

Bill 65, passed on May 10, 2000 during the 37th Session, founded the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. It was the first bill in Ontario history to be introduced by a Legislative Committee.

OAFP



The *InFormer*



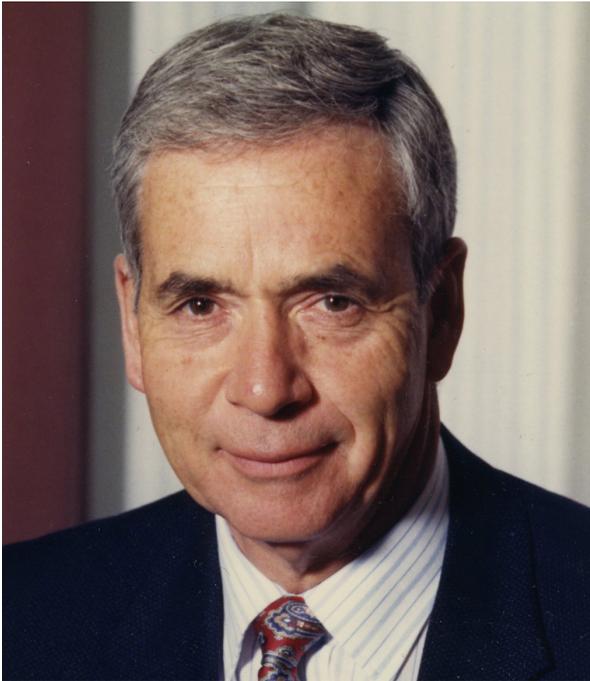
The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians



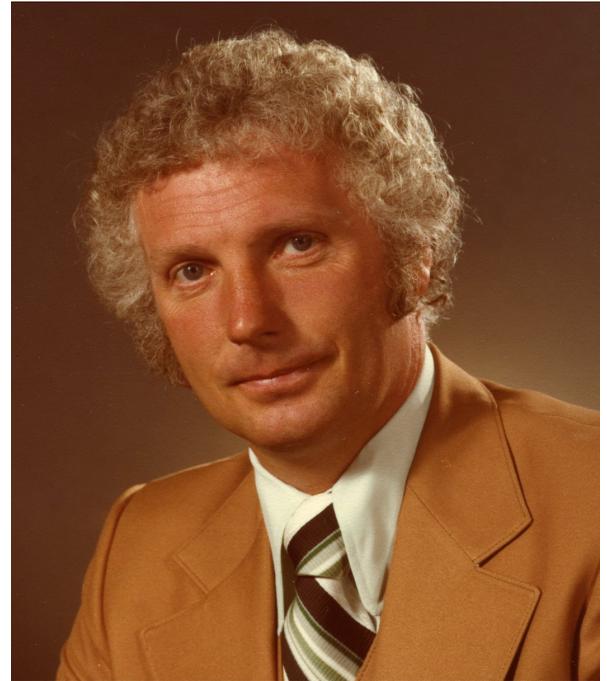
Year in Review 2016

Our Colleagues Who Passed Away in 2016

They served their constituents, their Party and their Province



Charles Murray Tatham (November 8, 1925 – February 5, 2016) Liberal, Oxford 1987 - 1990



Ian Deans (August 16, 1937 – May 3, 2016) New Democrat, Wentworth 1967 - 1979



(Elizabeth) Joan Smith (January 5, 1928 – February 9, 2016) Liberal, London South 1985 - 1990



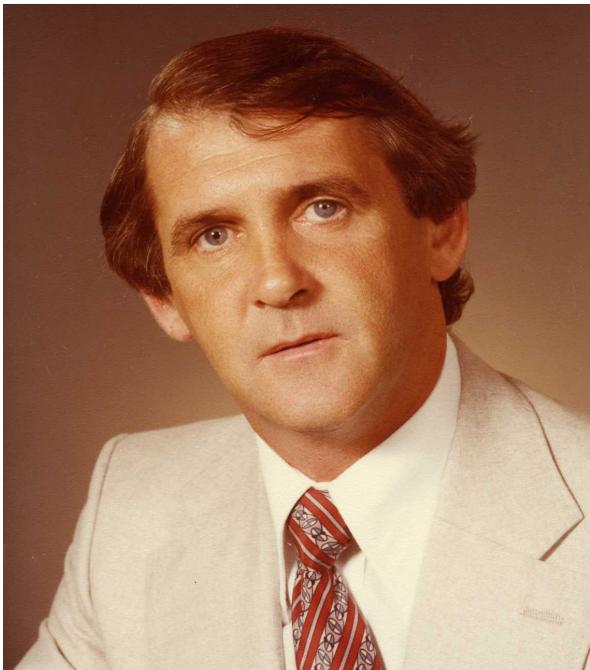
Kenneth (Ken) Black (March 11, 1932 – August 29, 2016) Liberal, Muskoka-Georgian Bay 1987 - 1990



Cynthia (Cindy) Maria Nicholas
(August 20, 1957 – May 19, 2016)
Liberal, Scarborough Centre
1987 - 1990



Stephen David Owens (September
21, 1956 – July 8, 2016) New Dem-
ocrat, Scarborough Centre
1990 - 1995



Michael (Mike) George Bolan (Oc-
tober 10, 1933 – October 23, 2016)
Liberal, Nipissing 1977 - 1981



Milton Edward Charles "Bud"
Gregory (March 9, 1926 – June 17,
2016) Progressive Conservative,
Mississauga East 1975 - 1987

Table of Contents

1. Tributes in the House... pg. 5
2. Our Distinguished Service Award recipient, Margaret Birch... pg. 6-7
3. An Intern's Reflection on Meeting Margaret Birch... pg. 8
4. Remarkable Women Parliamentarian series overview... pg. 9-10
5. Members as authors... pg. 10
6. Photos from our AGM... pg. 11-12
7. Photos from our Christmas social... pg. 13-14
8. Finance Report... pg. 15
9. Campus Report... pg. 16-17
10. Membership Report... pg. 18
11. Editorial Report... pg. 19
12. Chair Report... pg. 20-21
13. Reflection on Meet the Premiers Series... pg. 22-23
14. Meet the Honorary Consul Series... pg. 24-25
15. Gathering Place... pg. 26-27
16. Canadian Inventions... pg. 27
17. Excerpt from Special Edition... pg. 28
18. Order of Canada Recipients... pg. 29
19. Why Run For Politics... pg. 30-31
20. The History and Beauty of Queen's Park... 32-34
21. Contact us... pg. 35

A special thanks to our editorial team that made this publication possible, including David Warner, Steve Gilchrist, Mobina Bhimani, Lauren Malyk and Ramisha Farooq.

Photography provided by Lauren Malyk, Ramisha Farooq and cover images by Sebastian Smith.

And a special thanks to Nokomis O'Brien - Legislative Assembly Photographer, Sandra Craig - Supervisor of the Information Services Branch for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and Haley Shanoff - Visitor Services Coordinator for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Tributes in the House

There have always been tributes to former Members who have passed away. What is different is the adoption of a routine whereby the family chooses a suitable Tuesday or Wednesday when the House is sitting. Prior to the 10:30 a.m. tributes, the family gathers in room 195 for coffee, courtesy of the Clerk. This is a good time for your OAFP Executive to meet with the family. In the House, one M. P. P. from each Party is given up to 5 minutes to make remarks about our former colleague. Speaker Levac is very gracious about the time and always adds some thoughtful remarks. A video recording, as well as a print-out of Hansard of the proceedings is provided to the family later on.

The remarks delivered by the MPPs, without fail have been personal, meaningful and heart-felt. One of the things which I have found particularly moving is the impact on the former Member's grandchildren. I suspect they are hearing lovely stories about their grandmother or grandfather that they hadn't heard before. To date there has been at least one Executive Board member at each tribute. It is a commitment which we intend to continue.

Eulogies were held in the Chamber for the following former Members:

George Lyle Ashe	Keith Brown	John Twining Clement
Ian Deans	Michael Murray Dietsch	Joan Fawcett
Robert TS Frankford	John Ferris	W. Leo Jordan
Peter Kormos	Gary Leadston	Lorne Howard Maeck
Cynthia Maria Nicholas	Hugh O'Neil	Clifford George Pilkey
Leonard Joseph Quilty	Derwyn Shea	Frank Sheehan
Elizabeth Joan Smith	Charles Murray Tatham	Wayne Wettlaufer

Our Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Margaret Birch



Margaret Birch and her son, Randy Birch, at her award ceremony.

On October 31st, 2016, our organization acknowledged the contributions to politics by awarding Margaret Birch, the prestigious Distinguished Service Award.

Mrs. Birch's service includes four terms in the Ontario Legislature from 1971 to 1985. However, most importantly she has a place in history for the honour of being the first woman to be appointed to an Ontario cabinet post.

In addition to this, Birch was the first woman member of the Albany Club of Toronto. At the time she wanted to attend a speech by PC Leader Robert Stanfield that was set to be held at the club but was turned away due to her gender. She was backed by then-Premier Bill Davis in her application to join.

She oversaw various ministries as Provincial Secretary for Social Development as well as holding the position of Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier.

In 1974, she became involved in policy discussions about childcare. Her recommendations went on to be known as the Birch proposals.

Prior to entering politics she was Chair of the Scarborough Board of Health from 1963 to 1971 and was on the Mental Health Council from 1967 to 1971. She was also vice-chairman of the Social Planning Council from 1967 to 1970. In addition to this, Birch served on the Board of Governors for Scarborough Centenary Hospital.

She retired in 1985 after serving for 14 years. In 1986, when the hospital expanded, they named the new wing after her.

“I hope [my legacy] is an inspiration to [young people] to get involved because there is so much to be done out there. There are so many people that need help and there are so many policy programs that need to be changed. Even though we did our best, there are still many, many things that need to be looked at - it’s up to the younger generation.”

- Margaret Birch



Birch speaking to Gordon Carton.



A photo of Birch when she was in politics.

“During her 14 years in government, Margaret advanced policy to improve the lives of women, youth and seniors. Her passion and some of her most effective advocacy, however, was for veterans and people living with mental illness. She frequently toured facilities and came up with programming alternatives that reduced isolation. Not only was she a pioneer in her achievements in the legislature, she was also a pioneer in the field of mental health. She fought tirelessly for less institutionalized models of care.”

-Peggy Sattler’s (MPP for London West) tribute in the House to Mrs. Birch



Birch and her family at her ceremony.

“We are ecstatic. And I am particularly pleased that my children are all here because, as I was just saying to my husband, when my mum was in her early years of politics she wasn’t around, so this is an opportunity for them to really see how much of a trailblazer she was.”

- Jane Elliott (Margaret’s Daughter)



Birch with a board honouring her achievements.

“She’s always been around and a wonderful role model. She’s worked very hard to get to where she is today and that’s certainly inspired me and my sisters to work just as hard to get to where we are as well.”

- Jennifer Elliott (Margaret’s Grand- daughter)

An Intern's Reflection on Meeting Margaret Birch

By: Lauren Malyk

At 95 years old Margaret Birch is still a powerhouse. What struck me the most when I met her in person at OAFP's Distinguished Service Award ceremony was her desire to influence change.

In her fourteen years at Queen's Park, she dedicated her time to trying to better Ontario. For instance, after touring various mental health facilities in Scarborough, she was struck with the lack of care residents were receiving at the time. This led her to working with six ministries to make sure improvements to mental health services were made.

At the ceremony, I and fellow Intern, Ramisha Farooq, had a chance to meet the family behind this remarkable woman.

When I met with Jennifer Elliott, one of Birch's grand-daughters, she said that her grand-mother had inspired her and her sisters "to get where we are as well."

Similar to current Premier Kathleen Wynne's tweet about the ceremony, I believe that Birch broke down barriers for women. I believe Birch's accomplishments will be remembered in history as a milestone for what women can achieve.



By: Ramisha Farooq

Margaret Birch is a force to be reckoned with. In my first meeting with her at the OAFP's Distinguished Service Award ceremony, I was in awe of her accomplishments and never ending devotion to the province and its future.

When I first spoke to her she told me she was overwhelmed by all the attention she had received. I personally thought it wasn't enough. Her role as a trailblazer for female Parliamentarians is something no one will ever forget and continues to inspire women in politics to this day. I know it inspires me.

At 95, she hasn't lost a step and continues to look forward. Current and former MPPs, media and friends from all sides of the political spectrum gathered to honour her legacy. Upon addressing the crowd, Ms. Birch thoroughly looked back on her time as an MPP and cherished the moments she shared with everyone in the room.

Her dedication to Ontario and Canada was evident in the way she spoke about her time in the Legislature. Her triumphs, troubles and pressures as one of only a couple of female MPPs in the House at the time were moving. It was clear from the stories she had told that she had worked tirelessly throughout her political career to promote the best interests of her riding in Scarborough, and emboldened others to do the same.

She encouraged me and OAFP senior intern Lauren Malyk to become the leaders of tomorrow. "It's all up to you," she said.

In the short time that I spent with Ms. Birch, I learned so much. She is the textbook example of a dedicated and hard-working politician, and has taught me that a passion to help people can do incredible things.

Remarkable Women Parliamentarians Series

In honour of the 100th anniversary of women receiving the vote, the InFormer reflects back on the women of 2016 we profiled. These three women examine their experiences, their supporters and the challenges they faced during their time in politics.

Shirley Collins
MPP 1987-1990, Wentworth East,
Liberal
Featured in our Winter 2016 issue

Were there any female role models for you in politics?

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



Christine Elliott
MPP 2006-2015, Whitby-Oshawa, Conservative
Featured in our Spring 2016 issue

In your bid to be Leader of the Ontario PCs it looked for a long time that you would win. There has never been a woman PC Leader. In the final push during the leadership race do you think gender was an issue?

I think that considering having a woman Leader for the first time was difficult for some of our membership. Breaking tradition is not easy for some. I believe gender was a contributing factor. As well, so was the question of age. Interestingly, age seems to be a factor only when considering a woman candidate, not so important when it comes to a man.





Caroline Di Cocco
MPP 1999-2007, Sarnia-Lambton, Liberal
Featured in our Summer 2016 issue

Based on your experience, do you have advice for women who might consider entering the political arena?

The only advice I have is that they 'stay true to your values'. To consider everyday, the question of why am I here? To really make a difference, my notion was always that we should get along, even if we have different ways of getting to an end or have different philosophies. I'll never forget Norm Sterling's comment in the House saying how much he enjoyed working with me. After the Democratic Reform Committee finished its report, I hosted a dinner, at my apartment, with the help of my sister and husband, to thank the committee members. I invited all the members including the Clerk. We managed to fit in my apartment and we had a home cooked traditional Italian meal. It made us all more human and less partisan.

Former Members As Authors

Fedeli, Victor. Focus on Finance: a look into Ontario's Finances [North Bay: Nipissing Ontario PC Constituency Association, 2016]

Tony Ruprecht - RADIANT HEALTH: WORKBOOK, published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; Workbook edition (June 29 2016)

John Milloy - FAITH AND POLITICS MATTERS, 2015, Novalis Publishing Inc

John Parker occasionally writes an opinion piece on Toronto municipal matters in Torontoist.

James Snow "Mr. Jim: The Personal Recollections of James W. Snow, Farmer, Contractor, Businessman, Aviator, and Politician."

Memories From Our Annual General Meeting



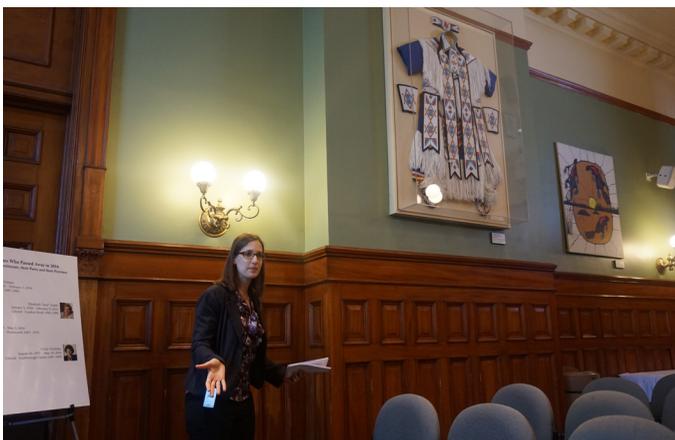
Karen Haslam presenting her update at OAFP's annual general meeting.



Guest speaker, Terry Fallis, giving his lecture on how he became an author.



Our chair, Steve Gilchrist, with Steve Mahoney and President of CAFPP, Andy Mitchell.



Haley Shanoff, the Visitor Services Coordinator for the Legislative Assembly discussing artwork in the room.



Bob Wong chatting with colleagues.



Annamarie Castrilli catching up with an old friend.



Former MPP Mac Makarchuk with David Neumann and his son.



Terry Fallis signing copies of his books for Graham Murray.



Joe Spina from OAFP's board presenting his report.



Gilles Bisson, MPP bringing greetings to OAFP members.



AGM attendees listening to our executives speeches before the luncheon.

Our Christmas Social



Barbra Sullivan chatting with David Warner and Dennis Timbrell.



Our Distinguished Service recipient, Margaret Birch with Alan Eagleson.



Alan Eagleson and Anne Swarbrick at our Christmas social.



Steve Gilchrist chatting with Professor Olinski.



Maureen Quigley catching up with her former boss, Margaret Birch.



OAFP executive, John Hastings, having a conversation with Speaker Dave Levac.



Some of our members listening to speeches at our holiday social.



Professor Penner from Trent University chatting with John Parker.



MPP Peggy Sattler talking to former MPP Anne Swarbrick.



Dennis Timbrell with his former cabinet colleague, Margaret Birch.



OAFP executive member, Karen Haslam talking to Professor Olinski.

Report From Finance



To date we remain in good shape financially with positive balances in both our current Accounts and Investment Savings. The Legislative Assembly has also been very supportive. The Speaker's and the Clerk's Offices have helped in ways that do not show up in a revenue column. They recognize that our expanded programming has a cost implication; activities such as our educational 'Queen's Park to Campus' outreach program to political science workshops at Universities and Colleges; and especially when we have special events such as our Distinguished Service Award ceremony, and guest speakers for our Annual General Meeting. We are constantly trying to improve on the quality of our publications and at the same time provide a wider distribution in an effort to enhance communication with OAFP members, and other Associations of Former Members in Canada and around the world.

The support from you, the members, is a major part of our financial support. Membership fees are an integral part of our revenue, and we are able to continue to provide free membership to Former Members who have achieved the age of 80. Approximately one-half of retired MPPs are members of O.A.F.P. and we continue to reach out to those who have not yet signed up. Your encouragement of former colleagues to join is deeply appreciated.

We look forward to an ambitious coming year with the Government planning a major renovation of the Whitney Block that will require some major changes to our OAFP offices and meeting spaces. We trust that these will provide better services for our membership and the Association's events.

With respect,
Joe Spina, Former MPP
Treasurer

Report From Campus

“Very effective.” “Most intense.” “A great learning experience for all concerned.”

Those general comments and sentiments were echoed by many of the former MPPs, students and professors in the universities and community colleges who were involved in our educational outreach program during the past year. In total, former MPPs spoke to nearly 850 students in these post-secondary institutions.

We want to salute the following MPPs who engaged with students and who also volunteered to address classes in political science and public policy issues:

Steve Gilchrist	Barbara Sullivan	Gillian Sandeman	Doug Moffatt
John Parker	David Warner	Phil Gillies	John Gerretson
Steve Mahoney	John Hastings	Bob Wong	Larry O'Connor
Sean Conway	Terrance Young	Georgio Mamolitti	Mike Breaugh
Rosario Marchese			

Topics included the Canadian political system, development of public policy, the role of political parties in governance today, changes in parliamentary government, inner working of government and the role of democracy in modern society. Learning experiences were reported to be spirited, engaging and robust in all these situations from Ryerson to Trent, Seneca to the University of Toronto. While OAFP is working to reach as many universities and community colleges as possible, we would like to expand that outreach with your participation and engagement. Consider becoming involved in either addressing students or helping establish contacts with those post-secondary institutions not listed above in this report. That could be done either through the respective Political Science Dept. Chair or the Dean of Arts and Science.





A NEW PROMISING MODEL

We are about to partner with the U. Of T 's Career Centre to explore career options when political science or public policy students examine their potential futures whereby they gain a practical insight into the range of job possibilities through job shadowing and getting exposure to the universe of public administration and its intersect with the political world. In discussing this approach with professors, the new goal is to link political theory and government with the ongoing realities of governing in the contemporary political context. This approach of going beyond just the classroom in dealing with public service, politics and governance shows much promise for the future.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

During the past year, we contacted directors of education with limited success.

With that in mind, we believe that the most effective and productive approach for the coming year is to drill down to the respective history departments with the most robust programs, bringing history alive for students. So, if you know of secondary schools which demonstrate a strong commitment to the teaching of history, please pass along that information to the office.

Finally, on behalf of the OAFP Executive and staff, may I offer my most profound appreciation for all those Members who assisted in expanding the OAFP Educational Outreach program for the past year and invite any MPP who wants to join the Education Committee. That would augur well for the future of program.

Many thanks again,

In service

John Hastings, Chair OAFP Education Committee

Report From Membership



The OAFP membership is composed of Lifetime members, Honorary members and paying members. Every year our Association is pleased to offer Honorary membership to former Parliamentarians who have reached the age of eighty. This is a complimentary membership and they are not required to pay membership fees, unless they wish to make a donation. This year we added 16 new members who reached the age of 80 and became distinguished members of our Association. We also received Lifetime membership from four former Parliamentarians this year namely: Murray Elston, Maria Van Bommel, John Wilkinson and Elizabeth Witmer. We sincerely thank these members for their invaluable support. The Lifetime and annual-paying members are the cornerstone of this Association. They provide invaluable endorsement to former Parliamentarians' concerns and programming needs as well as enable the Association to align with other Canadian and international provincial organizations of former parliamentarians.

As of April 2017, the OAFP membership total was: 150. Of this total:

- 54 are Honorary members; and
- 36 are Lifetime members.

Membership renewal will continue till May as many will have returned by then from their winter travels. We therefore expect our membership total to increase to about 190. We thank all those who have promptly responded to our e-mail notice and renewed their membership on a timely basis this year. Thank you.

Jim Gordon
Chair. Membership
Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

Report From Editorial



Another year chock full of great stories! Far beyond the perception that politicians love to talk, I find a remarkable openness and generosity of spirit when approaching former Premiers, Cabinet Ministers and the Lieutenant Governor for an interview. Their stories, observations, as well as the varied backgrounds all provide a great backdrop for understanding how a continuing line of parliamentarians have helped build our beautiful Ontario.

By interviewing Consul General Marc Trouyet of France and Honorary Consul Sam Blyth of Bhutan our editorial team is trying to show how our Province connects with most of the world. I must admit that it wasn't until I was Speaker that I knew Toronto was the 2nd largest consular city in the world, with more than 100 Consulates. As well, there are the fascinating stories of those who served one term at the Pink Palace; what they did prior to being elected and what have they been doing since. The series Remarkable Women Parliamentarians continues to highlight some amazing women. Shirley Collins, Christine Elliott, Caroline DiCocco told their stories of achievement and we honoured Margaret Birch with our Distinguished Service Award. I am very proud of our excellent editorial team; Interns Lauren Malyk, and Ramisha Farooq, proofreaders Lily Oddie, Helen Breslauer, Steve Gilchrist, and Mobina Bhimani (who also makes sure that both our electronic and hard copy form gets produced). My grandson, Sebastian Smith has provided some excellent photos of Queen's Park. The editorial team, while happy with our 2016 publications, is looking forward to two special editions in 2017, "The Artists Who Beautify Queen's Park" and "Women and the Vote – 100 Years", in addition to our regular quarterly publications.

-David Warner, Editor

Report From Chair

2016-17 has been another year of progress for our Association. As we continue to expand our range of services, in line with our legislative mandate, there is no doubt that there has been a corresponding increase in awareness of the Association, and its good works, here in Ontario and around the world.

In addition to the strong links we have built with our sister organizations at the federal level, in Quebec, Manitoba and, most recently, Alberta, we have also increased the level of contact with international organizations, including the “United States Association of Former Members of Congress”, the “Former Member’s Association of the European Parliament” and the “European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Members-States of the Council of Europe” (now that’s a mouthful!).



By sharing information with other groups of former Parliamentarians, we’ve been able to identify other areas into which our Association can become involved, particularly in regards to educational outreach.

Speaking of our educational initiatives, the “Queen’s Park to Campus” program continues to generate repeat and new interest from political science, and other, departments at Universities across the province. This year, our offers went out to all Ontario colleges with disciplines that align with our key subject areas and we have every confidence that our members will have even more opportunities to share their experiences and their ideas with students across the entire post-secondary spectrum (and, eventually, into high schools, as well).



I am pleased to announce that we are poised to launch the next big step in our evolution as a resource for current and future students. For years, your Board has investigated the prospect of creating a charitable Foundation which would oversee the educational outreach programs of the Association. Modeled after a similar Foundation operated by our federal colleagues, we would now have a means of raising much greater sums, in order to reach a much wider audience and with a much wider range of lessons focused on raising awareness of Parliamentary democracy and its inherent values. Our Director Annamarie Castrilli has taken on the onerous task of handling the paperwork involved in creating the Foundation and our goal is to have it up and running in the next few months. As part of this initiative, the new Foundation will have its own Board of Directors and I'm certain there will be great interest, in these new roles, from amongst our membership.

Your Association has been ably served by its Directors and by its hard-working Office Manager, Mobina Bhimani and I want to offer them my personal thanks for all their contributions. While all Directors have handled their portfolios with distinction, I want to pay particular thanks to the retiring Directors, Mike Breaugh and Jim Gordon. Their work, on your behalf, was a testament to the public service that has been the hallmark of the lives of both these remarkable Parliamentarians and I wish them all the best in whatever challenges they take on next.

To our Members, thank you for your ongoing participation in the affairs of the Association. Year after year, we continue to demonstrate the wisdom of those MPP's who led the charge to create an organization in which all former MPP's, regardless of political affiliation, could demonstrate to the broader Ontario society the shared values of public service that reside in all of us. We prove that there is a very human – and a very sociable – side to life in politics and there is great value in sharing our experiences, as legislators, with those who currently have, or who aspire to have, similar roles in our society. Thank you for continuing the legacy Derwyn Shea left for all of us.

Steve Gilchrist, Chair

Reflections - Meet the Premiers

In 2016 our editorial chair, David Warner, started the 'Meet the Premiers series'. This series was meant to highlight some of our Premiers with details on how they entered politics and shaped Ontario history.

For the InFormer's Winter publication, we met with the Hon. David Peterson at his law office, Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP in Toronto. Walking into the office with Mr. Warner and former intern Sadaf Ahsan, I remember feeling intimidated and impressed.

Looking back at Peterson's political life, what stands out to me are some of the comments he made during our interview.

Peterson was a leader who knew what he wanted to do and set out to do it.

In our interview, he said to qualify to be Premier one had "to be a little nuts."

He looked at his cabinet as a "jigsaw puzzle" – picking the best people in regards to fit the right place. Always asking himself if everything fit together.

He admitted that being Premier is "the second biggest political job in the country" and that the heartbreak he has experienced in politics stems from the people who let a politician down.

In his advice to those looking to enter politics he called success and failure in life "fickle mistresses" but he says that what remains is family.

The thing he and so many other Premiers and MPPs share are the connections they made at Queen's Park.



Pictured above is Peterson with Margaret Birch at the opening of the Margaret Birch Wing. Rick Eglinton/ The Toronto Star Archives



Peterson, left, meeting with David Crombie. Boris Spremo/ The Toronto Star Archives

Reflections - Meet the Premiers

In the Spring of 2016, David Warner met with former Premier Bob Rae to reflect on his time in politics. Re-printed are some of the most thought-provoking answers from their interview.

Aside from political achievements what were memorable moments during your political life?
There have been many...like being part of Prime Minister Chretien's Team Canada mission to China, being present during the patriation of our Constitution, being part of the Charlottetown negotiations even though they eventually were unsuccessful, negotiating the Accord of 1985 with David Peterson and of course becoming Premier in 1990. Trying to meet the challenges of being government was daunting but rewarding. Leadership creates memorable moments, so I can add being Interim Leader of the Federal Liberals (2011-15) to the list. Reconstructing the Canadian Red Cross after the tainted blood issue and rescuing the Toronto Symphony Orchestra from bankruptcy were memorable achievements.

Do you have any advice for those MPPs who aspire to be Premier?
Remember that it is not about you. The job is bigger than you. Effectiveness in leading will grow as you learn how to bring people along with you.

Were there any disappointments?

Of course, but they are never as great as the real pleasure I got from public life and political responsibility. Of course I would have liked a second term as Premier, because there was still so much to do. As well, I went back into politics in 2006 to become the leader of the federal Liberals, and that didn't happen. But, you get over disappointments and carry on. Resilience is such a key quality, and so is the discovery that there so many ways to contribute. That helps deal with the ups and downs.

What are the qualities necessary to be an effective Premier?
You need to be a good listener, have innovative ideas and vision. Bill Davis, for example, had vision. You should like people and be comfortable making decisions. And never be afraid to learn. Experience does make you a more effective leader.

Meeting The Consuls



Meeting the Consul General of France, Marc Trouyet

Back in the spring of 2016, the InFormer editorial team, composed of our editor David Warner, myself and Ramisha Farooq visited the Consul General of France, Marc Trouyet. We met with Mr. Trouyet at his office to discuss the connection Canada and Ontario has with diplomats like him.

Upon reflecting on the article we produced, I felt impressed by Mr. Trouyet's desire to listen to the concerns of Ontarians and his dedication to see more of the provinces he was responsible for, Ontario and Manitoba.

"Especially in a country like Canada, my colleagues and I have to cover a wide territory. We try to meet the geographic challenge by having honorary Consuls, Consular missions, etc. We are part of a network and part of an action plan through which we are trying to foster relationships between Canada and France."

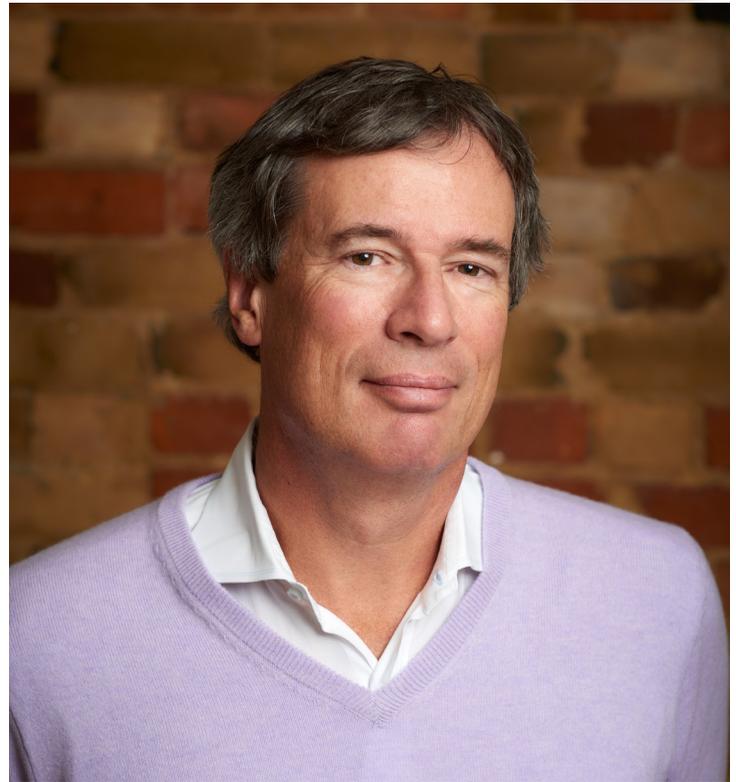
Trouyet really is an international citizen, with his previous experience as the Deputy Head of Mission of the French Embassy in Australia to being Deputy Permanent Representative to the French UN mission in Rome.

"I find it fascinating to meet new people. I learn from meeting people with different ideas, different cultural backgrounds, different suggestions, different appetites, and I am constantly surprised by these interactions."

Meeting the Honorary Consul of Bhutan, Sam Blyth

For the Summer 2016 edition, we met with Sam Blyth.

Blyth is the Founder and CEO for Blyth Academy, a Toronto based private secondary school and academic credit program in Canada and abroad. Blyth is the Honorary Consul to Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom bordered by China, Burma, Nepal and Bangladesh. He has also been awarded the National Order of Merit, Gold, for being the bridge between Canada and kingdom on the Himalayas' eastern edge.



During our interview he reflected on his history with the kingdom. His love for the country developed when he visited Kashmir in 1988. While on this journey he spent half of that trek in Kashmir and half in Bhutan. While there he met with senior government officials and the Canadians who worked there. From there he developed a scholarship program in partnership with former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to bring Bhutanese to Canada for their education.

Seven years later, Blyth founded the Bhutan Canada Foundation (BCF) to bridge the two countries and followed the cessation of Canadian aid to Bhutan. He is still the Chair of BCF.

Blyth also described Canada's profound impact on the country.

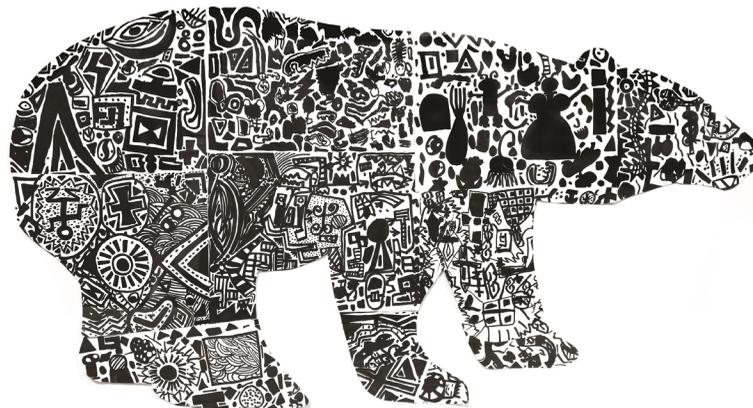
"The Canadian government had a leading role in establishing education in Bhutan back in the early 60s, and CIDA has had a presence there ever since. The country is one of the real success stories in terms of Canadian aid.

Secondly, as a new democracy - Bhutan held its first election about 7 years ago. A lot of the process in terms of how to do that and how to establish democracy in Bhutan was done with the help of the Canadian government, particularly the Parliamentary system in Ottawa," said Blyth.

Gathering Place



Message of Love, Jay Bell Redbird CJay Bell Redbird.



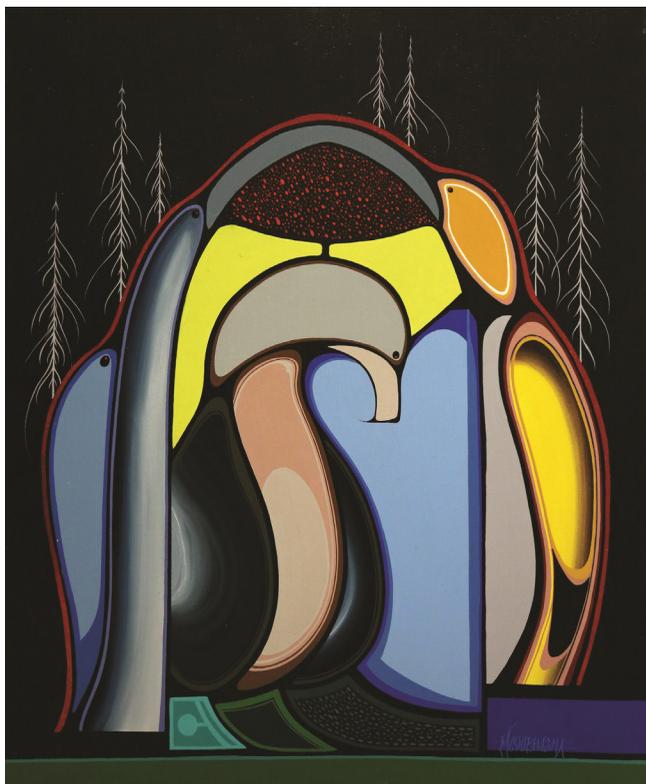
Nanuk, created by students at the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre.

On March 9, 2016, Speaker Dave Levac officially opened Gathering Place - a new exhibit celebrating Indigenous art in Ontario. The opening included a smudging ceremony conducted by an elder from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, a drum circle and traditional Inuit prayers.

Located in Rooms 228 and 230, Gathering Place was born in order to bring forth the voices not traditionally heard at the Legislature and to honour the experiences of the numerous Aboriginal peoples in Ontario. The two rooms housing Gathering Place have been re-named to honour the nature of the space as one of mutual understanding. Room 228 is now known as Ninoododadiwin - "harmony" in the Ojibwe language, and Room 230 is called Ẹ dwaę na ga da:t, meaning "we will raise our voices together in unison" in the Cayuga language.

Gathering Place houses works of art and cultural expressions on loan from many of the First Nations in Ontario, as well as from Métis and Inuit communities in Ontario. The works range from paintings created by renowned Woodland School of Art founder Norval Morrisseau, to a full-size grass dance regalia, to a polar bear collaboratively drawn by students at the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre.

Gathering Place will continue as a lasting and living legacy to the rich Indigenous presence in Ontario, as the Legislature continues to develop relationships with communities across the province and seek additional works to include in the project.



Untitled, James Simcon C Ojibwe Cultural Foundation Museum.



Eagle Over Tree of Peace, Arnold Jacobs, C Woodland Cultural Centre.

Canadians As Inventors

Most, if not all of us know that Canadians invented poutine, basketball and insulin. How many of us know that we Canadians also invented:

- Pablum was invented by Frederick Tisdall, Theodore Drake and Allan Brown in 1930.
- The egg carton was invented by Joseph Coyle of Smithers, British Columbia in 1911.
- Alkaline battery was invented by Lewis Urry in 1954
- Paint roller was invented by Norman James Breakey
- Instant replay was invented for CBC's Hockey Night in Canada in 1955.
- Automatic fog horn - the first steam foghorn was invented by Robert Foulis in 1859
- Chocolate Nut Bar Arthur Ganong made the first nickel bar in 1910
- Instant Mashed Potatos Dehydrated potato flakes were invented by Edward A. As-selbergs in 1962
- Jolly Jumper Baby's delight invented by Olivia Poole in 1959
- Hydrofoil boat co-invented by Alexander Graham Bell and Casey Baldwin in 1908

These are but a handful of Canadian inventions. Clever lot aren't we!

What is the artistic connection between Vimy, France and Queen's Park? What portrait artist paints only in acrylic because of being allergic to turpentine?

Which artist came from the Royal Court of Austria to Toronto?

This fall we will publish a Special Edition of The InFormer, which will chronicle the history of many of the artists who created the beautiful sculptures, magnificent monuments, historical paintings, portraits, busts, and murals in the Legislative Building and on the Legislative Grounds.

Excerpt from "The Artists Who Beautify Queen's Park"

Walter Allward (1876 - 1955)



Walter left school at age 14, not knowing precisely what he would like to do, but thought perhaps being an architect's apprentice would be good. He was taken on by the firm Gibson & Simpson. After a short time, Walter realized he didn't really want to be an architect. The first inspiration towards sculpture was from gazing through the window of a taxidermist's shop. He was fascinated by the stuffed animal heads, imagining carving and moulding figures to represent things. Walter turned to being a clay modeller at the Toronto Brickworks. This early training, supplemented by modelling classes at the New Technical School, prepared him for his life-long career, that of monumental sculpture.

Order of Canada Recipients For 2016

Officers of the Order of Canada

Roberta L. Jamieson, O.C.

For her contributions to Indigenous peoples across Canada, particularly for her work to improve funding, access and opportunity for Indigenous youth in the area of education.

This is a promotion within the Order.

Members of the Order of Canada

Isabel Bassett, C.M., O.Ont.

For her community engagement and commitment to the advancement of women and public service, notably in educational broadcasting.



Roberta L. Jamieson receiving the Order of Canada. Image courtesy of The Order of Canada.

Right: is former MPP Isabel Bassett.



Why Do We Run For Public Office?

I or one of the Interns have interviewed quite a few former MPPs and we usually ask the question “Why did you run for public office?” The answers are many and varied, but there is one constant, an expression of wanting to do something worthwhile for community and Ontario. What emerges time and again is an articulated passion for helping create a better society. The following are excerpts from interviews published earlier.

Shirley Collins

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

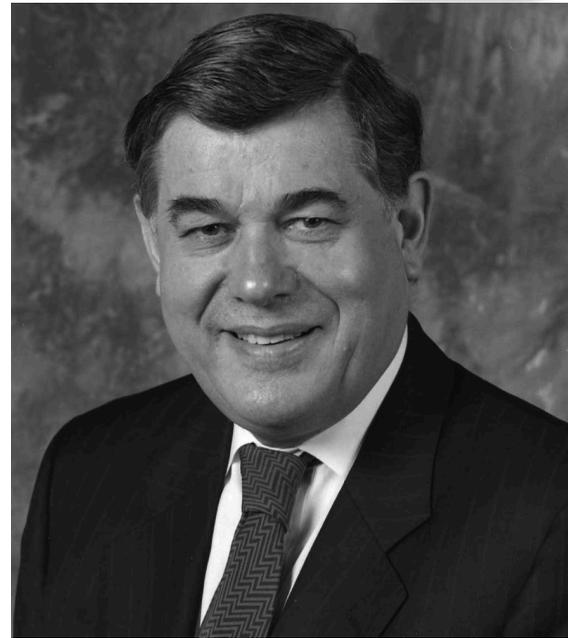


Bob Rae

“I was always interested in politics. I had graduated from law school, was single and John Gilbert, the M.P. for Broadview (Toronto) had been appointed to the Bench. John encouraged me to seek the nomination. That was the beginning of my political career and I soon learned that once you are in, it is difficult to get out! Politics becomes an important part of your life.”

David Turnbull

“A local plaza wanted to expand the size of the plaza. The Ratepayers Association, of which I was an active member, opposed the expansion. During the ensuing discussions and efforts to stop the expansion the President of our Ratepayers Association quit and I was asked to assume the role of President. At the time I was also active in the local P.C. Riding Association. I was approached about running Provincially and agreed to give it a try.”



Caroline Di Cocco

“In 1992 – a time after my son had gone through Grade 11 without having a chemistry textbook. My path to politics started because of the lack of that chemistry textbook. It was pre-computer age, so having a textbook was important. I went back and forth with the teacher, the Principal and then the School Board about these textbooks for that class. They said the school couldn’t afford them, which did not sit right with me.”

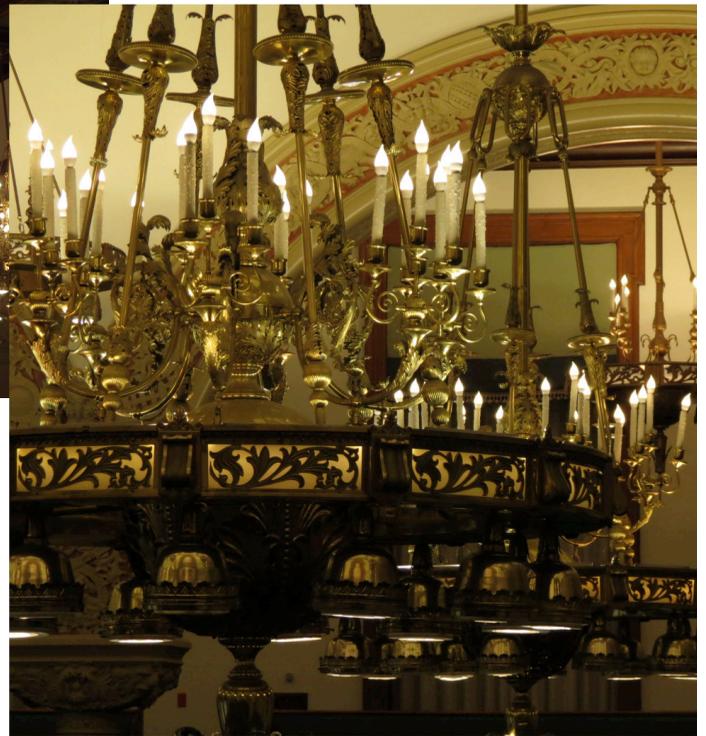
Christine Elliott

“I was always interested in my community and the services being offered, especially mental health services. Children with special needs require special attention. I wanted to make a difference, help develop programmes for those who are vulnerable.”



The History and Beauty of Queen's Park

When we have the time it is so rewarding to experience the beauty of the artwork, inside and outside our beloved "Pink Palace".



The 4 largest chandeliers are the original ones in this room, and were first lit by gas and electricity - Gasoliers designed by the Bennett and Wright lighting firm.



Left: Part of Gustav Hahn's beautiful mural on the ceiling of the chamber, covered up for so many years.



Top image: Egerton Ryerson 1803 – 1882 While credited as a founder of public education in Ontario, Ryerson started out as a saddle-bag preacher and itinerant minister who rode daily, on horse-back, throughout the Church's Niagara circuit, delivering countless sermons and even living and working with the Ojibway Indians of the Credit River settlement as a missionary.



Nothing like being whimsical in the Chamber!



The 1885 North-West Rebellion Monument, created in 1895, has an allegorical element, with the figure of “Peace” on the top.



Queen Victoria watches over the proceedings in the Chamber!

“Wonder where the lions are.”



“When I arrived at Queen’s Park in 1975, my office was in the North Wing, so I used the north entrance. There were two stone lions, one on either side of the entrance. Does anyone know what happened to the stone lions?” - David Warner

Contact

Chair:

Steve Gilchrist
stevegilchrist@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair:

David Warner
David.warner@sympatico.ca

Communications and Website:

Steve Gilchrist
stevegilchrist@hotmail.com

Membership:

Jim Gordon
Jimgordon72@bell.net

Newsletter Committee:

David Warner
David.warner@sympatico.ca

Steve Gilchrist

stevegilchrist@hotmail.com

Mobina Bhimani

oafp@ontla.ola.org

Helen Breslauer

hbrf@ca.inter.net

Lauren Malyk

laurenmalyk@hotmail.com

Ramisha Farooq

ramisha.farooq@gmail.com

Nomination Chair:

Dr. Annamarie Castrilli
acastrilli@castrilli.com

Distinguished Service Award

Committee:

Doug Moffatt

Lily Oddie

Joe Spina

Regional and Education:

John Hastings

john.hastings81@gmail.com

Members Services and

Secretariat:

Karen Haslam

karenhaslam@wrightman.ca

Treasurer:

Joe Spina

joespina@rogers.com

Members-at-Large:

Mike Breough

Steve Mahoney

Mario Racco

Queen's Park Office:

Room 1612, Whitney Block

99 Wellesley Street West

Toronto, Ontario

M7A1A2

416.325.4647.

oafp@ontla.ola.org

www.ontafp.com

