



National Allied Golf Associations-Ontario Queen's Park Advocacy Update

At the request of NAGA Ontario, some 35 constituency offices accepted an invitation to a short breakfast meeting at the legislature to hear an update on golf in Ontario. While not all respondents were able to attend, NAGA ON was very pleased that a substantial turnout of interested politicians came, eager to learn about our industry that affects every riding in terms of participants and a majority of ridings that are home to one or more golf courses.

Our update touched on the substantial economic impact of the golf industry with its intendant benefits to employment, taxes, tourism, health care and the environment. A very strong story indeed.

While politicians heard about concerns that ranged from pending Source Water Protection plans, red tape issues, environmental stewardship and property taxes, our main "ask" centred around our three years of experience with the legislative requirements in order to maintain our exception to use pesticides under the IPM Accreditation program.

Some had already heard from their constituents and were eager to understand the nuances of tweaking legislation that would see compliance become much more efficient for operators while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the continued, judicious use of pesticides on golf courses.

An opening salvo to be sure, NAGA ON's next step is to invite MPP's to form an Ontario Golf Caucus committee. This would see representatives of all political parties participate in an open forum two-way dialogue to inform, educate, suggest and resolve issues that currently or in the future affect golf operations in Ontario.



NAGA-ON members share a laugh in the Queen's Park Committee Room where the MPP presentation took place on September 20th.

MPP Breakfast Attendees



Mrs. Laura Albanese
MPP for York South--Weston



Mr. Bas Balkissoon
MPP for Scarborough--Rouge River



Mrs. France Gélinas
MPP for Nickel Belt



Mr. Jeff Leal,
MPP for Peterborough



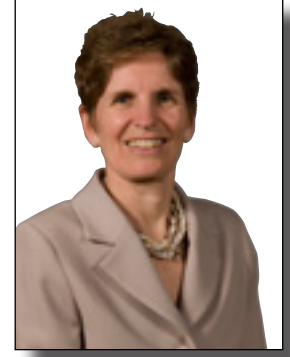
Mr. John O'Toole
MPP for Durham



Mr. John Vanthof
MPP for Timiskaming--
Cochrane



Mr. John Yakabuski
MPP for Renfrew--Nipissing--
Pembroke



The Hon. Kathleen Wynne
MPP for Don Valley West and
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Municipal Affairs and Housing



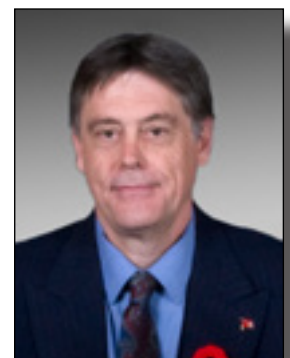
Mr. Michael Harris
MPP for Kitchener--Conestoga



Mr. Michael Prue
MPP for Beaches--East York



Mr. Norm Miller
MPP for Parry Sound--Muskoka



Mr. Paul Miller
MPP for Hamilton East--
Stoney Creek



Mr. Steve Clark
MPP for Leeds--Grenville



Mrs. Sylvia Jones
MPP for Dufferin--Caledon



Mr. Toby Barrett
MPP for Haldimand--Norfolk



Mr. Todd Smith
MPP for Prince Edward--Hastings