

PIRNETNEWS

Building and growing for a better tomorrow

Late Summer 2007

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Published by the **Ontario
Ministry of Public
Infrastructure Renewal**
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While summer is a time when Ontarians traditionally take a well-deserved holiday, it's certainly been a busy few months in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

In early July, I joined with Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci, on a six-city tour of Northern Ontario to talk to northerners in their home communities about the development of our government's Northern Growth Plan. The trip was a great success – as you'll see in our [report](#) in this issue.

The Ontario Growth Secretariat has been busy, not only with the Northern Growth Plan, but with their ongoing work on the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe – a plan that has been the winner of no less than [three major awards](#) – from the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Ontario Public Service, and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

We've celebrated two major construction launches in recent months as well – at the [Durham Consolidated Courthouse](#) in Oshawa, and the [flood-protection berm and the Don River Park](#) at Toronto's West Don Lands. Both of these projects will have a major impact in revitalizing their cities – and their regions – in the very near future.

As well, it's been a busy time for hospital construction all over Ontario. Working with our partners at Infrastructure Ontario, we have been pleased to announce [several important hospital redevelopment milestones](#) in places like Ottawa, Hamilton, Mississauga, North Bay and Sudbury over the past few months, just to name a few.

Late July also marked an important milestone in our ministry, with the release of the [ReNew Ontario Progress Report 2007](#). When our government announced the ReNew initiative in 2005, we promised to keep Ontarians informed about how the more than \$30 billion dollars that make up *ReNew Ontario* are being spent – and we've done just that with our 2007 report, which details how \$18 billion will be

invested by 2007/08 to revitalize and redevelop the province's public infrastructure.

Here's wishing all readers of PIR NetNews continued best wishes for the remainder of the summer.

David Caplan
Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal

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ReNew Ontario reports \$18 billion in progress



In 2005, the Ontario government's launch of its five-year, \$30-billion-plus *ReNew Ontario* infrastructure redevelopment initiative was accompanied by a promise: to provide Ontarians with regular progress reports on how these funds are being invested.

The latest of these reports was released by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal on July 31, 2007.

And, according to the ***ReNew Ontario Progress Report 2007***, more than \$18 billion in provincial *ReNew Ontario* funds will be spent by the end of 2007-08 on projects across the province that will enhance and strengthen key aspects of Ontario's public infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, roads and public transit.

As well, the *ReNew Ontario Progress Report 2007* demonstrates how *ReNew Ontario* aligns with other provincial initiatives such as the McGuinty government's climate change strategy, and the province's growth plans for both the Greater Golden Horseshoe and Northern Ontario.

"For the last several decades, government spending on infrastructure lagged behind the pace of growth. But this report shows that Ontario's public infrastructure renaissance is well underway," said David Caplan, Ontario's Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal. "Our students are learning in new, renovated and better equipped schools, colleges and universities. Ontarians who need medical care have better access to it, with less time to wait for important procedures. And our public transit systems and our network of highways, roads and bridges are being improved and expanded."

The *ReNew Ontario Progress Report 2007* also highlights several additional significant government infrastructure investments including:

- Over \$1.2 billion set aside for the *Move Ontario* initiative for transportation and public transit announced in the 2006 Budget.

- \$140 million for the Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative to help rural and small municipalities provide safe and reliable local infrastructure including water and wastewater systems
- \$146 million for infrastructure projects as part of the 2006 Fall Economic Stimulus Package to assist communities and families affected by slower economic growth

As well, \$5.9 billion in funding was allocated in the 2007 Ontario Budget for hospitals, schools, colleges and universities, transit, highways and other infrastructure redevelopment.

“We are building a better Ontario, and can look forward to a prosperous and an environmentally sustainable future,” said Caplan. “Most importantly, we can be proud of the legacy we leave for future generations.”

Caplan adds that while the report provides an excellent indication that *ReNew Ontario* is on the right track, the McGuinty government will continue to plan for the redevelopment of the province’s vital public infrastructure, well into the future.

“This is the first comprehensive, long-term strategy in the province’s history that deals with infrastructure planning and investment,” said Caplan. “Our government has always ‘played the long game’ when it comes to public infrastructure planning, looking forward 10, 20, 30 years into the future. We will continue to commit new money to ensure the infrastructure is in place so that our economy thrives, our environment and natural resources are protected and preserved, and quality of life is enhanced for all Ontarians.”

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Ministers kick-start development of the Northern Growth Plan



Mid July saw Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan and Minister of Northern Development and Mines Rick Bartolucci paying visits to six cities in the northern part of the province to talk with local leaders about the government's Growth Plan for Northern Ontario.

The two ministers made stops in Sault Ste. Marie, Kenora, Thunder Bay, Timmins, North Bay and Sudbury to meet with a cross-section of leaders from the municipal, business, industry, economic development, environment and education sectors. Caplan and Bartolucci provided updates on the vision and process for developing the Growth Plan, which, supported by the [*Places to Grow Act*](#), will build on the Northern Prosperity Plan and the work of northern mayors and the Northern Development Councils (NDCs).

"We were very encouraged by the commitment of northerners to working with us on the development of the Growth Plan," said Caplan. "Northern leaders have already made great strides towards making their region a great place to live, work, play and learn. One of the major strengths of the Growth Plan is the fact that it will not be starting from square one. Instead, it will build on the good work that has already been done, and will be developed *by* northerners *for* northerners, tapping into local expertise and consolidating feedback."

Minister Bartolucci chairs a 16-member "G-North" Ministers Table that brings important policy and investment areas together, such as infrastructure, health, education, post-secondary, training, economic development among others.

"This level of collaboration among provincial ministers is fundamental to the development of the Plan," he said. "The G-North group has already met, and the McGuinty government has begun to apply growth plan principles to infrastructure investments in the north through such efforts as the massive health capital campaign underway including North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay,

Mattawa, and Sioux Lookout, as well as the Northern Ontario Highways Strategy.”

Caplan also noted the government’s proven track record in growth plan development with the success of the [**award-winning Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**](#).

“Obviously, the growth needs of residents of the Greater Golden Horseshoe are very different than those of northerners when it comes to growth,” said Caplan. “But we’ve proven we know how to develop plans that target specific regional needs – and that is what we are going to continue to do to help the North realize its exciting potential.”

Over the next few months, staff from the ministries will engage and work with northern leaders to build on the good work already done by northerners. The goal is to have a draft of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario by the end of the year. Public consultations will follow the release of the draft plan.

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Growth Plan wins triple crown of planning



Anyone who follows the planning profession in Ontario will have noticed that the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe has been enjoying considerable recognition on the national and international planning stages.

Now this recognition has come full circle, and the Plan is the recipient of two significant Ontario awards, and one national planning honour as well.

In late-July, the **Ontario Professional Planners Institute** (OPPI) announced that it will present the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe with its Leonard Gertler Award of Distinction. Named for Leonard Gertler, the “founding father” of town planning in Canada and a key figure in planning in the Province of Ontario, the award recognizes the Growth Plan and the Greenbelt Plan. The Plans represent, in the words of the Gary Davidson, OPPI president, “work of such significance that it substantially impacts people in the Province of Ontario and merits special recognition.”

Adds Davidson: “We can think of no other recipients that would be as deserving of this award. Generations of Ontarians will benefit from these plans and we applaud the government’s efforts.”

Also this summer, in June 2007, the Ontario Growth Secretariat received the Amethyst Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements by Ontario Public Service employees who demonstrate excellence in public service. “The Growth Plan represents a landmark achievement in planning for the Province that will leave a legacy for generations to come,” said Brad Graham, ADM of the Secretariat, “and the entire team is extraordinarily proud to have participated in the development of this Plan.

In a ceremony in Quebec City in early June, the Growth Plan was also presented with an Award for Planning Excellence from the **Canadian Institute of Planners**. Members of the Secretariat team enjoyed the opportunity to attend the CIP’s annual conference and participate in the awards ceremony.

These awards caps off a whirlwind few months that started back in April when the Growth Plan for the

Greater Golden Horseshoe was honoured with the [Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan](#) from the American Planning Association – making it the first plan from outside the United States to ever win the prestigious award.

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New courthouse will combine 'green' with justice



The June 28th ceremony at the new Durham Consolidated Courthouse in Oshawa marked the start of construction on a facility that will have a major impact, not only in the city's urban core, but also the region and the province.

That's because in addition to increasing access to justice services for residents of the Region of Durham – which is forecasted to have one of the province's highest rates of population and caseload growth over the next 20 years – and helping to revitalize Oshawa's downtown, the new Courthouse will also be one of the largest "green" buildings in Ontario.

Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan was joined at the event by Ontario's Attorney General Michael Bryant, as well as Wayne Arthurs, MPP for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, and Oshawa mayor John Gray.

"The Durham Consolidated Courthouse project is proof of our government's commitment, working alongside **Infrastructure Ontario** to investing in infrastructure across the Province of Ontario," said Caplan. "It will also stand as an excellent example of our strategy of using brownfield properties within existing urban areas for intensive and sustainable development."

Attorney General Bryant added that residents of the region will be able to benefit from increased access to justice services through the new facility. "The Durham Consolidated Courthouse will provide people in Durham Region with modern courthouse facilities and meet the growing needs of the community," said Bryant. "This investment will help strengthen the justice system in this great region."

The new building, with a huge glass atrium and broad corridors, will contain 33 courtrooms, three motions rooms, conference/settlement rooms and many other related facilities. And when it opens in late 2009, the courthouse will consolidate services now provided at eight different locations in Durham Region.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were members of the Judiciary, staff from the Ministries of the Attorney General and Public Infrastructure Renewal, the Region (Regional Chair, Roger Anderson), the City of Oshawa, and representatives from Access Justice Durham, the building team that will design, build, finance and maintain the new courthouse.

In keeping with the new facility's environmental strengths, Minister Caplan was proud to report that the consolidated courthouse will be the first Ontario government building to meet the rigorous demands of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

"The new courthouse facility will go a long way towards revitalizing the city's downtown," said Caplan. "Together with the new General Motors Centre, the Consolidated Courthouse will help Oshawa reach its goals as a designated growth area in the [**Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**](#)."

For more information on the Durham Consolidated Courthouse visit [**Infrastructure Ontario**](#).

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On the Waterfront, PIR style



Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan teamed up with officials from the Government of Canada and the City of Toronto on June 25 for an important announcement about the development of the city's first new waterfront neighbourhood.

Joining federal Environment Minister John Baird and Toronto Mayor David Miller, Caplan announced the start of construction on two major projects: a flood protection landform, and the Don

River Park, both in Toronto's West Don Lands, under the authority of **Waterfront Toronto**.

"The waterfront's future really begins today, as we start the process of transforming the provincially owned West Don Lands into a new community that will one day rival London's Canary Wharf or New York's Battery Park," said Caplan. "The long awaited berm construction is a critical step to making the West Don Lands one of Canada's first complete and sustainable communities."

The flood protection landform is being constructed using about 200,000 cubic metres – or 10,000 dump truck loads – of fill, and will be four metres high at its highest point. The berm's scheduled completion date is in 2008, which will be followed by final landscaping for the Don River Park, which will open in 2009.

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Hospital redevelopment projects move forward



**August 20, 2007: This article is an updated version of the one originally posted on August 15.*

Hospitals all over Ontario are redeveloping to meet the health care challenges of their communities, providing residents with enhanced services and treatment as close to home as possible.

Working with its partners at [Infrastructure Ontario](#) the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal has been moving ahead on a number of key hospital redevelopment projects across the province.

Here are a few recent highlights, broken down by region:

EASTERN ONTARIO

Hôpital Montfort – OTTAWA: Construction began on June 5, 2006 on this redevelopment project that will increase the size of the facility -- to 289 beds and 750,000 square feet -- and will add two new wings and renovate existing facilities – including intensive care, maternal newborn, mental health, ambulatory care and emergency services.

Quinte Health Care – BELLEVILLE: The Quinte Health Care Corporation redevelopment project, which began construction in March, will involve construction of a new six-storey wing to the hospital's Belleville site. The wing will expand the complex continuing care and rehabilitation units. In addition, a separate, smaller addition will expand the intensive care unit. New construction totaling 153,500 sq. ft. and renovations totaling 22,000 sq. ft. will result in 175,500 sq. ft. of redeveloped space.

CENTRAL ONTARIO

Trillium Health Centre – MISSISSAUGA: The Trillium Health Centre project began construction in June, and involves construction of a new seven-storey west wing at the Mississauga site and

renovations to the Queensway site. The new wing will accommodate expanded cardiac surgery, cardiac catheterization, cardiovascular intensive care, medical care, intensive care and coronary beds, as well as diagnostic and support services.

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre –TORONTO: With construction beginning in May, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre's M-Wing vertical expansion project will facilitate transferring the perinatal and gynecological (P&G) program from Women's College in downtown Toronto to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre's Bayview Avenue campus. The P&G program includes obstetrics, high-risk births, a neo-natal intensive care unit and related services.

NORTHERN ONTARIO

North Bay Regional Health Centre – NORTH BAY: With construction having begun in March, the North Bay Regional Health Centre is a joint redevelopment project involving North Bay General Hospital and the Northeast Mental Health Centre. The hospitals will be co-located on a new site. However, each hospital will retain governance and management of its services and ownership of their premises within the North Bay Regional Health Centre. The building will accommodate 275 acute care beds and 113 mental health beds, plus associated outpatient services.

Sudbury Regional Hospital – SUDBURY: This project, which also began construction in March, encompasses phase two of Sudbury Regional Hospital's planned consolidation of all services from three sites to one. This phase includes additional acute inpatient and intensive care beds, mental health, operating rooms, birthing facilities, emergency department and other diagnostic and support departments. Once finished, the new hospital will accommodate up to 429 acute and rehabilitation beds.

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

St. Joseph's Health Care – LONDON: With construction beginning in June, this multi-phase project involves the redevelopment of the acute/ambulatory care facility at the St. Joseph's Hospital site in phase one. Services to be housed in the redeveloped facility include urgent care, a cataract suite, endocrinology and diabetes services, short-stay facilities and records storage.

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Minister Caplan profiled in Queen's Park Publication



People who want to know the “inside scoop” on the workings of Ontario’s political and governmental systems have come to rely on a newsletter called ***Inside Queen’s Park***, published bi-monthly by the G.P. Murray Research firm.

The publication’s July 4 issue contained, a “Provincial Profile” with Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan. In it, Caplan answered some tough questions about Ontario Lottery and Gaming, the LCBO, the Ontario Realty Corporation, Infrastructure Ontario, and the role of municipalities in working with the provincial government to redevelop and strengthen public infrastructure.

As well, Caplan outlined the role of Alternative Financing and Procurement, and addressed the question of how the government accesses the raw materials and aggregates – such as cement and asphalt – it needs for infrastructure projects.

But perhaps the most significant question-and-answer exchange came when the *Inside Queen’s Park* interviewer asked Caplan to describe the size of Ontario’s so-called “infrastructure gap.”

“My officials... came up with an enormous figure, in the range of \$100 billion for both rehabilitation and growth,” explains Caplan. “Over the years, I’ve come to believe that the infrastructure gap is quite a bit larger. But with the ***ReNew Ontario*** program And the recent \$17.5 billion transit package, we’ve started work on that quite effectively.”

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