 1866*.

I had a casual conversation with a physician who works at an east end Toronto clinic.

“How do you know Charles? I asked.

“We work together at the clinic.” was the answer.

“Do you mean he is still practising medicine?”

“Yes. Not only that, but when I arrive about 7:30 each morning Charles is already there.”

“How does he get there from Durham region?”

“Drives his pickup truck.”

Charles has been quoted as saying “Doctors must show leadership within the community”.

Charles Godfrey, at age 100, continues to show leadership and make a difference in our society.



David Warner and Charles Godfrey photographed together during Charles Godfrey's 100th birthday celebration

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY PERRUZZA

By David Warner

“I was nine years old, in a new country and I didn’t speak English. It wasn’t easy to make new friends”

Anthony Perruzza’s family moved to Toronto from a small town in Italy in 1969. What happened over the next few years would shape Anthony’s life. His Italian literacy skills were quite good, but that was not what the school system was testing. At the grade 8 level, what was important were his English language literacy skills. Not being proficient meant that young Anthony would have to be enrolled in a general level stream. The Perruzza family insisted that Anthony be given a chance to excel in the advance level stream. The results were two-fold. Anthony went on to graduate from York University (B.A. History), and become fluent in English, French, Spanish and Italian. As well, the experience had made this bright young man angry about “streaming”. He was determined to do something about it. So he ran for school board Trustee while he was a student at York, and he won.

There was a photo in one of Anthony Perruzza’s brochures of him helping construct playground equipment. I thought perhaps it was a posed photo-op.

“Not at all. I did carpentry when I was at university. In fact I founded a construction company.”

You have served as school board trustee, city councillor and MPP. What do you find are the biggest differences between those positions?

“At the time when I was Trustee, property tax was being levied for education so Trustees were partly technocrats, with some administrative functions. It was a part-time job. As City Councillor, I was now a politician, making decisions on my own about issues which affected my Ward. There is a sense of independence. Your decisions are your own. When you’re an M.P.P., the Leader sets the priorities. You are part of a team and spend time defending the Party’s decisions. There is a loss of independence.”



New Democrat M.P.P. Downsview 1990-1995

What fond memories do you have from your time at Queen’s Park?

“There is a certain energy and electricity about politics at Queen’s Park. The best part were the friendships I developed with other Members.”

If a young person is considering entering politics, what advice do you have?

“Start at a local level. Get to know the important issues while developing a political persona. Deciding how to vote on various issues brings a level of maturity. A sense of character is developed better at the local level.”

After the election loss of 1995, Anthony started a consulting firm, then later worked for City of Toronto Councillor, Maria Augimeri. In 2006, Anthony Perruzza was elected as City Councillor for Ward 8, a position he continues to hold. 11 years in office has not dampened his enthusiasm as he describes what he calls “opportunities” instead of “challenges”.

“My Ward includes the Jane/Finch area,” said Perruzza. “Yes, there is poverty, gangs, families just trying to get by day to day, but it is also a dynamic area with a hundred languages spoken and community leadership. There is an opportunity to make a difference, helping people who are at risk, who face social isolation.”

Anthony Perruzza as a young child in a new country faced social isolation. He is finding ways to help today’s newcomers break through their isolation.

*****Editor’s Note: Anthony Perruzza is actually serving his 4th term as a City Councillor. He was elected to North York Council 1988-1990.**

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEVE GILCHRIST

By David Warner

Steve Gilchrist's passion for politics started at the age of 10.

Although Steve Gilchrist was a highly successful businessman who operated several Canadian Tire stores, over a 25 year career, there was always an interest in politics. As passionate as Steve is about politics, so, too, is he about the environment. Being elected might give him the opportunity to help create Rouge Valley Park or protect the Oak Ridges Moraine - and, he did both!

"I loved my life at Canadian Tire. I have 25 years of happy memories, of working with a great staff, of getting to personally know, literally, hundreds of customers," said Gilchrist. "Retailing prepared me for political life, in many ways. You have to be able to work well in a team environment, understand and believe in your product and be able to "sell" your product, or ideas, to potential customers. As much as I loved retail, I thought there was an opportunity to bring my business experience and my environmental interests to bear on the challenges facing the province."

Perhaps it seems a bit strange to think that attending a funeral would inspire a life in politics, but that is exactly what happened to Steve. When Sir Winston Churchill passed away, young Steve Gilchrist, at age 10, was able to attend the funeral in London. Perhaps it was the eulogies or the extensive coverage of the life and accomplishments of "the great man" but something sparked a political flame which continues to burn brightly.

Less than six years after Churchill's death Steve had a leadership role in the P. C. Youth, and participated in the Leadership Convention of 1970, the one which elected Bill Davis as Leader of the P.C. Party and Premier of Ontario. After 47 years, since his first election in the Party, Steve went on to spend decades on local riding association boards, and was also elected as the Policy VP for the PC Party and, in 1992, as the Party President.

When you were elected what were the accomplishments about which you are most proud?

"First and foremost was the creation of the Rouge Park, now a National Park and the largest urban park in the world, and the protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine against urban sprawl. Locally, I was pleased to be able to assist Centenary Hospital acquire important new resources and equipment to improve health care in the eastern GTA and I thoroughly enjoyed my time as Co-Chair of the Red Tape Commission and I'm proud of the positive impact we had on small business by eliminating unnecessary paperwork and fees".



Former M.P.P. Progressive Conservative, Scarborough East 1995 – 2003

“I am proud of having been the Chair of the committee which created Bill 65, the legislation which established the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. It was the first bill to be introduced by a committee instead of by a single Member. I was the primary sponsor and committee members from all three parties were secondary sponsors: Toby Barrett, Marie Bountrogianni, Ted Chudleigh, Garfield Dunlop, Dave Levac, Rosario Marchese and Julia Munro.”

Are there special memories from your time at Queen’s Park?

“I was the Government Lead on the all-Party ‘Select Committee on Alternative Fuel Sources’. We wrote a unanimous report with 141 recommendations for ways to increase the use of alternative fuel sources. That Report was, arguably, one of the most progressive blueprints for the transition to a “green” economy and it was definitely way ahead of its time. Ideas such as the use of hydrogen for fuelling all of GO Transit’s trains and buses have only recently resurfaced – 15 years after our government committed to adopt that, and all the other cutting-edge ideas.

“I enjoyed the camaraderie we shared in our caucus and the need to become familiar with, literally, dozens of important topics, and, most of all, I enjoyed the satisfaction of accomplishing what I set out to do in terms of the various environmental protection initiatives which inspired me to be an MPP in the first place.”

If you were talking to a group of young people what would you tell them as to why they should consider a political life?

“It is a great way to ensure that new ideas make their way into the decision-making process for governments. If you have specific goals and objectives, you really can accomplish a great deal and make a positive impact on the world around you.”

Since leaving Queen’s Park, Steve Gilchrist has pursued his environmental passion by establishing a company which advises corporations and governments around the world on the implementation of renewable energy sources. While that work has taken him to many interesting locales, such as Uruguay, Peru and Nigeria, Steve remains a dynamic force within the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

I facetiously asked about what he does in his spare time. “I enjoy genealogy. For the past two years, I have been working on my family tree, which now includes just over 53,000 relatives.”

THE ARTISTS WHO BEAUTIFIED QUEEN’S PARK: AN INTERVIEW WITH LINDA KOOLURIS DOBBS

By David Warner

“The Artists Who Created the Beautiful Art at Queen’s Park” is a special publication by Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. It is a fascinating work in progress. More research to be done. What I can confirm is that there continues to be a steady stream of exceptionally talented Canadian artists, some of whom have helped to beautify our “Pink Palace”. Below is an excerpt from the coming publication.

“The portraits of Kooluris Dobbs are a dramatic piece of theatre caught on canvass”—Joan Murray, Chimo Magazine 1985

Linda Kooluris Dobbs is originally from New Jersey. In her childhood, her summer days were spent at the School of Creative Arts at Martha’s Vineyard. Then, within a span of five years, she studied at the Sorbonne in Paris (1968), The School for Visual Arts in New York City (1969), and moved to Montreal (1973) to create illustrations for magazines and a newspaper.

Five years of this hectic pace, constantly meeting newspaper deadlines, was enough. She changed direction and started teaching as well as pursuing portraiture.



Pictured is Linda Kooluris Dobbs, working inside her studio



Linda Kooluris Dobbs, born in 1949

IN LOVING MEMORY OF NORMAN JAMISON

(May 25, 1950 – October 3, 2017)

Served in the 35th Parliament (September 06, 1990 -- June 07, 1995)

New Democrat Member for the Riding of Norfolk

Norm served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, later as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. As well, he was on 4 Standing Committees: Social Development, Finance and Economic Affairs, Estimates, Legislative Assembly.

“I was saddened to hear about Norm passing away. He was liked by all sides of the house. Norm fought for his constituents but always had a sense of humour. He always listened to other Members’ point of view and treated everyone with respect. Everyone in the House enjoyed working with him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.” - Gary Carr

“Norm was a solid, down to earth MPP. When he spoke in caucus meetings he always brought a common sense perspective to the debate. He fought for fairness during a tough recession in which many of his constituents were struggling. His trade union background gave him great instincts for the ordinary families across Ontario. Bottom line, Norm cared about Ontario and it’s people.” - Dave Cooke



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