

A day in the life of MPP Ted Arnott

I'm often asked: "Are you still enjoying it?" Loaded questions like that one are often the hardest ones to answer.

But I have to say yes. After 20 years in the Ontario Legislature, my role as an MPP has many aspects that would qualify as enjoyable. But it's not about me, and I've never viewed it as such.

Instead, it's about the opportunity to work with many like-minded colleagues and community organizations to make a difference and work towards a better tomorrow: what I often call "the promise of the future."

Another common question I often hear is: "What's a typical day in the life of an MPP?"

Here goes: Thursday, April 1.

8:45 a.m.: Arrive at Queen's Park. Try to forget it's April Fool's Day.

9 a.m.: Legislative session starts. Today, I'm the Acting Whip for our Party, which means I have to be in the Chamber, making sure our MPPs are lined up to speak on whatever bill the Government calls for debate. We're all set.

9:30 a.m.: I chair our Question Period Strategy Committee, where we prepare for Question Period—our main chance to hold the Government to account. I will have a question, and possibly a second one if time permits.

10:15 a.m.: Back to my office in Room 420, to deal with priority messages (every message from Wellington-Halton Hills).

10:30 a.m.: Question Period begins. We ask our questions. We receive replies, but no answers. My question concerns the Liberals' allowing Local Health Integration Networks to spend public money on high-priced consultants. The hour allocated for Question Period expires.

11:30 a.m.: Again, back to the office.

12 noon: Greet Grade 10 students from Christ the King Secondary School, Georgetown. Nice, smart kids.

12:15 p.m.: Quick walk outside, running a personal errand.

1 p.m.: Back in the Legislature, as Acting Whip again. I deliver a Members' Statement on ambulance service in Wellington-Halton Hills. The Minister of Children and Youth Services speaks on autism: I respond for five minutes on behalf of our Caucus urging the Government to acknowledge the challenges

Ted Arnott



facing families affected by autism.

2 p.m.: Private Members' Debates commence. I speak in support of Bill 5, An Act to establish a bill of rights for pupils with diabetes, sponsored by Liberal MPP Dave Levac. For the rest of the afternoon, I am in and out of the Legislative Chamber listening to the debates and making phone calls. At the end of the afternoon the votes on the Private Members' items are held.

4:20 p.m.: The Government moves an adjournment motion, and the Legislature winds up early.

4:30 p.m.: Back at the office to deal with last-minute priorities, gather up my stuff, and head for home for the Easter weekend.

7:15 p.m.: Home at last, after a busy week at Queen's Park.

As part of my ongoing efforts to reach out to the residents of Halton Hills, I attend as many of our local community events as I can. It's always great to see everyone, and celebrate the best of our communities.

In addition, we have had scheduled constituency appointments at some of Georgetown's downtown coffee shops. We have had meetings at the new Agricultural Society Building in Acton. My staff and I have also set up a table at the Georgetown Market Place mall to meet our residents.

More recently, we have been using the boardroom at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown on a regular basis for meetings with constituents.

As such, my office is always "on the move."

If you need a meeting with your Member of Provincial Parliament, please contact our office at ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org or call 1-800-265-2366.

Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills

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