

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Can Rockwood culverts be relined?

Our MPP Reports

by Ted Arnott

MPP Wellington - Halton Hills



The Ontario Legislature resumed sitting on September 13th with the McGuinty Government stuck in neutral.

Where there should be action, there is instead complacency. Where there should be prudent planning, there is instead fantasy. And where there should be forthrightness, there is instead obfuscation.

The Province is facing huge challenges when it comes to jobs and the economy, high taxes and a higher cost of living, rising hydro and insurance rates, and a budget deficit estimated to be almost \$20 billion. The Government has no coherent plan to address any of these issues.

Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak and our Opposition Caucus will continue to hold their feet to the fire.

The current term of our Municipal Councillors and School Board Trustees is drawing to a close.

I want to publicly thank all those who have served in local government and on our school boards for the past four years. As well, I want to acknowledge all who, through their candidacies, have expressed a willingness to serve in the four years to come.

Their jobs are never easy, yet they are absolutely vital to our communities. The campaign now on is a discussion of the future of our communities. It merits everyone's interest, consideration, and participation.

Thanks again to everyone who gets involved.

On September 14, I had the chance to speak in the Legislature and inform MPPs of the opening of our new fire halls and emergency medical services facility in Georgetown.

In doing so, I emphasized how greatly indebted we are to the fine and courageous individuals who make up our fire service

and EMS. Each and every day, 24/7, they demonstrate professionalism and skill in all that they do to keep our communities safe.

In supporting them, we begin to repay the debt of gratitude we owe them, which can never be fully discharged.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments. He can be reached at 1-800-265-2366. His website address is www.tedarnottmpp.com

If two existing culverts under Highway 7 at Richardson Creek in Rockwood can be relined, both lanes of the highway would not have to be closed during reconstruction in spring/summer 2011.

The potential disruption to their businesses and lives concerns local merchants, residents and elected officials who asked the Ministry of Transportation to look at options to closing the highway during work in the culvert area, south of Harris Street.

Rob Bakalarczyk, MTO senior project engineer, said the one of the options being studied would reline the existing culverts instead of replacing them – which would require closing both lanes of the highway – or boring under

the road, which would be “complicated” by soil conditions.

“The relining option deserves further investigation, but because there some deformation in the culverts, we’re not sure if a liner is appropriate,” Bakalarczyk said last Thursday. He said the construction would be staged so only one lane is worked on at a time, and they will give local merchants as much notice as the can to “plan and prepare” for the necessary road work.

“We’ll meet with officials and merchants this fall after we take a look at this other (culvert) investigation to see if it’s viable, and if it is, we won’t have to do a road closure.”

“We’ll respond to those comments and publish

the transportation and environmental study report – possibly in early 2011 – and people will have an opportunity to review the report and make comments,” he said, adding work will begin this spring if the funding and environmentally clearances are approved. But he would not say how long the road would be closed if they can’t reline of culvert, but it would be “weeks” and a detour would be provided.

Bakalarczyk said they will meet again with Rockwood area residents, business owners and municipal officials, to discuss the final design of the \$8-million project to reconstruction Highway 7 from the Eden Mills Road to Falls Street at the Rockwood Conservation Area.



WE'RE HOME: The re-branded Rockwood's Home Hardware store opened in grand style bright and early on Saturday morning. On behalf of Guelph/Eramosa Township, Mayor Chris White (centre) was on hand to cut the ribbon wishing dealer/owner Paul Wilson (beside) and staff all the best. – Denise Paulsen photo

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