

OUR CLUB IS OUR MEMBERS



THE ALBANY CLUB

1882 - 2015



Overview

Throughout 2015, the Club celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister.

The participation of Rt. Hon Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada from 1984 to 1993, made the dinner on November 5, 2015 a highlight of our celebrations. Over 625 members & guests attended.

Interest in this event was so strong it was moved from the Club to the Fairmont Royal York – only the second time this has happened in our history. In 1893, Prime Minister Sir John Thompson was guest speaker at a Sir John A. dinner that attracted 62 people (more than could be accommodated at 34 Colborne Street). This was one factor that prompted the Club to move to 91 King Street East in 1898.

The souvenir booklet handed out at the event included considerable information about our most important attribute – our members - that we are pleased to make available on the Club website.

Founding of the Albany Club October 27, 1882

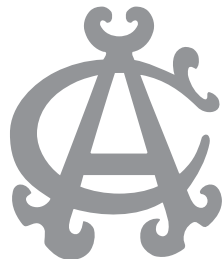
Sir John A. Macdonald was the inspiration when the Albany Club was founded in 1882. Two of his protégées – Alexander Macdonell of Alexandria and Alexander Morris of Kingston – played key roles in the Club's establishment and early operations.

Macdonell, the son of Sir John A.'s law partner in Kingston, was called upon to reorganize the Party after the 1873 election and it was only natural he should perform a similar role, after the failure of the United Empire Club, the original Conservative club in Toronto. He was a charter member of the Albany Club, one of its Directors and was elected a Life Member.

... Founding of the Albany Club

Morris was the first Club President. He had articulated with Sir John A. and ran politically at his request. He served as Canada's Minister of Internal Revenue from 1869 to 1872. He then served as Chief Justice of Manitoba, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories - negotiating many treaties with Indians, from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains. He then returned to Ontario and served as Conservative House Leader at Queen's Park.

The Club was first located at 75 Bay Street. Its facilities consisted of a members' dining room, a coffee room, reading room, smoking room, billiards room and some bedrooms. Among its early policies: "Guests of any member shall, providing they are Conservatives, have access to any part of the Club".



Then and now

Sir John A. Macdonald

As we reflect back on the 200 years of history since his birth, it can be argued that 'Sir John A. was the man who made us'.

A number of authors believe Canada would not exist without his extraordinary efforts and abilities – creating a large, transcontinental, democratic country where very little existed. Richard Gwyn, in his award-winning, two volume biography of Sir John A., argues that Macdonald was the most distinguished statesman of the 19th century – beyond Lincoln, Bismarck, Gladstone, Disraeli and others.



Sir John A. was also the driving force behind the creation of a Conservative Party in Canada, recruiting supporters from all provinces, serving as Canada's Prime Minister for 19 years and ensuring that the new country had effective policies and good government during its critical first years.

Sir John A. and the Albany Club - Because his friends and supporters founded the Albany Club in 1882 – Sir John A. was also a founding member and significant shareholder – he can also be seen as 'the man who made our Club.'

We are pleased to provide information about Albany Club members who have carried on his work and led many organizations created through Sir John A's efforts. These members have contributed to the well-being of our country, our province, our city and our Club.

We will recognize Club members who have served as Prime Minister and Federal Party Leader; as Ontario Premier and Party Leader; as Mayor of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto Chair; and as Board members and managers of his beloved Albany Club.

Federal Conservative Party Leaders & Albany Club Members

Every Conservative Prime Minister of Canada, with one exception, has been a Club member.

1867 - 1891	Sir John A. Macdonald	Prime Minister 1867 -1873; 1878 – 1891
1892 - 1894	Sir John Thompson	Prime Minister 1892 - 1894
1894 - 1896	Sir Mackenzie Bowell	Prime Minister 1894 - 1896
1896 - 1896	Sir Charles Tupper	Prime Minister 1896
1901 - 1920	Sir Robert Borden	Prime Minister 1911 -1920

Sir Robert Borden was Prime Minister during a period that saw Canada contribute brilliantly to World War I efforts. One third of his Cabinet were Club members, including Edward Kemp, Sam Hughes and Joseph Flavelle. This period saw Canada emerge as a full Allied partner, fighting in key battles. It grew into an independent country and not only a member of the British Empire. The vote was granted to women, during this time. Borden, on his way from Muskoka to Ottawa, had lunch in the Club on July 31, 1914 - war was declared on August 4.

1920 - 1926 Arthur Meighen Prime Minister 1920 - 1921; 1926

Arthur Meighen handled many difficult issues as a key member of the Borden government, prior to becoming Leader. He was known for his formidable intellect – and his long-time association with the Club. He lunched at the same table every day, often with poet E. J. Pratt. He served as Senate Leader in Bennett’s cabinet and was a dedicated Party member. The Meighen Lounge, on the 4th floor, has a recording of his brilliant 1936 speech about William Shakespeare, whom he considered to be ‘the greatest Englishman ever’.

1927 - 1938	R. B. Bennett	Prime Minister 1930 - 1935
1948 - 1956	George Drew	
1956 - 1967	John Diefenbaker	Prime Minister 1957 - 1963
1967 - 1976	Robert Stanfield	
1976 - 1983	Joe Clark	Prime Minister 1979 - 1980
1983 - 1993	Brian Mulroney	Prime Minister 1984 - 1993

Brian Mulroney won the Quebec riding of Manicouagan as one of 211 PCs elected in 1984 - the largest majority in Canadian history. The Party received almost 50% of the popular vote. This was the first Conservative majority government in 26 years and the second in 54 years. The government was re-elected in 1988, the only Conservative government to win back-to-back majorities in the 20th century.

His government cancelled the National Energy Program; privatized 23 (of 61) Crown Corporations – including CNR and Petro-Canada; led international opposition to Apartheid in South Africa; completed a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the United States, later expanding it to include Mexico, as NAFTA; rationalized government revenue by introducing a consumption tax (GST) that eliminated a hidden 13% federal sales tax on all manufactured goods; began the process of federal deficit reduction; and Brian Mulroney has been selected as ‘the greenest Prime Minister in Canada’s history’. Among Albany Club members in Cabinet were Barbara McDougall, Tom Hockin, Jean Charest, John McDermid and PC Senate Leader Duff Roblin.

1993 - 1993	Kim Campbell	Prime Minister 1993 - 1993
1993 - 1998	Jean Charest	

Jean Charest kept the PC party alive after the disastrous 1993 election, as one of only two MPs. His extraordinary efforts ‘for

Federal Conservative Party Leaders & Albany Club Members...

Canada' in the referendum of 1995 in Quebec can be seen, in a fundamental way, as the key to saving Canada as a country.

1998 - 2003 Joe Clark

2003 - 2003 Peter MacKay

Peter MacKay is seen, along with Stephen Harper, as a 'father' of the Conservative Party of Canada – bringing conservatives back into one Party and providing Canada with an alternative that ensured the vibrancy of our democracy after 10 years of no alternative to the Liberals.

2004 - 2015 Stephen Harper Prime Minister 2006 - 2015

Stephen Harper led the new Conservative Party of Canada (a merger of the former Progressive Conservative and Canadian Alliance Parties) into its first election in 2004. The Party was elected as a minority government in 2006. He accepted an invitation to address the 2007 Sir John A. Dinner at the Club – giving an excellent speech that dealt superbly with the achievements of Conservative governments since 1867 and drew countless ovations. He subsequently formed two majority governments that accomplished a great deal, with a legislative record that will stand the test of time. His government had significant achievements in finance, international trade and external relations. Among senior members of Harper Cabinets were Club members Jim Flaherty, John Baird, Tony Clement, Joe Oliver, Jason Kenney, Lisa Raitt, Kellie Leitch, Jim Prentice and Peter MacKay.



Ontario Conservative Party Leaders Albany Club Members

Every Ontario Party Leader, from 1882 to today, has been a member of the Albany Club.

1879 - 1894	Sir William Meredith	
1894 - 1896	George Marter	
1898 - 1914	Sir James Whitney	Premier 1904 – 1914

A member of the Club since 1889, Whitney was the first Leader to become Premier of Ontario, when the Party won 69 of 98 seats in the 1904 election. Six of his ten Cabinet colleagues were Club members. He went on to win 3 more elections – his 4 consecutive majority governments is a record unequalled by any other Ontario Premier in the 20th century.

1914 - 1919	Sir William Hearst	Premier 1914 - 1919
1919 - 1930	Howard Ferguson	Premier 1923 - 1930

In 1920, Ferguson took over the leadership of a Party that had finished 3rd in the 1919 election and won the 1923 election, receiving 50% of the popular vote and winning 75 seats – including all 11 in Toronto and the Yorks. He was re-elected in 1926 and 1929, when the Party won 57% of the popular vote and 92 of 112 seats – the

1930 - 1936	George Henry	Premier 1930 - 1934
1936 - 1938	Earl Rowe	
1938 - 1948	George Drew	Premier 1943 - 1948

George Drew appointed Club members E.W. Bickle (fund-raising) and Dick Edmonds (field organizer), changed the name to Progressive Conservative Party and won 38 of 90 seats in the Legislature in 1943. This returned the Party to power for the next 42 years and was the first Conservative government elected in Canada in 13 years. With the CCF winning 34 seats, George Drew prevented the formation of the first Socialist government in Ontario, as happened in Saskatchewan the next year.

1948 - 1949	Thomas Kennedy (interim)	Premier 1948 - 1949
1949 - 1961	Leslie Frost	Premier 1949 - 1961
1961 - 1971	John Robarts	Premier 1961 – 1971
1971 - 1985	William Davis	Premier 1971 – 1985

Premier John Robarts stepped down in 1971 and 4 Club members were among candidates to succeed him – Hon. Bill Davis, Al Lawrence, Darcy McKeough and Bob Welch, all senior ministers in the Robarts government. William Davis became Leader and Premier of Ontario. In 1971, the PCs won 78 seats in a 117 seat Legislature. The PCs were re-elected in 1975 – with the first minority government since 1943. He reorganized his office and broadened his policy advisory group – now chaired by Darcy McKeough and including 3 Albany Club Presidents: Ross DeGeer, Don MacLean and John Tory - and went on to serve as a distinguished Ontario Premier. Among other Club members in senior Cabinet roles were Roy McMurtry, Darcy McKeough and Margaret Birch – one of our first 3 female members. Bill Davis won a majority victory in 1981, with 45% of the popular vote, and 2 MPPs were elected for the first time – Mike Harris and Ernie Eves.

1985 - 1985	Frank Miller	Premier 1985
1985 - 1987	Larry Grossman	
1987 - 1990	Andy Brandt (interim)	
1990 - 2002	Mike Harris	Premier 1995 – 2002

Since 1985, the Party had not done well. In 1987, they won only won 16 seats and were reduced to third place in the Legislature. In 1990, the NDP had formed a government and the PCs were still the 3rd party.

Ontario Conservative Party Leaders and Albany Club Members



Ontario Conservative Party Leaders

In 1995, Mike Harris won a majority government – on the theme of the Common Sense Revolution - and won a second majority in the 1999 election. The goal of his government was to put Ontario's economic house back in order, with a program of tax cuts, deficit reduction measures and controlled expenditures. Club members Ernie Eves, Jim Flaherty, Tony Clement, Bill Saunderson, John Baird, Tim Hudak and Ernie Hardeman were in Cabinet.

2002 - 2004	Ernie Eves	Premier 2002 – 2003
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After Mike Harris retired in 2002, the two leading candidates to succeed him were both Club members and each had served as Minister of Finance – Ernie Eves and Jim Flaherty. After his victory at the convention, Ernie Eves served as Premier and among his Cabinet Ministers were Club members Janet Ecker and David Tsbouchi.

2004 - 2009	John Tory
2009 - 2014	Tim Hudak
2015	Patrick Brown

Following a vigorous and lengthy campaign in which Party memberships were dramatically increased, Patrick Brown won over Christine Elliott and became Leader in 2015. Among key members of his campaign team were Club members Bob Stanley, James Dodds, Walied Soliman and Hon. Con Di Nino. Following victory in a by-election in Simcoe North, Patrick Brown MPP now serves as Leader of the Opposition at Queen's Park. Among his senior caucus colleagues are 19 other members of the Albany Club.

Toronto Mayors / Club Members

1883 - 1884	Arthur Radcliffe Boswell
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Arthur Radcliffe Boswell was a founding member of the Club who was elected Mayor in 1883, the year after the Club was established. Conservative Mayors of Toronto were common in the late 19th century and up until the 1920s. In these years, many races for Mayor were between Club members.

1885 - 1885	Alexander Manning
1888 - 1891	Edward Frederick Clarke
1892 - 1893	Robert John Fleming
1896 - 1897	Robert John Fleming
1897 - 1899	John Shaw
1906 - 1907	Emerson Coatsworth
1910 - 1912	George Reginald Geary
1912 - 1914	Horatio (Race) Hocken
1915 - 1921	Tommy Church

Since the 1920s, Club members in the Mayor's office have been somewhat scarce, with David Crombie and John Tory prominent, among the exceptions.

1941 – 1944	Fred Conboy
1973 - 1978	David Crombie
2014 - present	John Tory

Club Past-President John Tory was elected in October 2014, with a mandate to return stability to municipal government in Toronto, following four tumultuous years. Club member Denzil Minnan-Wong was also elected and subsequently appointed Deputy Mayor. Board member Vic Gupta serves as Principal Secretary to the Mayor John Tory .

Metropolitan Toronto/Members

In 1953, the Frost Government created the first Metropolitan form of Civic Government in North America. Its founding Chair was Fred Gardiner, former Reeve of Forest Hill. ‘Big Daddy’, as the media nicknamed him, had been a Club member since 1936, as a result of his involvement in the Conservative Businessmen’s Association that was headquartered at the Club.

Metropolitan Toronto and all of its constituent municipalities became the new City of Toronto, when Amalgamation was instituted by the Harris Government. The first election was in late 1997. The most recent election, in 2014, saw Club Past-President John Tory elected as Mayor.

Representatives of the Crown/Members

1967 – 1974 Rolland Michener Governor General

No Canadian held the position of Governor General until 1952. Rt. Hon. Rolland Michener is the only Club member to have been appointed to this important role in Canada. A Rhodes Scholar who served in World War I, he served in the Ontario Legislature and the House of Commons, where he was Speaker, as well as being Canadian High Commissioner to India, prior to his appointment as our Governor General.

Lieutenant Governors of Ontario were another matter. Eight Club members have served in this capacity, including John Beverly Robinson, whose name appears on the Club’s letters patent.

1880 – 1887	John Beverly Robinson	Lieutenant Governor
1892 – 1896	George Airey Kirkpatrick	Lieutenant Governor
1914 – 1919	Sir John Strathearn Hendrie	Lieutenant Governor
1921 – 1927	Henry Cockshutt	Lieutenant Governor

1921 – 1927	Henry Cockshutt	Lieutenant Governor
1932 – 1937	Herbert Alexander Bruce	Lieutenant Governor
1963 – 1968	W. Earl Rowe	Lieutenant Governor
1991 – 1997	H. N. R. (Hal) Jackman	Lieutenant Governor

Hal Jackman is one of Canada’s distinguished business leaders. In addition to serving as the Queen’s Representative in Ontario, he served as Chancellor of the University of Toronto and chair of the Ontario Arts Council and is a Past-President of the Albany Club. He was the second recipient of the Albany Club Honours Award, in 2011.

Members Who Served as Club President

Since its establishment in 1882, the Club has had 40 Presidents. Terms varied during the first 65 years of the Club’s existence. Since 1947, no President served more than 4 years and, since 1972, the term has been standardized as 2 years.

1882 - 1886	Hon. Alexander Morris
1886 - 1894	F. Turner C.E.
1894 - 1916	C. H. Ritchie K.C.

C. H. Ritchie was our longest-serving President and a founding member of the Club. He planned the Club’s move into 91 King Street East. He was a Life Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and President of the County of York Law Association.

1916 - 1928	Hon. Dr. J. D. Reid
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‘Doc’ Reid won 7 successive elections to the House of Commons, from 1891, until appointed to the Senate in 1921 by Arthur Meighen. He had also served as a member of Borden’s Cabinet. He joined the Club in 1901 and had the longest term of any President, other than Ritchie.

Members Who Served as Club President...

1928 - 1935	Hon. H.C. Scholfield
1935 - 1947	G. T. Pepall
1948 - 1949	C. F. Moore K.C.
1949 - 1952	David J. Walker K.C.

The term of Hon. David (Davey) Walker was critical to the existence of the Club. When he became President, the Club's balance sheet had \$370,000 of liabilities, mostly related to mortgages, and only \$86,000 in its accounts and capital stock. [The Club did not become a membership organization until the early 1960s.] Together with the efforts of John Diefenbaker, Arthur Meighen and Roy Thomson, Walker was able to save the Club from bankruptcy and a takeover by investors who wanted to own 91 King Street East.

1952 - 1954	Roy Thomson
1954 - 1956	L. E. Blackwell
1956 - 1960	J. R. Rumball
1960 - 1962	K. B. Andras
1962 - 1963	W.E.N. Bell
1963 - 1965	W. G. Thom
1965 - 1968	Harry E. Foster
1968 - 1971	J. Albert Brule Q.C.
1971 - 1972	J. Eric Ford C.A.
1972 - 1974	W. Ross DeGeer
1974 - 1976	Donald J. McLean
1976 - 1978	Hon. Ronald E. Sobier
1978 - 1980	William M. Bryden Q.C.
1980 - 1982	Hon. Norman K. Atkins
1982 - 1984	Hon. H.N.R. (Hal) Jackman
1984 - 1986	Brian G. Armstrong Q.C.
1986 - 1988	Thomas G. MacMillan

1988 – 1990	William Saunderson
1990 – 1992	Dianne Axmith

A successful business person in the advertising industry and an integral part of the male-dominated 'Big Blue Machine', Dianne served as the Club's first female President – a historic and overdue change and the start of a new tradition.

1992 - 1994	William J. McAleer
1994 - 1996	Paul R. Curley
1996 - 1998	Hon. Ronald Atkey Q.C.
1998 - 2000	Blake Wallace Q.C.
2000 - 2002	John H. Tory Q.C.
2002 - 2004	Amanda Walton
2004 - 2006	Peter Harris Q.C.

Peter Harris instituted the largest fee increase in Club history. He recognized that a smaller membership would be the norm and that costs were continuing to increase. He was able to almost double the cost of annual fees – while maintaining over 80% of the members.

2006 - 2008	Hugh Mackenzie
2008 - 2010	Michael Thompson
2010 - 2012	Jeffrey Steiner
2012 - 2014	Jaime Watt
2014 - present	Scott Munnoch

Scott Munnoch has made a unique and significant contribution to the Club, since he was first elected as a Board member. His experience, as a former Tour Director for both Brian Mulroney and Mike Harris, was evident in the energy and breadth of programming he introduced as the Club's Events Committee Chair. Among popular programs that he has developed are the Albany Club Honours

Members Who Served as Club President...

Award, co-founded with Ernie McCullough, and the expanded annual Blue Jays Luncheon, introduced by Past-President Tom MacMillan. As President, he has done an outstanding job of improving the Club's finances and attracting many new members, while leading our celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Albany Club General Managers

The person who manages the Club, on a day-to-day basis, is now called the General Manager or Chief Operating Officer. In the early days, this Club position was called Secretary Treasurer. The two people who served the longest in this role were Stair Dick Lauder and Ulrich Auerman.

Stair Dick Lauder became a shareholder of the Club in 1888, and served as Secretary Treasurer for over 30 years, from the 1890s. During this period, the Club moved to 91 King Street East and became established as a political and social force in the Toronto community. His retirement from his Club role was a front page item in local media.

In 1964, Ulrich Auerman was recruited to take over as Secretary Treasurer - a role he filled until 1999.

He took over the Club at a period when it was not well managed and turned it into a 'home away from home' with activities that were always 'on time and on budget.'

Our current General Manager/COO, Christian Diotte, took over this role in 2003. He reinforced the Club's conservative proposition and has led it through a dynamic period of great change, by ensuring stability

in its finances. The Club has adopted many modern programs to keep pace with how people communicate. He built on the Club's positive attributes, such as its heritage and traditions, working with the Board to develop strategies that reinforce the Club's proposition to the entire membership and provide an asset in recruiting new members. He was instrumental in bringing the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI) to our Club, during the 4 years in which their new quarters were being built. He also oversaw many renovations, including creation of the Club's rooftop patio, and continues to manage the Club's interests and well-being in the heart of an ever-changing downtown.

Club Membership Always Diverse

Although the Albany Club was created to facilitate the interests of members of the Conservative Party in Canada, Ontario and Toronto, the Club was inclusive and welcoming – and often different from the 'norms' of society, at various stages of its history. It has demonstrated an historic commitment to membership diversity since 1882.

In the late 19th century, Toronto was not a diverse city. There were deep divisions and bad relations between many people of different religions or ethnic origins, membership of the Albany Club always included people who were Protestant, Catholic and Jewish – and from a variety of countries.

The diverse nature of the Club's membership was confirmed in the 1960s, when the Board accepted the recommendation of one of its new members, Ted Rogers, that the Club could best attract much-needed members by 'recruiting Conservatives – regardless of their nationality, ethnic background or religion'.



Female Members

In 1979, we were among the first Clubs to admit women to full membership. Our first female members were Dianne Axmith (later the Club's first female President); Provincial Minister Margaret Birch; and future Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. Barbara McDougall. Four more females became members later in 1979 and 21 female members joined in 1980. The longest section in the Club's History speaks of the roles played in this decision by Hon. Pauline Browes, then 2nd Vice-President of the Ontario PC Association, as well as Premier Bill Davis and Rt. Hon. Joe Clark.

This development can be seen in a broader historical context. Sir John A., in 1885, stated in the House: "I believe the time will come, and I shall be very proud and very glad to see it, when the final step towards giving women full enfranchisement is carried in Canada." Women finally gained the right to vote during WWI – under Conservative governments in both Canada and Ontario. In 1927, the Party held the first political convention in Canada – also the first convention, of any Canadian political party, where women were allowed to vote.

House Committee Chair Bill Saunderson proposed that the Dining Room be open to women for lunch – the policy from April of 1977. The Board admitted women as members at a meeting on February 19, 1979 – although the 4th floor (virtually full every day) would be reserved for male members from 12 noon till 2:30 p.m. This compromise stood until late 1982, when President Hal Jackman had lunch there with Susan Murray. Female members have had full Club privileges since.

Today, under the guidance of Jaime Watt, our Immediate Past-President and Nomination Committee Chair, the Club's current Board of Directors has gender balance for the first time.

The Royal Connection

The Club was named in honour of Queen Victoria's youngest son, Prince Leopold - the first Duke of Albany. Leopold visited his sister Princess Louise, married to Canada's Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, in both Ottawa and Toronto.

The Duke of Albany's daughter, Princess Alice (granddaughter of Queen Victoria) married the Earl of Athlone, Governor General of Canada in the 1940s. She was very active in the War effort in Canada and was a great supporter of the U.K. Government.

In 1952, the Duke of Albany's great-great niece ascended to the throne as H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II. In 1973, the Duke of Albany's great-grandson, Carl Gustaf, was crowned King of Sweden.



A Media Observation

While much has changed, in so many aspects of politics and society, there is some continuing truth in a description of the Club that was published in the Toronto Star in 1921.

"All good Tories in Toronto need a spiritual home. Only a Tory of unusual calibre can belong to the Albany...Sir Henry Drayton and Sir Edward Kemp do not go to the Albany to get rid of time...no Marxian Socialist has ever leaned over these balustrades...no Prairie Agararian ever sits in these grand old upholsteries. "

CONCLUSIONS

The Albany Club continues to attract new people and provides many benefits for those men and women, of all races, nationalities and religions, who are its members. The Club, founded by friends and supporters of Sir John A., continues to play a central role for those conservatives who are its members.

Time will tell our members' future contributions to our country, our province, our city, our Party and our Club.





The Albany Club

Where Canada's Conservatives Connect

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