



# Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

38th Parliament

## JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P. - RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

Member's Statements

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### HOCKEYVILLE STATEMENT

**Mr. Yakabuski (Renfrew – Nipissing – Pembroke):** The cuts have been made and the 50 finalists have been chosen in CBC Television's Kraft Hockeyville Contest. My hometown of Barry's Bay has made the grade. A renewed excitement was in the air this past weekend as the news spread through the area like wildfire. As a pleased and excited reeve John Hildebrandt said, "I think it's fabulous. It's amazing to me to think that out of 450 applications we're down to 50."

The remaining contestants must now submit a 2 minute video telling Canadians why their community should be named Hockeyville. It's all about community spirit and the great Canadian game of hockey. Both were prominently displayed last weekend as the first Opeongo Heritage Cup was played. A friendly but spirited Round Robin between teams of German, Irish and Polish descent whose ancestors came to settle in the Valley some 150 years ago.

The tournament featured exciting hockey played at a very high caliber. The stands were full and rocking as fans cheered for their respective teams. After treating everyone to a great weekend of very closely played contest the Irish team emerged as the victors.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Michael Papania and Shaun O'Reilly and everyone involved in the Hockeyville application. Also to David Shulist and his team of volunteers for making the first Heritage Cup such a tremendous success and an integral part of our Hockeyville submission.

Speaker, municipalities and their citizens from all around the Valley are throwing their support behind the Barry's Bay bid. In fact, Dave Bassett better known as the Singing Farmer has already composed a song, being played throughout the Valley, encouraging people to get their votes in for the only real choice for Hockeyville: Barry's Bay.