



UPFRONT

with **Mike Wallace, MP**

A Publication of Mike Wallace, Member of Parliament for Burlington

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Throne Speech for the 40th Parliament



Mike Wallace with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Laureen Harper, and some of his Ontario Caucus colleagues.

Pictured from left to right: Dave MacKenzie, Oxford, Bruce Stanton, Simcoe North, Rick Norlock, Northumberland-Quinte West, Patricia Davidson, Sarnia-Lambton, Daryl Kramp, Prince Edward-Hastings, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Laureen Harper, Gary Schellenberger, Perth-Wellington, Mike Wallace, Dean Del Mastro, Peterborough

In last month's general election, Canadians returned Prime Minister Harper and me to Parliament by voting to renew and strengthen the mandate of a Conservative minority government. They did so with the knowledge that Canada would be facing a looming economic storm.

We are already starting to see the effects of the global downturn around the world. During this challenging time, our Government is mindful of the privilege and responsibility with which we have been entrusted.

As your MP, I am humbled by this responsibility and opportunity. We have difficult work ahead and I will work diligently to address the continuing challenges that we must face together. The Speech from the Throne confirmed our Government's commitment to ensuring Canada's continued economic success, even as we are faced with global economic instability.

The Speech outlines our five-pronged plan to safeguard Canada's economic security and protect Canada's future.

First, in the coming weeks and months, Canadians will see action as our government works with our trading partners and allies around the world to reform global finances; a global problem requires a global solution.

Second, ensuring sound budgeting is essential. Our government will never allow Canadians to suffer simply to balance the books, but at the same time, Canada must never return to ongoing unsustainable structural deficits. We will look at all spending under a microscope to ensure that taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are used with care.

Third, secure jobs for families and communities

will be a priority. We will strengthen our workforce by encouraging trades and apprenticeships, by supporting workers facing transition due to age or changed circumstances, and by providing further support for our auto and aerospace industries, on which the livelihood of so many Canadian families depend.

Fourth, just as the financial worries began beyond our borders, so too can we find international solutions by seeking out new investment and trade. Cooperation with our allies is also key. Our Government will look at ways to develop shared solutions with the new Obama Administration in the United States. We will seek out new, safe, trading opportunities for Canada around the globe.

And finally, in addition to these measures, we will work to make government more effective. Action like reducing red tape, improving the way in which programs are delivered, fixing procurement and improving management of federal agencies will help government serve all Canadians better, now and in the future.

As we move forward with our sights firmly fixed on responsible economic management, there will be hard decisions that will have to be made in order to keep federal spending under control and focused on results. These decisions will be made to keep Canada strong. Just as households review spending decisions when falling on difficult times, the government must do the same. While safeguarding the Canadian economy is key to protecting Canada's future, the Speech from the Throne includes other areas where the Harper Government will be looking to deliver results for Canadians.

Canada has vast, untapped sources of clean energy which can be used to secure our energy future. Whether through the further development of natural gas in our North or the government's readiness to regulate new, nuclear projects, we will work to reduce our dependence on crude oil. Exploring new and existing clean energy options will also enable us to work towards a greener future. While moving forward with our 20 percent greenhouse gas reduction plan by 2020, our Government will also ensure that 90 percent of our electricity needs are met by non-greenhouse gas emitting sources within that timeframe. We will also safeguard Canada's bountiful water supply by banning bulk water exports.

Canada is an exceptionally diverse nation and

our Government intends to help all Canadians participate. That is why we are further improving the Universal Child Care Benefit, increasing access to maternity and parental benefits under Employment Insurance and acting to provide help to those Canadians who are caring for loved ones with disabilities.

As the Government safeguards Canada's economic security, so too will we act to protect our homes, our communities and our borders. In addition to continuing on our commitment to crack down on crime to keep Canadians safe, we will continue to contribute to global safety. We will continue to support our troops by rebuilding the Canadian Forces, and honour our commitment to bring safety, security and the rule of law to Afghanistan until our military withdrawal in 2011.

Finally, the Speech from the Throne calls for the building of stronger institutions that will be more accountable to all Canadians and enable all voices to be heard and respected across the country.

With the strong governing mandate outlined in the Throne Speech, individuals, families and businesses can be assured that they are not only protected for the future, but they will also emerge from this period of global economic instability stronger than ever before.

GTA/Central Ontario Caucus Chairman

I have been appointed GTA and Central Ontario Caucus Chair by the Prime Minister. It is an honour to be asked to Chair this group.

This is the first official GTA/Central Ontario Caucus of the Conservative Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Harper. There are seventeen members in the Caucus, comprised of Members of Parliament and Senators from the area. The caucus has 5 key cabinet ministers including the Minister of Finance. The focus will be on the issues important to our region and make recommendations directly to the National Caucus and the Prime Minister's Office.

As Chairman I will ensure that the issues facing our community are being appropriately discussed and our position on matters clearly articulated to the National Caucus and the Prime Minister.

Community Group Profile



A Safe Haven for Expectant Moms

Shifra Home, a Christ-centered charity, nurtures and protects life by providing a safe haven for pregnant young women with support for the baby and both parents. There are approximately 200 teen pregnancies in Halton every year. Many young women and their boyfriends lack the support and resources necessary to have and care for a baby. Many feel frightened and alone and conclude that they have no choice but to terminate the pregnancy.

Located in Burlington, Shifra Home offers a unique environment designed to assist residents in making informed decisions between parenting and adoption. Our programs are designed to support, shelter, nurture and care for young mothers, fathers and their babies. Shifra Home is the first and only maternity residence in Halton.

Thanks to the support and generosity of our donors and volunteers, Shifra Home is able to help young mothers transition to a more confident life for themselves and their babies. In preparation, we offer life skills training and other support services during pregnancy and following the birth of the baby.

We are often asked about the name Shifra. Shifra means "beautiful" and was the name of a midwife in the Bible (Exodus 1:15) who protected and nurtured life.

Since August 2006, Shifra Home has helped the lives of 31 young women and babies. For more information, please visit our website at www.shifrahomes.com or call us at 905-681-9633.

Lisa Hoekstra

Director of Community Relations

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.

A New Vision of Aging in Canada



Under the new leadership of Moses Znaimer, (national media mogul) CARP, a non-profit organization, is no longer just

for Canadians who may be retired, but is now taking a strategic approach to create new synergies with community groups, government officials, corporate partners and others to address "A New Vision of Aging Canada", mandate for over 350,000 CARP members across Canada.

The key benefits of CARP are directed to the ABC's of the organization, meaning:

- *Advocacy* – work with all levels of government, in a non-partisan manner, to address key issues to improve the quality of life for the aging population,
- *Benefits* – to provide members with the needed medical, financial and life style related services and products that will be cost-effective and provide for an active future,
- *Community* – to continually seek the needs of local members and collaborate with related organizations to encourage the dissemination of information and education to improve services for older Canadians.

The national demographic trends favour the expansion of CARP's membership and support for a revitalized aging population. A key organizational mandate is to increase membership to 1 million or more. This will be achieved with an extensive media campaign, including ZOOMERS (derived from Boomers with Zip), who include those 45 years and older, who care for loved ones and are interested to be part of the membership base of a growing organization.

CARP is looking forward to collaborating with Mike and other members of government to work cooperatively to help the aging population across Canada.

The CARP-Halton Chapter recently celebrated their 15 year anniversary and is proud to have over 6,000 members across the Region with over 3,000 alone in Burlington. We see a bright future for improving the quality of life for our members and others.

If you are interested to know more about CARP – A New Vision for an Aging Canada or become a member, please visit www.carp.ca, and check Local Chapters to become involved in the Halton Chapter or others.

Greg Metrakos – Halton Chapter
Public Relations & Membership Chair
905-631-6751

From Mike's Mailbox

Q: Do I really need a passport?

A: Starting June 1, 2009, the United States will require Canadians to present a valid passport to enter the country by water or land. United States law already requires Canadians to present a valid passport to enter the U.S. by air. You can pick up an application at a local passport office, Canada Post office, or Mike's office in Burlington Mall.

If you are going to submit an application for the first time, you will need to use the Adult Form (PPTC 153) if you are 16 years of age or over, or the Children's Form (PPTC 155) if you are under the age of 16. With the changes to the guarantor policy last year, the first application is much simpler. Please refer to the guide that accompanies the application.

If this is not your first application you may be eligible to use the Simplified Renewal Form (PPTC 054). You must satisfy the following criteria.

An applicant must:

- live in Canada,
- have been at least 16 years of age at the time of their previous application,
- have a passport that is still valid or has

expired within the last 12 months,

- have a 5-year-validity passport issued within the last six years in Canada, that has not been altered or damaged, or reported as lost or stolen,
- have lived in Canada when their last passport was issued, and
- apply using the same name that appears on the personal information page (page 2) of the previous passport.

You can submit your application two ways. The completed forms along with the requested documentation can be mailed to Passport Canada. You can also visit a Passport Canada office (the Hamilton and Mississauga offices are closest to Burlington). Mike's office recommends that you visit a Passport Canada office and submit your application in person. The reason for this is because you present the requested documentation, leave the office with those items, and should receive your passport within 10 business days. The wait time at the office is usually minimal and one person can submit the applications for all individuals in the same household. If you decide to mail your application, it is strongly recommended that you send it registered mail and keep the tracking number in case the package needs to be located.

If you have any questions about applying for your passport, please visit www.ppt.gc.ca or contact Mike Wallace's office.

New Ottawa Office Address

If you would like to write to Mike or are planning to visit him in Ottawa, the office has moved to a new location. We are now located at 115 East Block, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. As the name implies, the building is east of Centre Block. The telephone, facsimile and email contacts will remain the same.

Please note that postage is not required for letters sent to Mike or other Members of Parliament when mailed to their Ottawa addresses.



East Block, House of Commons
HoC:Bernard Thibodeau

How Government Works: So a Writ was dropped

It was widely reported that on September 7th, a writ was dropped beginning the process of a federal election in Canada. Some stated that the Governor General dropped it, while others said the Prime Minister dropped it. Well, what is it, who dropped it, and what happened?

A writ originated as a letter or a command from the King of England. When first used they were written in Latin and sealed with the Great Seal. They were used for many things, including commanding a case be brought before the courts. They were first introduced by King Henry II of England, who reigned from 1154 to 1189, as part of his many reforms of the legal system.

Now the term “dropping the writ” is an informal way of referring to the dissolving of a parliament and the calling of an election in parliamentary government systems.

In Canada, the Governor General signs and issues a proclamation dissolving Parliament and ordering that the writs of election be issued. Following this, the Chief Electoral Officer for Canada prepares and sends the writs of election to each of Canada’s 308 ridings. This formal document directs a returning officer to hold an election in his or her riding and gives the dates for election day and for the close of nominations. The time between the issuing of the writs and election day must be at least 36 days.

The returning officers in Canada’s 308 ridings now are able to publish a notice of the election, rent space, open an office, and provide other services to the electors. The returning officers are appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer in an open process based on merit. They must be 18 years of age or older and living in the riding where they were appointed. They receive a 10-year term unless they move out of the riding, resign, or are removed by the Chief Electoral Officer for cause. There is a code of professional conduct they must follow and must not participate in politically partisan activities, both during and between election and referendum periods.

During the course of an election, the returning officers will employ more than 190,000 temporary workers at over 60,800 polling stations. They will revise the lists of electors,

conduct advance polls and special ballots, as they prepare for election day.

After the polls close on election day the counting of the ballots begin. As preliminary results from various polls arrive at Election Canada, this information is released to the media.

Following this, the returning officers validate the results and the related documents to verify the calculations from election night. This must be done within seven days of the election. The official results are then published. The returning officer writes the name of the winning candidate on the original writ that was received at the beginning of the campaign; they sign it and return it to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Once the Chief Electoral Officer has received all of the writs, a report is prepared with the official results by polling divisions and is submitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who in turn directs the Clerk of the House of Commons to begin the process of swearing in the elected Members.



Within 90 days of the writs being returned, the Chief Electoral Officer files a second report with the Speaker outlining the election and the activities of Election Canada since the first report and anything else that the Chief Electoral Officer feels should be brought to the attention of the House of Commons. Finally, a third report is filed by the Chief Returning Officer outlining any changes to legislation or the Elections Canada Act that he or she feels is necessary for better implementation of the Act and the running of elections. All three of these reports are public and can found at www.elections.ca.

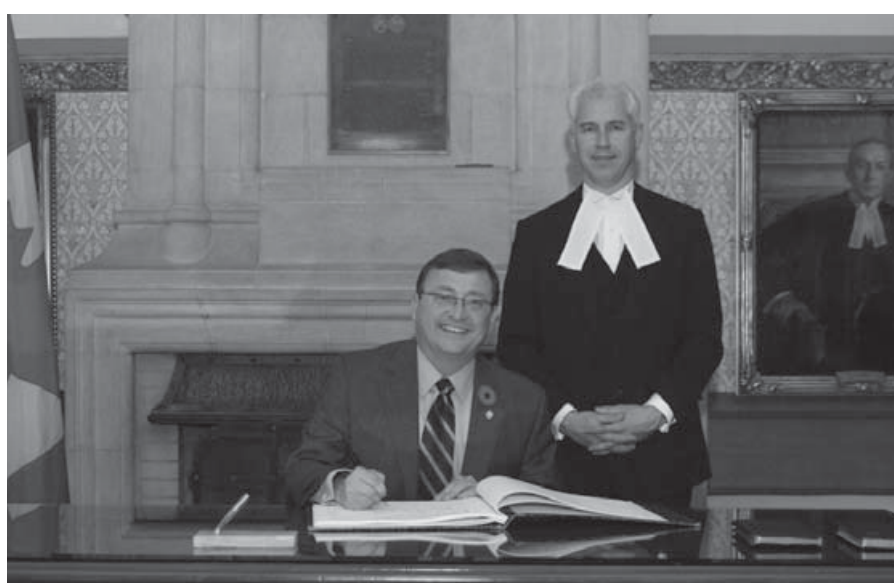
We ask Mike:

As a candidate, what are the most and least enjoyable aspects of campaigning?

As a candidate the most enjoyable part of the experience is meeting people. During the campaign people want to talk to you and express how they feel about the issues that concern them. It is the feedback from door-knocking, telephoning and public events that give you perspective on the issues the people of Burlington want addressed. It is these interactions from which I develop the priorities I intend to work on as the Member of Parliament representing the people of Burlington.

The less pleasurable aspect of campaigning is the stress it places on my family. It is a 36 day job interview with my name on a sign throughout the City. The public nature of campaigning makes it hard on my family as they deal with the very long hours of campaigning and the fluctuations between criticisms and compliments. Although their names are not on the sign, my wife and daughters must endure the ups and downs of the campaign with me.

Fortunately, the people of Burlington are very knowledgeable and respectful of all candidates and their families. Overall I enjoy campaigning, as the process allows me to be better prepared for the job if I am privileged enough to win the election.



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?

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

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

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Income Tax 2008 – Important Information

The deadline for filing your 2008 income tax is Thursday, April 30, 2009 at midnight.

If you are mailing your return on April 30th, please ensure to have it date stamped at the post office.

The deadline for **RRSP** contributions is **Monday, March 2, 2009**. Due to a change in the legislation, you can now make contributions up to age 71.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your income tax and have access to the internet, the CRA website www.cra.gc.ca is an excellent resource. It has current and previous years' income tax forms, answers to all kinds of questions, and courses to teach yourself about income tax. It also has **free** income tax software downloads if you have low income.

If you would like to speak to someone, you can contact Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281. Please note, during income tax season there is an increase in caller volume, which may cause delay in speaking with an agent.

The final details

Important information concerning taxes and the loss of a loved one

The time immediately following the death of a spouse, parent or close family member is filled with a flurry of activity. There are many details to take care of to ensure that their final wishes are executed and personal affairs wrapped up. Here are a few things to keep in mind concerning income tax.

The final tax return is due April 30th of the following year or six months after death, whichever is later. If the deceased had registered savings, the government acts as if the deceased has cashed in all RRSPs and RRIFs. Therefore when the final tax return is prepared, that money will be taxed as income. If the surviving spouse rolls the RRSPs into their own registered plan, or becomes the recipient of the RRIF payment, this can be avoided. If he or she is under the age of 70, and does not require the income from the RRIF, it can be converted to an RRSP to protect it from being taxed until it matures.

Although this is a provincial matter, it is strongly recommended by the experts that everyone prepare a will and that it be kept up to date, regardless of your age. This ensures that your wishes are followed and protects those taking care of your business afterwards. It can prove to be cumbersome to the individuals handling the final affairs if there is not a will naming an executor, explaining the division of assets, etc.

For information concerning final income tax or death as it relates to other federal matters, please feel free to contact Mike Wallace's office.

Tax QuickTip

Even if you are expecting a refund, it is important to file on time. Filing late could result in suspension of benefits or payments - Child Tax Benefit and GST for example. This is because your income is required in order to calculate the amount you are entitled to.



Zero Returns

Even if you have not made any income for a given tax year, it is still necessary for you to provide a tax return to Canada Revenue Agency. This is called a 'zero return'.

If you do not provide CRA with a tax return it could result in loss of benefits, the Canada Child Tax Benefit or the GST rebate for example. These particular benefits are based on your income and if they do not have your information to calculate it, they can not provide it.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

If you have low income (including low household income) you may qualify for free tax preparation from one of the local volunteer clinics. These volunteers are skilled at tax prep and donate their time and expertise to help others in the community. Our office is provided with a list of contacts mid-February, so please give us a call if you feel this service could be applicable to you.

Upcoming Events

Seniors Pension and Tax Seminar

In February 2009, I will be hosting my 3rd Annual Seniors Pension and Tax Seminar. Representatives from Canada Revenue Agency and Service Canada will make a short presentation and answer questions. The date and venue will be confirmed shortly and will be posted on my website www.mikewallacemp.ca. Ads will run in the Burlington Post and SNAP Burlington closer to the date. For more details, please contact my local office at 905-639-5757.

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with **Mike Wallace, MP**

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