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Local MPP Arnott among five seeking Speaker's job

LISA TALLYN
 Staff Writer

Wellington Halton-Hills MPP Ted Arnott is vying for one of the plum posts in provincial politics.

Arnott is one of five MPPs running for the job of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

He is the only Progressive Conservative so far to toss his hat into the ring. The other candidates in the race are all Liberals. They are: previous Speaker Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Brown, Scarborough Southwest MPP Lorenzo Berardinetti, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters, and Willowdale MPP David Zimmer.



TED ARNOTT

The Speaker will be elected by secret ballot next Wednesday.

"It is a long shot for the party that's not in power," said Arnott about his chances. "I'm asking people to give serious consideration to what I have to offer."

He believes his 17 years of experience as MPP has helped to prepare him for the Speaker's job. Over the past four years he has also served as Assistant Speaker.

Arnott wants to bring civility back to the legislature.

The next Speaker has to "do a better job of maintaining decorum in the legislature" and too often now MPPs are perceived as acting in a "childish way" and are too partisan or even aggressive at times, he said.

"The Speaker must preside impartially over all proceedings of the House. It's about setting aside partisanship for the greater good of Ontario," said Arnott.

As Speaker he said he would "apply the standing orders fairly and impartially without regard to partisanship" and he would bring the MPPs together more often so they get to know each other as people.

Other plans include monitoring and improving security in the Legislative Precinct and to complete the needed renovations to the exterior of the Legislative building.

Arnott said he is seeking an opportunity to speak to each of the caucuses and was to speak to his own PC colleagues about his candidacy yesterday (Tuesday).

He ran for the position in 2005, but lost to Mike Brown.

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 Tues., Nov. 27, 10 am - 12 noon
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Annual Acton High School craft sale set for Saturday

The doors at Acton High School will open at 10 a.m. Saturday (Nov. 24) for the 12th annual craft sale.

This year's sale boasts up to 75 vendors with a wide selection of crafts for everyone on your Christmas list. The Parent Council organizes this sale each year and all money raised goes directly towards items to enhance student learning.

Among the items that were purchased after last year's sale were two 'Smart Babies' for family studies, a data projector, musical instruments, and as well money was given to school teams.

Acton students set up and run the show. Admission is \$2 and the show runs to 4 p.m. Lunch is available at the sale and there will be many raffles.

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