



# John YAKABUSKI

Your MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

## QUEEN'S PARK REPORT

Constituency Office: 84 Isabella Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5 • Tel: 613-735-6627 • 1-800-267-2515 • Fax: 613-735-6692  
 Queen's Park Office: Room 202 N.W., Main Legislature, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A8 • Tel: 416-325-2170 • Fax: 416-325-2196  
 E-Mail: john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org



Dear Constituents:

It is hard to believe that a full year has gone by since my last newsletter to all constituents. The days and weeks go by so quickly when one is engaged in the business of representing the constituents of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and serving in the Ontario Provincial Parliament in Toronto.

Serving as the Official Opposition Energy Critic has taken an enormous amount of time, effort and yes, "energy" this past year as did taking on my share of the work load in the Legislative Assembly and with Legislative Committees. One positive effect of being so busy and being away from home as often as I am, though, is that when I return to our riding each weekend, I am more than ever appreciative of my family, my friends, my neighbours and all the amazing people who make up the provincial riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. They, together with the incredible natural beauty we have been blessed with in our area, are an unbelievably welcoming sight.

The importance of friends and family was never so tested as it was just a few months ago when I was being asked to participate in my party's leadership contest. Putting any discussion of partisan politics aside, the absence from my constituency and from my wife and family for the prolonged periods of time a leadership role would require, made a very serious and important decision somewhat easier. Quite frankly, my constituents and my family won the mental tug-of-war one goes through at such an important juncture in life.

As always, my annual newsletter includes a questionnaire—this time on the important issue of the newly announced Harmonized Sales Tax. I personally am very much opposed to this measure as it will result in us having to pay provincial sales tax on many items and services that are currently exempt from PST, especially at this time when so many Ontarians are suffering financial devastation. Nevertheless, I would appreciate you taking time to offer your opinion on this issue which will have an untold affect on all of us forever.

The photographs in this newsletter are a small sampling of the hundreds of meetings, events and celebrations that I am privileged to attend as your MPP. My focus is and will continue to be the people of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and those who are counting on me to ensure that their voices are heard at Queen' Park.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski, MPP  
 Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke



John recently welcomed Senator Mike Duffy to RNP. Although the popular former television broadcaster heralds from Newfoundland, he is a regular in the area as his wife is Pembroke native Heather Collins.



Ontario Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield came to RNP last summer to tour a mill and discuss the problems of the beleaguered forestry industry.



Former Lanark-Renfrew MPP Leo Jordan and Niagara West Glanbrook MPP and Leader of the Official Opposition Tim Hudak share a laugh with John at a recent function in Pembroke.

# John in the Riding

*Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke enjoys a wealth of art, theatre, culture, sports, recreation, environmental projects and social interaction in part because of its natural geographical advantages, but more so because of its extraordinary citizens who unselfishly share their heritage and unique talents with their neighbours.*



The celebration of the 500,000th tree planted in Renfrew County in the past five years through the Forest Stewardship Committee of Renfrew County took place on May 1st, 2009. Pictured with John is, Chair of the Forest Stewardship Committee Steve D'eon; Ministry of Natural Resources District Manager, Paul Moreau; tree planter Casey Keller, committee member Dave Gallagher and property owner Harvey Reckzin.



Principal Darlene Visneskie and John participated in the May 2nd, 2009 Walk-a-Thon to raise money for Palmer Rapids Public School's Playground.



The Pembroke Rotary Club sponsored the world-reknown RCMP Musical Ride last summer. Pictured (l to r) with John is Mrs. George-Ann Jacyno, Mayor Ed Jacyno, Maurice Nadon (the oldest surviving RCMP commissioner) Lt. Col. Bill Moore and then County Warden Janice Visneskie. Photo Courtesy of Pembroke Observer.



The Mount Martin Ski Club of Deep River, celebrated a \$65,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant in February. The money was for the new snow groomer pictured with (l to r) Mayor Ann Aikens, OTF Representative Colleen Sauriol, Club Member Executive John Willis, Club President Ron Rogge and John.

In May, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs Jim Watson, Renfrew Mayor Sandi Heins, Scapa North America Vice-President of Operation Andy Boldt and John celebrated the announcement of a \$256,329 Eastern Ontario Development Fund grant for new slitting and packaging equipment being installed in Scapa's Renfrew Plant. Photo courtesy of Renfrew Mercury



In March John was at the opening game between the German and Polish teams at the Opeongo Heritage Cup. Pictured (l to r) is Polish Team Captain Mark Yakabuski, Honorary Polish Team Captain Andy Etmanski, Honorary German Team Captain Donald Kuehl, John and German Team Captain Glen Ketz.

## In the words of a famous frog puppet, "It's Not Easy Being Green"

Bill 150, The Green Energy Act was introduced by the Ontario Energy Minister in February of this year with his expressed intention being to make Ontario North America's green energy leader. The first thrust of the bill was to make it easier to bring renewable energy projects to life and the second, was to create a culture of conservation, one where we go about our lives using less energy. These two thrusts combined are intended to support a new green economy for the province and help create sustainable green employment for Ontarians.

All very honourable ideals for sure! Who in this day and age doesn't want to think green, to be green and to do our part in making our world healthier for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren and their children?

However, it is often said that the devil is in the details and this Act, by pure volume alone, left lots of room for that cliché to haunt. Bill 150 amends 15 other acts and so much of the Act will be determined by yet-to-be-announced (maybe even yet-to-be-decided) regulations. The big question is, "What will it actually mean to the ultimate price of electricity?"

The Minister of Energy claims that Bill 150 will result in a 1% per year increase in household energy costs. He also claims that it will create more than 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the next three years. There was little to substantiate either of those claims so London Economics International was hired to review the Act and its potential costs. Their determination was that by the time the act is fully implemented it will raise the cost for a household by \$1,200 per year and that does not include the new 8% sales tax being levied next year. While I am very much in favour of improving and enhancing green energy in our

province, ***I believe that Bill 150 should have had a third thrust, that being to ensure a secure and affordable supply of electricity.***

LEI, also said the job figures were unsubstantiated, noting that Spain lost 2.2 jobs for every job created by renewable energy projects, particularly wind, because of the increased cost of power. The total number of people employed in the energy industry in Ontario today is 35,000; the total number of people employed in the automobile manufacturing sector in the province last year was 38,000. How new green energy technologies are going to provide employment for 50,000 people is yet to be answered.

After hours, days and weeks of debate and committee hearings, we will move forward with this initiative, having been successful in making a few important adjustments such as allowing buyers to opt out of

the mandatory home energy audit and agreeing to appoint an academic chair to review the claims of people suffering ill health which they believe is a result of living near a wind turbine.

Germany, Denmark and California, jurisdictions that have been held out as examples of leaders in green energy development, have electricity costs that are considerably higher than Ontario is currently paying for electricity. I too want to be green, and have made many improvements in my own home to reduce our energy use, but I believe we need more transparency and more accountability regarding the price impact, the conservation and environmental benefits and the 50,000 jobs this act claims to create.

**John Yakabuski, MPP**  
**Official Opposition Energy Critic**



News Conference to announce the results of London Economics International's assessment of Bill 150 – LEI's Neil Bush, John and Leeds-Grenville MPP Bob Runciman.

## Ontario's New Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

In its Spring Budget this year, the Ontario Government announced that they will merge the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) effective July 1, 2010. This will add 8% tax to almost everything from home heating fuels to vitamin pills.

In an attempt to balance the negative impacts of this measure, they also announced one-time money for taxpayers in the form of three cheques totaling \$1,000 per family to those with annual incomes

of less than \$160,000 and \$300 for individuals earning less than \$80,000.

### Is this a good time to be introducing another new tax?

Ontario is currently suffering a severe economic downturn. Businesses all across the province are closing their doors. Many people are unemployed. Personal saving incomes have been seriously diminished by the market. It is unlikely that even those who are

employed or who are retired will be receiving an equivalent increase in their income.

### Will the "up to" \$1,000 cheque help?

Although there is a plan to help offset some of the cost of the HST, it is a one-time payment while the HST is forever. Even in death the HST will be charged on funeral services, taxi or limo fares, catering, flowers, and legal and accounting services.

### How can taxpayers have a say?

John has presented two petitions from constituents asking that the government not increase taxes for Ontario families. There will be an opportunity to present more petitions--contact the constituency office. Next, you can respond to the questionnaire below to give John an actual account of his constituents' opinion on the HST. Also, you can send John a letter saying how you feel about the HST which he will send to the Premier.

Please cut along dotted lines. Fold, tape edges and mail (postage is paid).

## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NEW HARMONIZED SALES TAX?

- Do you think that the HST will negatively affect your household budget, making it difficult for you to make ends meet?  
 Yes     No     Not Sure
- Where do you expect that the HST will affect you the most?  
 Home heating     Electricity     Gasoline     Professional services  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Current estimates show that the provincial government will collect an additional \$2.4 billion through HST. Do you believe that the PST portion of the HST should be reduced?  
 Yes     No     Not Sure
- Should the one-time relief package be extended to subsequent years for low income earners?  
 Yes     No     Not Sure

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Serving the Constituents

One of the busy spots in the riding is John's Constituency Office at 84 Isabella Street in Pembroke. In addition to assisting people who reside in the riding with their individual dealings with the provincial government and its programs, the office also provides service to people requiring birth certificates, health cards, etc. and arranges for congratulatory messages for special occasions.

Constituency Assistants, Susan Fynn, Laura Lapinskie and Patricia Stewart, know the phones will be "ringing off the hook" anytime the provincial government makes

an announcement that affects the people of the region. Such was the case recently when the government announced the introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax. Regardless of the issues of any particular day, the staff do their best to assuage the concerns of the constituents and ensure that John is fully aware of the expressed issues of those he is elected to serve. Sometimes it takes a phone call or two to set things back on track; other times it takes continuous and relentless meetings with Ministers, letters, House Questions, news releases, a private Members' Bill and a strong

determination to stay with the issue until it is settled in an acceptable fashion. For example, rural school funding and gas tax rebates are still open files on John's priority list.

*"As I travel throughout the constituency, I am continually hearing from people who were helped by my father, Paul Yakabuski, during the twenty-four years he served as their Member of Provincial Parliament," said John. "It warms my heart to hear stories about my late father's commitment and style of representation. It also strengthens my resolve to help the people of this area in whatever way I can."*



Ralph and Florence Storey of Petawawa are presented with congratulatory messages from John and the Premier of Ontario at their 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration.



Sister Rosenda Brady of Barry's Bay receives greetings from John and the Premier of Ontario on the occasion of her 80th Birthday.



John presented a certificate of congratulations, as well as one from the Premier of Ontario, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of MacKenzie Motors Ltd. in Renfrew last summer. Pictured with John is (l to r) Terry MacKenzie, Brian MacKenzie, Greg MacKenzie, Sheryl MacKenzie and Renfrew Mayor Sandi Heins who also presented congratulations from the town.

### MPP Yakabuski Goes to School

John often gets invitations to speak to school children about being an MPP and how government works. From celebrating "Y" day at the Children's Garden Nursery School to speaking to grade 5 civics classes and high schools as well, John loves to meet with young people of all ages to share his experiences and answer their questions. To arrange for John to come to your school, call his constituency office at

**613-735-6627**

### The Kyte Family's Presence at Queen's Park

John was pleased to welcome the seventh Legislative Page from the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke riding since he was first elected in 2003. Sean Kyte of Pembroke kept up his family tradition of service to the Ontario Legislature by being the third son of Murray and Kathy Kyte to be chosen to participate in the special program whereby Grade 7 and 8 students work in the Legislative Chamber for a six week term, acting as messengers and learning how laws are made and how the province is governed.

Pages are selected from hundreds of applicants and must have a level 4 academic standing (80% or higher) and have been involved in a diverse range of extra-curricular and community-based activities. They must also have experiences that demonstrate responsibility, maturity, strong social skills, teamwork, commitment and leadership. If you know someone who is interested in applying to be a page, please contact the constituency office.



Sean Kyte and John serving together at Queen's Park. Congratulations Sean on being selected.



Ontario

JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P.  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke



100009784-M7A1A2-BR01



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

Fold