

# Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

## Global Warming and the Environment



Well let's see, if Mom couldn't understand the last article I'll try the short version I explained to her.

Before houses there were fields and forests. The rain came and soaked into the ground slowly purifying it and slowly migrating to the creeks, via springs and such. Housing development leveled off the ground and the rain hits the roofs and driveways and roadways and runs into gutters which go directly to streams and cause flooding. New methods have incorporated storm water retention ponds to hold water and allow for ponds to seep into ground and emulate the former natural state. That's the short version.

The average stream requires a minimum of 36% overall shade coverage in order to maintain a cool or cold water status. The Oshawa Creek, prior to stream improvement, only had about 12% coverage. This means the sun actually warms up the creek during the summer and supports warm-water fish habitat such as bass; not the cool-water life of salmon and trout. What this also means is the warmer water flows down to Lake Ontario and adds to the thermal regime of the lake. Bacteria find culture to grow and our beaches are closed due to contamination.

While with the previous government I was able to start a Healthy Waters Healthy Fish program to return streams to cool or cold water status. Part of the program engaged local school students and volunteers to plant hundreds of trees along creeks such as the Oshawa Creek, restoring the streambank and providing shade for the watercourse. This is one way to help minimize global warming.

For those walking in to see the fish jumping at the Camp Samac dam over the next couple of weeks, the actual dam is another issue. Most dams and barriers are what are classed as top-flow. This means the water is held back in the pond; it heats up in the sun; and the heated water flows over the top of the dam increasing the water temperature by as much as ten degrees. Every time water is held by beaver dams or log jams or man-made barriers it slows down the flow and the water heats up. This also contributes to global warming like so many other factors. If you happen to visit Camp Samac when the dam is operating you will see they now use a bottom draw system. This ensures colder water from the bottom of the impoundment is drawn through the dam when the valves are open. This cooler water continues downstream benefiting coldwater fisheries and minimizes the effect on global warming. In order to get the bottom draw system used, all I had to do was explain the impact and ask.

These are just a couple of local projects which help in the battle against global warming.

Constituency Office:  
170 Athol St., E  
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 1K1  
(905) 723-2411  
email: [jerry\\_ouelleteco@ontla.ola.org](mailto:jerry_ouelleteco@ontla.ola.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry J. Ouellette". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Jerry J. Ouellette**  
**MPP Oshawa**