

BUILDING FOR OUR HOSPITAL'S FUTURE

REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING BUILDING STEAM, WRITES TED ARNOTT



TED ARNOTT
Column

Planning for the redevelopment of Georgetown Hospital is underway — and gaining momentum.

The hospital's board and staff have been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other local partners to seize the opportunity to envision the future of health care in our community.

The Ministry of Health administers a complex, multi-stage approvals process for hospital capital projects.

Many communities across the province are in need of new health-care infrastructure, so we need to work together. No doubt, the process will continue to evolve in the coming years.

For many years, I worked very closely with the staff of the Groves Memorial Community Hospital as they planned for a new hospital in the township of Centre Wellington.

There were numerous challenges, including the need to raise millions of dollars locally. We had countless meetings, faced and overcame many roadblocks, endured two changes of government and sought the support of no fewer than seven ministers of health.

The community was

consulted and engaged throughout, and we made sure the project did not degenerate into a political football, as — I believe — has happened in other communities.

The new hospital opened its doors to patients in August 2020.

As MPP for Wellington—Halton Hills, I want to do everything I can to support the plan for redevelopment of Georgetown Hospital and help to propel it forward.

On Feb. 22, the Ontario Legislature is scheduled to resume sitting, in-person, just as we have throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As your MPP and as Speaker of the House, I will be there.

The Speaker's role in the British parliamentary system is unique. Entrusted by both sides of the House to preside over the proceedings and debates, the Speaker must refrain from partisanship or making public statements on issues that are before the House.

I have taken this responsibility very seriously, while I have worked behind the scenes to ensure our riding's issues are addressed and your voice is heard.

My ability to represent our riding has only been enhanced during my time as Speaker, working with government and opposition MPPs alike.

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

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SNAPSHOT



Stephen Howe photo

An eagle rests in a tree on Old School Road. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

RISING INTEREST RATES AHEAD

TIME TO ADDRESS THIS REALITY IS NOW, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

The Bank of Canada continues to sound the alarm that higher interest rates are just around the corner.

There are two significant reasons why.

One. Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, had an annual increase of 4.8 per cent in December.

This is the highest level in three decades. The target inflation rate is between one and three per cent.

Two. Real estate prices continue to soar. Houses in Canada has appreciated 43 per cent in the last two years.

It's time for the Bank of

od of time.

Our suggestion is to spend a little time looking at your personal finances.

Can your cash flow absorb higher interest rates? What changes will you have to make when interest rates rise?

Interest rates will rise. The time to address this reality is now.

Peter Watson is registered with Aligned Capital Partners Inc. (ACPI) to provide investment advice. Investment products are provided by ACPI. ACPI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of ACPI. Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be reached at www.watsoninvestments.com.

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