

# Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

## Unforeseen Local Economic Impacts



It can be quite surprising when one considers all the important economic impacts and spin-off benefits that are realized by the community.

During the winter months, I spend time coaching my son's hockey team and they sure use a considerable amount of ice-time. I can remember, not so long ago, when I was his age playing minor hockey in Oshawa, we were forced to travel to Little Britain, Sunderland, Bowmanville, Port Perry or any other rink within a half-hour drive to get the necessary ice-time to play. Times have changed and now we are quite happy to utilize all the new ice facilities within the City of Oshawa.

There are many advantages to our community as a result of these facilities that may not have even been considered. Last Saturday I was at a speaking event seated with minor hockey league executives, and we started talking about how the new rinks were creating some interesting economic benefits to Oshawa. With the influx of hockey tournaments throughout the season, the new rinks are adding a substantial economic stimulus to the city.

One tournament held a couple of weeks ago included 46 teams and when I drove through the parking lot at the new Legends Centre I saw vehicle license plates from four U.S. states and the province of Quebec. The average hockey team has 17 players along with the supporting coaches, managers, trainers, parents and friends. These teams are all over-nighting here and when you inquire with the local hotels they reveal these guests account for the principal weekend users around town.

But it doesn't end here. While staying in town these teams acquire an assortment of local expenditures including restaurant meals, pizzas, pop, gas, as well as hockey equipment, sticks, tape and skate sharpening. And when the kids are not on the ice or at the rink, they keep busy with other recreation such as swimming, bowling and movies. One mother I spoke with even told me she loved coming to Oshawa because of the great shopping mall.

When you consider all the impacts you start to get a different perspective on how recreation facilities can add to the economic growth in our community. Congratulations to the leagues, coaches, volunteers and all who take the time and work for our kids and community. With the support of the City, the Oshawa Generals, the Chamber of Commerce and our business community all aspects have come together to unite us...

...Hockeyville Oshawa.

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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**