

# Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

## Things You Never Hear About

There have been some substantial new investments in Oshawa; the new university, the new courthouse, the Stevenson Road 401 interchange and others, but I want to mention some of the other activities in Oshawa that you don't always hear about.

Recreational tourism associated with minor hockey is creating large revenue for communities. Financial indicators from data I have received verify over \$246,000 was generated by a recent three-day hockey tournament in our community. This actually represents a very minimum base figure and probably well over this amount was realized. If you take into consideration there are a dozen or more of these tournaments in Oshawa every year you begin to see the potential. Remember these events are done by league "volunteers" and require huge amounts of time and effort, all to provide kids with opportunities for fun.

At a recent tournament, teams flew to Oshawa from as far as British Columbia and drove from Quebec and four U.S. states. One group who contacted me stated one of the biggest problems was the lack of hotel space to accommodate these larger events in our community.

There are tremendous possibilities for building on these successes and it is important to move forward with the next step. I've already met with local officials, organizations and staff about helping expand these opportunities. With the involvement of the municipality and our business community, once all avenues are fully utilized I can potentially see even larger revenues generated for our great city.

With spring upon us I will soon be undertaking the classroom hatchery program for the seventh successive time. Each year we involve up to eight schools and work with them through the entire fish life-cycle by establishing hatcheries in the schools. The program has been so successful that conservation organizations have adopted our program and are expanding it in the province.

Classes of students attend a session at the Oshawa Creek where rainbow trout eggs are collected from adult fish, which are returned unharmed back to the stream. The eggs are fertilized, reared through a delicate early stage, and then the unhatched eggs are put in aquariums in the schools. The eggs hatch, the small fish absorb their egg sacs, grow to what is called the swim-up stage, and the kids then release the small trout back into the stream. This is an extreme simplification of what happens but the kids learn important concepts and gain a huge respect for our local fishery and environment.

This program returns approximately 10,000 trout annually into the Oshawa Creek. The hatch success rate in the wild is only about 3-5 % while our program hatch success rate equals about 95%. The process we have established actually supplements nature and the big advantage is for the students. They see things they had no idea existed in our creek and adopt a better understanding for what takes place in our stream and its life cycle.

All in all, great things have been happening in Oshawa for a long time - sometimes we just need to take the time to reflect on the details.



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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**