



# UPFRONT

with **Mike Wallace, MP**



A Publication of Mike Wallace, Member of Parliament for Burlington

Issue No. 5 Fall 2007

## Canada's Role in Afghanistan



As you know Canada is playing a major role in the Nato-led and UN sanctioned International Security Assistance Force along with 36 other nations. Canada's efforts in Afghanistan are guided by the Afghanistan Compact, a five-year framework for coordinating the work of the Afghan government and its international partners in three key areas: security, development and governance. The goal is to help establish a stable and secure environment - a prerequisite for successful reconstruction and development. At present we have approximately 2,500 members of the Canadian Forces in

Afghanistan and we had about 18,000 Canadian soldiers serve in the field since 2001.

In May, the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Team took over the mentorship of the Afghan Army units in Kandahar province. Currently, our team is mentoring approximately 1,000 members of the Afghan National Army. We are expecting this to grow as more Afghan soldiers are recruited and trained.

On the humanitarian front we continue to see progress. Canada is contributing \$14.5 million towards a Girls Education Project. This will benefit

about 120,000 school aged children. An additional \$1.4 million has been allotted to a UNICEF program in Kandahar province to improve literacy.

We also have been actively improving the health care situation including the immunization of 350,000 children in Kandahar as part of a polio eradication initiative. In Kandahar alone we have provided food and non-food aid, medical outreach clinics and constructed 3 large reservoirs for much needed portable water supplies for 1.3 million people.

I am just highlighting a fraction of the work Canada is doing in Afghanistan and I would encourage you to go to [canada-afghanistan.gc.ca](http://canada-afghanistan.gc.ca) for more information on our mission. As this is Canada's largest military and foreign aid commitment in the world, I would encourage you to review the information.

In support of our troops, I volunteered to be part of the army training operations in Wainwright Alberta. This is the location where many of our soldiers are trained for the Afghan mission. In August, I spent five days observing and learning of the challenges and opportunities that our brave men and women face when they serve our country in Afghanistan. This is an excellent training facility and I was very proud of our dedicated service personnel. As your member of Parliament, it was important to show support for our troops by visiting them and listening to them directly as they trained for this very important mission.

In the fall, Prime Minister Harper has promised to hold a debate and vote in Parliament on Canada's role in Afghanistan after the present commitment to February 2009 expires. I do not know what the results of the debate will be but I will always support our men and women in uniform for the work they do around the world and at home, protecting and insuring Canada's sovereignty.



Outgoing National Revenue Minister Carol Skelton and Mike hold the signed copy of the new and historic Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. In addition to these new rights and protections, it was also announced that there will now be a Taxpayers' Ombudsman. Full details are available at [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca).

## Women's Conference Shares Secrets Of Success

Exploring pathways to success and sharing lessons from challenges are the inspiration for this year's Voices and Visions Woman's Conference. Titled Sharing Secrets of Success, the third annual event will be held on Saturday October 13th, 2007 at the Burlington Arts Centre. The day will feature a morning panel of distinguished Burlington women sharing their experiences and Voices and Visions Woman of the Year Award Luncheon

The conference focuses on women in Burlington and provides an opportunity for networking, resource building and fun. It also recognizes the value that women add to the community. I am happy to be able to partner and share this recognition.

The conference runs from 9am to 2pm and provides the opportunity to share life lessons and stories with local women of various backgrounds and interests in a positive and supportive environment.

The importance of women volunteering for personal growth and community benefits is

recognized in the presentation of the Woman of the Year Award. This year the award will be presented to Louise Cooke. This contribution is supported with additional recognition of a Community Woman of the Year award from Mike Wallace, MP and an international recognition through a Paul Harris Fellow from Burlington Rotary North

This year's panel includes MPP Joyce Savoline, local businesswoman Blair Lancaster, top realtor Karen Paul, 2006 V&V Woman of the Year Lynda Carpenter and the moderator is Burlington Citizen of the Year Leslie Bullock.

Tickets for the women's conference are \$40 and includes the morning panel discussion and Woman of the Year luncheon. Tickets for the October 13th event can be purchased at Mike Wallace's office or contact Connie Ball 905 332 8016. For more information visit [www.VandVconference.ca](http://www.VandVconference.ca).

# How Government Works: Committees of the House

*Experience has shown that smaller and more flexible committees, when entrusted with interesting matters, can have a very positive impact on the development of our parliamentary system, upgrade the role of Members of Parliament, sharpen their interest and ultimately enable this institution to produce much more enlightened measures that better meet the wishes of the Canadian people. - Yvon Pinard, President of the Privy Council*

As with other large deliberative assemblies, the House of Commons has taken advantage of the greater flexibility available in committees to carry out functions which can be better performed in smaller groups. These include the examination of witnesses and the detailed consideration of legislation, estimates and technical matters. Committee work provides detailed information to parliamentarians on issues of concern to the electorate and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate and visible conduit between elected representatives and Canadians. With respect to their formal proceedings, committees are microcosms and extensions of the House, limited in their powers by the authority delegated to them.

Mike is on two committees, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics.

These committees oversee the relevant government departments, may hold hearings and collect evidence on governmental operations and review departmental spending plans. Standing committees may also consider and amend bills. Standing committees consist of between sixteen and eighteen members each, and elect their own chairman.

Some bills are considered by legislative committees, each of which consists of up to fifteen members. The membership of each legislative committee roughly reflects the strength of the parties in the whole House. A legislative committee is appointed on an ad hoc basis to study and amend a specific bill. In addition, the Chairman of a legislative committee is not elected by the members of the committee, but is instead appointed by the Speaker, normally from among his deputies. Most bills, however, are referred to standing committees rather than legislative committees.

The House may also create ad hoc committees to study matters other than bills. Such committees are known as special committees. Each such body, like a legislative committee, may consist of no more than fifteen members. Other committees include joint committees, which include both members of the House of Commons and senators; such committees may hold hearings and oversee government, but do not revise legislation.

Next Issue: Political Staff

## We ask Mike:

### Do you have a favourite former Canadian Prime Minister?

I have always felt from a historical point of view that Prime Minister Borden does not get the recognition he may deserve. He was the Conservative Prime Minister of Canada from 1911 to 1920. These are the years of the 1st Great War and the decade that many believe Canada became a truly independent nation with its own identity. He believed that it was time for Canada to take an independent role from Britain on international affairs. To this end he led the Canadian delegation at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

Borden led Canada through some very difficult years and some very challenging public policy decisions. He not only had to prepare soldiers for war but also provided leadership that would allow the domestic economy to become more industrialized and financially stable. Some legislation that was passed while he was Prime Minister included the Income War Tax, Military Service Act and the extension of the right to vote to women. His firm stance in favour of conscription required him to form the Union government with Liberal members to the exclusion of Quebec in his Cabinet. He even had to overcome the burning down of the Parliament Building in 1916.

Whether you agree or disagree with the policy decisions his government made, he had the guts to lead. This is not to say he did not make errors such as the forced internment of many Europeans, the majority from Ukraine.

My point is Canada was at a crucial time in our Country's development and when you think of "important" Prime Ministers in Canada, Prime Minister Borden is rarely mentioned. I think he should not be overlooked as Canada's leader during a crucial time in our nation's development.

## Burlington's Own Participate in Pan American Games

As the Member of Parliament for Burlington, I am proud to recognize the Burlington athletes that represented our community at the Pan American Games.

**Mark Klevinas** – Canoe

**Christine DePape** – Women's Field Hockey

**Melanie Booth** – Women's Soccer

**Andrew Scott Dickens** – Swimming

**Isabelle Rampling** – Pairs Synchronized Swimming

Congratulations on your participation and achievements in the Games!



## Did you know? No Postage required when mailing your MP

As outlined in the Canada Post Act, postage is not required for letters going to Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers or Senators. This service is only provided when the mail is addressed to their Ottawa office. Please ensure you include your return address on the envelope in case the mail needs to be returned by Canada Post.

If you would like to send a letter to Mike free of charge, please mail to:

Mike Wallace, MP  
763 Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Please note: postage is required to mail to Mike's Burlington office. His staff will ensure that he receives your correspondence, should you wish to take advantage of the free mailing option.

## Identity Theft

Identity Theft is an issue that is currently being studied by Mike and his colleagues at the Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics Committee. If you have any questions about the issue, please feel free to contact our office.

Identity theft has become an increasingly popular crime in Canada as a result of recent advances in technology. Identity theft involves stealing, misrepresenting or hijacking the identity of another person or business and provides an effective means to commit other crimes.

Vital information such as name, address, date of birth, social insurance number, and mother's maiden name need to be acquired in order to complete the impersonation. The identity thief can take over the victim's financial accounts, open new bank accounts, transfer bank balances, apply for loans, credit cards and other services, purchase vehicles, take luxury vacations, and so on.

Please visit [www.safecanada.ca](http://www.safecanada.ca) or [www.privcom.gc.ca](http://www.privcom.gc.ca) to learn more

## 5 Tips to avoid becoming a target

1. never leave receipts at bank machines, bank wickets, in trashcans, or at unattended gasoline pumps; ensure you destroy paperwork you no longer need
2. never provide personal information such as SIN, date of birth, credit card numbers, or PIN over the telephone unless you initiate the call
3. shred or otherwise destroy pre-approved credit card applications, credit card receipts, bills and related information when no longer needed
4. avoid keeping a written record of your bank PIN number(s), social insurance number and computer passwords, and never keep this information in your wallet or hand bag
5. avoid mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions or surveys offering instant prizes or awards designed for the purpose of obtaining your personal details including credit card numbers



As Director of the Japan – Canada friendship group, Mike welcomed the Ambassador of Japan, Tsuneo Nishida and his wife to Parliament Hill.



Mike delivers a speech and funding for Marine Security to better protect the Ports of Toronto and Hamilton.

# Community Group Profile - Nelson Youth Centres

## This House Changes Lives Forever



It is the home of Nelson Youth Centres, a non-profit, accredited children's mental health facility that provides afternoon and after-school treatment programs for children aged 7 to 17 with behavioural, emotional and/or learning difficulties. Since its inception in 1978, Nelson Youth Centres has gone from a drop-in Centre to a leading-edge children's mental health treatment centre that focuses on strengthening families and developing emotionally strong and well-adjusted young

people. This past fiscal year, NYC provided service to 205 children and 169 parents.

NYC receives funding from the United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton, the United Way of Oakville and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We could not operate without them. This past year, we were delighted to receive additional funding from the Centre for Excellence for Children's Mental Health, a \$25,000 donation from the Top of the World Expedition to the North Pole and \$8,933.31 from the students at Nelson High School. We are dependent on donations to keep our present programs running and to expand our services to meet the needs of our community. Research tells us that one in five children in Ontario have mental health needs. Our community is no exception. The need is very real.

Our goal in the future is to expand the programs we offer to keep pace with the needs of the community. Last year, we ran an after-school treatment program in Oakville for the first time in response to a growing number of referrals from that area. We also run programs in Aldershot and Milton. We have forged strong partnerships with many youth service providers that we will continue to nurture and strengthen. We will continue to champion the good in every child, rebuild self-esteem and give our at-risk young people the skills they need to experience success in their relationships at school, at home and in the community.

Wave as you go by 4225 New Street, Burlington or call us at 905-681-2611.

If you belong to a local not-for-profit organization doing great things in our community, or know of a group that you feel should be highlighted here, please get in touch with us.



Mike presents a tie to Prime Minister Balkenende of the Netherlands. The gift was presented on behalf of the Burlington based Canada ~ Netherlands Friendship Association.

## Upfront with Mike Wallace on TVCogeco!

We are just finishing the next episode of the show which features a fascinating glimpse into the Royal Botanical Gardens and a tour of Randle Reef in Burlington Bay with the Minister of Environment, Hon. John Baird. Learn more about our local environment and meet some of the experts as they speak with Mike and John about the local issues that we face. For more information please contact the producer, Jon W. Watson at 613 995 0881. Coming soon to TVCogeco Cable 23 Episode 5.



## From Mike's Mailbox

**Q:** Life changing events: When should I notify the Government of Canada?

**A:** When we experience changes in our lives, it is usually surrounded by a lot of activity trying to organize all the details. This is one to add to your "To Do" list. It is important to remember to notify the various government departments of these changes as the consequences could be negative and costly! On the other hand, you could be missing out on benefits you are entitled to.

You should notify the government for the following reasons (list is not inclusive):

- Change in marital status – marriage, separation, divorce
- Change of mailing address or you have moved
- Name change
- Retirement (applications for CPP & OAS need to be submitted six months prior)
- Birth of a child, adoption, or your minor child is no longer living with you (due to marital separation)
- Death of a parent (if you are the executor of the estate) spouse, or child

You should notify the following federal government departments (as it relates to your situation):

- Canada Revenue Agency 1-800-959-8281
- Income Securities (OAS, CPP & GIS) 1-800-O-CANADA
- Human Resources Services Development Canada 1-800-O-CANADA
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada 1-888-242-2100

**For further information, please feel free to call the constituency office at 905-639-5757.**

## Project Porchlight: Change Within Reach

**Project Porchlight is coming to Burlington this fall!**

I am pleased to be a partner with Project Porchlight and Burlington Hydro to promote energy efficiency in our homes.

Volunteers will personally deliver a free compact fluorescent light bulb to many Burlington homes this fall.

We're looking for environmentally conscious Burlington residents who would like to be part of a team of volunteers that would deliver the bulbs in our community. If you are interested in participating, please contact my office at 905-639-5757. This is an excellent opportunity for high school students to earn their volunteer hours.

## Visit Parliament Hill this Fall

**Learn about Parliament at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)**

Check out this link for useful information and teaching resources about the Parliament of Canada. Learn about the functions of the House of Commons and Senate, Bills, and Committee Business. Find out about the current Ministry, Parliamentary Secretaries and Members of Parliament. Access research reports on a wide variety of issues through the Virtual Library. If you are planning a visit to Ottawa, there is information available on touring Parliament and special events held throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events

**Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance will be the keynote speaker at the Burlington Chamber of Commerce Lunch**

**Date:** Friday, October 12th, 2007

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Burlington Holiday Inn  
3063 South Service Road

**Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery Public Meeting**

With Mike Wallace, MP Burlington and Joy Smith, MP Kildonan-St. Paul

**Date:** Monday, November 5, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Kings Court Banquet Centre  
1159 King Road, Burlington

This event is free, pre-registration is encouraged. Please contact the constituency office at 905-639-5757.

**Pre-Budget Town Hall Meeting with Mike Wallace, MP**

**Date:** Thursday, November 8, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Burlington Seniors' Centre  
2285 New Street, Burlington

This event is free, pre-registration is encouraged. Please contact the constituency office at 905-639-5757.

## UPFRONT with Mike Wallace, MP

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# Marine Caucus

As ships pass Burlington Ontario to enter Hamilton Harbour nearly every day, it is impossible to ignore the importance of the marine and shipping industries and their direct link to the health of the Canadian economy. Mike Wallace, the Member of Parliament representing Burlington, is Chairman of the newly formed Marine Industry Caucus and has made it his mission to spread awareness and foster a growing and prosperous marine industry.

In spring 2007 he was selected to become Chairman of the Caucus at its inaugural meeting held in Ottawa Ontario. With Burlington being so closely situated to Hamilton Harbour and with the Great Lakes H2O Highway at his doorstep, Wallace was excited to take the helm of the Caucus.

Member MP's and Senators include those whose region of representation includes large shippers, carriers, ports, terminals and elevators, or relates to their portfolio or committee work (i.e. especially Transport, Fisheries and Oceans, Environment, Industry, International Trade and Finance).

The Marine Industry Caucus came together at an exciting point in time for Canada.

Trade is so incredibly important to the health of our economy and in many respects marine is the gateway to trade and future Canadian prosperity. Government and the marine industry clearly needed to form a partnership to develop and implement a common strategic plan and this is what makes the Marine Industry Caucus vital. The Caucus will work on developing policy to help create efficient and economic marine transport systems to serve the Canadian economy.



**As Chairman of the Marine Industry Caucus Mike visits local ports to learn about the issues. He's seen here in Toronto with Angus Armstrong (TPA), Lisa Raitt (TPA), Gary Sims (City of Toronto) and James Dann (City of Toronto).**

Our federal government has recognized marine-based transportation as an incredibly efficient, economical, safe and also environmentally friendly mode of transportation. As parliamentarians and industry leaders, members of the Caucus will work together in considering ways to encourage more - not less - marine transportation.

With the creation of the Marine Industry Caucus, there are great expectations and opportunities for the marine industry in working closely with parliamentarians and policymakers. From political members of the caucus learning more about the marine industry and it's issues to industry representatives and stakeholders having an open dialogue with MP's, the Caucus will serve all Canadians in protecting and fostering a healthy and sustainable marine industry.



**Mike's passion since 1999 has been to create a Performing Arts Centre for Burlington. His work helped secure funding from the Federal Government. He's pictured here with Mayor Cam Jackson, Gary De Groot, former Heritage Minister Hon. Bev Oda and Keith Strong, fundraising chair.**

## Who does what?

### The different levels of Government

#### Federal Government / MP

- Act as your Ombudsman with the Federal Government and assist you with EI, Passports, SIN Card, CPP, OAS, GIS, CCRA, Firearms Registration and all other Federal Government Department, Agency or Crown Corporation
- Help you get information on Government Programs and Services
- Provide small Canadian Flags & Pins
- Arrange a tour of Parliament Hill (even for large groups), or arrange for you to sit in on a debate or Question Period
- Help you arrange to have your wedding photos taken on Parliament Hill
- Provide translation services for you
- Provide gift certificates, a gift basket, a baked good, a door prize or even sponsor part of your event for your organization
- Provide certificates of achievement or recognition for your organization's members and volunteers. On special occasions we may also be able to arrange for a certificate from the Prime Minister or other public figure.
- If you need something that isn't listed here, call one of my offices and we'll do what we can to get you what you need.

#### Provincial Government / MPP

- deal with matters at the Provincial level, including:
  - Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificates
  - Healthcare (including the Ontario Health Insurance Card)
  - Education
  - Student Assistance
  - Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)
  - Highways

Joyce Savoline, MPP  
Phone: 905 639 7924

#### Municipal Government / City Councillor

The Municipal Government deals with local matters, including:

- Property Taxes
- Policing, Firefighting, and Emergency Response
- Sanitation and Local Public Works
- Local Roads
- Local Development

Your Municipal contacts are online at <http://cms.burlington.ca/Page110.aspx>  
Phone: 905 335 7777

## Memory Project

Created in 2001, The Memory Project is the Dominion Institute's flagship educational programme, designed to connect veterans and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau includes 1,500 veteran volunteers from across Canada visiting classrooms and community groups to share their stories with youth. The veterans in The Memory Project represent a wide range of conflicts, including World War I, World War II, Korean War, Peacekeeping Operations and Canadian Forces experiences.

The Memory Project Digital Archive, an online database that houses the oral histories and artifacts of more than 1000 Canadian veterans, complements the Speakers' Bureau. To visit the Digital Archive, follow the link from [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com) To date, these veterans have reached more than 300,000 young people.

For more information, [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com) or call 1-866-701-1867 for more information.

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Mike Wallace, MP Burlington  
763 Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa  
K1A 0A6

Please share your thoughts and concerns with Mike on issues that are important to you.

What do you think is the most serious issue facing Canada today?

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What do you think is the most serious issue facing Burlington today?

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Please list your top 5 issues so that we can continue to work hard on your behalf.

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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