

## Disposition of the Resolutions

By Anne Dyas

- In response to the resolutions from the St. Pauls WI, Perth South District, reported in the Fall 2000 *Home & Country*, the following can be reported:

### From the Minister of Transport David Turnbull:

"Last fall I announced a comprehensive Action Plan for Safer Roads in Ontario." Initiatives in the plan include a campaign to promote safe driving habits through public education and the establishment of an Ontario Advisory Group on Safe Driving. This group is to examine the effectiveness of current measures and identify further initiatives targeting aggressive driving and the promotion of safe driving practices.

### Specifics:

Re: request for stiffer penalties and higher fines – "In August 1998, we significantly increased the fines for running red lights and in September of that year legislation enabling municipalities to establish community safety zones (CSZ) was proclaimed into law doubling the fines for speeding and running red lights in a CSZ."

Re: request for rest areas and wider paved shoulders – "Rest areas are provided in conjunction with service centers on our freeway systems. Currently there are 20 on-highway service centers spaced approximately every 80 kilometers along Highway 401, which are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, from May to October each year, 19 picnic/rest areas adjacent to the centers are also open." A recent freeway sign program indicates to drivers where specific off-highway commercial establishments providing food, fuel and accommodation are located.

"Shoulders are generally installed on all 400 series highways. There are, however, a few spot locations where it is not feasible to install shoulders due to bridge structures and land restrictions."

Re: request for helicopter patrol – "Methods involving helicopter patrols are the responsibility of the Hon. David Tsubouchi."

### From David Tsubouchi, Solicitor General:

"Road safety and traffic enforcement are the priorities of the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The OPP is responsible for enforcing the *Highway Traffic Act (HTA)*. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is responsible for determining and setting penalties"

Mr. Tsubouchi also speaks of the Ontario Advisory Group on Safe Driving, "with a mandate to review issues similar to those mentioned in your resolution." He also said we were correct to send a copy to the Minister of Transportation, David Turnbull.

OPP Commissioner Gwen M. Boniface advises: "Although air patrol has been used effectively in the past, the OPP currently uses a variety of enforcement techniques, such as laser speed measuring devices with interceptor cars and unmarked patrol cars to combat aggressive drivers. I am further advised that the OPP helicopter has provided a unique support role in specific traffic enforcement initiatives."

### From Dalton McGuinty:

"We share your concerns and your correspondence has been forwarded to our Policy and Research Staff."

- In response to the resolution from the Ivanhoe WI, Hastings North District, reported in the Fall 2000 *Home & Country*, the following can be reported:

### From the Minister of the Environment, Dan Newman:

A Permit To Take Water (PTTW) is required for those wishing to remove more than 50,000 litres per day from a surface or ground water source. The application must be supported by a hydro geological report providing technical assessment of the maximum extent of influence to water levels and risk of detrimental environmental impacts due to the proposed water removal.

"All PTTW proposals are reviewed in great detail by technical experts in the Ministry." Once a permit is granted, should any water supplies be interfered with, the permit holders must restore those supplies to an equivalent of pre-impacted water conditions. The Director who approves a PTTW has the authority to reduce or halt water taking at any time if it is causing an environmental impact."

### From Dalton McGuinty:

"This province needs a comprehensive groundwater management strategy, called for repeatedly by both the Provincial Auditor and the Environmental Commissioner."

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## Beaverton WI Donates to Medical Centre



As their millennium project, members of the Beaverton Women's Institute presented a cheque for \$3000 to the Beaverton Medical Centre to help pay for a new ultra sound machine. Beaverton WI members Mabel Anderson (centre left) and Cora Mieras (centre right) are pictured with Medical Centre representatives Rita Murdoch (far left) and Judy Determann-Easton (far right) cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony.

Submitted by Margaret Bemier, Beaverton WI, Ontario.  
Photo courtesy of the Brack Citizen