

The ROCKWOOD Miller

PC Caucus seeks to revive Ontario's manufacturing sector

Ontario can turn around its struggling manufacturing sector, and bring new manufacturing jobs to the province, says Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

On July 18, the Ontario PC Caucus released its latest white paper, *Paths to Prosperity: Advanced Manufacturing for a Better Ontario*. The white paper outlines ideas to encourage the creation of up to 300,000 new manufacturing jobs in Ontario.

"A thriving manufacturing sector is critical to our economic success," Arnott said. "This white paper brings forward ideas that we believe can help turn around our manufacturing sector and create jobs here in Ontario."

Among the ideas proposed in the white paper are:

- Establishing a new, affordable power rate for manufacturing and resources-based industry at a price which is competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions.

- Matching provincial retraining assistance to the needs of employers and the job market.

- Encouraging investment in new plants and technology to improve productivity by making these investments fully tax deductible.

- Aggressively pushing for more international and interprovincial free trade to open new markets to Ontario businesses.

"Since the Liberals were elected to Government, Ontario has lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs. They have turned a blind eye to the problems faced by manufacturers for far

too long," Arnott argued. "We need to actively put policies in place aimed at bringing these good paying jobs back to Ontario."

Arnott has been warning about the troubles facing Ontario's manufacturing sector for years. In 2005, he tabled a Private Member's Resolution in the Ontario Legislature which called on the Provincial Government to establish an all-party Committee of the Legislature to investigate Ontario's industrial and economic competitiveness and to develop an action plan to protect manufacturing jobs in the Province.

"We cannot take current favourable economic conditions for granted," Mr. Arnott argued at the time. "The world isn't standing still and our manufacturers are facing unprecedented challenges in the global marketplace. If we aren't competitive we will lose jobs."

Although Arnott's resolution was passed by the House on November 30, 2006, the Liberal Government did not allow the Committee hearings to take place.

The white paper on manufacturing can be found at: <http://ontariopc.uberflip.com/i/144519>



STROLLER HIKES: Moms and babes enjoy a cool down session – including mat time with baby – following a stroller hike at the Rockwood Conservation Area recently. The hikes set out from the mini-golf area on Thursdays at 10 a.m. – Submitted photos

EWCS NEWS

NO SUMMER VACATION FOR THE FOOD BANK PROGRAM

While summer for many means enjoying time off at the cottage or going away on special vacations, the EWCS food bank gets no chance for a vacation. The need for the food bank is growing, and between January to June this year, the food bank program from the agency

has distributed more than 27,000 pounds of food, with a total dollar value of more than \$67,000. The shelves are showing gaps and we are in need of help so we can continue to support the more than 100 families who rely on this program. "Summer is always such a hard time for the food bank," says Erika Westcott, Manager of Community and Volunteer Services. "We are extremely fortunate for the fresh produce donations

that we are receiving from many in our community through the grow and extra row initiative and from area farms, it gets harder to keep the dry good staples on the shelves as donations tend to decline. It is also becoming a struggle to be able to provide our food bank families with food support for things like milk or meat products," Westcott said.

If you are able to help, either by donating food or providing gift cards to local area grocery stores that we can use to purchase items, it would be greatly appreciated so we can get through the summer crunch time. Items that are needed now include canned pasta, Kraft dinner, dry pasta, canned stews, tuna and salmon, granola bars, shampoo, Kleenex, canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit salad), hearty soups, jam, peanut butter and non-sugar cereals such as Shreddies, Corn Flakes, Cheerios and Rice Krispies.

TOWNSHIP SHORTS

EVERTON EXTENSION

Proponents of a residential development in Everton have received a three-year extension on a plan of subdivision for five residential lots in the hamlet. Guelph/Eramosa Township Council approved the extension, giving owner Robert Eilers until October 3, 2016 to complete the application process, which was set to expire this October 3.

Council's planner recently said that the applicant is working towards registration, possibly within two years. The Township's extension decision will be conveyed to Wellington County planners – the Township is a

commenting agency on the proposal.

ROCKWOOD SCHOOLS CASH

Full-day Kindergarten will be available in two Rockwood public schools within the next two years. The Upper Grand District School Board recently approved a \$1.2-million renovation to Rockwood Centennial School to expand two classrooms and convert two classrooms into a new Kindergarten room. Already approved by the Board is a \$6.2-million school in the south of the village which will be ready for the 2014-2015 school year.

STROLLER HIKES

All-terrain strollers are

not required, but good shoes, a blanket and lots of water are necessary for the free weekly stroller hike at the Rockwood Conservation Area on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30.

Following some stretching, the group walks around the lake, ending with stroller cool-down exercises that include blanket time with baby and ab exercises for moms, according to Angela Mathers, one of the leaders.

"It is a bit of a hike, not a stroll in the way that it's a leisure walk – there are a couple of good hills," she said, adding the East Wellington Community Services program drew 10 families weekly, even with the recent heat.

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