



# Carol Mitchell

## MPP for Huron-Bruce



Dear Friends:

It has been a busy year for me in Huron-Bruce and at Queen's Park. I wish to update you on the results that your government has achieved in its first year. Also to let you know that we have a plan—Getting Results for Ontario. It is to achieve the results that you the people of Huron-Bruce have told me are most important. Last year I held pre-budget consultations. You said that health and education were the key concerns.

The government's plan for health care has two main objectives: shorten wait times for key medical services and improve access to family doctors and nurse practitioners. The government's plan for education ensures that children in the all-important early grades can read, write and do math and that more teenagers stay in school.

Rural Ontario has benefited. There is a new funding formula for our schools, which recognizes their special needs. Class sizes are down in the critical early grades. There is more money for home care. More funding for long term care means that more of our older citizens can stay in our area. Greater accountability in health is essential if we are to control costs. Half of our budget goes into health care. The government's goal is to prevent health problems. Public health funding is up. More water and meat inspectors have made our communities safer.

Although the BSE situation in our livestock industry has hurt our rural economy the Ontario economy has continued to expand. Renewable energy has a great future in Huron & Bruce. Rural Ontario will continue to benefit from this government's investment in sustainable energy.

The Premier plus five ministers have visited the riding. This has given them a greater understanding of rural Ontario. You were able to let them know what the people of Huron-Bruce expect from their government.

As a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs I have had the opportunity to visit other areas of the province to listen to their concerns. We need to be on a firm fiscal footing to deliver the results you told me you want and need.

Carol Mitchell, MPP  
Huron-Bruce

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## Contact Information

### Clinton office

49 Albert Street,  
Box 1794  
Clinton, Ontario  
N0M 1L0  
Phone: 519-482-5630  
Toll Free: 1-800-668-9320  
Fax: 519-482-3149

### Kincardine office

322 Lambton Street,  
Kincardine, Ontario  
N2Z 1Y9  
Phone: 519-396-3007  
Toll Free: 1-866-396-3007  
Fax: 519-396-3011

<http://www.carolmitchell.ca>  
[cmitchell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:cmitchell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

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## Agri-Food Summit

Premier Dalton McGuinty held the first Agri-Food Summit, which gave leaders of Ontario agriculture a forum to discuss the future of agriculture. The Summit was designed to give leaders within the Agri-Food Sector an opportunity to sit down and talk “shop” with the Premier. More than sixty Agri-Food leaders spoke directly to the Premier and the Agriculture Minister Steve Peters and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister, Carol Mitchell. The Summit was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Minister Steve Peters opened the meeting and Premier Dalton McGuinty addressed the meeting. Greg Hannam, Executive Chair of AgCare was asked to be the Industry Speaker. He gave the Sector’s presentation on Opportunities and Challenges. Selected speakers from different parts of the sector provided focussed discussion on four key themes: Building Economic Strength, Societal Changes, Strong Leadership & Industry Renewal and Safe and Nutritious Food. At that point the floor was open to the attendees, the Minister had representatives from most groups speak to the group and address the Premier. The Premier gave the closing remarks. He set aside the prepared speech and spoke to the issues, which had been raised in the morning session.

The lunchtime speaker was the Honourable Joe Cordiano, the Minister of Economic Trade and Development. He stressed the importance of Ministries working together and the province’s desire to see partnerships between the private and public sectors. After lunch

the participants were divided into breakfast groups and asked to work with a facilitator and go into the four key topics in depth. Minister Peters gave the

closing remarks and a “Harvest Ontario” reception was held in the Legislature.



*Premier Dalton McGuinty speaks at the Agri-Food Summit.*



*The Premier's Summit on Agri-Food*

## Renewable Energy



*Ted Dodkin, Plant Manager, Carol, Larry Lynn, Director of Ontario Corn Producers Association and Glen Sutton, Mayor of Kincardine at the Commercial Alcohols plant in Tiverton. Carol announced the Renewable Fuels Standard that will require that gasoline contain five percent ethanol by 2007. Ethanol is a clean-burning fuel. It is made from agricultural crops, so that it will be a major boost for rural communities. In Huron County, the Kingsbridge Wind Power Project north of Goderich will produce 40 megawatts of clean, renewable energy. It is part of the government's first step to produce clean renewable energy.*

Ontario faces a daunting challenge of providing enough energy from clean sources to serve the needs of its people. Minister of Agriculture Steve Peters gave the responsibility of examining alternative energy in agriculture to Carol Mitchell MPP, Huron-Bruce. She was to look at alternative fuels; wind, biodigesters, hydropower, biomass and solar power. She was to explore how farmers could generate alternative power sources. This would reduce dependence on traditional electrical sources, generate power on the farm and provide an income opportunity.

The fact finding mission on alternative fuels and energy took place between April 1, 2004 and July 15, 2004. Over 40 stakeholders were consulted to ensure that the scope of the issue was thoroughly covered. Identifying the opportunities and most importantly the current challenges was a goal of the project. It is to ensure that alternative fuel and energy goals will be met and that a strategy for Ontario will benefit the Ontario economy through the Ontario farmer and rural Ontario residents.

The purpose of this fact-finding mission was to explore ways to turn research and knowledge about alternative energy in new directions. It was to generate interest and enthusiasm from farmers for using alternative energy and fuel to their own advantage on the farm, and producing agricultural commodities for energy use off the farm.

This is an exciting time for the provincial government and the people of Ontario. It is time for Ontario to step up and dive into the world of alternative energy and fuels. Ontario, right now has the ability to move this forward and create an Ontario that produces clean energy, has better air, healthier citizens and builds stronger communities.

## Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP)

EnerGuide for Houses™, established in 1998, is a project of Natural Resources Canada and The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The EnerGuide for Houses™ Program has provided a tangible way for homeowners to combat rising energy costs, take action on climate change and contribute to cleaner air, making our communities a better place to live.

An improvement of the EnerGuide™ rating for a home allows its owners to apply to Natural Resources Canada for a grant. For the almost 400 homes assessed since the grant program began in October of 2003 by the Grey Bruce Residential Energy Efficiency Project, potential grant monies to homeowners have averaged \$719.00 per household. These grants are comparable to the energy savings realized in the first year; add that up over the next ten to twenty years and the savings to homeowners is quite substantial.

Program Manager, Lynda Bausinger, is pleased to partner with the ECEE and host the Grey/Bruce/Huron Residential Energy Efficiency (REEP) office. "We want the homeowners in Bruce & Huron to enjoy the multiple benefits of an energy efficient lifestyle. We are committed to being the best source of unbiased advice a homeowner can have".

For more information or to book your EnerGuide™ assessment, contact the Grey, Bruce, Huron REEP office toll free at: **1-(888)-380-7337** or visit the website at: **www.thereep.ca**.



*Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture at the Blyth Festival, Carol, Bruce Whitmore, Festival Board Member, Margaret Whitmore and Artistic Director Eric Coates. The Minister attended a matinee at the theatre after meeting with members of the Festival. She concluded her Huron trip with a tour of the Sallows Gallery in the Goderich branch of the Huron County Library.*



*The Honourable Sandra Pupatello with Karen Lowe (left) and Casey Weichert of the Women's House of Bruce County and Carol. Sandra is the Minister of Community & Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. She spoke on women's issues in Kincardine.*



*Huron Park is a key to economic development for South Huron. A new agreement with the Ontario Realty Corporation will allow the industrial tenants to purchase their sites. Scot Magnish of the Ontario Realty Corporation, Mayor Rob Morley of South Huron and Carol mark the new beginning for Huron Park.*



*Paul Steckle, MP North Huron Reeve Doug Layton, Morris-Turnberry Mayor Dorothy Kelly and Carol announce the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Funding. Safe drinking water will be assured with new regulations and funding to upgrade municipal water systems.*

*(photo courtesy of North Huron Citizen)*

## Staffing News

Former Clinton clerk-treasurer Marie Jefferson has come out of retirement to work for Carol as a part time assistant in the Clinton office. Marie brings her experience in the municipal field and knowledge of Huron County. In Kincardine Mary Ellen Ross has replaced Judy Gates who returned to the Bluewater School Board. Mary Ellen is a long time resident of the riding

Huron County is well represented in Carol's Toronto office. Laura Herman is from Colborne Township and she has a BA in Political Science from University of Western Ontario. She works on agricultural issues for Carol. Erin Gillespie is from St. Joseph and has a BA in Communications from Brock University. Erin works on legislative issues.

## Website

Carol Mitchell's website is used for two-way communication between Carol and the people of Huron-Bruce. Carol's website [www.carolmitchell.ca](http://www.carolmitchell.ca) has been designed and is managed by Jim Prior of Brussels. Jim's first venture into website design was two years after he retired from teaching in Brussels. His first project was the 1999 International Plowing Match in Huron County. Many of his projects are agriculture based: The Ontario Cattlemen's Association, Agricultural Adaptation Council, Ontario Cornfed Beef, Ontario Plowmen's Association and the Greenhouse Gas Section of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Jim has designed websites for many businesses in Huron County. The Hessenland Country Inn, Brussels Agri Services, Renewal Retreat, Roadwatch Huron and Hay Communications are some of his local clients.

Carol uses the website to let people know what she is doing in the riding and at Queen's Park. The site can be quickly updated by Jim in Brussels and is much faster and less expensive than having material printed. Libraries in Huron and Bruce provide free access to the Internet which means that most residents have access to Carol's website.



*Jim Prior of Brussels explains the features of the website to Carol.*