

## Our MPP Reports

by Ted Arnott

MPP Wellington - Halton Hills



Only a McGuinty Liberal would think the best way to celebrate Canada Day is with a tax increase.

But that's just what will happen this year in Ontario, when the Harmonized Sales Tax, or HST, will come into effect on July 1st.

By combining the eight-per cent provincial sales tax with the federal GST, the Liberals are touting their new HST as a magic elixir to create jobs and reduce costs to business. They claim they're cutting other taxes. They claim our economy will be more efficient, businesses will pass along the savings to consumers - and there will even be cheques in the mail!

But to many people, the HST will instead amount to nothing more than another tax hike from a government addicted to tax hikes.

Affected will be goods and services, including many essentials like our fuel and hydro bills, which are not currently subject to provincial sales tax.

Taxes will rise to 13 per cent on the following:

Hydro, home heating fuel, gasoline, vitamins, internet service, mutual fund fees and financial services, condo fees, airplane, train and bus tickets, funerals and estate planning costs, home renovation and repairs, lawn maintenance and snow removal, golfing fees, bicycles and bicycle safety equipment, gym memberships, trips to the veterinarian, and haircuts - to name just a few.

On the gasoline alone, be prepared to pay an additional eight cents a litre, according to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. For an average family with an average car, that's at least \$250 more, every year - just for gasoline.

Opposition members of the Legislature have an obligation to speak up for those who will be hurt by the government's policy. That's what we in the Ontario PC Caucus are doing, and will continue to do, when it comes to this new tax.

We also have an obligation to hold the McGuinty government accountable for its repeated and flagrantly broken promises not to raise taxes.

Just before the provincial election in 2003, McGuinty signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, promising, in writing, that he would not raise taxes without the explicit consent of Ontario voters. Since that time, he has introduced the Health Tax, what amounts to a backdoor energy tax, taxes on electronics, plastic bags, and now the HST.

And even after all of those new taxes on Ontario families, the McGuinty government faces a record deficit this year of nearly \$20 billion, and plans to continue borrowing more money than it takes in for many years to come.

After years of overspending, even in good years, we are borrowing more than \$2-million an hour, every hour of every day. By 2012-13, the provincial debt will have doubled under Premier McGuinty's watch.

With the introduction of the HST, provincial Ministry of Revenue staff will be transferred to the federal government. In March during Question Period, I asked the government to explain why these provincial tax collectors would be receiving up to six months severance, when they wouldn't be missing a day of work or pay. We still haven't received a satisfactory explanation.

With all of that spending, it's no wonder he thinks he has to keep raising taxes, but he should at least be clear about his intentions. As I recently asked in the Ontario Legislature, the next time he offers to the people of Ontario his solemn pledge on taxes, who on earth will believe him?

Canada Day offers many things to celebrate. The HST is not one of them.

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Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments. He can be reached toll free at 1-800-265-2366. His website is [www.tedarnottmpp.com](http://www.tedarnottmpp.com)



**CRIME STOPPERS UNITE:** Crime Stoppers staff and supporters gathered in Rockwood on Saturday as part of the annual police auction of unclaimed stolen goods. On hand to raise \$372 from the barbecue were, from left Randy Martyn, Orlando Fantini, Leesa Keleher, Rick Eller, Marlene Coughlin and Alex Smith. - Denise Paulsen phot



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

### Highway 7 Rockwood (GWP 155-91-00)

#### Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment

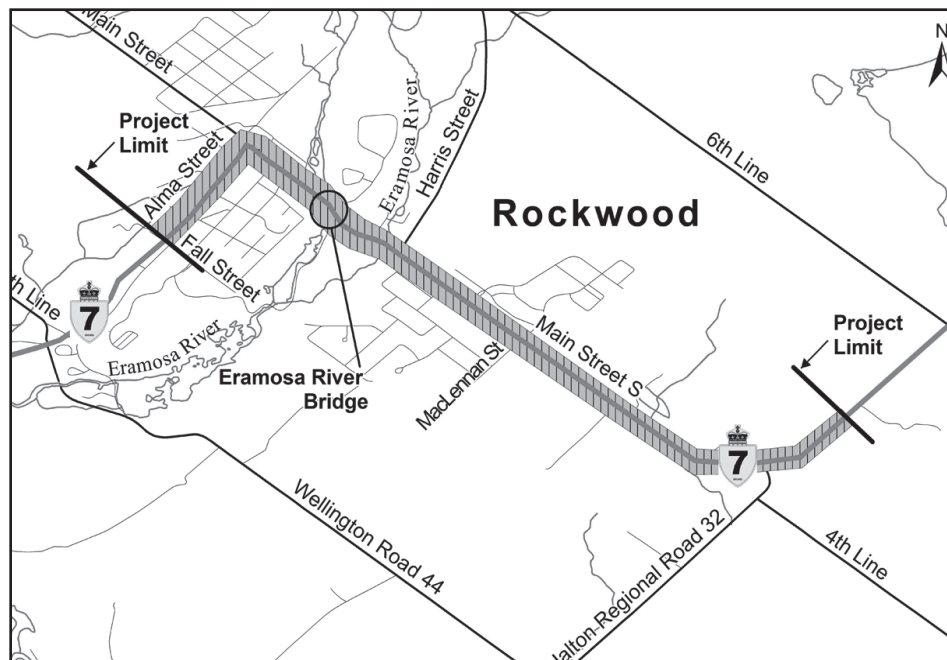
#### THE PROJECT

Dillon Consulting Limited has been retained by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to complete the Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the rehabilitation of 4.1 km of Highway 7 from 0.07 km west of Fall Street to 0.5 km east of Halton Regional Road 32 (to Eden Mills) in the community of Rockwood, Township of Guelph-Eramosa and Town of Milton. Subject to the outcome of the study, the Ministry is proposing:

- Rehabilitation of the roadway to address existing pavement conditions;
- Rehabilitation of the Eramosa River Bridge, with one lane of traffic maintained on the bridge during construction;
- Rehabilitation of the existing storm sewer system, as required;
- Replacement of existing sidewalks, as required;
- Culvert extensions/replacements;
- Modifications to commercial and private entrances as required; and
- Lane closures and local detours, including temporary traffic signals, during construction. Local traffic will be maintained through Rockwood during construction, except for a short duration closure to replace a culvert crossing Highway 7:
  - A detour route for traffic by-passing the community is proposed along Halton Regional Road 32 and Wellington Road 44.
  - Traffic management may include the use of adjacent local roads, including Fall Street and Mary Street/Guelph Street, to limit traffic congestion on Highway 7 during construction.
  - Temporary elimination of on street parking during construction.

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held to receive input on the proposed improvements and associated traffic impacts on June 22, 2010. You are invited to attend the PIC to review the displays and speak to members of the Project Team who will be in attendance to present the information, receive comments and answer questions.

**Date:** Tuesday, June 22, 2010  
**Time:** 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Open house/drop-in format)  
**Location:** Rockmosa Community Centre, 74 Christie Street, Rockwood



#### THE PROCESS

This study is subject to Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* and is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000) as a Group 'B' project. A Transportation Environmental Study Report describing the existing conditions, preferred design and environmental mitigating measures and provisions that have been incorporated into the design will be prepared for a 30-day public review period near the end of the study.

#### COMMENTS

Comments and information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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