



Jim Brownell, MPP

Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh

ANNUAL REPORT



Standing up for SDe&C



Jim Brownell, MPP
Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh

Dear Neighbour:

As your Member of Provincial Parliament, I present to you my annual report. I trust you will find the information useful, and that it will help you to understand the progress that has been made in the riding of Stormont, Dundas and Charlottenburgh, and across the province, during the past year. As always, I thank you for your dialogue and support throughout the year.

This report and my regular riding reports through print and television, are my central point of communication with the community. There are important and useful telephone numbers in this report, and I encourage you to keep them handy. As well, my website, at www.jimbrownell.onmpp.ca, is my constant contact with internet users. I hope that you find this report useful, and I truly hope to hear from you in the future.

Kindest Regards,

Jim Brownell, M.P.P.
Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh

Getting Results for Ontario

The government's plan is to make Ontario better and stronger for all of us. Here is a sample of some of the major initiatives that this government has undertaken to ensure that Ontarians get the results they deserve:

- ◆ We are providing nearly \$2 billion in multi-year funding for hospitals across the province, to shorten wait times and strengthen our hospitals.
- ◆ To address the number one killer in Ontario, we are introducing legislation to make public and work places in Ontario smoke-free within three years.
- ◆ School boards have hired more than 1,100 new teachers as a first step in reducing class size in the early grades.
- ◆ To help the province's farmers with the mad cow crisis and to adjust to a new generation of farm safety nets, we are spending \$74 million to provide stability for our farmers.
- ◆ A responsible plan to close Ontario's Coal plants by 2008-2009.
- ◆ The creation of a Renewable Fuels Standard that will require all gasoline sold in Ontario to have an average of five percent ethanol and a \$520 million Fund to meet this objective.
- ◆ For the first time in Ontario, gas tax is being shared with municipalities. Once it's fully phased in, municipalities will receive 2 cents of the gas tax for public transit in their communities.
- ◆ Lowered auto insurance rates by on average 10.6% after years of skyrocketing rates (up 43% over 3 years).
- ◆ Re-introduced fixed election dates so they take place every four years. The next election will be four years from the last election and will fall on October 4, 2007.
- ◆ The government amended the Tenant Protection Act to remove the automatic two per cent base portion of annual rent increases. The 2005 rent increase of 1.5% is the lowest ever since rent control was introduced in Ontario.
- ◆ Peace and stability in schools for the first time in years. With new agreements between teachers and school boards, work-to-rule activities have come to an end.
- ◆ A new agreement with doctors will make Ontario family doctors the highest paid in Canada and our specialists the second highest paid – going a long way to helping recruit and retain doctors.

Budget 2005

Investing In People Strengthening Our Economy

On May 11th, 2005 the McGuinty Government unveiled its second Budget. The Budget makes key investments in education, health, and a strong economy, while making significant progress towards eliminating the deficit.

- ◆ Postsecondary Education: A historic investment of \$6.2 billion over five years – the largest multi-year investment in 40 years. The tuition freeze will be maintained for 2005-06.
- ◆ Health: More doctors and nurses, shorter wait times, and a \$32.9 billion investment in health care this year – a \$1.8 billion increase over last year.
- ◆ Agriculture: A \$15 million increase in core budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and continued support for the agricultural community.
- ◆ Deficit Reduction: The government reduced the deficit by \$2.5 billion, which is almost half of what we inherited.
- ◆ Infrastructure: A five year \$30 billion plan for roads, hospitals, schools, colleges and universities.

For more information on the 2005 Ontario Budget, visit

www.ontariobudget.fin.gov.on.ca, or call my office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Queen's Park

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Winchester, ON K0C 2K0
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Hours: Thursday, 9am-Noon

Better Learning For Student Success

Since forming government in October 2003, investing in our public schools and our children has taken the highest priority. As a former teacher, I am pleased that the provincial government has a plan to ensure Ontario's children receive strong supports – from the early years through to postsecondary education.

Here are some of the things your government is doing at the elementary and secondary levels:

✓ Smaller class sizes:

Class size during the early years of school has a tremendous impact upon achievement and that is why the government is working to reduce class sizes for primary students. Smaller classes provide students with more individual attention and increase the likelihood that those students will develop a strong foundation in reading, writing and arithmetic. School boards in Stormont, Dundas and Charlottenburgh received nearly \$3 million to hire more teachers and lower class size.

✓ Community use of schools:

The government is providing schools with extra funds to allow community groups to use school facilities after school hours. Under previous governments, schools were forced to prohibit their use after hours or charge high fees to neighbourhood sports clubs and community groups.

✓ Health and safety:

Students deserve to learn in clean, safe and healthy environments. To ensure this, all publicly funded schools have been directed to ban junk food from their vending machines and provide students with 20 minutes of daily physical activity this fall. Province-wide anti-bullying programs will also be implemented across Ontario.

As part of the 2005 Budget, the government unveiled a historic plan for postsecondary education. This multi-year investment in postsecondary education – the largest in 40 years – invests \$6.2 billion in our colleges and universities. Here are some of the details:

✓ Access to student assistance:

The McGuinty government will double the amount of funding available for student assistance. For the first time, 16,000 students will be eligible for grants of up to \$6,000 in the first year. Another 16,000 students will be eligible for grants of up to \$3,000 in the second year.

✓ Support for apprenticeship programs:

The 2005 budget builds on current programs with new training investments that reinforce the government's priorities. By 2007-2008 the province will be providing \$17.5 million for apprenticeships and workplace training. Annual entrants into apprenticeship programs will increase by 7,000, and will reach 26,000 by 2007-2008.

✓ Operating grants:

Operating grants to colleges and universities will increase by nearly \$400 million this year. By 2009-2010, the province's total investment in postsecondary education will be \$1.6 billion more per year than was anticipated by the 2004 Budget.

Report From The Legislature

As your provincial representative, I had many opportunities to bring the concerns of our residents to Queen's Park during the past winter and spring sessions of parliament. I retained a very busy legislative agenda last session. Particular attention was devoted to the pressures and challenges of maintaining a strong and sustainable agricultural and commercial/ industrial environment in the riding of Stormont-Dundas and Charlottenburgh.

I am particularly encouraged by the strength our farmers and workers have demonstrated over the course of the year. It has been a trying year for some, but I remain convinced that stronger communities and renewed opportunities will emerge as we move forward as a region. I take every opportunity to profile Eastern Ontario and I remain convinced that it is the best place to live in Ontario!

Please visit my website to see a listing of all of my Legislative Questions and Statements and please contact me about particular issues which you feel I should be profiling during the upcoming fall legislative session.

New Funding in SD&C	Upper Canada (DSB)	Ecoles Publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CSD)	Eastern Ontario Catholic (DSB)	Catholique de l'Est Ontarien (CSD)	Total 2004-2005 Funding
Smaller Class Size	\$1,274,839	\$450,607	\$661,012	\$538,089	\$2,924,547
Community Use of Schools	\$356,971	\$119,730	\$128,846	\$129,169	\$734,716
Total Funding for Schools in SD&C	\$268,853,220	\$101,587,812	\$120,687,221	\$116,172,570	\$607,300,823

Investing In Ontario's Ethanol Industry

On June 17, 2005, the provincial government announced a 12-year, \$520 million fund to increase the viability of ethanol in Ontario. The Ontario Ethanol Growth Fund will ensure that all gasoline sold in Ontario will have an average of five percent ethanol by January 1, 2007.

The Ethanol Growth Fund provides:

- ◆ Capital assistance to help meet financial challenges for plant construction
- ◆ Operating assistance to address changing market prices
- ◆ Support for independent retailers selling ethanol blends
- ◆ A research and development fund to pursue opportunities for research and innovation

The Seaway Valley Farmers' Energy Co-operative remains committed to constructing an ethanol plant in Cornwall's east-end industrial park. The plant will produce 69 million litres of ethanol per year and is expected to employ 34 full-time individuals.

Local farmers, the city of Cornwall and the health of all Ontarians will benefit when this long-awaited plant is constructed. I have long endorsed this project and I look forward to positive news in the near future. For more information on the Ontario Ethanol Growth Fund, please visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture at: www.gov.on.ca/omafra.

Legislative Page Program

The Legislative Page Program is a unique opportunity for grade 7 & 8 students to experience government first hand.

Pages serve a Term of Duty of three to six weeks and are granted a leave of absence from school during that time. They participate in the legislative process, act as messengers in the Legislative Chamber, meet with politicians and officials, learn how laws are made and how the Province of Ontario is governed.

I am pleased to announce that the Page Programme selected two students from the riding this past year.

The work of Pages Dara Bowie from Nationview Public School and Laura St. Marseille from St. Lawrence Intermediate Public School, left a lasting impression with all the Members of Provincial Parliament at Queen's Park. I was delighted to see them participate.

I would like to encourage our young people to apply for this unique experience. Please contact my office if you are interested in this life changing experience, and I will be delighted to help guide you through the application process!

Jim Brownell with Legislative Page, Dara Bowie



Jim Brownell with Legislative Page, Laura St. Marseille



In Your Community

Health Update

A key part of our government's plan for change in health care is putting hospitals on sustainable financial footing. This will require us not only to provide long-term, sustainable funding, but also to transform the way the province currently delivers community health care.

To achieve this, the provincial government will invest \$1.75 billion over three years. For the first time in this province's history, every Ontario hospital will know how much funding they are getting for 3 years, instead of just one. This will help hospitals plan for the needs of their patients, manage their finances and keep their budgets in balance. In addition to hospital funding, the province is investing in community-based care to relieve the pressures placed on our hospitals. This funding will flow to: home care, long-term care, mental health, public health and primary care through the development of 150 Health Teams. Though unsuccessful in securing a Family Health Team in round one, I remain fully committed to achieving this goal during second round announcements this fall.



Over the course of several months, our hospital redevelopment projects have taken significant steps. On March 23rd the Winchester Memorial Hospital submitted their Block Schematic Design to the Ministry of Health. The project timeline remains on track. In addition to the capital project, the Hospital has also achieved a very significant milestone in their fundraising campaign

and on March 17th, the Renewing The Vision Campaign announced the attainment of their \$15 million goal. This is an enormous accomplishment and I congratulate the community on their efforts.

On November 26th, 2004 I was delighted to host a meeting between the Minister of Health George Smitherman and a delegation from the Cornwall Community Hospital. At the meeting, a plan was developed which outlined the critical capital milestones needed to meet the completion of the capital project. The meeting also brought clarification regarding timing of the provincial government's funding commitment. On April 1, 2005, I accepted an invitation to visit the Cornwall Community Hospital where CEO Ms. Jeanette Despatie and Chair Michael Warden presented me with the documentation relative to the capital project at the hospital. Documents included Stages 1, 2 and 3.1 of the Capital Project Submission, including the Master Plan, Functional Program and Block Schematics. Hospital redevelopment remains a central priority.

The ongoing local share fundraising campaign works alongside these capital milestones. The hospital plan calls for a \$23 million expected local contribution, with \$10 million expected from the community. I am proud to support the dedicated efforts of the fundraising foundation that have already managed to raise over \$7 million.

The capital project in Cornwall is also closely aligned with the St. Joseph's Continuing Care project on York Street. This project includes the development of 59 complex care beds and 159 long-term care beds. In April, the province committed \$5 million towards the redevelopment project and the project is expected to be ready to tender late this summer.

Our hospitals and the health of our communities remains my number one priority and I would be happy to answer any of your concerns on this topic.

Community BBQ

On Sunday, August 14th I will be holding my annual community BBQ and social. The event will be held at the Lost Villages Historical Museum in South Stormont, with a full afternoon of wagon rides and entertainment planned.

Complimentary food and refreshments will be served. Come out and meet your community or renew old friendships. I look forward to seeing you and your family there.

Building Partnerships

Municipalities are often the first point of government contact for many of my constituents, and the services they provide are essential. After years of downloading by the former provincial government, municipalities were left with enormous financial responsibilities and public services suffered as a result.

In 2003, the new provincial government committed itself to rebuilding our public services, focusing on education and health care, and entered into a new era of dialogue with municipal governments to ensure that this happened. Though much hard work remains, the province has taken substantial steps towards rebuilding a provincial/municipal partnership and easing many of the existing financial burdens carried by municipalities.

Here are some of the things the province is doing in SD&C:

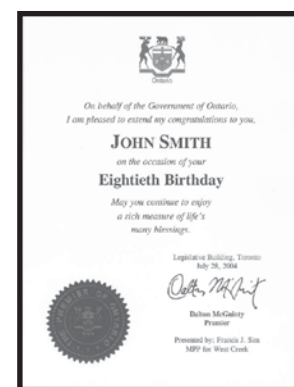
- ◆ All of the Townships and the City of Cornwall received portions of the \$30-million Ontario Fire Service Training Grant, to ensure our fire departments have up-to-date training and modern equipment.
- ◆ The Township of North Stormont received \$143, 951 in one-time funding to help with expenditures for the Moose Creek Water and Sewer Projects.
- ◆ The Townships of North Dundas, North Stormont and South Stormont were the recipients of provincial COMRIF funding to assist with costs for local bridge projects.

Investing in Community Health Care

- ✓ April 5th 2005 – \$5 million to advance the construction of a new continuing care building on the St. Joseph's Villa site to be co-located with a long-term care home.
- ✓ March 29th 2005 – \$138, 000 to improve infection control capacity at local hospitals in Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh.
- ✓ March 4th 2005 – \$42, 000 in diagnostic and medical equipment to assist those residing in Community Support Services.
- ✓ February 24, 2005 – \$19, 738 funding increase to the Sexual Support Services for Women of Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry and Akwasasne.
- ✓ February 15, 2005 – \$19, 064 in funding for new and upgraded medical equipment at Le Centre De Sante Communautaire De L'Estrie.
- ✓ February 3, 2005 – \$2, 154, 007 to modernize medical equipment in local hospitals and an additional \$1, 380, 000 to fund a new CT scanner for the Cornwall Community Hospital.
- ✓ January 21, 2005 – \$120, 977 in funding for community-based mental health programs.
- ✓ December 14, 2004 – \$61, 500 to reduce wait times and provide an additional 82 cataract surgeries at the Cornwall Community Hospital.

Congratulatory Scrolls

Are you celebrating a special occasion? As your MPP, I would be pleased to send along a congratulatory message and/or certificate to someone celebrating an anniversary, birthday, wedding or special occasion.



Please contact my constituency office for further information.

The Premier of Ontario will also send a congratulatory letter on occasion of:

- ◆ A 40th wedding anniversary; and any subsequent anniversary
- ◆ An 80th birthday; and any subsequent birthday

Requests for the Premier's greetings must be submitted at least two months in advance. To make a request, please visit: www.premier.gov.on.ca/english/forms or call (416) 325-3777.

- ◆ The City of Cornwall will receive a portion of the existing provincial gas tax to support its public transportation system. By 2006, the City will be entitled to two cents per-litre.
- ◆ The City of Cornwall also received \$3.4 million in one-time funding under the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund this year, and \$1.8 million over three years to assist with courthouse redevelopment.
- ◆ The province also remains committed to increasing its share of public health funding to 75% by 2007.

The Cornwall Public Inquiry

In 2003, I made a commitment to the community that the creation of an independent public inquiry into the events surrounding allegations of abuse of young people, would be a key priority.

On November 17, 2004, Premier McGuinty fulfilled his promise and announced that the government was committed to establishing a full public inquiry in Cornwall. The Premier assigned responsibility to Ontario's Attorney General, Michael Bryant, who was given the task of selecting a lead Commissioner and outlining the Terms of Reference for the inquiry. Our community could now begin the long road towards healing and I was honoured to be a part of that process.

Following consultation with the community in November, Attorney General Bryant appointed the Honourable Justice Glaude as lead Commissioner on April 18th. The selection of Commissioner Glaude fulfills four important criteria. He is bilingual, from outside the Cornwall area, experienced in criminal law and has not been previously associated with this matter. I remain committed to the selection of Justice Glaude, a highly capable administrator.



Jim Brownell with Attorney General Michael Bryant, announcing the appointment of Justice Glaude.

In leading the inquiry, Justice Glaude has a broad mandate to look into the response of the justice system and other public institutions to the allegations of historical abuse. He will also look into processes, services and programs that will encourage community healing and reconciliation.

Commissioner Glaude is committed to keeping the public informed of all further steps to be taken leading to the hearings in Cornwall through regular updates via a Commission website to be established before the hearings begin. Media briefings will also be conducted before and during the hearings. In the meantime, Commissioner Glaude has developed temporary e-mail addresses in order to provide the public with the opportunity to contact the Commission. The e-mail addresses are:

cornwall_inquiry@jus.gov.on.ca

commission_d'enquete_sur_cornwall@jus.gov.on.ca

Provincial Support for Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of a healthy and prosperous Ontario and as an industry it does far more than feed the people of this province. Our agricultural producers provide safe, nutritious food to consumers and Ontario's farmers have also shown themselves to be outstanding stewards of our environment. Ontario's farmlands have the potential to supply us with renewable forms of energy, with building materials, with functional foods and pharmaceuticals. The health of Ontario depends upon the health of the agriculture sector.

During this legislative session, agricultural issues and meetings have consumed much of my time. Low commodity prices, a border closed to Canadian beef and a high Canadian dollar, contributed to a severe agricultural crisis in the province and farmers arrived at Queen's Park on March 2nd to rally the government for support – a rally I was pleased to participate in.

Supporting farm communities is a top priority for the government I serve and I was proud that the government moved forward on March 29th with an initiative to address some of the concerns. Part of that program was designed to help our grain and oilseed producers who received more assistance through the Market Revenue Program. In addition to the \$88

million delivered earlier this year, the government also announced an additional \$79 million, which is currently being delivered.

Through a new \$50 million Tobacco Community Transition Fund, the government also provided \$35 million to assist tobacco growers wishing to exit the industry. Tobacco growing communities will receive \$15 million to encourage economic diversification and innovation.

The government of Ontario also recognizes that farm incomes are declining. With that in mind, the Minister of Agriculture appointed an Advisory Group to study the business risk management system. The Minister has asked this group to propose a long-term approach to business risk management that better meets the unique and diverse needs of Ontario farmers, while reflecting on the goals of the Agricultural Policy Framework. These meetings will take place over the course of the summer.

As a member of provincial parliament, I am proud of our farmers. I will continue to work with all members of the industry to create a stronger, more sustainable future for our farmers, our food processors, and our rural communities.

Agriculture is the backbone of a healthy and prosperous Ontario



Jim Brownell with local Fire Chiefs

(rear from left to right) **Williamstown – Fred Klazinga, Glen Walter – Gabriel McEvoy, Morewood – Arden Carruthers, Cornwall – Deputy Fire Chief Bryan Ward**
(front from left to right) **Long Sault – Jim Eastman, Jim Brownell, Cornwall Fire Chief and SD&G Fire Coordinator – Vic Leroux, Ingleside – David Brown**

Important Points About Your Auto Insurance

The Ontario government has introduced several initiatives to stabilize auto insurance rates across the province. To date the program has had much success and many drivers are now seeing rate reductions.

Here are some important points:

- ◆ Ontario currently has 8.3 million drivers and not everyone will experience the 'average' decrease. Rates are dependent upon your insurer and many factors such as changes in your driving record.
- ◆ Shop Around – Consumers should always take the time to shop around for insurance, as better rates may be available through different insurance providers.



- ◆ Competition in Auto Insurance has increased significantly – Facility insured people, those considered higher risks by insurers, has decreased by 80%, from 220,000 in 2004 to 43,000 in April 2005.
- ◆ New Protections – the province is preventing insurance companies from cancelling your policy for an inadvertent non-sufficient funds (NSF) cheque or late payment, as long as you do pay within 15-30 days.
- ◆ Banning Credit Scoring – the province is banning auto insurers from using your credit score, employment situation, and other economic factors to charge you higher rates or deny you coverage.