



Editorial: David Warner (Chair), Lily Munro, Joe Spina and Alexa Huffman



Remembering Jim Flaherty (December 30, 1949 – April 10, 2014)

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Distinguished Service Award

The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians will be honouring a Former Member with our highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, at a Queen's Park luncheon at the beginning of October. Details regarding the recipient, time and cost will be announced in a short while. This will be a unique opportunity to recognize one of our colleagues who has brought honour and distinction to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, indeed to our Province and Country!

Announcement

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

3:30- 5 pm AGM Business Section Room 228, Legislative Building

There will be an election of Officers. If you would like to serve on the Executive please contact our office [contact information at bottom].

5:15-6. pm Reception hosted by Lt-Governor. Vice Regal Suite, Legislative Building

6:30 pm for 7 pm. AGM Dinner Legislative Dining Room

Guest Speaker after dinner:

Professor Peter Russell, “Our Ailing Parliamentary Democracy”

This distinguished scholar, Principal of Senior College, University of Toronto, is turned to for constitutional advice by Governor Generals and Lieutenant Governors. He has distinguished himself in the field of judicial, constitutional and aboriginal issues. Two of his published works are “Two Cheers for Minority Government” (2008) and “Parliamentary Democracy in Crisis” (2009).

Professor Russell will not only provide a stimulating speech, but will welcome a lively discussion. This is a unique opportunity not to be missed!

Dinner Ticket Prices: [4 course gourmet presentation]

Cornerstone Members	\$40.00
Members	\$50.00
Non-members	\$60.00

Please confirm at your earliest and address your cheques to Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. Our contact numbers are as follows: **phone** 416-325.4647; **e-mail** oafp@ontla.ola.org; **mail** 99 Wellesley St, # 1612 Whitney Block, Toronto. On. M7A 1A2. NOTE: There are limited seats available for dinner, so please book in advance.

View From The Middle

Three Deputy Chairs from the Ontario Legislature share their experiences.



Left to Right: Marietta Roberts, Julia Munro and Marilyn Churley

Did you seek the position of Chair occupant (or Deputy Speaker)? Or were you appointed?

Marilyn: Mike Harris did an ingenious thing. All members of the Legislature voted for the Speaker, but each of the party leaders appointed a Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, second Chair and third Chair. The Premier decided to allow each Chair of the Committee of the Whole House to rotate into the Deputy Speaker position. This meant that I, a lowly third Party New Democrat, became the first and to date, only woman to serve as Deputy Speaker.

Julia Munro: I was appointed by my Leader. The practice that Mike began of the rotation of the deputies has not continued.

Marietta Roberts: What I recall, is they needed a Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House. Hugh Edighoffer was Speaker at the time. My name was put forward, and maybe a couple of names, and it was voted on, and I was elected.

What are the biggest challenges when sitting in the Chair?

Marietta: The challenge that I found was to keep control of the house, making sure it was fair. Give them a certain amount of leeway, but not too much. I think, whether it was the third reading or second reading that was the time when a lot of people wanted to make sure it was on the record. It could have been said a thousand times in committee but it wasn't said in the Legislature. Balancing the time was difficult. It was an honour to do the job. I enjoyed it because I had Chaired the school board.

Julia: I think that the maintaining of decorum is certainly a challenge that we would probably all agree on. And the instinct to maybe overreact has to be really balanced with what else is happening in the way in which the debate is moving along. Being consistent, fair and being seen to be fair is extremely important.



Marietta Roberts

In 1987 Marietta was elected as the Liberal MPP for the Riding of Elgin. In her one term she quickly distinguished herself in several positions of responsibility; Chair of the Liberal Caucus, Vice-Chair of the Select Committee on Constitutional Reform, Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, and Deputy Government Whip.

Marietta Roberts currently is a Judge for the Ontario Court of Justice.

Marilyn: People from the other parties and even from your own party are going to test you and are ready to pounce if you're perceived as not being fair. That was a real challenge at first but I'm not going to be modest on this question. I overcame that challenge very quickly. I know I had a reputation for being fair and it meant a lot to me that I was able to quickly demonstrate that I could be an impartial Speaker. Once you establish that baseline of fairness, then you really do command a lot of respect most of the time. From time to time, there were histrionics in the Legislature, which could be a real challenge to control, especially when members weren't playing games. There were some issues that people from every party felt very strongly about and sometimes they got really worked up and felt that they were not being treated fairly or they were being insulted. So, keeping tempers under control was the biggest challenge for me when people were genuinely upset. It was an honour to preside in the Speaker's Chair, but the position also allowed me to learn about the rules of the House, the standing orders that you normally might not be paying attention to. We had to pay attention because our job was to follow the procedural rules and to keep decorum in the Legislature. I have to admit, I was scared when I first sat as a Deputy Speaker. I was worried about how I would be able to maintain impartiality and to treat everyone equally. I have to say though, when I was sitting in that Chair and looking down at all these people, on all sides of the house, they suddenly became all the same. Kind of like my cute little pets. Very cute and sweet, but there they all were jumping up and down and vying for attention! Something transforms you when you sit in the Speaker's Chair and I found very quickly that I truly was impartial.



Marilyn Churley

Starting out as a Toronto City Councillor, Marilyn was then elected as a New Democrat MPP for the Toronto Riding of Riverdale (later called Toronto-Danforth) for four terms, from 1990 to 2007. During the Rae Government she was a Cabinet Minister. In 1997 Marilyn was appointed as Deputy Speaker, the only woman to date to hold that position.

Marilyn Churley currently is a Justice of the Peace.

Julia: I remember one incident where I asked a Member to withdraw and he was really angry at my call. One of his own party turned around and said, “just withdraw.” And so he had to stand up and withdraw. That gave credibility to me. Obviously that was what others expected him to do as well. When you mentioned how everybody looks the same, it’s true in the sense that they are predictable. You know what kinds of things are going to rattle them and what kinds of things aren’t.

As a woman in the Chair, do you think there are different challenges?

Julia: If there were, there were much fewer than there ever have been.

Marilyn: I did not feel any. I think there is, overall, general respect from all members. There were a few members that occasionally behaved abominably but mostly there was respect for the Chair. I know I experienced some breathtaking sexism as a member from time to time but not while acting as Speaker. It was remarkable, actually, when I think about it.

Marietta: It’s heartening. I was one of the first to sit there as the Deputy, as a Chair of the Committee of the Whole House and be paid to do it. I found no sexism at all when I was there. But I’m a fairly strong person. I didn’t have any fear and very good control of the House. If I stood up and said order, I had a strong voice and I was very lucky that they were basically very kind. But there was one incident, in which I was sitting in the Chair, and I think it was a Thursday morning and I think we were doing a private Member’s Bill and there were only women in the House. The only people who were there for the first 10 to 20 minutes were women and I think Margaret Marland stood up and commented on it. It’s not a thousand years ago but it was a time when there weren’t very many women in the House. When I first ran in the 70’s, a woman running was a disgrace. I think there’s a great deal of respect among members for the work that you do. It doesn’t make any difference if you’re male or female.

Marilyn: I’m small. Demeanour was essential. Even if you felt a little scared at first, you couldn’t show it. You had to take control as soon as you got in that Chair and appear to be confident. Also it was important to be kind, considerate and fair and to show that right away.

Marietta: And as with anything else, whether you were in the Chair or not, you carried that title with you. So even when you were just sitting on the benches, you still could not react in a way because you knew you were going to be up in the Chair.

Julia: When you were talking, Marilyn, about your size and importance, I guess one of the reasons, maybe, that consideration for me was given was because I spent so much time as a high school teacher and they always tease me to this day. They always say, “Oh, the teacher is up there.”

Did the experience alter your view about Members who were not from your party?

Marilyn: Not at all. I’ll reiterate how instantly I was transformed while acting as Speaker to be truly non-partisan. To my amazement it wasn’t hard to do. The elected Speaker can not be partisan at any time, even as Deputies. Even though we were able to be partisan except while presiding, we did have to be a little bit more careful than other members overall.

Julia: I would say the same.

Marietta: I concur. I think that’s true for all members.

Marilyn: I think people overall understand if they don’t respect the Speaker, then the whole system collapses.

Julia: If it’s an issue and if it’s something that further consideration needs to be given, the Speaker always says he’ll come back to the Chamber with a response in a day or two. I think that helps to cool down the heat in the room. When he or she does come back, it is in an orderly, logical way that people, while they may not agree, or be happy with it, they understand the wisdom of what has been put forward.

Marietta: I think the Speaker’s office is the most important office there is in the Legislature. A Speaker can change the mood of the House and also can change how our democracy is going to be seen in the public. We should be, as Deputies, a reflection of the Speaker’s will. You can’t go off on a tangent of your own or shouldn’t. The Premier, Leaders of the Opposition, Members of the Legislature, are important, but the Speaker deals with process, keeps the process going appropriately and it’s the process that’s the key.

If you could change the ways things are done in the House, would there be anything you would change?

Marietta: I certainly would change the way schools are taught about the Legislature. I would make sure that schools knew more about the Legislature and the process that's involved and how democracy isn't just about people who are going to be elected. I think, with respect to the Speaker's Chair, I certainly would make sure that the Speaker and maybe the last five Speakers would get together and have a meeting or conference, or even Speakers from all over the world, and say, "what can we do to move, to tweak, to make the House more effective. Not for the Speaker but for democracy at large.

Julia: I would say the way it is taught in school just leaves me as both a teacher and a Parliamentarian baffled. The whole system is based on people moving into that kind of a process of the importance of the democratic process. When you look at the culture of volunteerism in our province, that's really a precursor; it's a foundation for democracy. There are so many things I think we're missing. They're obvious, but we don't talk about them. We don't celebrate them enough. We celebrate a group of people being volunteers but never put them in the process about how they are a building block for our democratic society.



Julia Munro, M.P.P.

In 1995 Julia was elected as the Progressive Conservative MPP for Durham York (later called York North, then York-Simcoe). Over the years she has served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier, and three Cabinet Ministers, Government Whip, Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, been Vice-Chair of six committees and First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House.

Julia Munro, now in her fifth consecutive term is Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House.

Why We Entered Political Life

“At 18, I was inspired by the work of my MPP, Charles McNaughton, as he helped everyone in his riding no matter who they were. His constituents were all important to him and I made a decision to become an MPP like him so I could make a positive difference in the lives of others.” - **Elizabeth Witmer, P.C. MPP, Kitchener-Waterloo, 1990-2012**

“To make a difference and fight apathy. To help make society better. To help myself combat boredom with a new challenge. To make my family proud and to show others what the son of an immigrant can do in our great country.” - **Rick Ferraro Liberal MPP, Guelph 1985-90**

“In South Africa, around 1901, Gandhi was a family friend and we were involved in fighting the apartheid government. In the 50’s my brother was jailed for fighting the apartheid regime resulting in us being denied passports and other privileges. I was always interested in politics. However, being of Indian origin I was not white enough to get involved. We emigrated to Kenya in 1960. Here I was not black enough to get involved. In Canada it did not matter what my colour was – what mattered is that there was a will to get involved and I did. An absolute privilege to get involved.” - **Murad Velshi, Liberal MPP, Don Mills, 1987-90**

“I entered politics because I had a passion for the future of Hamilton and decided to offer my personal time in support of my community's direction. There is always a plethora of opinions in the public arena on any given subject but few people sacrifice their personal time and space to demonstrate leadership by running for office.” - **Judy Marsales Liberal MPP, Hamilton West, 2003-2007**

“My parents instilled in me a sense of duty. Growing up in Northern Ontario I saw too many people experiencing social, educational, and economic injustices. I wanted to change that. Provincial politics was the best route to achieve it.” - **J. F. (Jim) Foulds, NDP MPP, Port Arthur, 1971-1987**

“To reduce the provincial debt, stimulate the economy, create jobs for new graduates and improve healthcare, education, urban infrastructure and the environment.” - **Derwyn Shea, P.C. MPP, High Park-Swansea, 1995-99**

“I entered the political arena to continue our family tradition of service to the community. I left politics enriched by the experience.” - **Sterling Campbell, Liberal MPP, Sudbury 1987-90**

“My neighbour's house was sold and transformed into an illegal group home without essential support services. This was said to be done because North York, Etobicoke and Scarborough introduced Zoning By-laws discouraging group homes. My subsequent actions to change these by-laws opened my eyes to the amazing world of politics.” - **Tony Ruprecht, Liberal MPP, Davenport 1981-2011**

Life After Politics

This new section is designed to provide former Members with an opportunity to inform our membership about career changes, or other significant events in your life.

We are pleased to inform you that **Larry O'Connor**, former MPP has been appointed as the first Executive Director of Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. The Chair, Ms. Dianne Mathes said that the Board was delighted to have a new executive director as a key goal to its recent strategic plan. Mr. O'Connor began his role with the Land Trust starting from March 2014.

We congratulate Mr. O'Connor in his new appointment and wish him much success.



Obituaries



Hon. Jim Flaherty

December 30, 1949 – April 10, 2014

Served in the 36th, 37th and 38th Parliament (June 08, 1995 - November 29, 2005) as the Progressive Conservative Member for the Riding of Whitby-Ajax.

While Jim was best known as the Minister of Finance, during his tenure he also served as Deputy Premier, Attorney General, Minister Responsible for Native Affairs, Minister of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation, and Minister of Labour.

“I well remember when Jim Flaherty arrived at Queen’s Park in 1995. He was a colourful and combative fellow who was all about change – change in the way government worked, change in the outlook of the Ontario Conservative Party. And Jim gave the sense that he was a man in a hurry. He wanted to get things done and he wasn’t going to let an endless debate deter him from his agenda. His views on such issues as taxes, judicial activism and homelessness gave him an almost immediate profile in the provincial media. And who among his contemporaries at the Ontario Legislature will forget his campaign against the squeegee people !

Jim was a very good hockey player and I always felt his sports past was key to understanding him. Anyone who dealt with the member from Whitby quickly understood that he played to win and he didn't like losing. But Jim did experience some losses that I believe made him a better politician. He was, for example, deeply disappointed that he lost the chance to lead the Ontario Conservative Party but that experience probably made him a better Minister of Finance for Canada. He learned important lessons along the way and grew in the job.

Jim Flaherty was proud of his Irish heritage and one has to think that it was his Irish charm that made him such a well-liked colleague in the House of Commons not especially known for its camaraderie. I was really struck by the outpouring of grief from all sides of the House when the news of his sudden death was announced. MPs like Kellie Leitch, Thomas Mulcair and Ralph Goodale struck an evidently genuine tone of loss and affection which seemed to capture the mood of Parliament.” - **Sean Conway, Liberal MPP, Renfrew North, (1975-2003)**

“He loved his Family, the Law and Politics. He demonstrated those loves to us all in the last 19 years of public life showing resolve, reserve, and civility while serving as an elected representative.

Of all the politicians that I have met during my political life, he reminded me most of what Churchill might have been like: his deportment, quick wit, grasp of issue and most of all his unselfish duty to our Province and Country.

I was honoured to be a friend and enjoy part of his life.” - **Norm Sterling, Progressive Conservative MPP, Lanark-Carleton (1977-2011)**



Former premier Mike Harris and Jim Flaherty in 2001.

Jim and I both brought an important aspect of our personal lives to politics and worked hard to bring about positive change.

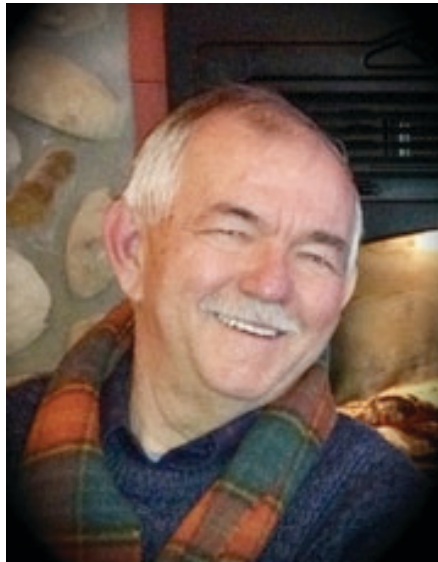
I came with my experience of giving up a child to adoption as a teenager and I worked to reform disclosure laws so that adult adoptees and their natural mothers could get their original birth documents. Jim came with a passionate commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families. His son John has a developmental disability so Jim experienced first hand the love and the challenges involved in raising a child living with a disability. He knew other parents struggling with the same issues and saw gaps in the system that needed to be filled. Despite all the other pressing issues on his plate in his many portfolio's he wove the needs and challenges of the disabled community into his narrative and in doing so promoted the inclusion of people with disabilities into the workplace and everyday life. Among other things, he established the registered disability savings plan, a unique program designed to meet the needs of people with physical, developmental and psychiatric disabilities.

Jim's achievements in this area reminds us that despite the growing cynicism about politics, it does matter and bringing one's own knowledge, passion and commitment to an issue can make a profound difference in personal and critical aspects of our lives.

Like everyone else who dealt with Jim Flaherty, I remember his charm, his strong work ethic, his sense of humour and the delight he took in his family. **-Marilyn Churley, NDP MPP Toronto-Danforth (1990-2000, 2003-05)**



Prime Minister Stephen Harper shakes hands with Jim Flaherty after the Economic Action Plan 2014 is tabled.



Michael Dietsch

February 2, 1942 - March 9, 2014

Served in the 34th Parliament (September 10, 1987 -- September 05, 1990) as the Liberal Party Member for the Riding of St. Catherines-Brock. Michael was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour and served on three committees; Resource Development, Public Accounts and Government Agencies.

Michael's twenty-five years of elected public service included his term at Queen's Park, serving as a local Councillor, later on Regional Council and being Lord Mayor of Niagara on the Lake.

The current Lord Mayor of Niagara on the Lake is quoted, "He was committed to his family, his community and to the people he represented."

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs said Dietsch made quite an impact in the community where he lived for all of his life. "He and Gail really set the standard," he said. "Mike being a politician and Gail piecing the family together in the community. Together they made quite a team."

"In 1992 we celebrated the 200th anniversary of Parliamentary Government in Ontario by returning to the first site, Niagara on the Lake. Lord Mayor Michael Dietsch led the procession to Simcoe Park. Michael's enthusiasm, his gracious manner and his obvious love of history helped to create a very special occasion." **David Warner, Speaker 1990-95.**



Terry Jones

June 13, 1938 - March 21, 2014

Served in the 30th, 31st and 32nd Parliaments (September 18, 1975 — May 01, 1985) as the Progressive Conservative Member for the Riding of Mississauga North.

During Terry's three consecutive terms he served as Deputy Speaker, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Parliamentary Assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Treasury and Economics; served on four Select Committees (Bills 3 & 4, Highway Safety, Ontario Hydro, Pensions) and seven Standing Committees (Regulations, General Government, Members' Services, Social Development, Resources Development, Justice, Statutory Instruments).

Norm Sterling has fond memories of Terry Jones. "Terry loved his job as an MPP at Queens Park. He participated in many of the debates in the Legislature exhibiting a wide range of knowledge of both urban and rural affairs. He was a true blue PC Party supporter and could be counted on for attending and voting in the Legislature. He loved to be involved in social events associated with politics making certain to all around him to have a good time."

Bill Barlow, former colleague and close friend recalls that "Terry was never at a loss for words. He could comment on any subject! He enjoyed being a Member. Terry always had respect for Parliament, a respect which was deepened when he had the privilege of being Deputy Speaker."

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