

# MPP Jones makes her first speech in legislature

Sylvia Jones is now a definite, full-fledged MPP, with one speech from her seat in the legislature at Queen's Park to her credit.

She made the address last Monday, as part of MPPs' responses to the speech from the throne.

In her remarks, Jones pledged her commitment to her constituents, as she pointed out they are the ones who ultimately have to live with the decisions made at Queen's Park.

"As I begin my new career here and I listen to debates and review legislation that is brought

forward by ministers and private members, I've made a commitment to the people of Dufferin — Caledon to review everything with the lens of, 'Is it good for Dufferin — Caledon?'" she stated. "Unfortunately, political promises seem to mean less and less these days. Nonetheless, it is a commitment I've made to the people of Dufferin — Caledon and I intend to keep it."

Jones opened her remarks with some biographical material, recounting how she grew up on a family farm in north

simcoe; one of seven children.

"I suppose you could say it was during the Jones family dinners and negotiating use of the family car that I first practised my debating skills," she quipped. "Hopefully, those skills will serve me well in the coming years on the floor of this legislature."

She also stated that the Caledon and Dufferin area has been her home for more than 20 years.

"Many of you will know it for its rolling farmland and beautiful ski and trail systems like the Bruce Trail, but if you really want to know Dufferin — Caledon, you must know the people," Jones declared. "We have an incredible cross-section of families who have been in the community for generations, to newcomers who have found a jewel and work hard to protect it."

Jones said she learned numerous political lessons from serving as executive assistant to the last three local MPPs. She said David Tilson, now the federal member for this area, "was a great teacher on the

importance of working for your constituency."

Former premier Ernie Eves, she said, will be "fondly remembered" for moving the Bolton and Orangeville bypasses forward. "Bolton's bypass will assist our communities to move goods and services through the GTA more efficiently," she observed.

Most recently, she served under party leader John Tory, and was there while local farmers taught him much about rural Ontario.

"I would never wish to suggest that the work done in this chamber is unimportant, but without the anchor of our ridings telling us what is important and what issues need to be dealt with by our governments, we would be poorly prepared to act appropriately," Jones told the legislature. "We risk becoming insulated from what is really important if we do not make the effort to connect and learn from people in our ridings."

She also spoke positively about efforts to make the legislature more family friendly."

"Sitting Fridays, taking us away from the important work that occurs in our ridings, will not improve debate in this chamber," she remarked. "On the contrary, it may insulate us from the very people we need to hear from and listen to."

Jones addressed a couple of specific issues, including Headwaters Health Care Centre, pointing out it's funded at one of the lowest service levels for community hospitals in the province, but it's serving one of the fastest growing communities.

"This funding shortfall translates into longer wait lines in the emergency department and more individuals leaving our community to seek care for themselves and their family," she commented, adding the throne speech set an objective to help people get health care closer to home. She argued that without the proper funding support, the opposite will happen.

As well, she pointed out many families in her riding don't have family doctors.

Jones also commented that Dufferin — Caledon is

looking for relief when it comes to transportation infrastructure. While it would be nice to see commuters have options beyond their cars, the reality in rural areas is roads and bridges are often the only options.

"Perhaps if the government was willing to borrow an idea from our PC platform to spend Ontario's gas and fuel taxes on what they were intended for—our transportation infrastructure—we could stop the finger-pointing and get on with the job of fixing the problem," she said. "The solution is not to announce last-minute, end-of-year surplus bonuses. Our municipal partners deserve more consideration than a promise that 'if we have a surplus and if you apply on time, then you can try and grab some of the leftovers.'"

"We must do a better job of listening and learning from our constituents," Jones concluded. "Let's not limit ourselves to one ideological stand or become so narrow minded in our deliberations that we forget who we are here to serve."

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## Bolton to receive park lands from developer

River's Edge developer Armour Heights Developments recently gave the Town of Caledon a portion of their land along the shoreline of the Humber River, adjacent to their new luxury condominium development in downtown Bolton.

The shoreline and trail system, totaling approximately 1.3 acres, will be left mostly in its natural state to be integrated into the Humber Valley Heritage Trail, a hiking trail running along the Humber River valley north from Bolton to the Bruce Trail. The trail will now connect the downtown to the new bridge near Queen and Hickman and the trail

system beyond.

While in the planning stages, the developer met with members of the Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association to discuss upgrades to the trail as it runs through the downtown.

"This donation is very much appreciated," says Jerry Gorman, vice-president of the Humber Valley Heritage Trail association. "Our organization has been working with the Town council and staff for several years to improve this area from the Queen Street bridge at Highway 50 and extending west to Sackville Street and Dicks Dam Park. River's Edge is a timely development with respect to

our efforts as our intention has been to create an urban park-like setting along this entire section of the Humber River."

"We wanted to show the residents of Bolton that we are here to be members of their community," said Frank Mazzotta, president of Armour Heights Developments. "We see this trail as a wonderful benefit for the entire Bolton community and are happy to give it back. We are committed to serve the

needs of Bolton for some time to come with hopefully many more future communities and developments."

Armour Heights also plans to ensure the landscaping within River's Edge is left as natural as possible. The landscaping will include as many of the existing trees as possible and any lost will be replaced with trees and shrubs native to the region. Open areas will be laid with cobblestone.

## Humberview to hold grand opening of new science wing

By Jon Yaneff

Humberview Secondary School in Bolton is having the official grand opening of its new state-of-the-art science wing May 13 between 2:15 and 2:30 p.m.

There will be an open house all day for parents and members of the community, with guided tours.

"We would like the community come see the new facility," said science teacher, Dennis Warzin. "It's really nice being in a new classroom."

The new wing opened for teaching March 31. It includes eight new labs and classrooms, a safety hazards

component with an eye wash station and proper acid storage, as well as a brand new science office. There is also a conference room and a weight training room for student use.

"The science wing will replace most of the portables, which is a nice thing," said principal Rick Tredwell. "The wing is beautiful and nicely laid out with ceramic tiles. As a former science head, I'm quite impressed."

Mayor Marolyn Morrison, Superintendent Tony Pontis, plus other dignitaries will be in attendance.

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