

# TRIBUTE TO TOM FROM MP CHERYL GALLANT

Thomas Stephenson  
Statements by Members

April 26th, 2023 / 2 p.m.

Conservative



**Cheryl Gallant** Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke, ON

Mr. Speaker, last month, Ottawa Valley's Tom "Big Red" Stephenson passed away at the age of 86 with his family at his side. Tom was a real-life trailblazer. He was a professor at Algonquin College and instrumental in creating an outdoor component to the forestry program. The ideal location was at Achray Station on Grand Lake in Algonquin Park.

Students would spend a week at a time learning forestry in the forest.

Tom knew that High Falls was a remarkable feature of Algonquin Park, but it was remote. Together with his family, and with the permission of park officials, Tom cleared a trail over five kilometres long through thick bush. Over time, the popularity of the trail grew. Park officials began to maintain it and it began to be known as "Cheater's Trail". It is our hope that Algonquin Park will recognize Tom Stephenson's contribution and officially name the trail in his honour.

To listen to MP Cheryl Gallant's tribute to Tom in the House of Commons ~ [click here](#) .

