



# John YAKABUSKI

YOUR MPP for RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

## REPORT FROM QUEEN'S PARK

### Working for You

#### Dear Constituents:

As your elected representative in the Ontario Provincial Legislature, I feel that it is both a privilege and a responsibility to report to you and every resident in our constituency of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, from time to time. It is also a personal pleasure for me to report to you, since this past year has been an extremely busy and most gratifying year, as I concentrated on three areas of my parliamentary work.

The first, and certainly the most important, is representing the individuals, the businesses and the organizations of our riding. This requires driving thousands of miles to reach all the communities of our riding, attending hundreds of meetings and events (both business and social), spending hours on the telephone -- listening to the people and witnessing and understanding their situations, and using every means I have to bring about the action required to suitably address the various circumstances presented to me.

At some of the events I have attended I have been asked to sing our national anthem. Each time I do, I experience an overwhelming sense of how very fortunate we are to live in Canada, the Province of Ontario and the community we call home. In Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke we live in an amazing region of Canada, with magnificent rivers and streams, dramatic landscapes with forested expanses, prosperous farms and wonderful people who characterize the warm Ottawa Valley culture and heritage.

One thing that is abundantly clear to me as I interact with my constituents is that despite the natural beauty of our surroundings and the wonderful people who live here, there are many people in our constituency who are having great difficulty getting by. They see their resources shrinking as needed services decline and taxes and regulations increase. They see their jobs disappearing due to the increased cost of doing business in Ontario. They wait longer periods of time for medical services and have to travel a further distance to obtain them. I have given my solemn commitment to work fervently towards improving the lives of the people I represent.

That takes me to the second area of my responsibilities—being a legislator. When I take the drive to Toronto each week when the House is sitting, I make it my business to ensure that I am fully aware of what is being introduced and debated at Queen's Park. I regularly participate in Caucus discussions, committee meetings and Legislative Assembly debate on the issues that affect my constituents.

In our parliamentary system, being a legislator usually means being a member of a political party or caucus and carrying your share of the work in that respect. That is my third responsibility. Last summer, I was very honoured to be appointed PC Party Energy Critic by our Leader John Tory. In taking on this role, I had to quickly increase my awareness of the energy situation in our province, determining our strengths in energy, as well as our shortcomings.

Over the past eight months, I have met with well over a hundred representatives of the energy industry, and toured a number of major energy projects in different parts of the province. The bottom line is that I want to ensure a reliable supply of energy for my constituents and the rest of Ontario today, tomorrow and always, but of equal importance, at an affordable price. I believe that this can be accomplished while we continue to safeguard the environmental issues that accompany each form of energy generation.

In addition to reading the information I have put together for your perusal, I would very much appreciate you taking the time to respond to the enclosed questionnaire. Last year over a thousand people from Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke sent back questionnaire responses, providing me with a valuable understanding of how they felt about a number of topical issues. I assure you that such a response is most helpful in determining where the people of our riding stand on the issues of the day and the position I should take on your behalf at Queen's Park.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

*John Yakabuski presented the Deep River Potters Guild with an Ontario Trillium Foundation plaque in commemoration of their grant for \$26,600 to purchase and install a new gas kiln and certify its operators. He is pictured with Carole Grant, Deep River Mayor Ann Aikens, Guild President Dr. Gerald Dolling and Ligita Gulens. (Other 2005 OTF grants to Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke are listed on Page 4.)*



*John and Vicky Yakabuski participated in the annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research in Barry's Bay, and later relaxed at Whitewater in Beachburg with owner Joe Kowalski.*

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## Private Members' Hour

### The Process

Private Members' Hour takes place in the Ontario Legislature every Thursday morning when the House is in Session. It consists of two one-hour debates on Resolutions or proposed Private Members Acts or amendments to existing Acts, which have been introduced by individual Members of Provincial Parliament, as opposed to Government Bills. Even if a Private Members' Bill passes Second Reading, it is rare that it actually proceeds to Third Reading and becomes law in Ontario. Nevertheless, it is a good way to move an issue of importance into the public realm.

### In Past

I have had the honour of presenting two Private Members' Bills, the first one being the Motion that renamed the Bonnechere River Bridge on Highway 17 in the Township of Horton, "Provincial Constable Philip Shrive Memorial Bridge." That motion passed unanimously when it was debated in October of 2004 and the bridge was officially renamed in a ceremony in May 2005.

### Currently

My second Private Members' Hour took place on December 15th, 2005. Bill 3 is titled, "Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Amendment Act (Assistance to Municipalities), 2005." If passed by the Legislature, it will ensure

that if the Minister of Transportation enters into an agreement with a municipality to provide a rebate of tax under the Gasoline Tax Act to any municipality for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or operating a rapid transit or public transit transportation system, the minister could not refuse to enter into an agreement to provide a rebate of tax under that act on the same per-capita basis to any other municipality for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, or operating public highways in that municipality.

I argued that the roads, the highways and the bridges in rural Ontario are our public transportation system, and it is only fair that if our tax dollars are being used to subsidize urban transportation systems, the travel needs of rural Ontarians should also be supported. I believe this Bill stands for fairness and recognizes the significant economic and cultural contributions made by those people who live in rural Ontario.

Bill 3 passed Second Reading with many government MPPs supporting my proposed legislation. That was an important milestone. The Bill was subsequently referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. History tells us, however, that there is a lot of work ahead to ensure the government puts it on the agenda for review and then calls it for Third Reading so that it will be passed into law.

### Your Input

If you have ideas for resolutions or acts, or amendments to acts that you feel would improve life in Ontario, please feel free to mention it on the return questionnaire form. Do keep in mind though, that it could be ruled "out of order" if it is considered to be a finance bill, in other words, suggesting something that would cost the government more money.



## John fights for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and rural Ontario and scores some wins

### LCBO stores will open 6 days a week

When John learned from concerned constituents that the liquor stores in Cobden and Beachburg were to be closed an extra day a week, he quickly got to work to get the decision reversed. Armed with letters of support from the municipality and businesses saying that these closures were not good for the local economy, John spoke with the Liquor Control Board of Ontario about the negative effects of the closures, asking that the situation be reviewed. Consequently, the decision was reversed and the two stores are scheduled to be open six days a week by March 1.

### Fairfields long-term care facility opens

The completion and opening of Fairfields, an assisted living complex in Eganville, is true testament of what a municipality can accomplish when people work together towards a common goal. John was pleased to lend his support and assistance to the Eganville and Area Long-Term Care Corporation, the organization responsible for the construction of this facility, and salutes them for a job well done.

### Santa Claus parade proceeds as scheduled

The magic of Christmas was in the air in Douglas when it was announced that their annual Santa Claus Parade would be allowed to proceed as scheduled on December 18. The fate of the parade had earlier been touch and go when the Ministry of Transportation wanted the parade sponsors to carry a \$5-million liability policy. With the assistance of John and staff at the MOT, the jolly ol' fellow made his appearance to the delight of children young and old.

### John continues to fight for Highway 417 extension

John continues to fight for the extension of Highway 417 from Arnprior to Pembroke. This segment of the highway is of vital importance to the economic growth and the health of the constituency. The former Harris Government's 1999 promise to extend Highway 417 to Arnprior has been completed, and now John is pressing the current government to commit to this next phase.



Tony Garetto and Ken McNabb talk to John Yakabuski and John Tory, Leader of the Official Opposition, at a gathering in Pembroke.



John Yakabuski, Renfrew Victoria Hospital CEO Randy Penny and Sergeant Rob Guty of the Killaloe OPP played in the 911 Tournament to raise funds for the Fairfields project.

Photo courtesy of Eganville Leader



John congratulates the Tour de Bona Vista committee at its 9th and final cycling event. Its events raised \$250,000 for equipment and renovations at the Pembroke Regional Hospital.

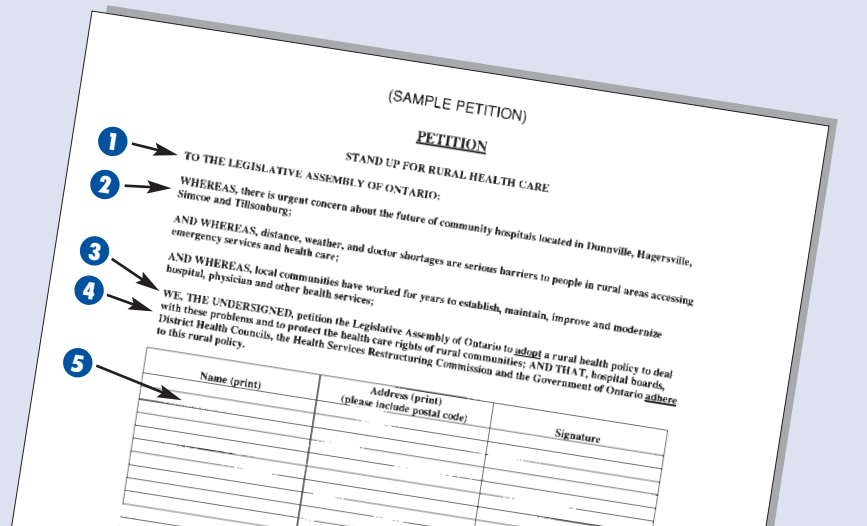
## Writing a Petition

One of the oldest rights in our parliamentary system is a citizen's right to petition the government directly. I am pleased to present petitions in the Legislative Assembly on behalf of my constituents.

- A petition must contain original signatures. Faxes and photocopies cannot be presented.
- If a petition contains more than one sheet of signatures, the text of the petition must appear at the top of every sheet.
- Only residents of the Province of Ontario may petition the Parliament of Ontario.

Petitions must follow a certain format (see sample):

- To: The Parliament/Legislature/Legislative Assembly** (choose one) of Ontario
- Whereas: (preamble if required)**  
**Whereas: (preamble if required)**
- I/WE (choose one) the undersigned petition the Parliament/Legislature/Legislative Assembly** (choose one to correspond with the above address) of Ontario as follows:
- (text of petition, asking that some specific action be taken or not taken)
- NAME (printed) ADDRESS (printed) SIGNATURE**



## Energy for the future



Photo by Rob Liddle

Duncan Hawthorne, President and CEO of Bruce Power and Chairman of the Canadian Nuclear Association, points out features on the Bruce Power site model with MPP John Yakabuski, PC Energy Critic, MPP Laurie Scott, PC Environment Critic and Mary-Frances Dulny, Executive Assistant to John Yakabuski.

One of the biggest issues we face in Ontario is the supply of electricity.

Ontario needs to invest just to maintain the generating capacity it has now. About 40% of our existing base load generating capacity will go out of service in the next 20 years. Some of it, e.g., much of the nuclear fleet, has hit the end of its useful life and needs to be refurbished or replaced. Some of it, e.g. the coal-fired plants, has been slated for replacement by greener options, though this has not yet been part of any considered plan.

Ontario also needs to invest to meet the demands of our growing province.

In 20 years, it is forecast that we will have 2 million more residents. Until these investments are made, according to the Ontario Power Authority, Ontario has a base load gap that starts opening up around 2014 and widens to 15,000

MW by 2025. This gap has to be closed if the lights are to remain on in Ontario.

I believe that it is imperative that we:

- **Invest in conservation** to offset demand
- **Invest in demand management** to shift peaks in consumption to off hours
- **Invest in new generation** to pick the best generation mix that will ensure affordability, reliability and environmental sustainability.

Ontario needs an energy plan and the leadership to see it through. Not having a workable plan isn't just wasting precious time; it is also making it harder to attract investment to our electricity sector. Rising energy costs are already having a devastating impact on low-income families in our riding, on small business and the overall forestry industry.

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### Affordable energy supply may be in jeopardy!

The issue of energy, especially energy supply and energy costs, will be a prominent economic, social and environmental topic as we move forward. Your views on this subject are of paramount importance. Please take the time to respond to this survey.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Ontario Government should refurbish existing nuclear generating plants and build new nuclear facilities in the province to ensure we have a secure supply of energy in the future.

- strongly agree    agree    don't know    disagree    strongly disagree

2. The Ontario Liberal Government should not close down all coal-fired generating plants by 2009 if they have not been successful in bringing new replacement electricity generation on line.

- strongly agree    agree    don't know    disagree    strongly disagree

3. The Liberal Government's plan to install smart meters in every residence and business (to monitor energy use in terms of time of day) will not cause you to alter or lower your electricity consumption.

- strongly agree    agree    don't know    disagree    strongly disagree

4. The ever-increasing cost of electricity for your home and the effect it is having on your family budget is of major concern to you.

- strongly agree    agree    don't know    disagree    strongly disagree

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Local projects receive Trillium funding

Several Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke community groups have received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an initiative made possible by the former provincial Progressive Conservative government when it gave approval for the establishment of charity casinos across the province.

An agency of the provincial Ministry of Culture, the OTF receives \$100 million generated by the charity casinos each year. The foundation allocates grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in arts and culture, the environment, human and social services and sports and recreation initiatives.

During the past year, the following Ontario Trillium Foundation grants have been awarded in our riding:

Arnprior & District Archives.....	\$7,000
Bonnechere Valley Youth Centre .....	\$33,000
Corporation of the Town of Deep River .....	\$22,500
Dacre and Area Community Association .....	\$18,200
Deep River Chamber of Commerce .....	\$40,000
Heritage Renfrew .....	\$12,000
Renfrew County Habitat Conservation Alliance .....	\$70,000
St. John Ambulance Pembroke Administrative Centre .....	\$26,000
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.....	\$4,600
Township of Madawaska Valley .....	\$9,000
Township of McNab/Braeside .....	\$16,000
Township of South Algonquin .....	\$37,400
Township of South Algonquin .....	\$24,900
Barry's Bay Recreation Committee .....	\$15,700.
Deep River Public Library Board .....	\$11,600
KidSport Renfrew & KidSport Napanee .....	\$30,000
Madawaska Valley Food Bank .....	\$17,800
Renfrew Public Library .....	\$30,000
Township of Greater Madawaska .....	\$16,600
Valley Heritage Radio.....	\$30,000
Columbus House (Pembroke) .....	\$56,000
Community Resource Centre (Renfrew) .....	\$39,700
Corporation of the Town of Petawawa .....	\$44,700
Deep River Potters' Guild .....	\$26,600
Eastern Ontario Conservation Partnership .....	\$84,000
Eastern Ontario Marsh Monitoring Program Ambassador Initiative .....	\$44,000
Renfrew County Child Poverty Action Network .....	\$40,400
Stone Fence Theatre .....	\$40,000
Killaloe & District Senior Citizens Friendship Club.....	\$21,000
Ottawa River Institute .....	\$33,100
Renfrew Amateur Wrestling Club .....	\$15,000
Arnprior Curling Club.....	\$23,800
Bonnechere Algonquin Community .....	\$25,500
Corporation of the Town of Petawawa .....	\$22,900
Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living.....	\$77,400



Harold Dobson of Cobden, pictured here with John and Vicky Yakabuski, received a Commemorative Scroll in honour of his 90th birthday.

### Our community office is here to help!

Assistance and information are available to you for any provincial issue at our Constituency Office. For example:

- Anniversary, special occasion and birthday scrolls
  - Birth certificates
  - Trillium Drug Plan
  - Health Card renewal
  - Ontario Disability Support Program
  - Family Responsibility Office
  - Property tax assessment issues
  - Information on various government initiatives and programs
  - Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
- ...and more!*

## Need a Birth Certificate?

If you are applying for a social insurance number, a health card, a passport, or a pension you will require a birth certificate. You will also require a birth certificate to register your child at school and in some recreation activities. Birth Certificate applications are available at our Pembroke office, any government information office or online ([www.gov.on.ca](http://www.gov.on.ca)). My constituency office staff is knowledgeable about the intricacies of applying for the various documents available through the Office of the Registrar General.

### How much does a Birth Certificate cost?

Wallet-size Birth Certificates cost \$25 for the original and \$35 for a replacement.

Certified Birth Certificates cost \$35 for the original and \$45 for a replacement.

### How long will it take to obtain a Birth Certificate?

- Online applications take 15 days.
- Regular Service processing time is 8 weeks.
- Expedited Service is available, but documentation to prove urgency is required. Processing time is approximately 2 weeks.
- Emergency Service is quicker, 1 week or less, however there is an additional \$15.00 processing charge and this also requires proof of urgency. You cannot apply for expedited or emergency service online. Please contact my office for assistance.

Please cut along dotted lines. Fold as shown below. Tape edges and mail (postage is paid)

John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke



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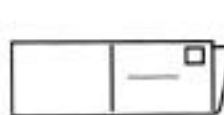


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONT  
PO BOX 40007 STN BRM B  
TORONTO ON M7Y 5J7



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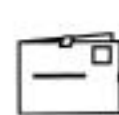
FOLDING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Fold bottom edge



2. Fold side edge



3. Tape together