

# PIRNETNEWS

Building and growing for a better tomorrow

January 2006

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## Pilot project for problem gambling

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## LCBO chief retiring on a high note



Andy Brandt, the former Ontario cabinet minister and Mayor of Sarnia who has headed the Liquor Control Board of Ontario for the past 15 years, will retire February 5, 2006. Brandt, a former leader of the Progressive Conservative party, was appointed chair and CEO of the LCBO in 1991 by the NDP government of Bob Rae. [\[For the full story, click here.\]](#)

## Pilot project for problem gambling



Ontario has opened two information centres in provincial casinos to provide information about safe gambling practices and to help people who may be worried about their gambling. The pilot projects are located at Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort and Casino Windsor. The information centres will provide at-risk patrons with immediate access to information, assistance and referral to treatment services. The Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort centre will also serve Casino Niagara. [\[For the full story, click here.\]](#)

## 2005: The year of planning 2006: The year of building

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For people involved in renewing Ontario's public infrastructure, 2005 was a busy year. But 2006 may be even busier. The government spent the last 12 months refining plans and strategies to improve public infrastructure; in 2006, the plans will begin to be implemented. [[For the full story, click here.](#)]

## Durham courthouse will be built in Oshawa



Oshawa has been named the winning bidder for a consolidated courthouse for the Durham region. The 350,000-square-foot facility will be built on land slated for redevelopment in downtown Oshawa. The project is being fast-tracked and is expected to be completed in 2009. [[For the full story, click here.](#)]

## Provincial Investment Will Reduce Wait Times, Improve Access

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## LCBO chief retiring on a high note



Andy Brandt, the former Ontario cabinet minister and Mayor of Sarnia who has headed the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) for the past 15 years, will retire February 5, 2006.

Brandt, a former leader of the Progressive Conservative party, was appointed chair and CEO of the LCBO in 1991 by the NDP government of Bob Rae.

In the 15 years he led the LCBO the organization changed dramatically, from an agency concerned with controlling the use of alcohol to an award-winning retailer that manages to combine customer satisfaction —

four of 10 people in Ontario say the LCBO is one of their favourite places to shop — with socially-responsible alcohol control.

“It’s been an honour and a privilege to lead the LCBO through the most exciting and rewarding time in its 79-year history, “ Brandt told the Toronto Sun. “I’m immensely proud of what we have accomplished together.”

Those accomplishments are remarkable. In 1991, when Brandt — “Andy” to everyone who knew him — began the first of three five-year terms as chair, the LCBO had annual sales of \$1.83 billion and returned a dividend to the provincial treasury of \$650 million. Both went down for the next two years.

But from the low point in 1993-94, when annual sales were \$1.76 billion and the provincial dividend was \$585 million, the LCBO last year had sales of \$3.5 billion and paid \$1.115 billion into the public purse.

In addition, the LCBO paid about \$800 million to provincial, municipal and federal governments for taxes, import duties, and municipal fees and property rates. About \$329 million of that amount was provincial sales tax.

Both Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan and Premier Minister Dalton McGuinty praised Brandt, who was named one of Canada's top 200 CEOs by the Financial Post magazine, for his achievements.

"I've admired Andy's contribution to the public service for many years," the premier said in a prepared statement. "It's easy to see why: he re-engineered LCBO operations to balance the interests of consumers with the safety of Ontarians, and in that process, the LCBO's contribution to funding for health care, education and other services was substantially increased."

The cumulative dividend to the public treasury from the LCBO for the past 10 years is almost \$9 billion, a figure Minister Caplan praised as "astounding."

"What is perhaps even more remarkable, and ultimately more valuable to the people of Ontario, is the dramatic way he changed the LCBO shopping experience," Minister Caplan said. "Andy's contribution to public service is immeasurable and his retirement is well deserved. Congratulations."

LCBO vice-chair Philip Olsson will serve temporarily as acting chair and CEO.

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## Advances in infrastructure mean advances in health

A groundbreaking at Kingston's wastewater treatment plant, a request for proposal to build and finance a hospital in London and an announcement of a new hospital in Toronto are shoring up infrastructure to protect the health of Ontario families.

### **Runnymede Healthcare Centre: a new, state-of-the-art hospital**

The steady progress on expanding health care facilities in Ontario will bring state-of-the-art facilities to the Runnymede Healthcare Centre patients who depend on specialized care for diseases like multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's.

Originally built as a public school in 1908, Runnymede became a hospital in 1945. Increasing demands over the years have made the building so ill-suited to its role that the dedicated staff is forced to deliver some programs in the hallways.

Runnymede President and CEO Connie Dejak credits the McGuinty government for taking the time to listen to their needs, and making the decision to act.

"This government recognizes that severe challenges brought on by diseases like multiple sclerosis and Huntington demand a wide range of highly skilled health professionals," said Dejak. "They saw that here at Runnymede we've been meeting the complex needs of patients from as far away as northern Ontario in a supremely challenging physical plant. Now, our staff and volunteers have hope. We'll be able to continue to do what we do best. And, with the new facilities to help us expand our highly specialized care, we'll be able to do it even better."

Not just better, but more effectively and less expensively than other hospitals. Runnymede can provide the treatment and care needed by individuals with chronic illnesses at less than a third of the daily cost of care in a general hospital.

Construction of the new Runnymede Healthcare Centre will be financed and carried out under Alternative Financing and Procurement. The private sector will assume the risks for ensuring that the project is delivered on time and on budget, but the completed facility will be publicly owned and controlled.

Sidebar placed here: Alternative Financing and Procurement projects ensure: public interest is paramount; value for money is demonstrable; appropriate public control and/or ownership of key public assets are preserved; accountability is maintained; and, all processes are fair, transparent and efficient.



A 200-bed hospital will replace the existing 95-bed facility with a comfortable homelike setting. There will be: spacious bedrooms, easily accessible washrooms, large therapy rooms, an auditorium, chapel, library, and therapeutic gardens. The new Runnymede will also feature day hospital services for patients who do not require permanent admission, as well as more space to train staff and volunteers. Clinical and medical services will also be greatly enhanced. Comprehensive therapeutic services will range from physiotherapy, to swallowing and respiratory therapies, to around-the-clock medical care. “Before stricken by illness, our patients had made important contributions to family, community and society,” said Dejak. “With this new facility, we’ll be able to slow the decline in their health, help them be more self-sufficient, and offer them the medical services to live out the rest of their lives in the comfort and dignity they deserve.”

Work is slated to begin in 2007 – a century after the construction of the school that has housed the hospital. Finally, Runnymede will have a facility that suits its needs, and matches the excellence of the care it provides.

Note: there will be a Runnymede photo with a cut line; Dejak has approved her quotes

Kingston photo cut line (Note: we are handling this groundbreaking with a photo and cut line only)  
Premier Dalton McGuinty participated in the August 3rd groundbreaking for the expansion of Kingston’s Ravensview Water Pollution Control Plant – the largest single capital project by the City of Kingston in its history. Ontario has provided \$25 million to Kingston through *ReNew Ontario*, matching the federal funding commitments under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund. State-of-the-art filters at the expanded plant will improve wastewater treatment, the addition of new facilities will increase the plant's capacity to manage waste, and upgrades to existing buildings and operations will help improve the plant's performance.

## Sidebar

### St. Joseph’s Hospital in London

A request for proposals has been sent to the following pre-qualified companies to build and finance the first phase of the capital redevelopment project at St. Joseph’s Hospital in London:

- Bird Construction Company Ltd.
- Bondfield Construction Company Ltd.
- D. Grant & Sons Ltd.
- EllisDon Corp.
- PCL Constructors Inc.
- SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.
- Tonda Construction Ltd.

The seven general contractors were short-listed through a request for qualifications issued on March 21, 2006 to identify companies with the construction, operational and financial capacity required to undertake a project of this size and complexity.

The project encompasses renovations of St. Joseph’s Hospital to support its new role in ambulatory care, including a focus on day surgery, some short-stay programs and prompt care services. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007.

St. Joseph's is working with Infrastructure Ontario using Alternative Financing and Procurement to finance and implement the project. The redeveloped facility, like all public hospitals in Ontario, will be publicly owned, publicly accountable and publicly controlled.

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## 2005: The year of planning 2006: The year of building



For people involved in renewing Ontario's public infrastructure, 2005 was a busy year. But 2006 may be even busier.

The government spent the last 12 months refining plans and strategies to improve public infrastructure; in 2006, the plans will begin to be implemented.

Over the past year Ontario has developed a new investment strategy that provides \$30 billion for public infrastructure over five years; released a proposed plan to guide growth in the third-fastest growing region in North America; implemented a

new framework to make sure we plan, procure, financing and maintain infrastructure properly; developed new ways of financing the infrastructure we need; and introduced new regulations to make redevelopment easier.

Here are a few landmarks from 2005.

### ReNew Ontario

In 2005 the government created a coherent investment strategy that will co-ordinate contributions from all levels of government, the private sector and public agencies like hospital boards and universities to generate more than \$30 billion for investment in public infrastructure by 2010.

ReNew Ontario directs infrastructure investments to the most important priorities for people - healthcare, education and economic success - and creates new connections between planning, funding and investment priorities. It sets priorities for critical infrastructure investments and shows how the government will work with partners to find new sources of investment.

Through ReNew Ontario, the government and its partners will commit \$5 billion to modernize Ontario's health care facilities; more than \$10 billion to improve schools, universities and colleges; and more than \$11 billion for highways, public transit systems and border and other transportation infrastructure.

### **Growth Planning**

In 2005, Ontario passed legislation that provides a better way to plan for the massive growth that is coming to the province over the next 25 years.

The Places to Grow Act, passed in June, enables the government to designate growth plan areas across Ontario to help curb urban sprawl, strengthen communities and protect the natural environment.

The first growth plan, for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, is being developed through an extensive consultation process that so far has included more than 500 submissions from municipalities and stakeholders, and meeting and workshops attended by hundreds of citizens.

The growth plan will link planning for infrastructure and planning for growth to ensure that almost four million more people expected to settle in the Greater Golden Horseshoe over the next 25 years will have places to live, work and enjoy life. The final growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe will be released this spring.

### **Building a better tomorrow**

In 2005 the government implemented new policies to manage the process of planning, procuring, building and maintaining public infrastructure, to ensure we get the best value for public investments and proper life-cycle maintenance for public assets.

The Ministry prepared a framework to help the government and the broader public sector assess proposals for new infrastructure, select the best way to finance projects, ensure construction is completed on time and on budget, and maintain public assets properly. Every major infrastructure project in the province is now required to follow these practices.

### **New investment strategies**

In 2005 the government developed new investment strategies to encourage investment in public infrastructure. For example, Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) is a new method of financing large projects, such as hospitals, and using the private sector to ensure on-time, on-budget delivery.

To implement this new strategy, the government created the Ontario Infrastructure Project Corporation (Infrastructure Ontario), a new arms-length agency that will manage complex AFP projects.

Later this year, the government plans to introduce legislative changes that, if passed by the Legislature, would give the new corporation responsibility for overseeing the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority, which provides long-term, low-cost loans for universities, municipalities and other public sector partners for infrastructure projects.

### **Land development policies**

In 2005, the ministry worked with partner ministries to remove barriers to the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

- Reforms were introduced to the Planning Act and the Ontario Municipal Board.
- The Greenbelt Act was passed to protect 1.8 million acres of agriculture land and natural areas.
- The Brownfields Financial Tax Incentive Program was developed to provide tax relief for brownfield rehabilitation.
- New legislation is being developed to implement Tax Increment Financing, an important fiscal tool that will encourage urban regeneration.

Taken together, these initiatives form a coherent, integrated strategy for the renaissance of public facilities in Ontario and the building of strong vibrant communities. It is a strategy that will sustain our prosperity and improve the quality of life for people in every part of the province.”

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## Durham courthouse will be built in Oshawa



Oshawa has been named the winning bidder for a consolidated courthouse for the Durham region.

The 350,000-square-foot facility will be built on land slated for redevelopment in downtown Oshawa. The project is being fast-tracked and is expected to be completed in 2009.

Justice system facilities in Durham, east of Toronto, are dispersed among seven locations scattered across the region, which adds to the cost of administering justice and multiplies confusion for people who use the system.

For about a decade Ontario has been trying to consolidate these facilities in one place.

Proposals for the new facility are now being requested from qualified bidders. Private sector contractors will finance the initial costs, under the province's alternative financing and procurement strategy.

The consolidated courthouse will house 33 courtrooms, five judicial hearing rooms, related legal and court services and the most up-to-date technology and security systems.

The caseload in Durham is expected to increase substantially as the region grows, and the new courthouse is needed to accommodate that growth. But its impact on redevelopment plans for downtown Oshawa is an important side benefit.

The new facility will employ about 350 staff, attract about 1,200 visitors a day, and create an additional 550 jobs in the downtown area. Employees and visitors will generate about \$7

million a year in additional spending, most of it in the local area.

Oshawa Mayor John Gray and city officials told the media the new facility fits in with existing plans to revitalize the city's downtown area. "We're receiving a lot of enquiries from people interested in locating downtown," Mayor Gray told the local newspaper.

Downtown Oshawa has been identified as an urban growth centre in the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe announced in November 2005.

Urban growth centres will become focal areas for investment in institutional and region-wide public services, including facilities like courthouses. The objectives of the growth plan include revitalizing downtown neighbourhoods.

The consolidated courthouse project is being financed through the government's alternative finance and procurement strategy. That means the successful bidder will be expected to finance the construction costs and maintain the facility, in exchange for a long-term revenue stream from justice facilities and other sources of income from the building — rent from retail outlets, restaurants and offices, for example.

Infrastructure Ontario, the crown agency created to oversee large alternative financing projects, will be responsible for managing Ontario's participation in the courthouse project.

Three consortia of private sector companies have qualified to bid on the project: SNC Lavalin Profac Inc., Durham Courthouse Centre Corporation and Access Justice Durham.

## New Durham courthouse at a glance

350,000 square feet

33 courtrooms, 5 hearing rooms, modern security facilities

350 staff, 1,200 visitors a day, an estimated 550 additional private-sector jobs

Private-sector financing

Completion in 2009

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