

QUEEN'S PARK INSIDER

Newsletter of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

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Fall 2006 Edition

Director's Report—Fall 2006

I am now in my third year as Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP) and I am still as enthusiastic as I was when I first started. I enjoy watching each new Intern cohort as they meet with and learn from the large number of legislative officials, sponsors and journalists in their September orientation. Then I see their excitement as they meet with a majority of backbench MPPs as they face the difficult task of matching their interests with 16 MPPs.

The Interns and I try our best to meet with all of our sponsors over the course of the ten month term. They meet with a good many over the orientation period and then follow up with the others after that. Our sponsors are crucial for the support of the Programme's educational activities. The meetings with the sponsors at Queen's Park, in the sponsor offices or at an annual meeting, are of course, educational themselves. A notable example was a breakfast talk by Stephen Lewis on "Human Development, Career Development and Training:

Foundations for a Better World" at the annual meeting of the Certified General Accountants of Ontario.

One highlight of the interns educational activities is their presentation of their individual research papers at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) which takes place in

role of the Ombudsman and legislator's relations with their constituencies.

Our Programme works, to a large degree, because of the dedicated administrative staff. Eithne Whaley, our Programme Assistant, solves many problems each week. Committee Clerk Tonia Grannum and Legislative Re-

searcher Lorraine Luski are a great source of advice and help to the interns and me. A special thanks is owed to Fatima Somji-Yuen, Assistant to Tonia Grannum for her thoughtful help in organising the September orientation.

All of us have had a great start to our year to-

gether and we look forward to more great learning experiences with the MPPs, sponsors, past and present government officials, journalists and other public figures inside and outside of Ontario!

Dr Henry J. Jacek
Academic Director



late Spring and will be held in Saskatoon this year. These papers examine important aspects of the legislative process and are publicly available on the CPSA website. Topics this year include the effect of a fixed election date on activity in the Legislative Assembly, the importance of receptions at Queen's Park, pre-budget consultations, government advertising, the public's engagement in environmental policy, the

Orientation

September 7th, 2006. A day we all looked forward to with anticipation, yet also dreaded. Gone were the perks of student life: sleeping in everyday, partying any day of the week, and skipping class because “I need the extra rest or I won’t be able to study.” Fortunately, the lost comforts of student life were replaced with the exciting unpredictability of life inside Queen’s Park. Orientation lasted a full hectic month, during which we quickly warmed up to each other and defined ourselves as individuals within the group, or should I say “nations within a country.” Our days were jam-packed with meetings with our generous sponsors, officers of the legislature, journalists, and MPPs. These meetings provided us with a crash course in practical politics that we could not receive from our formal academic training. By the end of the

first month we began the difficult task of picking our MPPs. We had a huge turnout! Thirty-five MPPs were interviewed, and while unfortunately not everyone received an intern, we hope they enjoyed the interview process as much as we did and continue to seek out the services of interns in the future.

As expected with any group of twenty-somethings, there were sev-

eral incidents of misadventure during orientation. Several lost interns, many a lost battle with coffee cups, and the dreaded fit of narcolepsy during an important meeting. Luckily, we all managed to survive and are all the better for it. The orientation period is an incredible experience unique to the OLIP programme. The networking opportunities are invaluable, and the educational element provides more than any university professor could dream (Sorry Dr. J!). Orientation also gave us the ability to enter our MPPs office with confidence in our skills rather than worry over potential folly. It will be an experience that the eight of us will remember forever.



Meeting the Environmental Commissioner

The environment has become a major part of everyday political discourse. It is in this period of heightened environmental awareness that we had the opportunity to meet with Ontario’s Environmental Commissioner, an



individual that often exists below the public’s radar. Gord Miller, the current Environmental Commissioner, proved to be a very interesting person to sit down with and talk about the environment.

During our meeting he openly discussed environmental issues and did not shy away from giving us his opinions on a variety of topics, including his belief that climate change is the single most impor-

tant environmental issue. He attributes the growing concern and attention to climate change to the fact that its impact is global in scale. It is so gratifying that leaders have taken notice of this concern and

have begun to engage in discussions on the environment. According to Mr. Miller, current policy initiatives do not adequately reflect the significance of climate change and other environmental issues.

While political action on the environment may be too slow for some, there is a useful tool available to people concerned with the environment. It is the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR), seven enumerated

rights designed to give the general public a say in environmental policy. The metric used to measure this is difficult to pinpoint, but Mr. Miller assures us that with each year, the public awareness and use of the EBR increases. Increased public awareness of environmental issues and desire to improve the environment provides hope for the future.

The growing awareness of environmental issues and public desire to act to improve the environment is a positive step forward for the future.

We are grateful that the Environmental Commissioner was willing to share his opinions and considerable expertise with a group of interns. Hopefully in the years to come, citizens of Ontario will continue to increase their appreciation and use of the Commissioner’s office and the EBR.

Interns' MPP Placements—Fall 2006

Rachel and Kevin Flynn

You will know him as Kevin Flynn, the fantastic MPP from Oakville, but I prefer to address him as K-Flynn, a name well suited for a fun-loving and hardworking member. As an environmentalist, working with Kevin, the PA to Energy and self-proclaimed environmentally conscious MPP, has been a pleasure. Over the last few months we have had our share of car rides to and from constituency events, debating the pros and cons of nuclear energy, the value of conservation and he has even been kind enough to endure one of



my many impassioned rants about SUVs, idling and SUVs that idle. There are many perks to working in the Ministry of Energy, particularly the opportunity to sit in on a variety of meetings with different innovators from around the province, bouncing around ideas on green energy alternatives that will help to maintain and improve the health of our environment. It is hard to believe that the term in Kevin's office has reached the half way mark and I have already had such a wonderful experience. I can only look to the future with excitement at the prospect of the many more opportunities I will have over the next two months.

Eleni and Wayne Arthurs

I am currently working with Wayne Arthurs, MPP for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance. Prior to being elected into the Provincial Legislature, Mr. Arthurs served as the Mayor of Pickering for 15 years, the city's longest serving mayor. His past experience as a mayor has provided him with a very relaxed and accommodating personality, with which he approaches his work here at Queen's Park. As a result, the atmosphere in the office is very friendly



while hard-working, and probably one of the best functioning teams that I have encountered. I have had the pleasure of engaging on many interesting files through the guidance of Mr. Arthurs and his wonderful Legislative Assistant, Gloria Roheim. I have also had the opportunity to travel out to the riding, where the constituency office manager, Marisa Maiorano, quickly showed me the ropes. Working for Mr. Arthurs has proved to be a wonderful experience thus far, and I look forward to the weeks and months ahead.

On October 10, 2006 the eight interns began their first placements that will run until mid-February, at which time the interns will switch over to their second placements. This term the interns have the privilege to work with MPP's from both sides of the floor. We recognize the significance of this opportunity, and truly appreciate the experience.

Tom and Gilles Bisson

Name the community with the fifth hottest economy in the country? If the next to last place that came to your mind was Timmins you are not alone. Yet booming commodity prices have transformed the city into a regional minerals capital. I am privileged to work for Gilles Bisson, the MPP with perhaps the most intriguing riding in the province. In juxtaposition with the commodities



boom in Northern Ontario Mr. Bisson's riding is also one of the poorest in the nation. Northern Aboriginal Communities such as Atawapiskat, Marten Falls and Kasheshewan suffer from economic and social problems common to many developing nations. Working for Mr. Bisson offers a daily reminder of why politics matters—the splendour of prosperity and the depths of poverty under the same umbrella.

Neil and John Yakabuski

I am in the office of John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. The experience so far has been great and really entertaining. The atmosphere in the office is always fun, but hardworking, and Joan and Mary Frances are always there to help when I have no idea what I am doing. John is the Progressive Conservative Energy Critic and therefore, I have learned a great deal about energy policy in Ontario. Hopefully it will



teach me how to save some money on my bill! I have yet to make it up to the riding, but I look forward to it because I have little experience with rural Ontario, but I come from a rural area of Nova Scotia so it will be a welcomed break from all of the crazy city people. John is also a fellow Leafs fan so there is always something to brag or complain about. The internship programme is about learning how politics really works by getting hands-on experience, but it never hurts if you have a good time along the way.

Laura and Jean-Marc Lalonde

This term, I have had the pleasure of working with Jean-Marc Lalonde, MPP for Glen-garry-Prescott-Russell and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade and the Minister of Small Business and Entrepreneurship. My experience so far has been lively and varied, as M. Lalonde's energy is inspiring and his passion is contagious. With two PA-ships and many large projects, M. Lalonde is always on the go – but it is great exercise trying to keep up with him! His position as Chair of the Small Business Agency of Ontario has allowed me to get involved and learn about the issues facing Ontario's small business community. I had the opportunity to



attend an outreach session in Hamilton with the Agency and have participated in planning meetings for future outreach sessions all over Ontario. I was also lucky enough to spend some time in the riding during constituency week, where I was able to see first-hand how M. Lalonde communicates with his constituents. J'ai

pris connaissance des défis qui affectent les Ontariens qui habitent les secteurs ruraux, comme la congestion sur la route 17/174. Récemment, j'ai eu l'opportunité de travailler sur un nouveau parlement modèle pour les étudiants Franco-Ontariens. Je voudrais dire un gros merci à M. Lalonde et son équipe Helen, Pauline et Vida ici à Queen's Park et celle au bureau de Rockland (Lise et Geneviève) qui m'a accueilli dans le bureau et m'a aidé énormément.

Ian and Robert Runciman

So far my experience in Bob Runciman's office has been great. Bob is one of the most senior members in the Legislature and knows the place inside and out, and I have benefited greatly from his experience and knowledge. One of the things that I have learned to do that I am most grateful for is how to write good press releases and questions: Bob was previously a journalist before entering politics so he knows how to write in a sharp, concise, and pithy way. Another one of my favourite experiences so far draws on Bob's role as



Opposition House Leader and being able to sit in on the House Leaders' meetings, which has allowed me to see how things get done procedurally around here. Interacting with the constituency has also been an experience as well, as I didn't know much about the issues of Eastern Ontario and Bob's riding but I'm quickly learning what

people in rural ridings care about. Hats off also to Bob's staff, particularly Dianne Tominac, who are among the hardest-working and most professional people I have ever met.

Lauren and Deb Matthews

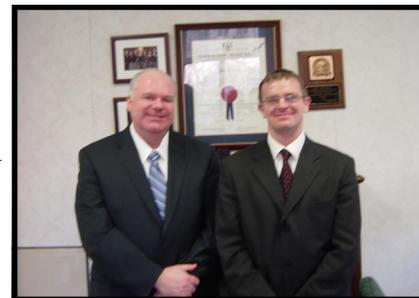
Working in the office of Deb Matthews, Parliamentary Assistant to both the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues and the Minister of Community and Social Services, I have discovered the meaning of the word work. After about a month of working with Deb, I have only seen her eat twice. Deb is always on the go, meeting with anyone that requests a meeting and going to events every night. Even before I started in her office, I began to realize that MPPs have a tough life. I am continually surprised at how



hard they all work seven days a week and how many sacrifices they make in the name of Public Service. I recently traveled to Deb's constituency of London North Centre, which is also the riding I grew up in. I knew there was poverty in the riding, but I didn't really believe Deb when she told me her riding is one of the most polarized in terms of wealth in Ontario. I understood what she was saying after a visit to a community health centre in London. This visit also helped me to understand why Deb and her staff work so hard. I look forward to the next three months; I know they will be eye opening and challenging!

Jason and Jim Wilson

This term, I am working with Jim Wilson, a Progressive Conservative MPP from Simcoe-Grey. Jim was first elected to the legislature in 1990, and has since worked as the Minister of Health, Minister of Energy, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Minister of the Environment. Needless to say, Jim is certainly not lacking in experience here at Queen's Park! Working in Jim's office has certainly been an exciting and rewarding experience



to date. Right from day-one Jim has gone out of his way to include me in the day-to-day activities of the office, and has similarly provided me with every opportunity possible to learn about how the legislative process works. I would like to thank Jim, Dave Prisco, Joy Parks, and Elmer Hawkins for providing me with such a positive work environment, and for immediately making me feel like a member of "Team Wilson."

Intern Fun Facts

Ian

Favourite quote: "Some men see things as they are and say why, I dream things that never were and say why not" -- Edward M. Kennedy on his brother Robert F. Kennedy.

If you could be any animal, what animal would you be and why? The brown bear:

big and powerful -- but cuddly. Just like me!

Favourite non-academic pastime: Philately and numismatism.

Most outrageous moment as an intern: When one of the interns dry cleaning bill was increased exponentially



due to the fact that he wanted his pants and coffee to meet together.

If Question Period had a theme song, what song would it be and why? "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke.

If someone played you in a movie, who would it be? Danny DeVito -- can there be any doubt?

Despite being completely prepared for this Programme, I wish I had taken a course in: Anger Management.

agement.

Lauren

If you were an alcoholic beverage, what would you be and why? A Shirley Temple... nobody believes that I'm not much of a drinker.

If you could be any animal, what animal would you be and why? A turtle, my thick shell would make me really successful in politics.

Favourite non-academic pastime: Commuting -- because I have to.

Most outrageous moment as an intern: When we got busted by security for taking



our poster picture in front of the Main Leg Building.

If Question Period had a theme song, what song would it be and why? "Can you feel the love tonight?" by Elton John.

If someone played you in a movie, who would it be? Denzel Washington -- because he is such a good actor.

Despite being completely prepared for this Programme, I wish I had taken a course in: Diplomacy 101

Laura

Favourite quote: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself. Any direction you choose. Will you succeed? Oh yes, you'll succeed -- three hundred and ninety-eight percent guaranteed." Dr. Seuss, from "Oh the Thinks you can Think"

If you were an alcoholic beverage, what would you be and why? Bailey's, on the rocks, because it's... Irish.

If you could be any animal, what animal would you be and why? A dolphin because they are smart, playful and swim really fast. The sea is



their oyster -- they can dive to great depths and also leap to great heights. They are highly sociable animals.

Favourite non-academic pastime: Exploring different and new (to me anyway) neighbourhoods for wonderfully quaint restaurants with good wine and (hopefully) even better company, on my intern budget!!!!

If Question Period had a theme song, what song would it be and why? "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor.

If someone played you in a movie, who would it be? If I begged, Julia Roberts might agree to do it. We both like to smile and have the big red hair thing in common.

Tom

Favorite quote: "Society is indeed a contract... between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are to be born." Edmund Burke

If you were an alcoholic beverage, what would you be and why? Chateau de depute

Favourite non-academic pastime: Nerdy though it may sound....reading the Globe and Mail

Most outrageous mo-



ment as an intern: Nearly tripping a cabinet minister in a crowded scrum.

Despite being completely prepared for this Programme, I wish I had taken a course in: Advanced Parliamentary Procedure

Jason

Favourite quote:

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas."

- Former Australian cabinet minister Keppel Enderbery

Favourite non-academic pastime:

Watching sports, listening to music, and taking naps.

Most outrageous moment as an intern:

Picking up a hitchhiker Dr. Jacek while traveling in a cab to Elections Ontario in Scarborough.

If Question Period had a theme song, what song

would it be and why? "Why can't we be friends," by War.

If someone played you in a movie, who would it be? Either Neil Patrick

Harris (Doogie Howser) or Richard Dean Anderson (MacGyver).

Despite being completely prepared for this Programme, I wish I had

taken a course in: How to PROPERLY iron a dress shirt and tie a Windsor knot.



Rachel

Favourite movie quote:

"Grab that net and catch that beautiful butterfly, pal! What do you like better, Christmas or wedding season?" -Vince Vaughn as Jeremy Grey in Wedding Crashers.

If you could be any animal, what animal would you be and why? Emperor Penguin,

because who does not want to be an emperor, plus to live in Antarctica you have to be one tough bird!

Favourite non-academic pastime:

Listening to Hilary Duff, 50 Cent and Madonna in some euro-inspired dance remix while reading tabloid rags and perusing perezhilton.com, gossip extraordinaire.

If Question Period had a theme song, what song would it be and why? I would narrow it down to "Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word", by Elton John.

If someone played you in a movie, who would it be? Gwyneth Paltrow because she is smart, a great dresser and is brave enough to name her kids Apple and Moses.

Despite being completely prepared for this Programme, I wish I had

taken a course in: Podiatry 101 . . . I would have loved to learn about the link between high heels and back pain.



Eleni

Favourite Quote:

"Nobody puts Baby in a corner" Dirty Dancing.

If you were an alcoholic beverage, what would you be and why? Amaretto and cranberry, because it is unique, sweet and my favourite drink.

If you could be any animal, what

animal would you be and why? A Giraffe, to compensate for my lack of height as a human.



Favourite non-academic pastime:

Dancing, specifically ballet and watching television, specifically really bad sitcom reruns.

Most outrageous moment as an intern:

When the excitement over (free) coffee was a little too much for one intern to handle.

Neil

Favourite

quote: "Modernity creates its normativity out of itself because, although it is historically conscious, it recognizes that its moment is the present."

Patrick D. LeGay

If you could be any animal, what animal would you be and why? I'd be a bear, but I guess I would have to be a red haired skinny bear.....fine, I'll be a fox.

Favourite non-academic pastime: Working on my inventions. What are my inventions you may ask? I'll never say!

Most outrageous moment as an intern: Al-

most became a castrato due to random coffee attack.....by myself. That

coffee machine had it out for me, I swear.

If someone played you in a movie,

who would it be? Whoopi Goldberg, or that guy who played Goldfinger in, uh, Goldfinger.

Despite being completely prepared for this Programme, I wish I had taken a course in: Increasing my coffee tolerance. I drink so much now I feel insane.....or does I?

2004-5 Interns: Where Are They Now?

As current interns we are always interested in hearing about the paths taken by former interns. We have chosen to highlight the interns of 2004-05, inquiring about their current positions and fondest memories and lessons learned while in the Programme.

Timothy Culbert

Current position: Working for McCain Foods (Canada) in New Brunswick.

Nicola Hepburn

Current position: Research Analyst at the Council of Ontario Universities. My specialty areas are university research and student financial assistance. (If you need more detail, please let me know)

Most valuable lesson learned: In honour of the Internship Director, Dr. J, the Program Assistant Eithne, and Coordinators – Tonia, Lorraine, and especially Ray – the one word that opened multiple doors of opportunity to an intern: DISCRETION! Always remember the value of discretion, and remain humble along the way. The internship also affirmed the importance of being open to new experiences while at the same time maintaining high personal standards. And most importantly, remember that evening receptions organized for MPPs and staff = free dinner for interns! Go to all of them!

Audrey Lemieux

Current position: Senior Consultant to the Bridgepoint Group in Toronto.

Adam McDonald

Current position: Legislative Assistant to Dave Levac, MPP.

Kaila Mintz

Current position: Foreign Service Officer, Foreign Affairs and Interna-

tional Trade Office. Usually I'm a Political Officer with the Southern and Eastern Africa Division, but right now I'm on temporary assignment with the Canadian Consulate General in Cape Town (until mid-Dec).

Most valuable lesson learned: The most valuable lesson I learned from the internship was how to network- REALLY network. I'm no longer shy to hand out my card and ask people for theirs, and follow up with contacts I meet. My second most valuable lesson was how to hold a cocktail glass and a food plate and maneuver a crowded reception.



Ben Rossiter

Current position: Communications Assistant for Chris Charlton, MP for Hamilton Mountain. She is the NDP Critic for Seniors and Pensions, and an OLIP Alumni.

Best memory as an intern: Some of my best memories revolve around the wide assortment of personalities our group had meetings with. One morning we met with John Clarke of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty in a Tim Horton's to talk about poverty

issues and the riot at Queen's Park. We left that meeting, took an elevator up about 35 floors, and met with the Hon. Bill Davis in his plush Tories office. Talk about a juxtaposition!

Rebecca Sciarra

Current position: She is pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton University.

Most valuable lesson learned as an intern: Discretion, discretion, discretion. Heeding wisdom from our then coordinator, Ray McLellan, one of the most important lessons I took from my time as an intern, was practicing the art of professional conduct and discretion. Since leaving Queen's Park, I have taken this wisdom with me as the proviso, of 'discretion, discretion, discretion' which continues to apply regardless of where I have traveled to next.

Rebecca Scott

Current position: Policy Analyst in the Long-Term Care Homes Branch at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Best memory as an intern: Too many to count! Hearing my member read a speech that I had written, celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the Clerk of the Northwest Territories' Legislature, being dazzled by Bill Davis's wit, terrible driving conditions on the way to Quebec City, frantic phone calls to other interns for advice on House procedure, walking into a committee room not realizing what "in camera" meant and of course, receptions!

Alumni Spotlights

OLIP alumnus **Tim Murphy** has managed to stay in one place long enough to have experienced great success, but never so long as to limit the extent of his biography. His success and career path is the envy of all past, current and future interns and for this we have decided to once again honour Murphy with a spotlight in our newsletter.

After completing his one year stint at Queen's Park as an intern in 1982-1983, Murphy went on to law school where he managed to complete two years of his studies before being scooped up by then Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament, Sean Conway. Ironically, Murphy did not work for the Liberals while an intern, but he says that "having worked for NDP and Progressive Conservative Members I became a Liberal."

While working as Mr. Conway's Executive Assistant, Murphy was able to engage in some very interesting files. Spe-



cifically, he worked on Bill 30, which brought full funding to Catholic schools in Ontario. He then went back to law school to complete his studies but soon after returned to the political world to work on Bill Graham's election campaign. Despite the negative outcome of that campaign, Murphy did not shy away from campaign work but rather went on to run Paul Martin's campaign in 1990 with great success. He then co-chaired the committee that led to the establishment of a proportional delegation convention model and in 1992 he once again engaged in an election campaign with himself as the Liberal candidate.

Murphy was successful in his campaign and became the Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of St. George-St. David. After his time at Queen's Park as an MPP, Murphy returned to his trained profession and practiced law. However, in 1999 he submitted to the

political call and became President of the Ontario Liberal Party and one of the co-chairs of the 1999 campaign. In 2001, Murphy found himself once again a political staffer but this time at Parliament Hill as the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance and then the Prime Minister.

Having reached great political success at both the Park and on the Hill, Murphy has once again returned to law. He is currently a partner at McMillan Binch Mendelsohn, where he specializes in alternative finance and procurement (3Ps) and public policy law. He lives in Toronto with his wife and daughter.

Upon being informed of his history, as a current intern I had to ask Murphy what he thought about his time in the programme, to which he jokingly replied "it ruined my life." Well, if I can be so bold as to speak on behalf of this year's interns and interns of the past, "we all hope that it ruins our lives as greatly as it has ruined yours."

Remembering 1993/94 — Philip Bousquet

In September, I met this year's Interns (in a pub, naturally) and, following introductions, faced "The Question" that every alumnus must face: "When were you an Intern?" "92/93", I replied, inadvertently revealing my age by getting my OLIP year wrong. Was it that long ago? Not quite. It was one OLIP later, 1993/94, and it proved to be a year that witnessed several shifts in Canadian politics.

September 1993 to June 1994, spanned the launch of two significant party platforms: the Liberal "Red Book" and the Ontario PC *Common Sense Revolution*. In Ottawa, Jean Chrétien formed a majority government and appointed Paul Martin his Minister of Finance, while the Bloc Quebecois and Reform Party won enough seats to dominate the Opposition benches.

In Ontario, Premier Bob Rae's government continued to feel the consequences of its "Social Contract" with provincial public sector unions and, the following spring, introduced legislation that would have provided for same sex partnership rights and obligations. As with the party platforms and the regional shift in voting

patterns, Bill 167 advanced ideas and policies that continue to influence Canadian politics.

Beyond politics, our year saw a dramatic (second) Blue Jays World Series victory and the (first) theft of Edvard Munch's *The Scream* in Oslo. Possibly the most significant development from the period was the introduction of the World Wide Web as a freely accessible Internet standard. Keeping in touch with one's friends from OLIP can be difficult, but it is made easier through the wonders of email and Google.

My colleagues (Sharon Cardash, Vito Ciraco, Rod Cumming, Wendy Martin, Karen Murray, Rob Nicol, and Christine Tovee) have gone on to careers in academia, law, government, public policy, business, and engineering, in Canada and internationally. Our favourite memories of the year vary, but, on behalf of my colleagues, I can offer a few observations.

1993/94 was the final year of Graham White's term as Intern Director, and he, along with Doug Arnott, Ellen Schoenberger and Speaker David Warner, provided us with guidance and support that made us feel like family as much as Interns.

While feeling a bit overwhelmed at the

degree of interest shown by the MPPs, we soon learned that the many interviews were terrific opportunities to ask questions and to discover something of their background, beliefs and reasons for running. After the selection, you begin to form a 'professional friendship' with the MPP, observing, but also participating in their work and engaging in an ongoing dialogue about politics, policy and the legislature.

Another great advantage of the program was having the freedom (and standing) to request a meeting with any public figure of our choosing. We met with journalists (Peter Mansbridge, Pamela Wallin, Steve Paikin), politicians (Premier Rae, Lyn McLeod, Mike Harris, Gilles Duceppe), and numerous public officials and decision makers during our time at Queen's Park and on OLIP trips to Ottawa, Quebec City, Six Nations, Boston, Edmonton and Yellowknife.

Throughout the year, OLIP managed to offer a unique blend of insight, experience and friendship.

Two Old Bramptonians

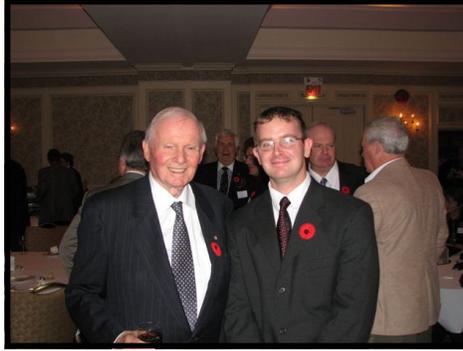
On November 3, 2006, I had the honour of meeting the former Premier of Ontario, the Honourable William Glenville Davis. This was a particular pleasure for me as I was raised in Brampton and actually attended W.G. Davis Senior Public School for two years.

Premier Davis spoke to 150 people on this occasion, and absolutely captivated the audience with his sharp wit, his charm,

and the dignified charisma that made him such a successful Premier for 14 years. He was thoughtful enough to mention my name in his speech, as I had told him earlier that he and I were “fellow

Bramptonians.”

Having the chance to meet Premier Davis has certainly been a particular highlight of my OLIP experience to date, and I would thus like to thank Jim Wilson for providing me with this special opportunity.



Interns with Minister Sorbara

The interns had the opportunity to visit the Honourable Greg Sorbara in his office in the Frost Building at Queen’s Park. In addition to the wonderful view, the interns were graciously welcomed by



the Minister whose energy and friendliness worked to create a comfortable atmosphere. While extremely hard-working, Minister Sorbara always finds time to show his support for the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Thank-you Minister!

“Champions of Change”



One of the highlights of the OLIP Programme is the opportunities to attend events with sponsors, which often include appearances (and if we are lucky, speeches!) from promi-

nent Canadians. In November, the Certified General Accountants (CGA) invited us to attend the keynote session of their annual conference “Champions of Change”, featuring Stephen Lewis as the keynote speaker. We would like to thank the CGA for providing a wonderful breakfast and allowing us to attend this great event.

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The Churchill Society Annual Dinner

The annual Churchill dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel proved to be a major highlight of our fall! We not only looked our best, but we were also privileged to meet some really impressive people. Ed Broadbent was honoured for his significant contributions for the advancement of parliamentary democracy, by both Toronto

Mayor David Miller and former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Mr. Broadbent gave a tremendous speech that emphasized how important human rights are in

times of war. We would like to thank the Churchill Society for including us in this spectacular night. We

would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all the board members who sponsored our dinner tickets and for inviting us to sit at their respective tables.



Rachel and Lauren had the pleasure of sitting with some political trivia

experts. They tested our political savvy with the following questions:

1. Which NDP Leader became a

couple with a conservative Cabinet minister?

2. Which current federal leader's father was once a conservative MP?



Answers: 1. Alexa McDonough 2. Jack Layton

Sponsor Spotlights

Wyeth is a leader and pioneer in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

Over the years Wyeth has developed and fos-

tered an incredibly successful array of recognized and trusted consumer healthcare brands such as Advil, Robitussin, Centrum and Chapstick. Their successful enterprise is not limited to the everyday consumer healthcare market.



Wyeth is taking the next step in scientific innovation, developing new and exciting immunosuppressants for transplant recipients, an array of cancer treatment

options, as well as focusing on vaccines and infectious diseases, musculoskeletal diseases, and internal medicine.

Wyeth is helping to ensure that as we are able to face medical challenges and provide

improved treatments and therapy options for a wide and varied array of diseases and ailments.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Wyeth for contributing to our program. Without sponsors such as Wyeth we would be unable to visit legislatures across the country or enjoy many of the other fabulous perks of being an intern in the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme.

Advocacy Solutions is a public affairs firm based in Mississauga and a valued sponsor of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. The focus of Advocacy Solutions is to assist clients in developing a strong advocacy strategy in order to present their case to government. Advocacy, simply put, is telling your story to someone in order to compel that person to do something. Advocacy Solutions follows a three-step advocacy process to help clients present their case to decision-makers – educate (describe who you are, who you represent and what your issues are), demonstrate (demonstrate why your issues matter), and advocate (be able to articulate clearly what you need the

decision-maker to do to advance your cause).

The firm draws on the expertise of its founder and senior partner, Ryan Clarke, who has a long and varied career in advocacy, public policy and law. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science from

McMaster University and a law degree from UWO. After practicing law for three years he became special assistant to the Ontario Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, Jim Wilson, fo-

cusing on the Science and Technology division, which had been recently created by the government and had no infrastructure or a frame-

work for operation at the time. After leaving the Ontario government he went to work for GlaxoSmith-Kline Inc. as senior manager in public affairs, where he worked until founding Advocacy Solutions.



Among its varied clients are Pfizer Canada, the Ontario Lung Association, the Mississauga Board of Trade, and the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Interested in becoming a sponsor?

As the Chair of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP) Sponsorship Committee, I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in a unique opportunity with our programme.

OLIP is a highly regarded 30-year old non-partisan educational internship that offers eight recent university graduates practical work experience within Ontario's political environment. Interns are placed in the offices of both government and opposition Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP). In addition to these placements, interns travel to other jurisdictions within Canada and abroad to learn about the varied legislative processes and political issues. While working in Toronto, traveling abroad and visiting other Canadian parliaments,

OLIP's educational curriculum centres upon innumerable meetings with politicians, public servants, private sector stakeholders, the media and non-governmental organizations. Our program recognizes the importance of creating and sustaining connections among the full spectrum of citizens affected by the political system.

Thanks to many generous donations by private and public organizations, OLIP continues to offer young Canadians invaluable access to the world of politics, the private sector and the public service. However, due to the increasing costs of travel and administration, we are constantly seeking new sponsors. Enclosed is a package that contains information on sponsorship and donation opportunities as well as a more comprehensive explanation of the OLIP programme itself.

OLIP: The Ontario Legislature

Internship Programme was established in 1976 as a nonpartisan programme to provide a unique learning experience for recent university graduates and practical support for MPPs. It quickly became a well-known and widely respected organization at Queen's Park.

INTERNS: Eight recent graduates are selected for OLIP based on their top-ranking academic status as well as their extracurricular activities and community involvement. On average, over one hundred complete applications are considered each year. Countless interns have earned successful careers with the private sector, civil service, political parties and OLIP sponsors.

AT THE PARK: A ten month period is split equally between an opposition and government member's office. Interns will have the opportunity to visit constituency offices, conduct research, issue press releases, organize conferences, draft Question Period materials, work on legislation, write speeches and draft member statements.

OFF-SITE: Hosting guest speakers and attending seminars is especially valuable for interns. Meeting and networking with Prime Ministers, Premiers, Cabinet Ministers, business executives, journalists, and private sector

stakeholders gives interns a realistic and comprehensive perspective of the Canadian social, political and economic realms.

RECOGNITION: OLIP repeatedly recognizes its sponsors' support in a variety of formats. Sponsors' websites are linked electronically from the OLIP site, which is

featured on the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) homepage. Our seasonal newsletters include an interview with a sponsor and a list of all sponsors on the back cover. Our social events include alumni meetings and Queen's Park receptions. They are an informal social forum for sponsors, political staff, MPPs, and alumni to interact.

CONNECTION: Sponsors are encouraged to meet with the interns to present their perspective on contemporary political issues and their relationship with government. Social receptions organized and paid for by the OLIP programme are well promoted and well attended. These events are often frequented by Ministers, Opposition Critics and the Premier. All sponsors are invited to attend our evening receptions hosted by the Speaker of the House in Fall and Spring

EXPOSURE: *OLIP webpage* is reserved for sponsors, all linked: www.olip.ontla.on.ca

Over 500 issues of *The Queen's Park Insider* report on seminars, guest speakers and "Sponsor Spotlight," a new sponsor profile. This bi-annual newsletter reaches all MPPs, Sponsors, the CPSA Board, schools and alumni.

Over 90 *Information Packages* are sent to MPPs, all sponsors are recognized therein.

Over 100 *Application Packages* sent to applicants of the Programme.

Over 100 *Posters* announce the opening of OLIP applications to all Canadian Universities. Sponsors' names or logos are displayed proudly on this poster.

Contact us at 416 325 0040

Traveling to Quebec City & Ottawa

Recently, we embarked on our first trip as a group of eight Ontario Legislative Interns. The one week trip, that takes place every fall, is intended for the interns to visit, explore and learn about the Provincial Legislature in Quebec City and Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

The first part of the week was spent in the beautiful and very romantic, Quebec



Interns meet with the Quebec Interns

City. We were wondering the halls of the National Assembly just days after the federal government had formally recognised Quebecers as a “nation united within Canada”. As

you can imagine, this made for a very exciting and entertaining few days as we were exposed to and participated in first hand conversations about the nation motion with both federalists and separatists within the National Assembly. While in

Quebec City we had the opportunity to meet with many prominent officials with whom we were able to engage in conversation and also to debate several issues. We met with the President of the National Assembly, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Leader of the Democratic Action Party, Globe and Mail journalists, several political staffers and we even had the great pleasure to meet with Premier Jean Charest. The experience proved remarkable and one that we will remember for the rest of our lives.



Interns visit the National Assembly



Interns meet with the Parliamentary Interns in Ottawa

sense of how the federal legislature itself operates, and the differences between the provincial and federal systems.

We would like to thank the interns from both the National Assembly in Quebec and Parliament Hill in Ottawa for their hospitality and assistance with the organization of the trip. We sincerely enjoyed our time in your respective city and we look forward to visiting again in the future.

Mid-week we embarked on the second half of our two-part journey, and headed for the nations capital. Quebec City may be a tough act to follow but Ottawa certainly proved up to the challenge. While in Ottawa we had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful political figures, including: Minister Flaherty, Minister Baird, the Government Whip, and the Clerk Assistant, Andre Gagnon. We also participated in meetings that provided us with significant knowledge about the environment in general and climate change specifically, US-Canadian relations, the housing market, and federalism. We were able



Interns have the chance to meet with Minister Baird

to visit the Chamber and stay for Question Period and engage in discussions with Members of Parliament on various topics. Our trip was extremely informative and provided us with a better



Interns meet with Minister Flaherty

Ontario Legislature Internship Programme
1302 Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2
Telephone 416 325 0040 Web www.olip.ontla.on.ca

Our sponsors are an integral part of the Programme and without their help, the Programme could not function. We would like to thank our sponsors for all the help they have given us in the past and for helping to make the Programme as successful as it is today. OLIP has always been supported by a substantial annual grant from the Ontario Legislative Assembly through the all-party Board of Internal Economy. However, corporate donations have been an important element in OLIP financing and these donations have been used to fund exchange visits and related educational activities. The Programme enjoys a very close working relationship with Churchill Society For the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy and GP Murray Research Ltd.

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