



GREAT THINGS CONTINUE TO HAPPEN IN OSHAWA

Oshawa is a community experiencing unprecedented progress and prosperity. With continued investment and development, Oshawa will continue to lead the country in economic growth for a number of years.

But with all the tremendous advancement and expansion, Oshawa remains an area of outstanding natural beauty and splendor.

From the panoramic shoreline of Lake Ontario to the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine; from pastoral farmland and woodlots; parks and green space; Oshawa is a community proud of its natural heritage. The picturesque Oshawa Creek valley transects our city through forests and meadows and serves as an important educational and recreational resource. It is one of Oshawa's innate treasures that we are proud to safeguard for future generations.

Conserving our environment and natural resources, whether locally or on the provincial or national scale, has always been a priority for me. As your provincial representative in the Ontario Legislature, I will continue to focus my attention on environmental matters, work with conservation and environmental groups, educational leaders and students, government officials and industry to establish prudent legislation and policies to conserve our natural assets for the future.

Today I am highlighting some of the important environmental initiatives I have implemented for our community.

Jerry Ouellette
MPP Oshawa

Jerry Ouellette

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
170 Athol Street E.
Oshawa, ON L1H 1K1

Tel: 905-723-2411 Fax: 905-723-1054
jerry_ouelleteco@ontla.ola.org
www.oshawamp.com

Kids Fishing Day

Each year through the effort and support of numerous outdoor and community groups, I undertake Kids Fishing Day to provide hundreds and hundreds of children and families with an opportunity to go fishing. This event also facilitates a valuable forum in which children learn about natural history and the environment, freshwater and terrestrial ecology and discover the outdoors. In order to sustain our natural surroundings for future generations it is imperative to educate and involve our children at a young age.

Kids Fishing Day establishes valuable friendships and partnerships and provides knowledgeable professional guidance to foster a keen interest in the natural world for both children and parents alike.

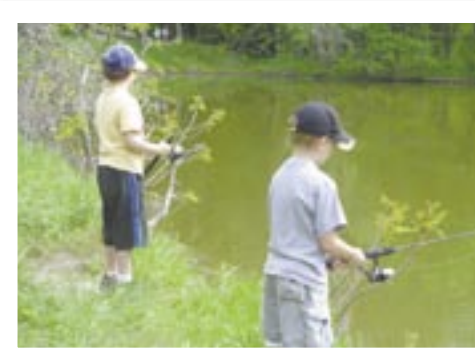
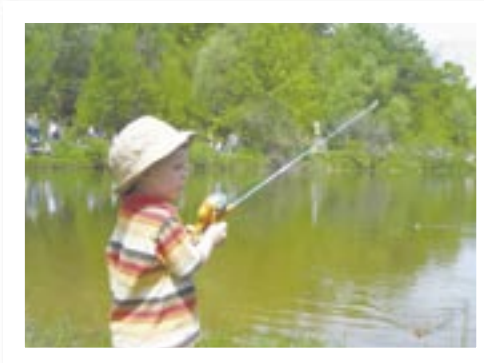
Classroom Hatchery Program

For the past eight years I have teamed up with members of local conservation organizations and anglers' clubs, along with staff and students from Oshawa schools to implement the Classroom Hatchery Program.

Each spring, rainbow trout are live-captured from the Oshawa Creek at Camp Samac; the eggs are collected and fertilized then transferred to an aquarium provided at each participating school. In the school, the set-up allows the children to learn all of the life cycle stages and to observe the evolution of eggs to fish.

Once the small trout attain a suitable stage they are then returned to the Oshawa Creek and released by the students. This project encourages the kids to get involved in the actual creation and rehabilitation of a fishery and its habitat. Perhaps even more important it cultivates a sense of environmental stewardship in the children with our valuable wetlands and waterways and the local fisheries resources.

This year, on a limited basis, I was able to include the rearing of Atlantic salmon in the classroom and participate in the reintroduction of this important fish species back to Ontario. I am delighted the staff and students are committed to this project from an educational standpoint and also to assist with the Atlantic salmon restoration effort and I look forward to continued support and involvement. I am also honoured that conservation groups have expanded on this successful program and congratulate them for bringing this important part of our natural heritage into classrooms across the province.



Oshawa Creek Enhancement Project

The Oshawa Creek near the downtown core and a few other sections has been subject to erosion, development, and a lack of vegetation over the years. With the assistance of the local conservation authority, municipal representatives, conservation groups and volunteers, and local schools and students, I have organized

a stream bank enhancement project to counteract this degradation and maintain the creek as a cool or cold water environment.

The planting of trees benefits the area by providing proper habitat for fish and wildlife, along with shading the water to cool stream temperatures. The trees and riparian vegetation also slow the rushing of water and in turn slows down the erosion process. The project was born from the need to rehabilitate the Oshawa Creek watershed from a degraded state and has established important partnerships between community and conservation agencies and local elementary school children.

Second Marsh Wetlands

I have always been an active participant and strong supporter of the Second Marsh Wetland Restoration initiative. This 123-hectare wildlife area on the shores of Lake Ontario has been recognized and designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Second Marsh provides natural habitat for more than 380 plant species, 288 species of birds, and numerous species of mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fish. The protection and conservation of wetlands habitat such as the Second Marsh is critical to sustaining wildlife biodiversity. I am proud to work with all of the volunteers, conservation and corporate partners to build upon the successful rehabilitation of this precious wetland.

Alternative Energy Initiatives

It is essential to collaborate with government, industry, conservation and environmental stakeholders to develop clean affordable energy. The province needs a forward thinking strategy reflecting all aspects of the environment and conservation to meet the current energy challenge. As a former member of the Select Committee on Alternative Fuel Sources I had many opportunities to research and discuss future clean energy policies within the province of Ontario.

I have worked with innovators and proponents to initiate and expand the use of windpower on Crown lands in the province of Ontario. I have also advanced the concept and development of low-flow hydro power generation as a clean alternative energy source. The Ontario government has jurisdiction over more than 2400 water control dams that could be utilized for this purpose. When fully developed could assist in taking care of peak demands. I will continue working with the automotive sector in the development and promotion of alternative energy for our automotive needs. Through innovative advancements including ethanol-based fuels, solar and electrical fuel-cell technology, hybrid mechanization, and other energy saving concepts we continue to reduce our demand for fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The Centre of Automotive Excellence at the University Of Ontario Institute Of Technology is instrumental in collaborating with our industrial partners and developing cleaner efficient vehicles for the future. As a father of two young children, I always try to look to the future through the eyes of the children of today. Whether it's speaking with students in the classroom; working with scouting organizations; involvement with conservation or environmental associations, by creating programs to benefit the environment we are investing in our future and ensuring great things for Oshawa.

Great things are happening to further environmental initiatives in Oshawa