



# UPFRONT

with **Mike Wallace, MP**



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## Federal Government Stimulus Funding: Economic Support for Burlington

As part of the response to the global recession, the Government of Canada has embarked on an infrastructure spending program that is designed to both stimulate economic activity and provide long-term benefits to affected communities. Recently there have been some significant infrastructure and other funding announcements in Burlington.

The following is a review of the projects that have been announced locally. The majority of the infrastructure programs were jointly funded by the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The reason for this was to leverage as much funding as possible from all three levels of government to allow for more projects to be approved. The priority items were based on the identified priorities for the area.

In our community, Burlington City Council and Halton Region provided a list of infrastructure projects that were "shovel ready". This simply means that the listed projects were ready for the City's capital plan and scheduled to be substantially completed by March 2011. The other stipulation was that a significant amount of the budget for that project would have to be spent in 2009. The purpose for this was to ensure that the economic stimulus was delivered during this critical time in order to create the employment boost we are hoping will materialize through this package.

Let us first look at the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. Burlington has received over \$8.6 million from the federal and provincial governments for a total of \$17.3 million for 8 projects in our community. The largest amount is being spent on an upgrade to the Transit Operations Centre, a new fire hall in the north part of the city and the development of a city park in the North West part of Burlington. In addition, funds are being provided for improvements to the bike path system, improved building access for the disabled and a permanent home for the Freeman station. All of these projects will create short term employment to the local economy and long term benefits to the community. The support of both levels of government was critical for these projects to move ahead.

A second funding program is the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RINC) Fund. These monies are designated for recreational, community and cultural projects. The City of Burlington has received \$5.5 million for 7 projects with half of the funding coming from the federal government and half from the Province of Ontario. The largest portion of the money is designated for the additional two ice pads at

Appleby Ice Centre. Nelson Pool, Mountainside Park and Orchard Community Park are also receiving money from the RINC Fund as well as two community groups, Active Aldershot Recreation and Community Centre and the Burlington Curling Club. Active Aldershot is renovating and adding to the existing community centre. It will allow them to continue to positively affect the lives of our youth through various programs.

Other recent community announcements include \$72,000 for the 2009 Sound of Music Festival, \$40,000 for the New Horizons for Seniors program, \$46,800 for the Royal Botanical Gardens' electronic communications project, \$40,000 for the Burlington RTS Centre from Cultural Spaces Funding and \$5,800 for this summer's Canada Day Celebration in Spencer Smith Park.

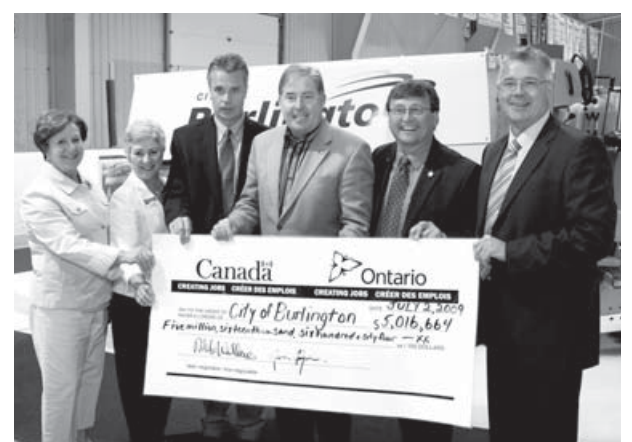
For a number of years, I have been working to secure funding to improve the Skyway Wastewater Treatment Plant. In June, I was pleased to announce \$51.5 million for this project from the Building Canada Fund with a matching contribution from the Ontario Government. This is in addition to the \$30 million commitment I was able to secure from the Minister of Environment to clean up Randle Reef. Both funding commitments will go a long way in meeting our clean water goals for Burlington Bay and Hamilton Harbour.

Our community will also benefit from the upgrade to the Burlington Lift Bridge and the construction of the Performing Arts Centre. With the federal investment of \$24 million, upgrades to both Burlington and Aldershot GO train stations will benefit transit users. The housing needs for our seniors will be met with the millions of dollars contributed in the construction of Bonnie Place II. The gas tax fund is permanent and long-term funding and the City will receive almost \$5 million a year for ongoing infrastructure needs.

Over the past 3 years our community has benefited from an investment of over \$130 million from the federal government. I will continue to work with other levels of government and community partners to advocate on behalf of projects and programs that are important to Burlington.



L to R: Councillor Carol D'Amelio, Mike Wallace MP, Regional Chair Gary Carr, Councillor Rick Craven, Mayor Cam Jackson, Kevin Flynn MPP Oakville  
On June 22, 2009, the federal and provincial governments announced \$103 million to upgrade the Skyway Wastewater Treatment Plant.



L to R: Joyce Savoline MPP Burlington, Councillor Carol D'Amelio, Councillor Rick Goldring, Mayor Cam Jackson, Mike Wallace MP, Kevin Flynn MPP Oakville  
On July 2, 2009, the federal and provincial governments announced over \$5 million for two additional ice pads at the Appleby Ice Centre.



Mike Wallace announced over \$2.8 million in federal funding to upgrade the Burlington Transit Operations Centre on June 6, 2009.

# Community Group Profiles



## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HAMILTON-BURLINGTON

The Junior League was founded in 1901 by Mary Harriman, a 19-year-old New York City debutante with a social conscience. She mobilized 80 young women, hence the name "Junior", to work to improve child health, nutrition and literacy among immigrants living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The volunteer movement spread quickly and in the 1920's, the Junior League of Montreal became the first Canadian League. In 1931, Margaret Gilmour who recently became the President of the Montreal Junior League, came to Hamilton as a young bride where she found a group of young women interested in volunteer work. With the experience of a vibrant Junior League in hand, Margaret inspired these women to participate in training recommended by the Association of Junior Leagues of America. On February 9, 1934, the Junior League of Hamilton became the 135th Junior League with 90 members. To more accurately reflect the League's service area and member demographics, the name was changed to the Junior

League of Hamilton-Burlington (JLHB) in 1970.

By keeping pace with emerging critical community needs today, Junior Leagues develop effective partnerships to address and improve conditions. Members become involved as leaders in various aspects of each impact initiative. Activities and training range from research, development and problem solving, through to fundraising and implementation. For the past 75 years, the JLHB has been a catalyst for creating lasting changes in our community, making a positive impact in areas such as respite care, women and children, health and well being, social services, the environment and arts. Members are addressing the critical issue of poverty, having a special interest in developing young women as well as offering the long-standing Kids on the Block puppet programme and the innovative International Kids in the Kitchen program. In honour of the 75th anniversary, volunteer resources have been committed and \$25,000 donated to the Mark Preece Family House in Hamilton.

Locally and across the Association, the power of voluntarism is realized by the collective efforts of women committed to improving their communities. Junior Leagues reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. For more information, please visit [www.juniorleague.ca](http://www.juniorleague.ca) call 905-525-1077 or email [info@juniorleague.ca](mailto:info@juniorleague.ca)

Please join in a wonderful community holiday tradition at the **27th Annual Holiday House Tour of Distinctive Homes, November 13-15, 2009**. Your support helps The Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington continue to create lasting, positive changes in our community.



Over 60,000 children have benefited from the JLHB Kids on the Block educational puppet program that teaches children to be more accepting of differences in others and themselves.



## CAREFORCE INTERNATIONAL

The word 'poverty' is often tossed around by the media today. However for many children, the opportunity to go to school, eat a daily meal, or have a hope for the future is but a dream. Disease, civil conflict, and environmental degradation compound these obstacles making it more difficult for children to realize their potential.

Burlington-based Careforce International is a non-profit organization that works to bring help, healing, and hope to children in need in Canada and around the world. They operate with integrity, devotion, and a true desire to realize change in children's lives. They are able to do this by partnering with projects that reach out to children in multifaceted ways.

In Ontario, Careforce works with the First Nations

communities Aroland and Six Nations bringing week-long camps to children that promote balanced living, the arts and athletics, service, and the importance of education. In the Dominican Republic they work with The Lighthouse School in the community of Los Alcarrizos providing primary, secondary, and vocational training to over 800 students. As well, they support the Child Nutrition Program in El Cercado, an effort to combat increasing malnutrition rates. The Village of Hope in Burkina Faso, West Africa offers a place for children who are impoverished or orphaned to live and attend school enabling them to grow physically, intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally. In Kenya, East Africa, Careforce has partnered with Mully Children's Family to help children rescued from the street find an alternative to the life of drugs, crime, and commercial sex trade they were trapped in. They provide housing, education, food, opportunities for spiritual growth, and healthcare including HIV/AIDS treatment to over 2,000 children.

These projects not only impact the children they work with directly, but there is a significant benefit to their families as well as the surrounding communities. Careforce International is supported by individual donors through their sponsorship program and by the teams sent out to work on the various projects. If you are interested in participating in a team experience through Careforce or want to know more about this local not-for-profit organization please contact us at 905.639.8482 or visit us at [www.careforceinternational.ca](http://www.careforceinternational.ca).

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Submission by Jessica Teeple



Jenn is pictured with a young girl in Ndalani, Kenya from the Mully Children's Family project.

## Economic Update

We have heard recently from a number of sources, including the Bank of Canada that we are coming to the end of the recession and will start to see modest growth in the economy. We will see if their predictions are accurate in the months ahead.

Canada has weathered the global economic storm relatively well. However, the future of the U.S. economy will continue to have a direct effect on our economic growth in Canada. We must be cautious in our approach to the current economic situation to ensure the sustainability of any recovery.

The government has addressed the issue in three ways. Monetary policy, which is managed by the Bank of Canada, has set record low interest rates to encourage economic stimulus through borrowing and investing in the economy. The availability of credit to lend has and continues to be an issue for businesses and consumers alike. This includes the chartered banks which only borrow short term funds overnight from the Bank of Canada. They also rely on other money market suppliers for the majority of the money they lend out on a daily basis. The market for lendable money has also dried up in the recession and that is why, through the Business Development Bank, we have provided billions of dollars in additional funds for mortgage lending and business loans in order to stimulate the economy.

On the fiscal side we have invested in infrastructure as a stimulus to get the economy moving forward. The stimulus is part of the Canada Action Plan. The Plan includes the stimulus for municipal, provincial and federal projects as well as significant investment in our University and College assets across the country. The Plan also includes tax cuts and incentives such as the Home Renovation Tax Credit. The decision to implement deficit spending was a policy decision that had been thoroughly examined. It is a measure that has been adopted by other countries as well, including the U.S. and Britain. Fortunately, our deficit spending only represents approximately 3% of our G.D.P. while other countries are much higher including the U.S. at over 12%. In addition, the \$40 billion we had recently paid down on our debt has given Canada more flexibility to manage the increase in spending.

With the economic downturn, demand for products and services in many industries declined. As a result, thousands of Canadians have been laid off, resulting in a greater demand on the Employment Insurance program. The government moved right away to make improvements by extending benefits by five weeks, enhancing the workshare program and providing additional money for retraining programs. There has been a call for us to do more and review the system that was implemented under previous governments. To this end an Employment Insurance Working Group has been formed with members from the Conservative government, the Liberal opposition and independent experts to review the employment insurance program and make recommendations.

These items have been put into action to get our Canadian economy growing again. We are positioned to be out of the recession early and be on the forefront of countries in the world able to take advantage of new growth opportunities.

# How Government Works: Levels of Government

The Constitution of Canada divided the responsibilities of the government into federal and provincial jurisdictions. It also provided for the possibility of the provincial governments to delegate some of its responsibilities to a municipal government which is then often subdivided into regional and local levels. Each level is then charged with various responsibilities by either the Constitution or a higher level of government.

The federal government is seated in Ottawa and is headed by the Governor General of Canada on the advice of the Prime Minister. The federal government has three branches. The Executive is comprised of the Governor General, who is the Queen of England's representative in Canada. The Cabinet is a body of high-ranking members of the government which includes the Prime Minister and the administration. The Legislative is made up of the Governor General again, the House of Commons, the Senate, and the Judicial branch, which includes judges and the courts.

Its responsibilities include census, copyrights, criminal law, defense, postal service, trade regulations, external relations, money and banking, transportation, citizenship and Indian affairs. In addition to these responsibilities, a 1940 constitutional amendment gave Parliament exclusive power over unemployment insurance. A specific section of the Act of 1867 gave it power to establish courts for the better administration of the laws of Canada. This has enabled Parliament

to set up the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Court.

Canada has ten provinces and three territories. Like the federal government, each province and territory has a parliamentary government with three branches. Each has its own capital city and is headed by a Lieutenant Governor (provinces) or a Commissioner (territories) on the advice of a Premier (provinces) or a Government Leader (territories). A province exists in its own right, a creation of the Constitution Acts, 1867-1982. A territory, however, is created through federal law. As a result, Crown lands in the territories are retained by the federal government. This differs from provinces, which own provincial lands in the Crown. Second, in a territory, federal parliament may enter into provincial type affairs, such as school curriculum. Third, territorial governments are not included in the Constitutional amending formula, the way we decide if we want to change something in the Canadian Constitution. Provinces get a vote when a change is proposed, however territories do not. Canadians elect new provincial and territorial governments at least every five years. In general, provincial and territorial responsibilities include: property and civil rights, administration of justice, natural resources and the environment, education, health, and welfare. Please note that provincial and territorial governments share responsibility

with the Government of Canada for health services, immigration, farming, social assistance, transportation, and the environment.

Though Parliament cannot transfer any of its powers to a provincial legislature, nor a provincial legislature any of its powers to Parliament, Parliament can delegate the administration of a federal Act to provincial agencies and a provincial legislature can delegate the administration of a provincial Act to a federal agency.

Municipal governments are essential levels of the provincial or territorial governments as they run cities and towns. They have many responsibilities that affect the everyday lives of Canadians. There are hundreds of municipalities in each province and territory and are labeled in many different forms. Their responsibilities vary from location to location but generally include water, sewage, waste collection, public transit, land use planning, libraries, emergency services, animal control, and economic development.

Municipal governments meet in groups of elected representatives. The groups are called councils and the representatives are called councilors. Each council is lead by an elected mayor.

Local or municipal elections are held every two to four years, depending on the province or territory where the municipality is located. Each province or territory decides on the rules for whom can vote in municipal elections.

## We ask Mike:

When watching the televised proceedings of the House of Commons on CPAC, not all of the MPs are present. Why is that?



The procedures and activities of the House of Commons, including attendance, are governed by the Standing Orders. The

Standing Orders are a set of rules agreed to by a majority of the House and state that Members are "bound to attend the sittings of the House, unless otherwise occupied with parliamentary activities and functions, or on public or official business". Basically the requirement for attendance is quite broad. Although the Members are not all in the House throughout the day, their time on the Hill often begins early in the morning and lasts late into the evening.

The Standing Orders also state that quorum for the House is 20 Members, and if it should fall below that then the Speaker may adjourn the House until the next sitting day.

Our party has at least 20 Members, plus a couple of Ministers, in the House at all times. This ensures that House business, usually Government business, is always continuing without fear of the House adjourning. The Government Whip has a duty roster that lists the Members responsible to be in the House all day, each day of the week. The five groups responsible for each day of the week are rotated every couple of weeks so that the same Members are not always on Mondays or Fridays.

While the House is sitting the committees of the House are meeting and there are many visitors on the Hill from foreign dignitaries, to various interest groups, to constituents and school groups from our ridings to meet with. Therefore, Members within each party will trade hours in the House back and forth. For instance, if Thursday is my House duty day and I have Finance Committee meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., I will find another Member of my party to cover my House duty during this time. In exchange for this, I will do two hours of House duty coverage for them when they have a conflict.

Of course, virtually all Members are in the House for Question Period and for votes. That is why the bells ring for a specific length of time in order to give committees time to suspend and go to the House to vote.

As well, Members are often in the House for the debate of a Bill that is of particular interest to them, their riding, or a committee they sit on to speak or ask questions. I am often in the House for finance related Bills.

## I Would Like To Hear From You

As your Member of Parliament, it is important to me that you receive up-to-date information from the Federal Government. I work to accomplish this through my website, e-newsletters, Upfront newsletters, and flyers. I also host a number of public seminars including Town Hall meetings and my annual Seniors' Pension and Tax Seminar. Some of my MP colleagues around the country host meetings on other various topics. They work with local representatives from government departments to deliver a presentation with the relevant information you need on that subject. If this would be of interest to you here in Burlington, I would appreciate your feedback. Please take a few moments to fill out this card and mail it to me, free of charge.

### Seminar topics of interest to me:

- Canadian Passports
- Employment Insurance
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Income Tax
- Other Federal Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Facts & Updates

## Canada's Olympic Journey

Canada will host the Olympics for the third time in 34 years from February 12 to 28, 2010 in Vancouver. This will give us the opportunity to finally win a gold medal on our turf having failed to do so in Montreal in 1976 and Calgary in 1988. Based on the recent performances of our athletes on the world stage their prospects in 2010 appear golden. The overall outlook for the Vancouver Games is extremely positive and Canadians look forward to hosting the world to a first class Olympiad. We will also host the Paralympics in March 2010 utilizing the same facilities in Vancouver.

Our athletes have competed for their country in 26 summer and 20 winter Olympics. There have been 29 summer games in total however. Canada did not compete in 1896, 1900 or 1980 when we joined a boycott against the U.S.S.R. With the support of local athletic clubs we attended and competed in 1904 in St. Louis. The Canadian government provided financial support for the first time at the 1908 London Olympics and today there is considerable assistance available to athletes through the government and corporations. Some of Canada's corporate sponsors have been involved with the Olympic movement for decades.

Over the years more than 1,000 Canadians have stepped on the podium to receive an Olympic medal. Two sets of twins have won medals including Penny and Vicky Vilagos who captured silver in synchronized swimming in 1992 and Michael and Mark Evans who were members of the men's rowing 8's team of 1984 who captured gold. Nancy Greene, who is now a Senator, was the first person to carry the new maple leaf flag at the 1968 Grenoble Winter Games. She went on to win a gold and silver medal in skiing and had the honour of being the first person to hear O Canada played

as our national anthem. Jack Guest from Montreal and Toronto native Joseph Wright Jr. were both born on March 28, 1906 and came together as rowers at the 1928 Amsterdam Games, winning a silver medal. Dave MacEachern, the pride of Prince Edward Island, became the first Islander to win an Olympic medal when he captured gold in 2-man bobsleigh with Pierre Leuders. Women's basketball was a demonstration sport at the Summer Olympics in 1924, 1928, 1932 and 1936. Canada was represented by the famous Edmonton Grads who never lost a game. It may not be a coincidence that the five Canadian female athletes, who have been Canada's flag bearer at the Winter Olympics, have won medals.

Many new citizens have brought tremendous athletic talent to Canada including Donovan Bailey, Ethel Catherwood, Fanny Rosenfeld and Petra Burka born in Jamaica, the United States, Russia and the Netherlands respectively. As we prepare for the Olympic torch run and the celebration of our current athletes we should also remember those who have gone before and left a great trail for us to follow including Jim Worrall and Richard Pound who have dedicated their lives to furthering the Olympic spirit.

Submission by Art and Marilyn Hogan

### Upcoming Events

#### Fall Town Hall Meeting with Mike Wallace, MP

Details to follow in the Burlington Post

### From Mike's Mailbox

**Q:** I am planning to undertake some projects around my home this fall. Do I qualify to take advantage of the **Home Renovation Tax Credit**?

**A:** In Budget 2009, the Government announced the Home Renovation Tax Credit, a measure which will help to offset the cost of renovations for homeowners. The expenses can be claimed on the homeowner's principle residence or cottage. Expenses incurred for rental units do not qualify. The credit will be based on eligible expenditures for work performed or goods acquired after January 27,

2009, and before February 1, 2010.

To be eligible, expenditures incurred must be of an enduring nature and integral to the dwelling. The credit will only be available for the 2009 tax year and applies to expenditures of more than \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, resulting in a maximum credit of \$1,350 (\$9,000 x 15%). A line will be included on the 2009 income tax form in order to claim this credit. It is not necessary to submit proof, however receipts and other relevant documentation should be retained in case it is requested.

Types of eligible projects include renovating a kitchen, bathroom, or basement, HVAC, interior or exterior painting, or building an addition onto your home. For more information and to view an extensive list of eligible items please visit [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca) or call Mike's office at 905-639-5757.

## Mark Your Calendars: The Olympic Torch is coming to Burlington!

Can you feel the Olympic buzz in the air? Do you have a favourite athlete that you will be cheering for? The countdown is on and we are six months away from one of the biggest sports spectacles in the world and it will be taking place on home court, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games will feature 86 medal events with 5500 athletes and team officials participating over the course of two weeks. The journey of the Games has been almost seven years in the making with many people involved in order for the production to come alive.

We are excited to say that the torch will be arriving in Burlington on December 19, 2009 on the 51st day of the tour. If you have an opportunity, come and be a part of the day. The route details are still being confirmed. Information will be made available on the website below. The torch will begin its 45,000 kilometre, 106 day journey on October 30, 2009 and will travel by land, air, and water visiting more than 1,000 communities.

To learn more about the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games as well as information regarding the mascots, torch, and athletes please visit [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

## Learn about Parliament at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)

Check out this link for useful information and teaching resources about the Parliament of Canada. Learn about the functions of the House of Commons and Senate, Bills, and Committee Business. Find out about the current Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Members of Parliament. Access research reports on a wide variety of issues through the Virtual Library. If you are planning a visit to Ottawa, there is information available on touring Parliament and special events held throughout the year.

**UPFRONT**  
with **Mike Wallace, MP**

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**MP Burlington**

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