

# REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

QUEEN SERVED WITH UNWAVERING COMMITMENT, WRITES MICHAEL CHONG



MICHAEL CHONG  
Column

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died on Sept. 8. For over 70 years, the Queen served as Canada's head of state — the longest to ever serve in that role since it was established.

The second Elizabethan Age is over. It will be remembered for the Queen's unflagging dedication to duty and service.

At 21, she said: "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

She spent her life fulfilling that commitment.

The Queen's reign began on Feb. 6, 1952. At that time, Louis St. Laurent was prime minister. Over the following decades, the Queen worked with 12 Canadian prime ministers and served for almost half of the time since Confederation.

For seven decades, she did everything Canada asked of her without controversy or crisis.

Under her reign, Canada underwent important nation-building transformations.

On Feb. 15, 1965, she issued the royal proclamation that established our iconic red and white maple leaf flag as the national flag.

In 1982, she came to Parliament Hill to sign the roy-

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al proclamation that patriated our Constitution from the United Kingdom. This historic event reaffirmed the position of constitutional monarchy in Canada.

During her 2010 tour of Canada (one of 22), she stated the following: "Canadians have, by their own endeavours, built a country and society which is widely admired across the world.

"I am fortunate to have been witness to many of the developments and accomplishments of modern Canada. As Queen of Canada for nearly six decades, my pride in this country remains undimmed."

My wife and I had the honour of meeting her during that tour. We watched as she and Prince Philip patiently greeted hundreds of guests at a state dinner at the Royal York Hotel. She didn't leave until she had greeted the hotel workers — something she insisted on.

Her Majesty was there through watershed moments in our country's history and established herself as a model for all of us to emulate.

We shall not see the likes of her again, and mourn her death.

The Queen is dead. Long live the King.

*Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington—Halton Hills, and the shadow minister of foreign affairs for the official opposition. He can be reached at michael.chong.a3@parl.gc.ca.*

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## SNAPSHOT



Gina Patterson photo

A monarch butterfly explores a backyard pond on Ewing Street. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

# INTEREST RATES RISE AGAIN

MANAGING PERSONAL FINANCES JUST GOT HARDER, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON  
Column

Another significant interest rate hike was recently announced by the Bank of Canada (BOC). The most recent rate increase was three quarters of 1 per cent.

The BOC is determined to reduce the annual inflation rate to the target of 2 per cent. This is the fifth consecutive rate increase, and the BOC said further increases are anticipated.

This increase is significant for two reasons.

First, the interest rate on loans will increase. If you have locked in an interest rate for the length of your mortgage, then your current rate will continue. Some homeowners have a

makes it easier for individuals to cope with higher loan payments.

Our suggestion is to spend time looking at your personal finances. Which are necessary, and which can be eliminated or reduced?

*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. Only investment-related products and services are offered through Watson Securities of ACPI. Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be reached at www.watsoninvestments.com.*

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