

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

Planning for the Future



More good news for today - but we must always look to the future through the eyes of the children of today - because it's their tomorrow.

Recently, I participated in the Durham Region Economic Prosperity Conference in which there were caring people looking to future developments for Oshawa and the Region as a whole. In the same fashion as someone decades ago seeing the need and bringing such infrastructure as Highway 401, the conference looked to develop Oshawa's and the Region's 401's to reach into the future.

My beliefs are very specific, from a provincial government perspective. The function of government is to design and create a balanced environment that attracts business. Let's see: we now have a new university fulfilling futuristic educational demands of a work force; we now have a cancer centre and hospital to ensure a health system to support our population; and, we have wise investments by our city to ensure our quality of life is second to none.

Just look at the other aspects of our community that are happening now that a positive business environment has been developed: The new Camaro, Fuel Cell cars, the new Logistics Centre, the development of our future uptown Taunton Road, the former ACSYS site or the new consolidated Courthouse. Oshawa is doing fantastic but it is Economic conferences that will keep the future strong. We cannot stand by and say we are doing fine, we cannot fall behind, we must continue to create those facets that progress demands to keep Oshawa where it is - Number 1 in Canada.

That is what the summit aids in doing - talking about the balancing points to move forward. Whether it is levels of taxation, quality of life, or planning to provide for business and residential alike, elected officials need to hear, as we always do, what makes a balanced community work. It cannot be simply, let's just do this and it will resolve a problem. Our job is to listen, research the do's and don'ts, and find out what works or what does not. The Ministry of Transportation works on a 5 year plan, that is what they are going to "start" doing 5 years from now and potentially complete 5 years from then.

Think of what you personally need to have completed 10 years from now and you understand the need to look to the future through the eyes of the children of today.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry J. Ouellette". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops for the letters.

**Jerry J. Ouellette
MPP Oshawa**