

Appendix C: Nomination Package for Dave Levac

April 05, 2024

Attention: Prominence Point Sub-Committee
c/o Brantford Heritage Committee, Long Range Planning
City of Brantford
58 Dalhousie Street
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J2

Dear Selection Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to hereby nominate **DAVE LEVAC** of Brantford, Ontario as a candidate for appointment to Prominence Point. Mr. Levac is a lifelong citizen of Brantford who has served his community tirelessly at the local, regional, provincial, and federal levels in many capacities over 4+ decades as will be evidenced through the application package, testimonials, and supporting documentation (enclosed) meant to paint a very clear picture of why our nomination team endorses Dave Levac without hesitation for this prestigious honour.

My name is Derek Bond and I have known Dave Levac personally, as a friend, fellow educator, and philanthropically for over 25 years to be a remarkable citizen who has devoted almost his entire adult life to benefitting our community in so many different and important facets, initially through his tenure as an elementary school teacher and principal, and subsequently as MPP for the riding of Brant for 19 consecutive years. In fact, even after formally retiring from education and politics in 2018, Dave continues to find ways to give back to the community he so passionately loves. Rather than cite a lengthy (almost endless) list of Dave's accomplishments I would prefer instead 'to set the table' for what you will read about him in the following pages. My colleagues (highly regarded community leaders in their own respects - Vincent Ball, Lloyd St. Amand and Steve Paiken) who, like me, worked on a variety of projects alongside Dave throughout his storied career, have clearly outlined in supporting testimonials and letters of congratulations to him for previous honours and accomplishments why we feel he is most deserving of being recognized as a new member of the City of Brantford's Prominence Point for his leadership, dedication, and compassion in all his endeavours, time and time again.

When I think of Dave Levac I am immediately and constantly filled with gratitude and immense respect for him as a person of 100 % integrity, transparency, and genuine desire to help where he sees a need or has been asked for direct assistance. Dave has been and remains both a visionary and a valuable team member, never one who seeks or has sought any 'limelight' for his actions – simply put, those actions speak for themselves and, speak volumes they do indeed. Underpinning Mr. Levac's character is his sincere belief that everyone is deserving of being treated equitably and with dignity and respect, regardless of their political stripes or circumstances. Dave has been instrumental in steering and securing tens of millions of dollars for Brantford from our provincial and federal governments. In short, our communities all across Ontario (urban, rural, large and small), not just the City of Brantford, need more people like Dave Levac who will step up, and in doing so, take on sometimes extraordinary challenges for causes that are worthy and which will ultimately benefit the greater good. In recognizing these fine people your committee has an opportunity of paying them well-earned tribute and providing positive examples through their individual feats of excellence of what 'can be' for generations to come.

Submitted respectfully, as nominator; I and all members of our team remain available to you via phone or e-mail if we can be of further assistance at any point in the selection process.



Derek Bond



**City of Brantford Prominence Point
Nomination Form**

Please indicate in which category and achievement area(s) you are nominating the candidate:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academics & Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics & Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humanities & Volunteerism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Business & Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic & Community Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine, Science & Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Architecture & Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmentalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

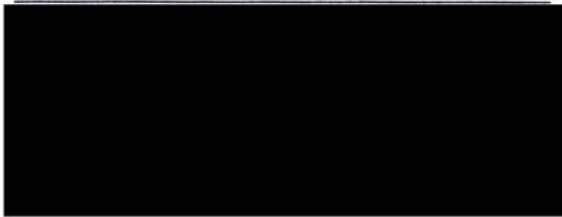
NOMINEE: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION of Nominee or Family Member:

Contact Name:

DAVE LEVAC

Address:



Phone #:

Email:

INFORMATION:

1. In what way has the nominee brought local, regional, national or international recognition to the City of Brantford?
2. Please describe the nominee's biographical information and his or her connection to the City of Brantford and its historic or contemporary development (i.e. the nominee was born there, lived here during a formative time in their life/career, etc.). Please include specific dates of achievements and/or active participation in organizations.
3. Why is it important to recognize the nominee as part of Prominence Point? What is exceptional about this individual's contribution to the City of Brantford?

Please attach at least one clear photograph (if available) of the nominee. Please also attach copies of supporting documents to support your nomination. These may include copies of newspaper clippings, testimonials, awards, photographs, web links, or other pertinent information.

NOMINATOR'S NAME: DEREK BOND



REFERENCES: Persons who support this nomination

References should be familiar with the nominee's achievements.

Reference 1:

Name: Lloyd St. Amand



Reference 2:

Name: Vincent Ball



Reference 3:

Name: Steve Paiken

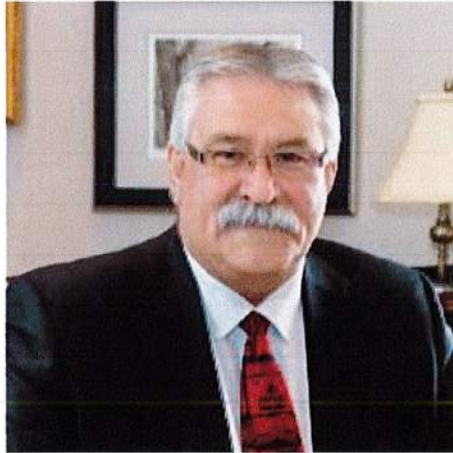


Please submit completed nomination forms to the City's Planning and Development Services electronically at Heritage@Brantford.ca or in hardcopy to the attention of Long Range Planning (Prominence Point). Planning and Development Services is located at Brantford City Hall, 58 Dalhousie Street (2nd Floor), Brantford, ON, N3T 2J2.

Re: Nomination for Inclusion on the City of Brantford's Prominence Point in 2025

Candidate for Consideration: DAVE LEVAC

The photograph below is also available electronically.



Biography

For

Dave Levac



Integrity. Leadership. Results.

Dave Levac was born in and has lived in Brant all his life. Specifically, he spent his formative years and early married life in (Eagle Place) Brantford and now resides in the County of Brant.

He has worked tirelessly for Brant, Ontario and Canada. He started volunteering as early as grade school and continued through high school, university and the world of work.

Organized sports helped Dave develop his sense of fair play and sportsmanship. During his early years he was on several championship teams including baseball and basketball. He was on 3 OBA championship teams.

At Wilfrid Laurier University he was captain of the basketball team in his second year and once home in Brantford, he was the leader and captain of the Senior Men's SW Ontario basketball champion Brantford Bullets. Laurier named Dave as one of the top 100 grads.

Dave began his working career as an elementary school teacher in 1977. During his career he introduced and implemented an award-winning conflict resolution program for his students and in 1989 Dave became a principal. He was named OECTA Distinguished Teacher in 1994.

He also developed a second parallel career as a community leader, volunteer and organizer. He was Co-Director of Kamp Chiefswood (Kawanis Club) from 1985 to 1998. Founded and lead the "Friends of the Fire Fighters" (raising over \$150,000 for the Brantford and Brant Fire Departments) completed and goal met. Founded and chaired the "Walter Gretzky, CNIB Celebrity Golf Tournament" (Event retired). Preserved and chaired the "Thank-A-Vet Luncheon" and founded and chaired Brantford's "Walk of Fame" (event retired.) He Co-Founded and Co-Chaired the "Lifetime Achievement Awards for Volunteerism" (event retired). Dave has also volunteered with many organizations including being President of Brant Regional CNIB, Chair of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Vice Chair United Way Campaign, Co-Chair of United Way Capital Campaign, Honourary Chair of the MS Super Walk, Parkinson Society of Canada, and board member of the Brantford International Jazz Festival. He was also Provincial Board member of Special Olympics Ontario. (Served 9 years-maximum 3 terms on the Board.) Recently, served as Honourary Co-Chair of a Capital Campaign for Crossing All Bridges raising \$3.1 million. Goal surpassed.

Levac received the Canada 125 Medal in 1993 and was named Brantford's Citizen of the Year in 1997. He also served as co-ordinator of Queen Elizabeth the II's Royal visit to Brantford in 1997. He was also awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. In 2022 he was then awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Pin. He has also been awarded Ontario Service Awards and the YMCA Canada Peace Medal. He also received the inaugural "Joseph Brant Award" from Robert Land Academy for "Loyalty, Labour, Courage, Commitment and Honour". Received "Eagle Feather" from Six Nations Veteran's Association. Invested into The Order of Ontario 11-21-22.

Dave brought his strong drive for community service to the Ontario Legislature, first by being elected in 1999. Re-elected in 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2014. Dave has had several private member's bills passed into law (a rare feat), including "Smoke Free Amendment Act. (The first cosponsored bill by two different parties.), The Fire Fighters Memorial Day Act, and Sabrina's Law. He was awarded "The Order of Merit" by the Ukrainian President for his work on the "Holodomor Memorial Day Act." This medal is similar to a Knighthood in England. It was also the first tri-party sponsored bill passed in Ontario history.

Locally, Dave has delivered many results to his community. Among the long list of accomplishments, Dave considers the following key to the success and future success of Brant and the region; a new MRI for the hospital, Brownfield clean up grants, Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre complex grant, Brant Twin Pad complex grant, several major grants building the Brantford Campus of Wilfrid Laurier University, funding for Steadman Hospice, Birthing Centre and Emergency Room expansion grants for the Brantford General Hospital, YMCA/Laurier complex grant, Detox/Rehabilitation Centre grant and secured "GO" Service in Brantford just to name a few.

In 2003 Dave was appointed Chief Government Whip. He followed as Parliamentary Assistant for Community Safety & Correctional Services, PA for Energy, PA for Economic Development & Innovation and PA for Energy & Infrastructure. He was also Chairperson of the Education Cabinet Committee during this time.

After the 2011 election, Dave looked for new opportunities to serve by running for Speaker of the Legislature of Ontario. He was elected Speaker on the second ballot, a resounding vote of confidence from all sitting members. Internationally, Levac has been a member of and led delegations to The Council of Commonwealth Governments, Council of State Governments (CSG), Francophonie Governments and many others. He has won a special award for his contributions to the CSG. (One of only 2 Canadians awarded in over 52 years.) He was also responsible for several "Friendship Agreements" with other countries.

Dave served as Speaker from November 2011 until 2018. He was heralded by most MPPs and political commentators as one of the most effective Speakers in recent history, presiding with dignity and integrity. He is now the longest serving Speaker in Ontario history.

After 45 years of public service between teaching and politics, Dave retired, choosing not to run in the 2018 provincial election. Not to fade away, Dave accepted a position of Distinguished Visiting Professor at McMaster University where he brought Experiential Learning to 4th year Political Science students on a two-year contract.

He has also accepted a position as Chairperson of the Board of Gauge Gamification Inc, where he will lead the team building a management learning tool through the use of an interactive app. In his spare time, Dave was asked to again lead a team of community volunteers, politicians and medical/hospital staff as the Chairperson of the New Hospital Task Force. He is also the Honourary Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign to purchase a home for Crossing All Bridges with a goal of raising \$2.5 million (final tally: \$3.1 million). He is also a "Founding Member" on the Board of Directors of Casa Laximi, a private world-wide boarding school in Florida. He has completed his maximum service on the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Ontario. He was Co-Chair of the Brant United Way 2020 Capital Campaign. (Campaign completed and goal met.) Dave is a Founding Member of The Coalition for Canadian Police Reform (C-CPR). Dave serves on the Board of Rosewood House and has accepted a position of Director on the Advisory Council for MAAS Construction. He has been assigned as a Director on the BME (Brant Municipal Enterprises) Board for Brant County. He was appointed to the Board of Brant Animal Aid and Special Advisor for the SPCA Foundation. He has recently Co-Founded Free Sport for Growth providing free sports equipment to kids.

Dave Levac has committed a lifetime of service to Brant/Brantford, the entire region, Ontario and Canada while demonstrating the highest level of leadership, honesty and integrity.

Dave and his wife Rosemarie, continue to live in Brant. They have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

All information provided by: Dave Levac



Dave Levac

Experience

September 1976–June 1999

Education- Teacher/principal with the Brant County Roman Catholic Separate School Board

June 1999–June 2018

MPP for Brant in the Ontario Legislature

September 2018-August 2020

Visiting Distinguished Professor. McMaster University

Educational Career- Became Vice Principal 1984

-Became Principal 1989 until 1999

Political Career- Elected to Ontario Legislature 1999

- Became Chief Government Whip 2003

- Held various Government positions until 2011

1-PA to Minister of Energy

2-PA to Minister of Public Safety & Correctional

Services

3-PA to Minister of Economic Development & Innovation

4-PA to Minister of Energy & Infrastructure

- Elected Speaker of Ontario Legislature 2011-2018

- Longest serving Speaker in Ontario history

- Retired from politics 2018

Education

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo- BA

Queen's University, Kingston- B ED

Niagara University, Buffalo New York- MSc ED

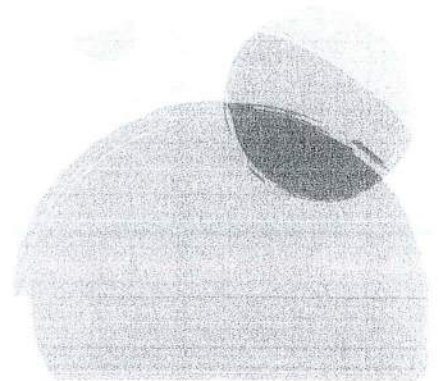
Awards

-Invested in The Order of Ontario (11-21-22)

-Canada 125 Medal

-Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal

-Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal



- 
- Queen Elizabeth Palatium Jubilee Pin
 - YMCA Canada Peace Medal
 - Chevalier of Ukrainian Order of Merit Medal
 - Mikhnovsky Medal of Merit
 - The Joseph Brant Award
 - "Brantford Citizen of The Year" 1997
 - Eagle Feather from Six Nations of The Grand River Territory
 - Friendship Wampum from Mississauga of The Credit River Territory
 - "Council of State Government Paul White Award for Distinguished Service" 2018. One of only two Canadians to receive in 52 years.
 - Named One of Top 100 Grads- Wilfrid Laurier University

Leadership

Co-Director of Kamp Chiefswood (Kiwans Club) 1985 to 1997

Founded and Chaired- Friends of The Fire Fighters. Raised over \$150,000.00 for Brantford and Brant Fire Departments to purchase Thermal Imagers.

Founded and Chaired- "Walter Gretzky CNIB Celebrity Golf Tournament". Over \$1,000,000.00 raised over 10 years for CNIB.

Founded and Chaired- Brantford's "Walk of Fame" program, honouring local and regional citizens who have made a mark in their chosen field.

Saved and reconstituted the "Thank-A-Vet Luncheon". An annual event to honour local/regional veterans, spouses and widows. At one time, the largest event of its kind in Canada.

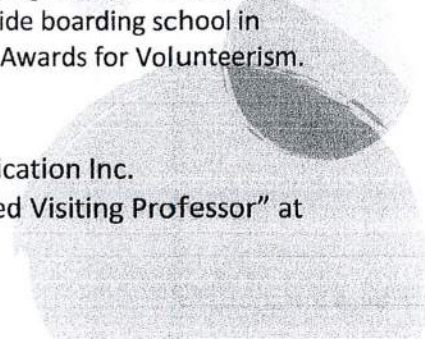
Volunteered on many boards:

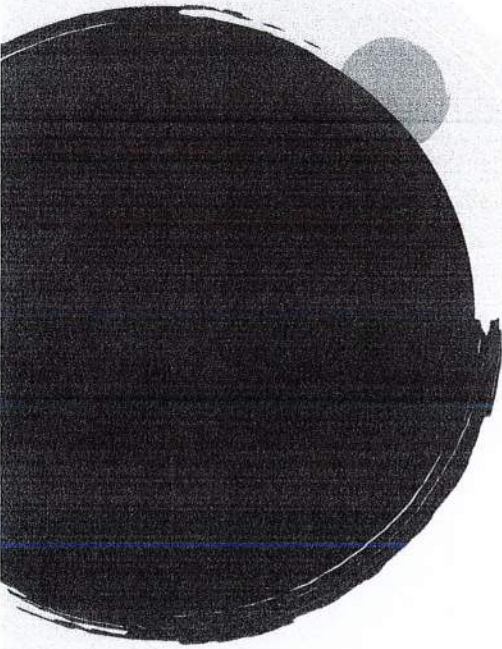
Chaired CNIB, President of Heart and Stroke Foundation. Served 11 years with United Way and Vice Chair of United Way Campaign. Honourary Chair of MS Super Walk. Champion of Parkinson Society of Canada. Provincial Board member of Special Olympics Ontario for 9 years. Honourary Co-Chair of Capital Campaign of Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre. Just completed \$2.5 million dollar drive raising \$3.1 million dollars. Citizen Member and Chairperson of Mayor's Task Force for New Hospital for Brant Community Health Network. Board member of Brantford International Jazz Festival. Founding member of the Board of Directors of Casa Laximi, a private world-wide boarding school in Florida. Co-Founder of Lifetime Achievement Awards for Volunteerism.

Presently

Chairperson of the Board of Gauge Gamification Inc.

Dave accepted a position of: "Distinguished Visiting Professor" at





McMaster University where he brought Experiential Learning to 4th year Political Science students. Two-year contract.

Dave has accepted the post of Co-Chair of the Brant United Way 2020 Capital Campaign. Completed. Goal met.

Appointed to the Board of Rosewood House, Brantford.
Accepted a position of Director on the Advisory Council for MAAS Construction.

Appointed as a Director on the BME (Brant Municipal Enterprises) Board of Brant County.

Appointed to the Board of Brant Animal Aid.

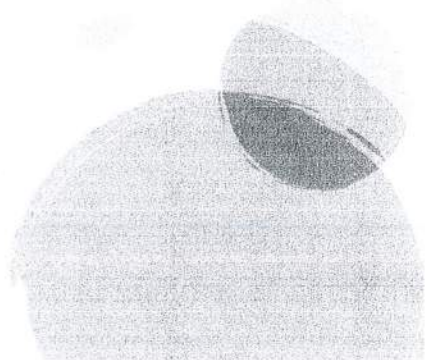
Recruited to be Special Advisor to SPCA Foundation.

Within his consulting company, "Dave Levac Consulting Inc.", Dave has acted as Moderator of The Ontario Chamber of Commerce AGM and Moderator of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM. Recently, he was the Chairperson of the Denturist Association of Ontario AGM. Consulted for or presently consulting for: Now Housing, Lakeview Development Company Inc., 48 North, Edenbrook Farms, Thingsfactory Inc., AAA Architects, Empire Homes, Leschuk Developments, Iron Gate Group, MAAS Construction and others.

All information presented by: Dave Levac

References

[Available upon request.]



'Extraordinary citizen' humbled by Order of Ontario

Dave Levac
receives award
from Lieutenant
Governor

VINCENT BALL

An "extraordinary citizen" of Brantford and Brant County received Ontario's highest honour on Monday.

Dave Levac, who has given his time and voice to countless local initiatives, was appointed to the Order of Ontario by Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell at a ceremony in Toronto.

"It was surreal," Levac said of the ceremony. "I felt the power in the room from the many inductees.

"Their stories were so inspirational and I was humbled and honoured to be among them."

The Order of Ontario recognizes exceptional leaders from all walks of life and diverse fields of endeavour, who have made a lasting impact and legacy that strengthens Ontario and, by extension, Canada and the world.

Levac was nominated by longtime friend Derek Bond with supporting letters from Ross Enslev, Rita-Marie Hadley, Paula Thomlinson, Lloyd St. Amand and Jane Stewart.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the tentacles of Dave's community involvement were many and varied, and all manner



Former Brant MPP and Speaker of the Legislature Dave Levac with his wife Rosemarie after being appointed to the Order of Ontario at a ceremony held by Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell in Toronto on Monday.

of individuals, causes and groups benefited tremendously from all that he undertook," St. Amand and Stewart said in a letter of support. "The list of achievements involving Dave is almost endless, and the number of individuals who have been assisted, supported and encouraged by his endeavours essentially runs into many thousands."

Those who benefited include children with challenges, individuals from other countries choosing to make Ontario their permanent home, those involved in healthcare

and off-shore corporations seeking to expand their manufacturing base in Ontario, St. Amand and Stewart said in their letter.

They called Levac an "extraordinary citizen."

St. Amand served as the MP for Brant from 2004 to 2010 while Stewart is a past federal Minister of Revenue and Indigenous Affairs, who was the Brant MP from 1993 to 2004 and served in various cabinet portfolios including Minister of Revenue.

SEE LEVAC ON A2



Dave Levac, shown in a 2012 photo in his role as Speaker at Queen's Park, has been appointed to the Order of Ontario. *EXPOSITOR FILE PHOTO*

Former MPP Levac appointed to Order of Ontario

Former Brantford-Brant MPP Dave Levac has been appointed to the Order of Ontario, the province's highest honour.

Levac was an MPP for 19 years and Ontario's longest serving house Speaker. Before getting into politics, he was a "distinguished educator," the province said in a news release, noting that he was recognized as Brantford citizen of the year for being a strong advocate for children with special needs, firefighters, veterans, the CNIB and Special Olympics Ontario.

He is one of 24 new appointments to the order for 2021 an-

nounced Friday by Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell. She will bestow the honour at a ceremony on Nov. 21.

"As chancellor of the order, I join Ontarians in congratulating the 2021 Order of Ontario appointees," she said.

"Their service to our province is a reminder to all of us fortunate enough to call Ontario home, that the fabric of society is knit together by good deeds and the dedication of individuals. May their accomplishments be an inspiration and example for many to follow."

According to the news release,

the order recognizes exceptional leaders from all walks of life and diverse fields of endeavour whose impact and lasting legacy have played an important role in building a stronger province, country and world.

Since its establishment in 1986, the order has welcomed 822 people.

Appointments are made on the recommendation of an independent advisory council based on the merit of accomplishments of nominees put forward by the public.

The nomination deadline is March 31 each year.

Expositor Staff

November 22, 2022

Dave Levac



Dave.

Dear Mr. Levac,

On behalf of Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus, I extend my sincere congratulations on your appointment to the Order of Ontario.

Wilfrid Laurier University is always proud to count Ontario's longest serving Speaker of the House among its Golden Hawk alumni. Here at the Brantford campus, we have been the direct benefactors of your collaborative approach to community building. You worked with stakeholders across all levels of government and from all political stripes to bring to fruition projects that benefit everyone in Brantford-Brant. Our campus and community are better for it.

Your commitment as an educator and community builder contribute to a lasting legacy. That legacy is reflected in the many students whose paths you influenced, and in community infrastructure assets like the Laurier Brantford YMCA, where generations of local residents and students will engage in sport and play.

You truly live Laurier's aspiration of inspiring lives of leadership and purpose. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you again for your leadership, partnership, and exemplary collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Araujo'.

Antonio Araujo, BA, CPA, CMA
Interim Senior Executive Officer, Brantford Campus
AVP: Campus Operations & Risk Management



November 22, 2022

The Honourable David Levac



Dear David,

I am writing to extend my sincere congratulations on receiving the Order of Ontario. This is a great honour and reflects the impact you have had throughout your career. We have recently refreshed our mission at the Faculty of Education, which is now: *To create a gathering place where there is room for all to learn, grow, and contribute by building inclusive communities centred on teaching, learning, and research.* Reading about your career, I can see how education and inclusive communities are woven through your work as a teacher, administrator and politician.

We are immensely proud of all our alumni; however, to see a graduate of our Faculty awarded such an honour brings us great pride. Congratulations to you and your family and please stay in touch with the Faculty. We love to hear about our alumni's impact on the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Luce-Kapler".

Rebecca Luce-Kapler, OCT, PhD
Dean
Faculty of Education
Rebecca.luce-kapler@queensu.ca

Parliament

Room 713, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-996-5322
Fax: 613-996-5323



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Parlement

Pièce 713, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-996-5322
Télééc. : 613-996-5323

Community Office

1066 Somerset St. W., Suite 404
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4T3
Tel.: 613-946-8682
Fax: 613-946-8680

Yasir Naqvi

Member of Parliament / Député
Ottawa Centre / Ottawa-Centre

Bureau communautaire

1066, rue Somerset O. Bureau 404
Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 4T3
Tél. : 613-946-8682
Télééc. : 613-946-8680

November 30, 2022

Dave Levac



Dear Mr. Levac, *Dave*

I write to offer you my congratulations on being appointed to the Order of Ontario for 2021. You are being recognized as a distinguished educator, a Member of Provincial Parliament for 19 years and Ontario's longest serving Speaker of the House.

You have demonstrated compassion and care for your community when you were recognized as Brantford Citizen of the Year for being a strong advocate for children with special needs, firefighters, veterans, the CNIB, and Special Olympics Ontario.

Communities thrive on the work and contributions of organizations, committed volunteers, and individuals like you. The Order of Ontario is the province's highest civilian honour for individuals. Being a recipient of this award, means that you have left an impact and have shown the highest level of excellence and achievement in our province.

Thank you for your compassion, dedication, and commitment to serve your community. Ontario is a better place because of it.

Sincerely,

Yasir Naqvi, MP
Ottawa Centre

Congratulations, my friend!



Office of the Regional Chair | Jim Bradley

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-685-6243
Email: jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca
www.niagararegion.ca

February 6, 2023

Mr. Dave Levac



Dear Dave:

The news that you have been appointed as a member of the Order of Ontario has finally reached Niagara so it is most appropriate that I add to the many complimentary messages you have already received my own personal congratulations on this achievement.

With your distinguished service as a Member and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and an educator and your service in so many ways to your community, you have certainly earned this distinguished award that has been bestowed upon you.

Your appointment proves that good things happen to good people!

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Jim Bradley, Chair
Niagara Region

Steve Paikin



To Whom it may Concern:

I'm delighted to write this note in support of Dave Levac's attempt to be called to The Senate of Canada.

I've known Dave for almost 25 years, having met him when he was first elected as an MPP at Queen's Park in 1999. I was a journalist and member of the press gallery (as I still am).

While we had a very professional relationship during the nearly two decades that he was an elected member of the Ontario Legislature, we have become close friends since his retirement from public life and I can say, Dave's friendship has truly enriched my life.

I think Dave would make a wonderful contribution to The Senate because I've seen how he operates in public life and know how much he loves Canada. You don't get to be the longest-serving Speaker in Ontario history unless you're seen by all sides of the house as a fair dealer, and that's what Dave was and is.

During his seven years in the big chair, he had respect from all members, and wasn't afraid to chastise his own side (or opposition MPPs for that matter) when they crossed the line. Of course, Dave was able to bring to bear his many years of

experience in the education system in the Speaker's job. He led with a firm but fair hand and thus consistently won re-election until he decided to retire from Queen's Park in 2018.

I have noted that the vast majority of appointments to the Senate, in its current incarnation, tend to be for people who have no background in elective politics. I would submit that practice should be suspended in Dave's case and here's why. While he did run for office on a political party banner, his role as Speaker required him to be scrupulously neutral and find common ground on all sides. Those qualities are surely indispensable in the Senate and Dave has them in abundance. Having met and spoken to his political opponents during previous elections, I can also report to you that they respected the way Dave conducted himself during campaign season --- no scorched earth monkey business, just integrity --- again, an asset for the Senate.

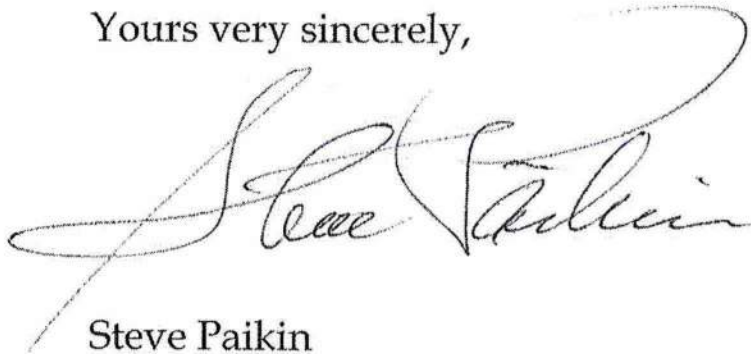
Dave followed up his political career by teaching political science to young people at McMaster University. I was honored to have been a guest lecturer in one of his classes and admired the way he tried to get this current generation to see the value in politics, which is not always abundantly obvious if you're a follower of social media, the way this younger generation is.

While we haven't spoken about it directly, I get the sense that Dave left elective politics because he'd made his contribution at Queen's Park, and it was time to let someone else have a shot at it. What he hasn't let go of, however, is a desire to offer himself up for public service and continue to make a contribution to his province and country. The Senate

is an ideal place for him to continue to do that and bring his vast knowledge of myriad issues forward.

If you should require any further information from me, I'm available at spaikin@tvo.org or at [REDACTED]. Thanks for considering this.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Paikin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Steve Paikin

Anchor

The Agenda with Steve Paikin on TVO

Officer, Order of Canada

Member, Order of Ontario

March 24, 2021

Sent by Regular Mail

The Order of Ontario
438 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Members of the Advisory Council:

Re: Dave Levac

We are very pleased to jointly sign this letter representing a testimonial with respect to the Honourable Dave Levac.

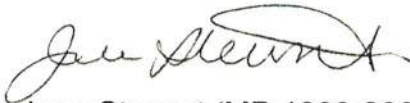
We were, respectively, the Members of Parliament for the riding of Brant from 1993 until 2008 and we worked very closely with Dave, on a number of issues and projects, for those 15 years.

As a result, we have in depth and firsthand knowledge and awareness of all that Dave has contributed to the community which we still call home. Well before we ourselves were elected to public office, we were aware of Dave's reputation, as a highly regarded educator, for giving back to the community and spearheading a number of initiatives which involved many sectors in Brantford and Brant County and, indeed, the Province at large.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the tentacles of Dave's community involvement were many and varied, and all manner of individuals, causes and groups benefitted tremendously from all that he undertook. Whether it was children with challenges, individuals from other countries choosing to make Ontario their permanent home, those involved in healthcare in the community, offshore corporations seeking to expand their manufacturing base into Ontario- truly and sincerely, the list of achievements involving Dave is almost endless, and the number of individuals who have been assisted, supported and encouraged by his endeavors essentially runs into many thousands.

Dave Levac is an extraordinary citizen and, in our considered view as two persons who worked closely with Dave for many years, a worthy recipient of the Order of Ontario.

Yours very truly,



Jane Stewart (MP 1993-2004)



Lloyd St. Amand (MP 2004-2008)

March 5, 2021

Attention: Order of Ontario award program
Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat
Ministry of Heritage, Sports, Tourism and Culture Industries
400 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2R9

Dear Selection Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation in consideration of honouring Dave Levac, an extraordinary citizen of this community, with an appointment to the Order of Ontario.

My name is Paula Thomlison and I have known Dave Levac for over 55 years. Over the course of those 5 decades, I have come to know him at different junctures of his career. Not only have I seen the tremendous difference he has made in our community as our long-time MPP, but I have also witnessed the passion he brought to his role as an educator, not only as a classroom teacher, but also as a mentor to new teachers as they entered the profession. Whether it was his students, colleagues, or constituents, he was encouraging, positive and made everyone around him feel special.

Long before he entered the world of politics, and while I was working at one of the Ministry of Health's Heart Health demonstration sites, he was the first principal I called to ask for assistance when pilot testing quality daily physical activities in a classroom setting. Without hesitation, and knowing the goal was to introduce healthier lifestyle choices to children, particularly around the importance of physical activity, he opened his doors. I knew then and there this man was destined for greater things. He seemed to know innately that removing barriers, utilizing the resources in his community, and working collaboratively was the way forward to create a better society.

That collaborative mindset stayed with him as he entered politics and throughout his political career. It was while representing Brantford-Brant as our MPP, when Dave's exceptional character shone so brightly. Dave got into politics to serve his constituents and that he did. He was approachable, willing to listen and always sought to raise the morale of everyone around him. When this community celebrated an achievement, needed help with a troubling issue or requested a strong voice at Queen's Park, Dave was there. You knew, without a doubt, he was someone you could count on.

Dave knew there was no shortcut to success. Serving the constituents of Brantford-Brant took hard work and long hours. It also took collaboration. From his support of increasing post-secondary education in Brantford, to creating an age-friendly community, promoting the importance of school nutrition programs to ensuring people living with developmental disabilities received the supports they needed, he worked with all levels of government, no matter their political stripe, to get the job done. It is rare to see such strong and respectful relationships between politicians representing different parties, but if it was cooperation and collaboration that was required to move an important issue forward, Dave was in.

...2

Even in retirement, he continues to serve this community. When asked what he would miss the most when he retired from politics he answered, *"What I'll miss the most is the people I've met, and the friendships created as a result of getting out into the community and meeting the various movers and shakers and hard-working people who do fabulous work behind the scenes."* He is still out in his community working with those movers and shakers to do what he does best, make Brantford-Brant a better place.

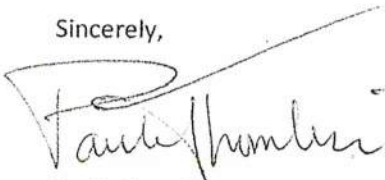
Most recently, Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre, a Centre that provides lifelong learning to adults living with varying abilities, was the recipient of Dave's largesse. With no hesitation he agreed to take on the role of co-chairing a capital campaign to raise the funds to secure a permanent home for this grassroots organization.

The campaign was a huge success, raising over \$3 million, ensuring the long-term stability of a Centre that provides vital support to some of our most vulnerable citizens. Dave's impact and influence contributed to this success.

I know that Dave is well respected by his political colleagues. It is no surprise to me that he served as Speaker of the House for seven years. He possesses all the attributes of an exceptional leader. He is inspiring, open, social, empathetic, flexible, visionary, and down to earth.

The Order of Ontario is an honour bestowed upon the best of the best. I cannot think of a more deserving individual than Dave Levac. He comes from such humble beginnings and lives his life with gratitude, faith, and joy. He is a loving husband, wonderful father and grandfather, respected colleague, loyal friend and, quite simply, one of the most decent human beings I have ever met. He set out to make a difference and he has. His principles, collaborative philosophy and achievements have left a lasting legacy in this community and this province. I fully support recommending his appointment to the Order of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Thomlison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paula Thomlison
Executive Director

February 9, 2021

I am delighted to write this testimony as to the absolute worthiness of Dave Levac for the high honour of the Order of Ontario. Both professionally and personally, I have witnessed Dave Levac's generous spirit, contributions and achievements. My main vantage point is as the Executive Director of Lansdowne Children's Centre, which annually supports >3,000 children and youth with physical, communications and/or developmental disabilities in Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, Six Nations of the Grand and Mississaugas of the Credit territories. Providing critical rehabilitation, respite and recreation services for our most vulnerable citizens, we relied on Dave as our M.P.P., being our very public champion of an inclusive society. He consistently demonstrated an emotional public response around the rights to equity and dignity of people living with special needs. This is a powerful role model position we require to realize our vision.

While Dave Levac's contributions have truly been outstanding – touching so many sectors in our community in light of his public office – I am pleased to highlight a few aspects of his commitment to the success of the children and youth our children's treatment centre supports.

Even before holding elected office, as an elementary school principal, Dave made significant professional and volunteer contributions to ensure every child and family could hope for educational success in a caring environment – at school and beyond - despite stacked odds. Being in Dave's riding, we had an unqualified advocate for giving children with special needs the very best chance to realize their potential. He took this to a higher level, resulting in a lasting legacy at the provincial realm when his leadership corralled cabinet to support a rare base funding increase for our children's rehabilitation sector.

Dave embodied his mantra of *playing together in the sandbox* through collaborative, non-partisan partnership, including with politicians of different political stripes, and with leaders at the municipal and elected Band Council levels, united across party lines for community betterment.

After tireless advocacy while in office, Dave continues to say yes when asked to assist local efforts where his respect and credibility bring support toward success.

I would be delighted to elaborate on these selected examples, as they do not do justice to the entirety of Dave's contributions demonstrating worthiness to be admitted to the Order of Ontario. Please consider this testimonial as representative of our more than 250 staff, board members and 3,000+ children with special needs and their families that Lansdowne Children's Centre supports.

Sincerely,



Rita-Marie Hadley, Executive Director

Order of Ontario Committee,

I am proud to offer a testimonial on behalf of Dave Levac, as he is considered for reception of the prestigious Order of Ontario.

I have known and respected Dave for over fifty years, including sport teammates and university roommates and later serving together on volunteer community organizations.

During Dave's years as an educator, which culminated as a principal before transitioning his career into politics, his leadership and artistic talents were always forefront. Whether fundraising for charity, soothing students with the playing of his guitar or being a great listener, Dave offered a part of himself to all. During his tenure in public education, he was the originator of the Peace Gardens at Sacred Heart School in Paris, Ontario; an area on the school grounds that served as a safe and peaceful location for kids and later spread to other facilities across the province and country.

As a portion of his volunteer efforts, I witnessed Dave's tireless efforts to ensure our military veterans were given the opportunity to meet and dine with other survivors during the annual Thank-A-Vet Luncheon, which Dave chaired for more than twenty years.

Locally, Dave's terrific talents in mediation allowed him to promote the Best that Brantford and Area had to offer – including coordination of elected officials through Brant, Brant County and the Six Nations to come together on multiple projects regardless of individual political affiliations and alliances.

The most impressive respect granted to Dave was his appointment as Speaker of the House for the Ontario Government, a position of bi-partisan nature, and one for which Dave was able to utilize his personality characteristics in a positive manner for all political parties.

It is my utmost belief that Dave Levac would be an excellent and well-deserved addition to the Order of Ontario.

Ross Enslev
Brantford

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Enslev". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LAURIER

CAMPUS

For Alumni & Friends

SUMMER 2018



Q&A: Bidding farewell to politics

Laurier alumnus Dave Levac retires as longest serving Speaker in Ontario history

Former Brant MPP Dave Levac (BA '76) retired from a nearly 20-year career in politics following June's provincial election in Ontario. First elected in 1999 – the same year Laurier officially opened its Brantford campus – Levac served his last two terms as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and in February became the longest-serving Speaker in the province's history. Levac, who will be succeeded in the Speaker's chair by another Laurier graduate, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott (BA '85, BBA '86), sat down with *Campus* to discuss his time in politics and experience as the keeper of order at Queen's Park.

What motivated you to want to become Speaker?

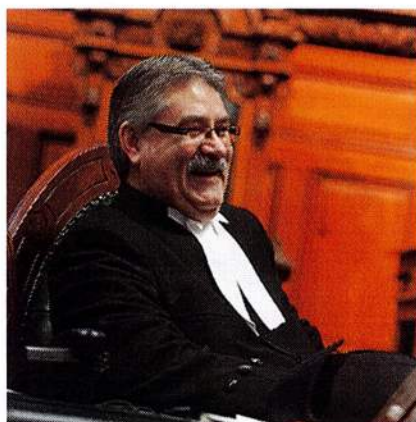
I love Queen's Park. I love the tradition, I love the convention, I love the rules and regulations, and I love the process in the parliamentary system. Before I became Speaker, I used to sit at the clerk's table from time to time during question period or debates and talk with the clerks, learning the job and asking questions about what the Speaker was doing. I was inquisitive and I had such regard for the place that when it came time to decide between the possibility of being in cabinet as a member of the Liberal government or looking at potentially becoming Speaker, I wanted to try to become Speaker. I thought I could do the job well and be the referee in the legislature, so I applied by running for election and the rest is history.

Did you employ a guiding philosophy as Speaker?

Yes, to establish a process that members understood clearly, so they knew where my lines were and what I would tolerate and what I wouldn't tolerate during debate. I always aimed to be fair and judicial, but firm. And I stuck to that. I feel good that I maintained that integrity all the way through. The members didn't question the decisions I made because I was transparent and consistent.

Were there frustrating moments?

There were days that were a little more raucous than normal in the legislature. Sometimes my frustration would come out in my voice, which would get louder. I normally didn't yell, but there were times when I had to pump up the volume, which I really didn't like to do. Sometimes I would even glance at a member that was over the top and give them the 'really, are you kidding me?' look. But it all hinged on the members' behaviour. If their actions warranted a tough guy, mad Speaker, I gave that to them. If their actions warranted a calm, collected Speaker because members' actions were in order, I gave that to them.



"What I'll miss the most is the people I've met and the friendships created as a result of getting out into the community."

What was the most unexpected or surprising thing about being Speaker?

The over-the-top treatment of the Speaker and the high level of respect surprised me. The people at Queen's Park certainly don't call you by your first name when you serve as Speaker. It's always 'Speaker' no matter where you are, even if you're not in uniform. I get that, but sometimes it felt extraordinarily odd. It was hard to get used to.

Is there a sense of pride in being the longest-serving Speaker in Ontario's history?

I've never really given that much consideration, but being elected to a second term as Speaker sent a message to me. It was a message that most members were satisfied with the way I was handling the job, because it's the members of the legislature who choose. Their faith in me offered a rewarding kind of feeling.

A lot of people are turned off by the often-negative tone of politics. How can we get to a more constructive level of political discourse?

By politicians not doing things that give reason for people to continue to believe what they do about politicians. If politicians act like idiots, people take that and say, 'See, I told you, those people are idiots.' More civilized and civic contact – both with each other as politicians and with the general public – would allow people to bring a neutral mentality about the condition of politics. But politicians are their own worst enemies when it comes to that. The disengagement of the public from politics is because people's natural condition is to be empathetic, understanding, straightforward, transparent and honest. They assign to political parties the same negative attributes the parties have assigned to each other.



What will you miss most about serving as an MPP?

What I'll miss the most is the people I've met and the friendships created as a result of getting out into the community and meeting the various movers and shakers and hard-working people who do fabulous work behind the scenes – the employees of local organizations, the volunteers. Most of the time it was a lesson in humility and a lesson in cooperation. It's amazing to have the gift of being able to watch it from the inside.

What would you say has been the key to your political longevity?

I think I stayed focused on what I believed the job was, which was to serve the community. I didn't stop volunteering for organizations that I volunteered for in the past, that was who I was. Always being there to support the community, I think that's the key.

You have supported the growth of Laurier's Brantford campus, which is located in Brant riding. How do you think Laurier's presence has changed Brantford during the past 20 years?

We need to speak well beyond the physical presence of Laurier to answer that question. It's a complete and total psychological shift from what Brantford thought it was to what it thinks it is now. And that's because of the hard work of many people and many partners. The city had to adopt a philosophy and offer supports, Laurier had to have an understanding of what it wanted to do with the campus and the people had to believe in the importance of post-secondary education, particularly university education. Before Laurier arrived in Brantford, our kids were leaving to attend school and a very, very low percentage were coming back. That whole psychological piece has changed. The pulling together of the partnership with Laurier, everyone rolling in the same direction and people believing that their kids had a future here – these are the biggest pieces. That said, I certainly don't want to undermine the importance of bricks and mortar because that's what has revitalized Brantford's downtown. We have a downtown that's been rejuvenated from one of the worst in Canada to one of the most unique in Canada. And now we've got the YMCA joining in the partnership, which adds to the positive belief in our community becoming stronger and better because we're unified.

"To this day, there are people who I stay in touch with that I went to Laurier with."

What are your most enduring memories from your time as a student at Laurier?

The friendships, the campus life, the community. There were 1,900 students at Laurier when I graduated. With our small class sizes, the profs became part and parcel of our education. To this day, there are people who I stay in touch with that I went to Laurier with.

What are your plans after politics?

I want to decompress, I want to work in my garage, I want to get back to doing some projects around the house. Once I get that out of the way I'm looking at the possibility of teaching a college or university course. I'm also considering working in public relations and I've been invited to consider public speaking, so there's no shortage of things to consider.

What advice would you offer people considering entering politics?

Look in the mirror and know the face you see. Know who you are and be who you are. Be the leader that is thoughtful; be the leader that is empathetic; be the leader that gets it and works hard; be the leader that pulls people together and doesn't push them apart; be polite and do good. Those are the simple things people actually crave for and they desperately want in their politicians.

THE GREEN
GARGOYLE

Legislative Assembly Staff Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1, 2012

The Principal Chair

Interview with Speaker Levac

—Sylvia Przedziecki, Committees

To most staff, Speaker Levac requires no introduction. By now, many *Gargoyle* readers will have had an opportunity to meet him in person when the Speaker, with the Clerk, paid a visit to the various branches of the Assembly in an effort to get to know the staff in his new role as head of the Office of the Assembly.

On November 21, 2011, the House elected Brant MPP Dave Levac as its presiding officer. In his brief first address to the House, Speaker Levac said that he accepted the challenge humbly, and that he will work with the Members to uphold the honour and dignity of the House. The Speaker raised these same themes – humility and co-operation – throughout his conversation with the *Green Gargoyle*, making it clear that they underpin his approach to all that he does, be it in the domain of his career, his civic engagement, or his family life.



Photo by Nokomis O'Brien

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The *Green Gargoyle*, the staff newsletter of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, is published three times a year.

Submissions may be sent to:

gargoyle@ontla.ola.org.

The electronic version is available on the front page of the Assembly Intranet.

Volume 6, Number 1, 2012. ©2012 Office of the Legislative Assembly.

First elected in 1999, Speaker Levac has served in both government and opposition, has held the post of Chief Government Whip, as well as various critic portfolios, and has been a Committee Chair. Yet none of those top the moment when he was elected Speaker. He said it was the most exciting day in his political career.

Speaker Levac is clearly in awe of his role and its significance. He mulls over the fact that he is the latest in a line of just 41 individuals since Confederation to hold the position and one of only 14 Speakers in Canada at any given time. He is honoured to be a member of such an elite group with the power to do something positive. "I've been charged with upholding the nobility of this place and I will work hard to do so," he says.

It was Speaker Levac's preference for consensus building over confrontation that led him to seek the Speaker's chair during this – his fourth – term in office. He recognized that, following the October 6 election which returned the Liberal government to power with a minority, "the people of Ontario sent us here with a different message than the last few elections. They sent us – Members of all parties – here to work together. I have a skill set, honed over the years, that allowed me to put my name forward as somebody who could offer guidance and neutrality." His accomplishments as an educator, community builder and parliamentarian have earned him recognition in the areas of consensus building, conflict resolution, teaching, and citizenship.



(Continued on page 4)



Clerk Deborah Deller with Hon. Dave Levac at the Swearing-in Ceremony

(Continued from page 2)

The Speaker acknowledges that his new role is as diverse as it is unique, and there exist tensions among its many responsibilities: as presiding officer, administrative and ceremonial head of the Assembly, living link between the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and Westminster, and as MPP to boot. He believes his greatest challenge so far has been to make his constituents realize that he is still their representative at Queen's Park and able to address their concerns. When asked which aspect of the Speaker's role – the procedural, the administrative, or the ceremonial – most attracted him, he replied: all of them. He sees all aspects of the Speakership as being equal and interconnected. It is just as important to make sure the building is maintained as it is to guide the House in a fair and just manner, for a positive step in one area will have a positive impact in another. This explanation echoes the motto – a resounding theme in his heart – by which the Speaker is guided:

Let's race to the top, not to the bottom; let's look for the good, not for the bad.

Speaker Levac explains this readily: "The bottom is easy to reach and the bad is easy to see. It takes work to organize your life in such a way as to always reach for the top, but that is where the rewards are." He clearly intends to apply this principle to his new role as Speaker.

Prior to embarking on a political career, Speaker Levac had a long career in education, as a teacher and later as a school principal – as anyone who’s heard his appeal for the use of “indoor voices” in the House may have begun to suspect. Sitting across from him in the Speaker’s Office, it is not difficult to imagine Principal Levac extracting the best from even the most recalcitrant students, with his open demeanor, good faith, and motivational brand of optimism. Most exciting to him during this time was “watching a kid find that ‘eureka’ moment, both in academics and socially.” It’s those moments – those “series of firings” – he says, that create a bigger spark and define how one perceives one’s capacity to contribute. He also espoused this philosophy in his political career, focusing on “getting the government to take small steps or make small concessions.” This recognition of the power of incremental change informed his development of a conflict resolution program – the Peace Park – at the first school to which he was assigned and which earned him – alongside his other achievements – a Distinguished Teacher Award in 1994.

The Peace Park was a multi-pronged approach to reducing the instances of schoolyard violence that were occurring at St. Mary’s School in Brantford. Throughout the process, Principal Levac nurtured the kids’ individual ‘eureka’ moments. Most importantly, if less



Hon. Dave Levac with choir during Lights Across Canada Ceremony, 2011

tangibly, he changed the culture at the school, so that acts of violence went from being commonplace to something “we don’t do at our school.”

Speaker Levac is proud to have instituted a long-lasting culture shift, one that outlives his tenure at the school. He believes that good ideas and good works live on independently of the people who implement them. In this vein, he intends to continue to support the programs implemented at the Assembly by his predecessor, Speaker Steve Peters, that have put Ontario food and drink in the spotlight.

Speaker Levac is firmly rooted in his community of Brant and has earned recognition for his contributions. In 1997, he was named Brant and Brantford’s Citizen of the Year by readers of the *Brantford Expositor*. Among the numerous charities he has been – and continues to be – involved with is the Friends of the Firefighters Committee. He founded and chaired this organization which raised funds for the purchase of thermal imagers for firefighters.



Hon. Dave Levac with children during Lights Across Canada Ceremony, 2011

His transition to public life started in 1997 when he served as the coordinator for The Queen's visit to Brantford. City council had resolved not to make the position a political one, and asked Mr. Levac to take it on. He was then working as a principal at an elementary school, and the school board granted him the time required to take on the coordinating role. It was an instructive exercise getting 15 diverse groups to work together. Shortly after, an auspicious alignment of defining moments in his personal life, in the community, and in the political sphere pushed him to run for MPP in 1999. On the verge of retirement, he took the leap, reasoning that as a teacher, he could help a classroom; as a principal, he could help a school; as an MPP, he could help an entire community. The rest, as they say, is history.

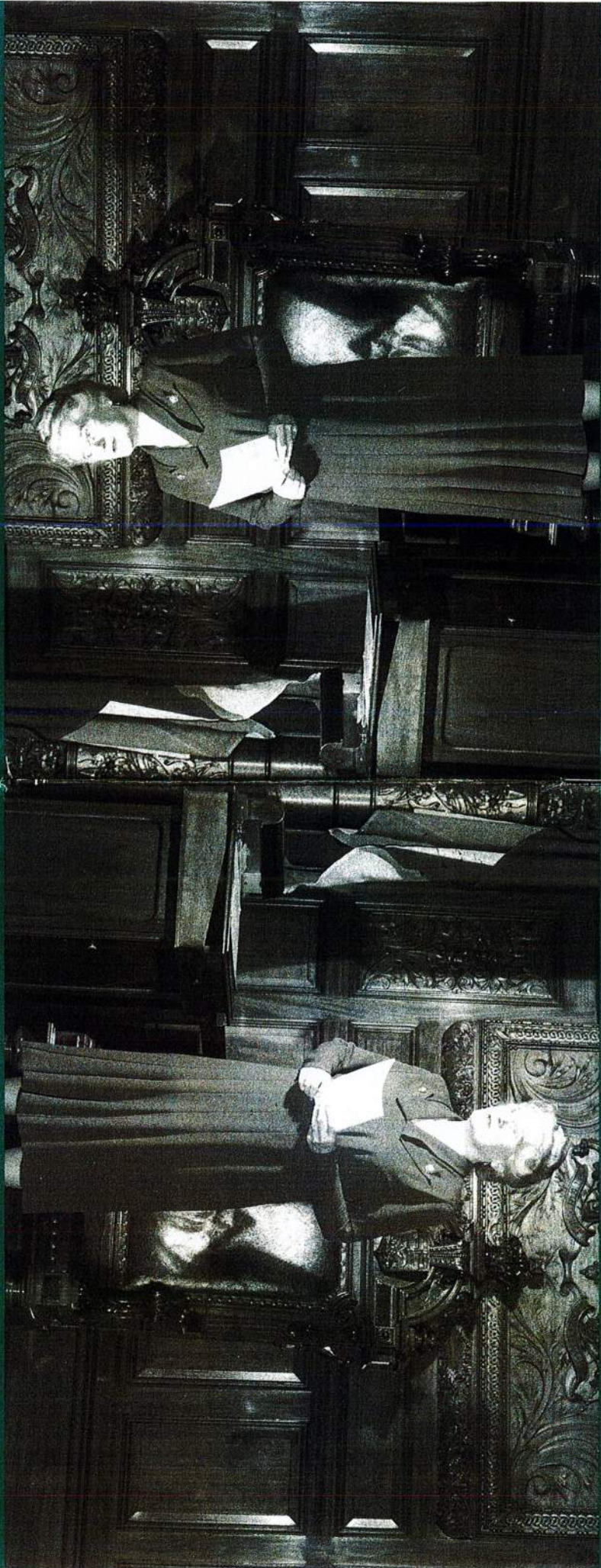
Speaker Levac is clearly a family man. Our conversation took place before the holidays, and he had just hosted 50 relatives for a celebration. He built his house, he said, so that his whole family could come over for Christmas. He reminisced about the French-Canadian traditions he grew up with. His family would attend midnight Mass, then the celebrations centered on family, friends and food. He also credits his parents for instilling in him and his six siblings a strong moral compass, and his own "amazing, understanding" wife and children with providing him the support to pursue his careers. His wife, Rosemarie, is "the best travel agent in the province." Together they have three kids: son Joe (an animator), and daughters Rachel (an educational assistant and marathoner) and Nicole (an early childhood educator).

It turns out that the Speaker also happens to be a talented athlete, musician and artist. He is an accomplished basketball player, having played university basketball for Laurier, and then in a post-university league for the Brantford Bullets. He used to play guitar in a folk rock band that performed in coffee houses in the Brantford and Hamilton areas in the late 1970s. And he loves art. He has worked with monoprinting, acrylics, and India ink. One of his pieces was even purchased by a paint company for promotional purposes. For a hobby, he collects telephones. His oldest model is a crank Thomson that dates back to the 1800s.

Speaker Levac, the first Speaker in decades to preside over a minority legislature, will have an opportunity to put his own stamp on Ontario's Speakership. Humbled by the grandeur of his role and full of reverence for the institution he now represents, he hopes to elicit cooperation from Members on both sides of the House. He hopes to express his appreciation for staff by engaging with them and by maintaining their workplace. He knows that our small, individual actions will collectively define the culture of the Assembly and its Office; a culture he is sure to shape in the spirit of humility and cooperation.

UNE ASSEMBLÉE REMARQUABLE

WOMEN AT QUEEN'S PARK



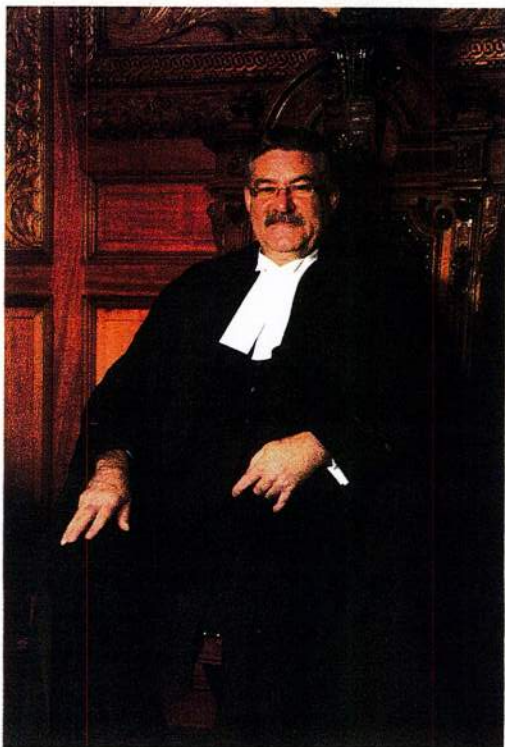
LES FEMMES DE QUEEN'S PARK

A REMARKABLE ASSEMBLY

Message by the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Walking the halls of the Legislative Building, portraits of former parliamentarians peer down at us from their place on the walls. All of these figures have influenced Ontario's landscape in some way, but they do not tell the whole story. My vision for *A Remarkable Assembly* was to complete the picture, bringing our extraordinary females into focus and putting their achievements and contributions on display.

Throughout my parliamentary career, I have watched the number of women involved in public life grow continuously. Equal representation is something we strive for in our democratic society, and I hope that by celebrating the accomplishments of women at Queen's Park, we can bring them into the spotlight and encourage others to follow in their footsteps.



I am delighted to present *A Remarkable Assembly*. Please enjoy this tribute to the incredible women who have shaped the past and present of Queen's Park, and continue to shape its future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Levac".

Foreword by Deborah Deller, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Since Agnes Macphail and Rae Luckock were elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1943, we have seen noteworthy accomplishments by women in and on the periphery of the political arena. These pioneering women forged a path that has been followed by countless others who have made their mark in the history of Queen's Park.

Today we see more women elected to parliament than ever before; they are backbenchers, party leaders, Cabinet Ministers and even a Premier. We have had women Lieutenant Governors, Parliamentary Officers and a Clerk. These women are not all the 'first' in their field but they have all done their part to ensure that this is a place in which it is more usual than not for women and men to interchangeably occupy any office and accomplish any goal.



I am humbled to be a part of this *Remarkable Assembly* exhibit. Though I cannot claim to have had a career that is in any measure equal to all of the women represented here, it is my fervent hope that our presence on these walls will serve to inspire other women to pursue a career in service to the people and Parliament of Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Deller".

Ontario, by the book

Legislative Speaker Dave Levac promotes the province's authors and publishers in a strictly non-partisan way



✉ lorrie.goldstein@sunmedia.ca

📧 @sunlorrie

I spend so much of my time criticizing politicians that today, for a change of pace, I'm going to compliment one. And he's a Liberal!

Dave Levac, is the Liberal MPP for Brant, chosen by MPPs of all parties at Queen's Park to be the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature on Nov. 21,



of the people who used them over the course of the province's history.

This year, 11 books have been shortlisted for the Speaker's award, including:

■ *Memoirs and Reflections*, the autobiography of Roy McMurtry, former chief justice of Ontario and Conservative provincial attorney-general, published by University of Toronto Press;

■ *Unlikely Radicals, The Story of the Adams Mine Dump War*, by New Democrat MP Charlie Angus, published by Between the Lines;

■ *Some Great Idea: Good Neighbourhoods, Crazy Politics and the Invention of Toronto*, by Edward Keenan, senior editor of The Grid, published by Coach House



2011.

Basically, the Speaker has the unenviable job of ensuring all MPPs in the Legislature — Liberal, Conservative and NDP — remain reasonably civil to one other, a vocation which I can tell you from having covered the place most resembles herding cats.

Fortunately, Levac is well-suited to the job because he's not a fiercely partisan type of person, and, despite being a Liberal himself, has been known to drive Liberal political aides berserk with his reasonable and fair-minded rulings.

He's also doing his part to promote literacy, a love of the written word and Ontario's book publishing industry, by establishing the annual Speaker's Book Award in 2013.

I know Levac is non-partisan because he didn't blink when my old friend Graham Murray of the political consulting firm G.P. Murray Research Ltd., who helped Levac create the Speaker's Book Award, recommended me as one of the judges last year.

This even though I am occasionally known to be mildly critical of Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals in the *Sun*.

Graham and I have been friends since I covered Queen's Park in the 1980s — back when he was a researcher for the NDP — so again, it just shows what a non-partisan type of fellow Levac is.

My fellow (volunteer and unpaid) judges are University of Western Ontario political science professor Sid Noel; author and publisher Randall White; and Legislative Librarian



BRIAN THOMPSON/QMI AGENCY FILES

Speaker of the Legislature and Brant MPP Dave Levac in his chair at Queen's Park.

Vicki Whitmell.

They are all so well-read and intelligent that my own role for the past two years has mainly been to provide comic relief, although we all take the process of picking a winner seriously.

Winner announced

On Wednesday evening, Levac will announce the winner of this year's Speaker's Book Award, "recognizing works by Ontario authors reflecting the diverse culture and rich history of the province and of its residents", from a field of 11 short-listed books, at a ceremony at Queen's Park, to be followed by a reception.

What's been most surprising to me is the number of quality books published annually about Ontario, its



MCMURTRY
An autobiography



ANGUS
On Adams Mine

people, geography and history, which I never would have realized without the Speaker's Book Award.

Last year, we chose King City author and journalist Heather Robertson's beautiful book, *Walking into Wilderness: The Toronto Carrying Place and Nine Mile Portage*, as the inaugural winner of the Speaker's Book Award out of a short list of 16 books, winnowed down from 50 entries.

Published by Heartland Associates, Robertson's book tells the story of the early land and water transportation trails between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay, examining their geological history, archaeology and the stories

by Coach House Books;

■ *Gambatte: Generations of Perseverance and Politics, a Memoir*, the autobiography of former Ontario Conservative cabinet minister David Tsubouchi, published by ECW Press;

■ *Joe Salsberg: A Life of Commitment*, by historian Gerald Tulchinsky, published by University of Toronto Press;

■ *Laura Secord: Heroine of the War of 1812*, by Peggy Dymond Leavey, published by Dundurn;

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■ *The Chinese in Toronto from 1878: From Outside to Inside the Circle*, by Arlene Chan, published by Dundurn;

■ *Along the Shore: Rediscovering Toronto's Waterfront Heritage*, by M. Jane Fairburn, published by ECW Press;

■ *Port Dover's Nursing Sisters of World War I: Memories of Minnie and Laurel Misner*, by Harry B. Barrett, published by Patterson's Creek Press.



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A memoir