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MESSAGE FROM DONNA

Wishing everyone a very happy spring! This session at Queen's Park has already brought many exciting updates that I am pleased to share with you through this newsletter. As always, please reach out to my office if I can assist you with any provincial matters.

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QUEEN'S PARK UPDATE

- Gas Tax Cuts – Proposed legislation that would, if passed, extend the existing gasoline and fuel tax rate cuts until December 31, 2024, which has saved Ontario households \$320 on average over the two and a half years since first introduced.
- Ontario is investing more than \$1.8 billion in housing - enabling infrastructure funding to help municipalities get shovels in the ground and build 1.5 million homes.
- The 2024 Budget, introduced on March 26th, demonstrates how the government is continuing to deliver on its Plan to Build by investing in infrastructure to get homes built faster, attracting better jobs with bigger paycheques, keeping costs down for families and businesses and retaining a path to balance.
- Funding for Perinatal and Specialized Services in Hamilton – Hamilton Health Sciences will receive \$10,779,600 in one-time funding for 2024-25 to support the Integrated Pathway for Children and Youth with Extensive Needs.



DID YOU KNOW?

April 6-7 is Maple Weekend in Ontario. Our government calculations suggest that over 1,000 jobs and close to \$42 million in GDP were attributed to the maple industry value chain in 2022.

Throughout the month of March, Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton (pictured below) hosts an annual program displaying how sap is turned into syrup.



CROATIAN HERITAGE DAY ACT UPDATE

The third reading of Bill 81, an Act to proclaim May 30th as Croatian Heritage Day in Ontario, took place in the legislature on March 21st. Ante Jovic, Croatian Consulate General, visited the legislature for the historic day. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ante and many Ontario Croatians while bringing this bill forward. I hope that this May 30th, people across the province will join me in celebrating.



International Women's Day 2024

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In honour of Women's History Month, along with other colleagues, I joined Patrice Barnes, MPP and Connecting GTA to meet and thank these Ontario businesswomen. Their entrepreneurial spirit has contributed to job creation and economic growth in Ontario. We know that when women succeed, Ontario succeeds!



Earlier this month, through my role on the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I visited the United Kingdom. Pictured here is Stephen Twigg, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



Joined the Associate Minister of Housing, Rob Flack, MPP at the Macdonald-Cartier Club of Hamilton Breakfast with Club President, Robert Cooper.

BUILDING FASTER FUND

The Building Faster Fund is a three-year, \$1.2 billion program designed to encourage municipalities to address the housing supply crisis. Funding is provided to municipalities that have reached at least 80% of their provincially assigned housing target with additional funding for municipalities that exceed their target.

The Ontario government rewarded Hamilton with more than \$17.5 million for exceeding its 2023 housing target, breaking ground on a total of 4,142 new housing units last year.

Ensuring that every resident has an affordable place to call home is our government's top priority and I am hopeful that with the support of these provincial funds, there will be even more homes built in Hamilton in the year ahead.



Building Faster Fund Announcement in Hamilton with Premier Ford, Minister Neil Lumsden, MPP and Mayor Andrea Horvath

WATERDOWN EASTER EGG HUNT

