



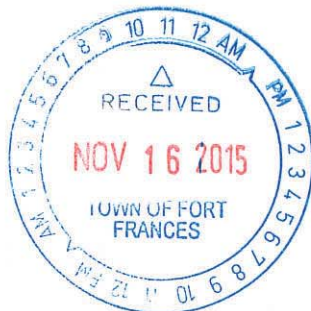
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Mayor Roy Avis
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October 30, 2015



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Dear Mayor Avis,

I recently had the opportunity to recognize the important contributions of our municipal governments in the Ontario Legislature during Local Government Week. We know how hard our municipal governments work to deliver services that their residents rely on.

We recognize the importance of Local Government Week in raising awareness of the role and operations of municipal government.

Enclosed please find a copy of the hansard of my statement in the Ontario Legislature.

As always if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org or 416-325-1239.

Sincerely,

Ernie Hardeman, MPP
Oxford



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Deborah Deller

Président
L'honorable Dave Levac

Greffière
Deborah Deller

folks who are out there keeping us safe. It's important as well.

I'd also like to acknowledge a former member of Parliament, Ryan Cleary. He and I had a moment when we both thought we were going to die. It was kind of an unusual experience, and it's always something he and I talk about.

Of course, Mr. Speaker—I know my time is running out—we need to thank our families, because while many of us were taken out of harm's way, we couldn't reach out to let them know we were safe. As politicians, our families are always worried about us, and I think we need to acknowledge that the families had a very difficult time that day as well. I'd just like to thank all of our families for allowing us to do what we do.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

Mr. Ernie Hardeman: I'm pleased to rise and recognize Local Government Week. It's an opportunity to raise awareness about the role and importance of municipal governments.

Across Ontario, municipalities are holding events and activities to raise awareness about how municipal government works, particularly among students. Municipalities are holding council meetings in schools and offering tours of municipal offices, as well as holding essay contests and career fairs.

I want to commend all the municipalities of Ontario both for their efforts to raise awareness this week and for the work they do for the people of their communities every day.

We know how important the services that local governments deliver are, and they do it with limited resources. Whether it's roads, water, waste disposal or assistance to people in need, municipalities provide services that people depend on every day.

We understand that they are a mature level of government and are working hard through planning and economic development to ensure a bright future for their communities. And municipalities can depend on us to be there for them. Many municipalities have told us that they need a real partner who is willing to listen to them, and we are committed to both listening and to working with them. We understand the challenges they face and that they are the experts on local government in their communities, and we value their input.

Again, as we celebrate Local Government Week, I'm pleased to commend all our municipal governments on behalf of the PC caucus and recognize them for all their hard work.

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TENDER FRUIT INDUSTRY

Mr. Wayne Gates: On Wednesday, October 14, I was pleased to attend a grant announcement at Tregunno Fruit Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers and the Friends of the Greenbelt Founda-

tion announced \$400,000 to support our local tender-fruit growers and the Niagara region as a whole. These funds will be used to launch a pilot project to plant tender fruit tree varieties, such as peaches and pears, to provide a financial boost to greenbelt growers and strengthen this key economic sector.

I'd like to applaud the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation for their continued work in ensuring nearly two million acres of land are preserved.

I'd also like to recognize the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers. The work they do plays a significant role in Ontario's economy.

Mr. Speaker, the Niagara Peninsula is Ontario's largest and most important fruit-growing area, and it's wonderful to see this pilot project being established in order to enhance this very significant part of Niagara's own local economy.

Now we need to ensure that these wonderful locally grown tender fruits are being sold locally. I am going to be encouraging the grocery stores in my riding and across Ontario to give prime shelf space to locally grown fruits. Putting these locally grown fruits up front means people eat fresher, better-tasting, healthier food, as we support our farmers across Ontario.

By growing locally, selling locally and eating locally, we will help strengthen not just Niagara's economy by creating more jobs, but the entire province's economy.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING WEEK

Mrs. Kathryn McGarry: I rise today to mark Community Health and Wellbeing Week, which is being celebrated across Ontario. During this week, Ontario's 109 community health centres, community-governed family health teams and nurse practitioner-led clinics are holding special events across the province, and are coordinated by the Association of Ontario Health Centres.

This week's theme is "Community Health and Well-being: Shift the Conversation"—creating a new kind of dialogue about health and health care that is all about addressing all of the factors in people's lives that affect their health and well-being. One of those factors is the kind of community where you live. Research tells us that when you have the opportunity to live in a caring and connected community that makes you feel valued and accepted and that makes you feel like you belong, then you are more likely to be healthy. This is why during this week, participating centres are raising awareness about community vitality and sense of belonging as critically important determinants of health. The need to support this forms a key principle in a community health centre model to promote health and well-being.

In my own riding of Cambridge, Langs Community Health Centre established a great program called Connectivity. Working with local police, the goal was to mobilize health and social services organizations to address risk factors and reduce the incidence of crime. This program has been a wonderful success in promoting