



## Meet the Candidates for the June 7 Election

### Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Candidate: Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott

By: Vivien Fleishe

Ted Arnott has represented many versions of Wellington County for over 28 years, much of it in opposition, but enjoying the challenges

the whole way. His first two terms were straight-up Wellington County, NDP first, then PC. The second Mike Harris term he was MPP for Waterloo-Wellington, and again in opposition before the rid-

ing changed again. For the last three terms, he's represented Wellington-Halton Hills throughout the entire Liberal tenure. And that's actually what he describes as his biggest challenge here:

getting things done from the opposition benches. "You have to find ways, and what I've tried to do is reach out to the (current) government, tried to become friends with the ministers, grow the



relationships based on trust...different parties, different attitudes, different philosophies, but that doesn't mean you have to be enemies screaming at each other." Aside from that, he says in Halton Hills in particular, the biggest challenge is transportation, which he's tried to get the government to recognize, and he's reached out through private members bills to address this, saying that Acton may very well need a truck bypass.

The topic of the greenbelt is high on everyone's mind after PC party leader Doug Ford was overheard assuring business he'd open them up for development, followed by a hasty retraction. But as far as the expansion in his riding, Ted is resolute: it should be left as it is, saying in his consultations with the county, people said there are many layers of overlapping land-use protections already in place. He goes further, saying the greenbelt expansion was more of a political thing by the Liberals to attract voters in this election, and besides, the provincial government had put in a 10 year review plan, allowing for changes, a fact he feels people have lost sight of.

Now for the big question: does he feel at this point that his constituents are voting for him or the party leader, aka Ford Nation? His initial response is that all the party leaders have had their strengths and weaknesses; to be an effective premier in Ontario, you need strong staff in your office, experienced cabinet, a dedicated caucus, and everybody working together. Anyone suggesting it's a one-man or one-woman doesn't have an idea of how it works. "The leadership is important, I wouldn't dispute

this. But as I get to know Doug Ford, I believe he is aware of the experience of the members who have served under the Liberals. He phoned me after he won the leadership. I said we learn from each other and I'll learn from you. It's a relationship that will continue to evolve. We don't know who's going to win the next election. There's still three weeks to go."

Ted is from a construction family and was headed for engineering when his math marks started to slip in grade 10, making room for a love of history and English, and ultimately leading him to "take a detour" and study political science at Wilfred Laurier. It was the governance aspect more than the politics that drew him in, and while working on Jack Johnson's campaign in 1987, he found in Johnson a mentor who encouraged him, and inspired him to work hard and be honest. When Ted took over in Wellington, Johnson became his go-to person, resulting in multiple phone calls each week as he learned the ropes.

Ted's gone to bat for rural residents over the lack of high-speed internet via the Barton Report just after the 2014 election. He feels the "Places to Grow" legislation was not well-received by his riding and should be reviewed. And, on minimum wage, his position is that it was too much too soon, and the final one-dollar hike should be put on hold for a few years. As for Hidden Quarry, since it's at the OMB now, he feels it's irresponsible for an MPP to express a position, but cites involvement with the CRC and has written many letters with respect to improvements to the process, advocating for a long-term truck strategy.

## Celebrating volunteers in our community

**Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Gellert Community Centre**  
**From 6 - 8 pm**



**Come and enjoy a social gathering with  
live entertainment and refreshments.**

Join Mayor Rick Bonnette and Members of Council and the Volunteer Organizing Committee as we thank our community volunteers, who donate their time and talents to Halton Hills.

**Please RSVP at Eventbrite:**  
**[bit.ly/Hatsofftouyou](https://bit.ly/Hatsofftouyou)**

For more information, contact the Recreation & Parks Department at 905-873-2601 ext. 2273 or email [communityvolunteerevent@haltonhills.ca](mailto:communityvolunteerevent@haltonhills.ca).

