

# Ontario Green Legacy: MPP Arnott still pushing

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is not giving up on the idea of establishing an Ontario Green Legacy Program and is continuing to push the government to massively expand Ontario's tree planting efforts.

In October 2015, Arnott brought forward a Private Members Resolution calling on the government to take the County of Wellington's Green Legacy Program province-wide, with the goal of planting 150 million trees beginning in 2017 to celebrate Ontario's 150th anniversary as a province within Canada. The resolution was passed unanimously by the Ontario Legislature, with the support of MPPs from all parties.

Arnott raised the issue with Natural Resources and Forestry Minister Kathryn McGarry in Question Period on Nov. 17.

Arnott believes the proposal has widespread support, including from the Premier.

As members will recall, this past September at the International Plowing Match,



TED ARNOTT

which was held in Wellington County, Warden George Bridge mentioned our idea for an Ontario Green Legacy Program in his remarks, Arnott told McGarry. I was sitting on the stage, directly behind the Premier. She turned around and told me, It's a great idea.

My question is simple. If the County of Wellington supports it, the Ontario Legislature supports it, the Premier supports it, and the David Suzuki Foundation and many other groups support it, why aren't they doing it? he asked.

Arnott remains hopeful the government will act to expand Ontario's tree planting, and take the County of Wellington's program province-wide.

I was encouraged by my conversation with the Minister after Question Period, he said. I intend to continue to push to expand Ontario's tree planting efforts. I hope the government will do it, but we're running out of time if we're going to launch something for next year.


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