

LOOKING AHEAD AT ONTARIO'S FUTURE

THRONE SPEECH OUTLINES GOVERNMENT'S TOP PRIORITIES, WRITES TED ARNOTT



TED ARNOTT
Column

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario reconvened on Oct. 4, with a Speech from the Throne presented by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

Dowdeswell was a distinguished Canadian public servant for decades, including a term as an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. She assumed the vice-regal role as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's representative in the province of Ontario in 2014.

She has promoted awareness of the need to safeguard our democratic institutions, and has visited every riding in the province to support community organizations.

Demonstrating a keen and genuine interest and concern for all Ontarians, she has been a reassuring and stabilizing presence in the province throughout her tenure as Lieutenant Governor, but never more so than during the past 18 months.

The throne speech, written by the government but read by Her Honour, is intended to paint a vision of the government's plans for the new session of parliament. While governments always want to convey a sense of purpose, opposition parties always seem to say the effort falls short and — in my opinion — overlook the province's most urgent problems.

In the years that I have served in the Ontario legislature, I have been present for many throne speeches. But in this parliament, I have had the privilege of watching these speeches as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

As Speaker, I am very busy with my duties at Queen's Park. I continue to urge a greater degree of cooperation amongst MPPs while we debate important matters that will impact the province's future.

I also continue to make the concerns of the people of Wellington—Halton Hills my priority. When the House is sitting, I am in touch with our riding office throughout the day. I work with ministers, government and opposition MPPs alike.

On Fridays, as always, I work in our riding office, mostly returning phone calls, responding to emails and participating in Zoom meetings. We seek to ensure your voice is heard at Queen's Park.

Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills. He can be reached at ted.arnott@pc.ola.org.

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SNAPSHOT



Diane Cuthbert photo

A turkey vulture visits the Georgetown Fairgrounds. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

HOUSE VALUE WARNING ISSUED

CMHC SOUNDS ALERT THAT HOUSE PRICES HAVE BECOME RISKY, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

A house value warning has been issued by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. It issued its highest risk rating and specifically mentioned three cities: Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa.

According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, many smaller communities have seen prices increase from 35 to 55 per cent.

The CMHC report said, "exceptionally strong demand and home price appreciation over the course of the pandemic may have contributed to irrational expectations of continued

federal election — out of reach.

Owning a house has been a good strategy for many who sell the house in order to fund retirement. If you overpay for a house now, will that limit the potential gain when you retire?

Parents have provided funds to children wanting to get into the housing market.

Will a housing market correction negatively affect the parent's well-being and their ability to have a comfortable retirement?

Your house is your home. It is also a potential risk.

Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI offers a weekly financial planning column, Dollars & Sense. He can be contacted through www.watsoninvestments.com.

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