

REMARKS BY TED ARNOTT, MPP, WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS  
ROTARY CLUB OF GUELPH SOUTH  
1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH



APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Thank you very much.

Good afternoon. It's great to be here and great to see all of you, at this "Volunteer Appreciation Brunch."

First of all, I want to thank the Rotary Club of Guelph South for hosting our event today, and for all the remarkable work they do in our area.

Rotary is an amazing world-wide organization, with a proud history, a dynamic present and an exciting future.

Rotary's impact is international, but its heart is local-where people like you get involved, and demonstrate their caring with action- meeting regularly for fellowship, yes, but then identifying a need in your community, and organizing and planning a strategy to confront it first, then address it, and then solve it.

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, I want to thank you for all that you do.

To our volunteers who are here today, and who we are recognizing and honouring, please accept our heart-felt thanks. We are so grateful for all that you do to make our Province and Communities the wonderful places that they truly are.

Everyone we honour today has something in common- a genuine desire to help others, with no expectation of public acknowledgement or financial reward. That's what being a volunteer really is.

You do it because you truly care.

You are modest about what you do, and I know that some may even be somewhat embarrassed about being recognized today. But don't be. You should be proud of your community contribution, and just as importantly, the example you provide for others.

Not just the example: the inspiration you give to all of us, reminding us that giving back is an obligation, our duty as citizens.

And on another level, every dedicated volunteer knows of the personal satisfaction that helping others gives to the one who gives of their time, and talents, and caring.

And I suggest to you- don't keep that sense of satisfaction to yourself-share this with others too.

Tell them how great it is. How great it feels to volunteer. Become a recruiter of the next generation of volunteers. That too becomes a legacy, and helps us embrace the promise of the future.

In every walk of life, we need more people to get involved, giving of their time and talent toward the noble goal of making our communities better and stronger. And while we look to government for leadership, local, provincial and federal-all three "orders"-and I say orders, not levels, because all are legitimate, all are elected, all are important, none should be subordinate to another, and all should seek to work together as partners. We know Government cannot and will never do it all.

And we look to you. And you respond. You say yes.

I am glad to be here with my colleagues in elected public service.

Together we salute your tremendous contribution to our community, to our province and to our country.

God Bless you all.