

PIRNETNEWS

Building and growing for a better tomorrow

September 2007

Volume 3 No. 7

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More progress in health care sector

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Minister's message



For many of us, early-September puts us in a reflective frame of mind about the not-so-long-gone days of summer.

Here at the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, it's a great time to look back on many of the accomplishments and milestones we've celebrated over the past couple of months.

August marked the six-month anniversary of the launch of the **Bag it back program**. Working with the Ministry of the Environment, the LCBO and The Beer Store, we've hit several important targets during the initial phase of this initiative – but we're also encouraging Ontarians to be even more diligent in their efforts to help us recycle beverage alcohol containers.

As well, August and early-September was a very busy period for health care infrastructure redevelopment and construction right across the province. In the **last issue** of PIR NetNews, we told you about a number of important projects in this area – including the Humber River Regional, Royal Victoria, Sault Area, Queensway Carleton and Montfort hospitals, along with the Niagara Health System; London Health Sciences Centre/St. Joseph's Health Care, London; and the Quinte Health Care/Belleville General Hospital. In this issue we provide a further **update** on how our government is pressing ahead with several significant health care infrastructure revitalization projects.

One of those initiatives has a special significance for Ontarians in the area of north-west Toronto, York Region and Vaughan. The **Humber River Regional Hospital** construction project, which, on August 31 joined with our government in announcing the lease of approximately 30 acres of land from the province. This important milestone will allow the hospital to move forward in a major way with the construction project that will begin in 2010-11.

And last – but certainly not least – the **Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe** has been selected by a major international conference to participate in discussions of how communities can be made more pedestrian-friendly. As well, our colleagues at the Ontario Growth Secretariat have been

busy working on public consultations in northern Ontario as part of the important developmental work of the Northern Growth Plan.

So as you look back on your own great summer accomplishments, I hope you'll take the time to look at some of ours at PIR. I'd like to wish you all the best for the upcoming fall months.

David Caplan
Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal

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Recycling program 'bags' early successes



Back in February, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal teamed up with the Ministry of the Environment, the LCBO and The Beer Store for the launch of the Ontario Deposit Return Program. Known popularly as “Bag it back,” the program has reached a number of important milestones during its first six months.

For starters, Bag it back recently processed its 100 millionth container. As well, with a return rate of approximately 58 per cent, it's clear that Ontarians have embraced the program and are changing their behaviour from putting beverage alcohol containers in the Blue Box, to bringing them to The Beer Store. And that means that Bag it back is well on its way to meeting the year one return goal of 65 per cent.

In the area of glass recycling, Bag it back has already hit its target of putting 90 per cent to high end use. More than 39,000 metric tonnes of glass have been put to use in making more glass bottles, ceiling tiles and fibreglass insulation. Used in this way, the glass recycled through the program saves the energy and resources that would go into the production of new materials.

It's not just individual Ontario residents who are bagging it back, though. The province's hospitality industry has shown significant support as well, with restaurants and bars achieving a return rate of approximately 70 per cent, despite initial concerns about business impacts. That adds up to 11.9 million containers returned by the hospitality industry to date, and a contribution of 5,225 metric tonnes of glass that have been recycled to high-end use.

“We're ahead of our expectations,” said Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan. “Quite clearly, Ontarians have responded to the Bag it back program, and it has become a wonderful environmental success. From our perspective, it has worked really well.”

Despite this encouraging early progress, the government is encouraging Ontarians to do an even better job of “Bagging it back.”

A public education campaign, featuring radio and print advertising has been reminding Ontarians that every container purchased at the LCBO can be returned, including all sizes of glass, TETRA Pak, bag-in-box, plastic and aluminum containers.

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More progress in health care sector



The last issue of PIR NetNews featured a region-by-region “progress report” on construction taking place at Ontario’s hospitals over the past month.

But given the provincial government’s commitment to improving and strengthening health care facilities and services, it’s not surprising that there have been even more milestones to report since then.

The following are some of the major events in health care project construction and redevelopments that have taken place since our last issue:

Royal Victoria Hospital: Minister Caplan was warmly received by staff, members of the public and media when he attended an event to mark the start of site preparation work for construction of the Phase I Expansion at Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on **August 8**. A sign announcing this project was also unveiled at the event.

Sault Area Hospital: Premier McGuinty and MPPs David Orazietti (Sault Ste. Marie) and Mike Brown (Algoma—Manitoulin) joined hospital officials, community members and health care partners to celebrate the official start of construction of the redevelopment project at the Sault Area Hospital on **August 23**. Construction of the new Sault Area Hospital is expected to be completed in late 2010.

Queensway Carleton: Jim Watson, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean and Ontario’s Minister of Health Promotion, attended an event on **August 30** to celebrate the hoisting of the final steel beam for the hospital’s early works project. Minister Watson joined hospital President and CEO Tom Schonberg, hospital staff and local officials to mark the completion of the structural steel phase of the hospital’s early works project. This construction milestone was marked with the placement of the final steel beam.

Sarnia: Caroline Di Cocco, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton and Ontario’s Minister of Culture announced the commercial close of the Bluewater Health site on **August 29**. Construction is slated to begin in

September 2007. Bluewater Health signed a contract with EllisDon to build and finance the expansion and renovation of the Norman Site.

London Health Sciences Centre/St. Joseph's Health Care, London: A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to build and finance projects to redevelop and consolidate areas of the hospitals. Chris Bentley, MPP for London West and Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, along with MPPs Deb Matthews (London North Centre) and Khalil Ramal (London—Fanshawe), attended a sign unveiling event at London Health Sciences Centre on **August 31** to celebrate the release of the RFP.

Hôpital Montfort, Ottawa: Madeleine Meilleur, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services, and MPPs Jean-Marc Lalonde (Glengarry—Prescott--Russell) and Phil McNeely (Ottawa-Orleans) attended an event commemorating 50 per cent project completion on **August 31**.

Niagara Health System: On **September 4**, Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and St. Catharines MPP, joined by Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor, announced that the Niagara Health System project had reached another key milestone with the release of a request for proposals (RFP) to design, build, finance and maintain a new health care complex that will replace the existing Ontario Street and St. Catharines General sites.

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Government land lease boosts Humber River Regional Hospital project



The Ontario government has accelerated the pace of a major hospital redevelopment project that will provide state-of-the-art acute care to more than 800,000 people in the northwest part of Toronto.

Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan announced on August 31 that the government will lease government-owned land for the construction of the new Humber River Regional

Hospital (HRRH), at Keele Street and Wilson Avenue.

Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter, MPP for York Centre, and Mario Sergio, MPP for York West, also attended the event.

Construction is expected to begin in 2010-11, and will allow the hospital to move forward on what it calls its "New Model of Care".

"Our government is committed to modernizing, upgrading and expanding the capacity of health care facilities to meet growing needs and to improve access to top-quality health care throughout the province," said Caplan. "This is an essential part of our plan to reduce wait times and improve access to top-quality care, and a great illustration of our commitment to make the best use of the government's real estate assets, in the best interest of the public."

The HRRH project was approved as part of *ReNew Ontario*, the province's five-year, \$30 billion-plus infrastructure investment plan. Like all Ontario hospitals, the HRRH is publicly owned and controlled.

"Building a new hospital on this site will improve access to quality health care for residents in one of the province's fastest-growing areas," added Caplan. "The new hospital will provide quality health care to the growing number of families in northwest Toronto."

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From October 1-4, 2007, international experts from a variety of sectors including transportation planning, environmental protection, health, tourism, and business will be gathering in Toronto at the [Walk21 Conference](#). They will discuss walking and pedestrian planning issues, focusing on ways to motivate people to build on examples of best practices from their home communities and around the globe, and turn plans into action. Conference organizers have invited Brad Graham, the Ontario Growth Secretariat's Assistant Deputy Minister, to participate in a plenary panel about the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and its pedestrian-friendly policies.

The Growth Plan directs those responsible for building communities to ensure that places where people live, work, learn, and play will be walkable by placing emphasis on the development of vibrant, complete, mixed-use communities with a choice of housing and employment; intensification of underused and vacant land; and high quality public spaces, such as sidewalks, parks, trails, squares, and plazas.

The Walk 21 conference panel will include Julie Di Lorenzo, President of Diamante Development Corporation, and Tim Pharoah, co-author of the U.K. Manual for Streets, and will be moderated by Greater Toronto Transportation Authority Chair, Rob MacIsaac.

The Walk 21 conference is not the first time that the international planning community has looked to Ontario's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe as a model for managing growth and building more pedestrian-friendly communities. In recent months, the Ontario Growth Secretariat has been

asked to make presentations on the Growth Plan to groups from Maryland, Washington, Portland, New York and Finland.

Closer to home, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe's model of stakeholder participation is being followed to develop a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. Northern leaders representing Aboriginal peoples, municipalities, business, industry, education, and the environment are working with staff from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines on an actionable plan that builds on the good work already done by northerners themselves to identify the challenges and priorities of sustainable growth in northern communities.

The goal is to have a draft of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario by the end of the year. The public consultation stage of the process, again, a model drawn from the experience with the Greater Golden Horseshoe, will follow the release of the draft plan.

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