

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

Things You Never Hear About and Helping Others

There is much more to being an elected Member of Provincial Parliament than that which takes place at Queen's Park defined by the boundaries and hours of the provincial Legislature.

Whether it's speaking with children in school classes; celebrating noteworthy anniversaries or celebrations; standing knee-deep in frigid waters re-introducing Atlantic salmon into Ontario; giving praise and thanks to new businesses investing in our community; or whether it's in the churches, the arenas, the businesses or the households of Oshawa, there is so much more to the job boundaries than those found at Queen's Park.



Oshawa is thriving and predicted to lead all of Canada in growth and development into the foreseeable future. The reason is quite simple - Great things are happening in Oshawa because there are great people in Oshawa. It is the groups, organizations, and individuals who have a vision of change and more importantly, the will to do it. It is my role to listen to the public, understand them and work with those folks in the community to make a difference.

I would like to summarize one of the programs the community of Oshawa has been able to help out with.

Last year I had the pleasure of meeting with Grand Chief Stan Beardy who represents First Nation communities in northern Ontario. He was deeply concerned with the problem of children committing suicide in these communities. In southern Ontario we share a lifestyle second to none, but in the north it is not always so rosy. I mentioned how I was able to liaise with local groups and individuals to provide free used skates so kids could attend ice skating during the winter break. Grand Chief Beardy agreed that a similar program providing access to much needed recreational equipment would go a long way to assist the children in the dozens of communities he represents.

I am please to say that two weeks ago approximately one-third of a transport truck of skates, sweaters, pants, pads and helmets along with valuable goalie equipment was sent to Thunder Bay where it was to be distributed to the youth on the many reserves.

It is only through the outpouring of generosity of the transport company, the minor hockey leagues, the local businesses and the many caring members of the community that make such a program successful.

I am hopeful the program will continue in the future - it is about listening, understanding, finding a way and bringing together great people in Oshawa together with great vision.

Thanks to all for the good work - you are making a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry J. Ouellette". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

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