

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

The Environment



We are hearing so much about global warming that I thought I should discuss a number of related issues.

There are many more contributing factors than just manufacturing and or the auto sector.

One excellent example is housing. Yes we hear about electrical usage but let's talk about the very start - building and its impact. My family's bungalow was built in 1955 and at that time they put in roads and wires, sewer and water, and other infrastructure then built the houses. Now, with that, what happens is rainfall hits the blacktop (driveways and roadways) and rooftops and runs directly into the gutters straight to the storm water sewers and right to the creeks. This results in high water peaks along with all the road run-off pollutants. Before the housing was built the rain would come, seep into the fields, forests and ground, and slowly migrate through the soil, purifying itself, and slowly enter local streams heading to Lake Ontario. This would have ensured that streams maintain a consistent level and preserve its purity.

So what's changed since 1955? What happens now is in areas for development; developers come in and level off the fields before beginning construction. This alone changes the concentrated land mass pressure put on the grounds below the leveled areas. This actually can change underground water courses. A good example of this would be the affect of the weight of the Oak Ridges Moraine pushing down onto the ground and forcing water and springs along lines on both sides of the Moraine. Now, back to development of today, what takes place to compensate for rooftop and blacktop expansion are those nice looking ponds found around new development. These storm water retention ponds are designed to take in melt water and rooftop and blacktop rain water so that from the ponds the water can slowly seep back into the soil and migrate towards water courses. Oh yes, those fountains you see aren't designed for aesthetics. They actually stop mosquitoes from reproducing. Mosquitoes breathe through a small proboscis which they stick into the air. Mosquitoes thrive in stagnant waters. When the fountains work they make waves and circulate the water so mosquito larva cannot get air essentially controlling their population in our neighbourhoods.

We cannot overlook the importance of conservation— in our homes, on our streets and roadways, or even directly under our feet – to ensure our natural environment for future generations.

Constituency Office:

170 Athol St., E

Oshawa, Ontario L1H1K1

(905) 723-2411

e-mail: jerry_ouelletteco@ontla.ola.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry J. Ouellette". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and "O".

Jerry J. Ouellette
MPP Oshawa