



# Carol Mitchell, MPP

## Huron-Bruce

### *Spring Report 2008*



Dear Friends:

Your government is growing a stronger Ontario. The 2008 budget along with the throne speech last fall, have addressed the challenges which confront Ontario.

The economy continues to be the top concern. In Huron-Bruce, the unit B refurbishments at Bruce Power have continued to spur growth all across the region. The province has also responded with new funding for municipal expansion that is helping many smaller municipalities cope with increased growth.

The agricultural sector has seen good demand for grains & oilseeds but problems persist for pork, beef and horticulture. The \$ 150 million in funding from the fall economic statement was aimed at addressing the issues in these sectors and bringing sustainability back to the industry.

The cost of repairs to roads and bridges has always been a difficult proposition in smaller rural areas. Ontario has provided over \$18.5 million to municipalities in Huron-Bruce to help cover the immense costs of these repairs and to help make our roads and bridges safer. There was an additional \$10 million invested into Municipal Infrastructure in Huron-Bruce through the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative. Economic growth depends on good roads and bridges.

Healthcare will continue to improve with funding for more nurses and more family health teams. The focus moving forward will be on further reducing wait times

in emergency rooms to ensure that all Ontarian's have access to emergency services when they need them most.

To encourage business growth in the province, the budget introduced \$750 million over 4 years in tax measures specifically for business. In order for people to get well-paying, long-term jobs that match the changing needs of the economy, skills training were also heavily emphasized in the budget to go along with \$75 million to increase the number of apprenticeships in the province. Modern business demands skilled and educated workers and we are working as a government to meet these needs.

The 2008-09 budget builds upon the government's plan for a stronger Ontario, and speaks to our values as Ontarians. When we can help our people reach their goals and dreams, we're building a stronger Ontario and a better future.

Carol Mitchell, MPP  
Huron-Bruce

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## The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

### Our mission

Building healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector, through investments in community-based initiatives.

### Eligibility

The following organizations may apply for either the Community Program or the Province-Wide Program, as long as they are in compliance with the Ontario Human Rights Code:

- A charitable organization or foundation registered as a charity by the Canada Revenue Agency
- An organization incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation without share capital in a Canadian jurisdiction
- An unincorporated branch or chapter of a registered charity or incorporated not-for-profit organization. The incorporated organization or registered charity must authorize the application and accept responsibility for any approved grant
- A First Nation
- A Métis or other Aboriginal community
- A collaborative of two or more organizations that are working together to achieve a common goal. The collaborative must include at least one eligible member. The eligible member normally acts as the lead applicant and accepts responsibility for any approved grant.



**Carol presents a Trillium grant for the Lucknow library to make the library more accessible.**

### For more information:

1.800.263.2887 Tel: 416.963.4927  
TTY: 416.963.7905 Fax: 416.963.8781  
Email: [trillium@trilliumfoundation.org](mailto:trillium@trilliumfoundation.org)  
**[www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org)**

## OHIP Coverage Across Canada

An insured person leaving Ontario to travel or work within Canada can continue to receive Ontario health coverage for up to 12 months or until establishing residency in another Canadian province or territory, whichever is sooner.

If you plan to work or travel within Canada for more than 212 days in any 12-month period, you need to provide the ministry with a written confirmation of your extended absence. You should provide the ministry with the timing and details of your extended absence as soon as you know that you will be away from Ontario.

You should also advise the ministry of your new residential and mailing addresses if you establish temporary residence in another province or territory.

## Services Covered Within Canada

If you are an insured resident of Ontario and you are outside the province temporarily you can use your Ontario health card to obtain insured health services. In most cases, the hospital or physician that you visit while outside Ontario will bill the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care directly.

If you are an insured resident and you are hospitalized in another province or territory while temporarily absent from Ontario, you are eligible for Ontario health coverage for the duration of your hospitalization up to a maximum of 12 months. If you require hospitalization beyond the 12 month maximum, the province or territory where you are hospitalized will provide you with coverage from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 13<sup>th</sup> month.

If you have to pay for health care that you receive in another part of Canada, such as doctors' services, you may be eligible for reimbursement from the ministry.

## Ontario Child Benefit

Every child in Ontario deserves the opportunity to succeed. That's why the provincial government introduced the Ontario Child Benefit, will help nearly 1 million children in more than 460,000 families.

If you are a resident of Ontario with a child under 18 years of age, you may be eligible for the Ontario Child Benefit. All you have to do is file your tax return, and then register for the federal Canada Child Tax benefit. You will be automatically reviewed for the Ontario Child benefit.

The Ontario Child Benefit is part of the government's plan to expand opportunities for low-income families. Beginning in July of 2008, the benefit will be delivered to eligible families each month, for a total of up to \$ 600 per child annually.

## Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grant

The government is committed to helping low- and moderate-income senior homeowners offset their property taxes. In addition to the current property tax credit, the Province proposes to provide a new property tax grant to seniors with low and moderate incomes who own their own homes. This new grant would be available in early 2009 to help seniors pay their 2009 municipal and education property taxes. Grants would be provided in each year thereafter.

In 2009, about 550,000 senior homeowners would be able to obtain a new grant of up to \$250. The maximum grant would be increased to \$500 for 2010 and subsequent years. Senior homeowners would apply for the grant when filing their 2008 and subsequent income tax returns.

Eligible single seniors with \$500 or more in property taxes and income of up to \$35,000 a year would receive the maximum grant. Eligible single seniors with income between \$35,000 and \$50,000 would receive a proportionately smaller grant. Eligible senior couples with \$500 or more in property taxes and income of up to \$45,000 a year would receive the maximum grant. Eligible senior couples with income between \$45,000 and \$60,000 would receive a proportionately smaller grant.

The Province would be providing about \$1 billion over five years in property tax relief to seniors through the new grant program.



**Carol and Mayor Shewfelt, council and staff at the announcement for funding of the town hall accessibility project.**



**Rural Ontario was the focus of the Ontario government's reception at the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference. Goderich's Kati Durst and her band, Quarter Mile Lane, provided the music and Ontario grown food was featured.**



**On hand for the opening of the Cargill Community Centre with Carol were MPP Bill Murdoch & MP Paul Steckle. The Trillium grant helped make possible the renovation of the hall.**

**Construction of the Walkerton Clean Water Agency will begin this year. At the announcement were Murray Elston, Chair of the Clean Water Agency, CEO Saad Jasim & Mayor Charlie Bagnato.**



## Dental Care for Low-Income Families

As part of its poverty reduction strategy, the government will be developing a plan to provide dental services to low-income persons. The government will invest \$135 million over three years, starting in 2008–09. The intention is to improve and enhance the delivery of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program, which currently provides urgent dental care services to children in low-income families from birth to Grade 8 or their fourteenth birthday, whichever is later. In January 2009, CINOT will be expanded to include children in low-income families until their eighteenth birthday. In addition, the government will work with Public Health Units, Community Health Centres, dentists and dental hygienists to deliver prevention and treatment services for low-income Ontarians.

## Transfers from Family Farm Corporations

Farming and farm-related businesses make an important contribution to Ontario's economy. Currently, transfers of farmland between family members and transfers into a family farm corporation are exempt from Land Transfer Tax. To provide relief for all farmers, regulatory amendments will be proposed to expand the exemption to include transfers of farmland from family farm corporations to individual family members. This will help continue the tradition of passing on ownership of the family farm.

The proposed measure would apply to qualifying transfers after March 25, 2008.

## Textbook & Technology Grant

Full-time university & college students will receive a grant of \$ 150 for books & equipment. It will increase to \$ 225 in 2009 and \$ 300 in subsequent years.

## SERVICE ONTARIO 1-800-267-8097

38 North Street - Goderich, Ontario

8:30 AM- 5:00 PM

Birth Certificates, fishing and hunting licenses, big game draw applications, landlord and tenant dispute applications, employment standards applications, land registration services, publication sales and general information and referrals for programs offered by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.



Huron Warden John Bezaire holds the ribbon for Mayor Deb Shewfelt and Carol at Service Ontario opening.



Kincardine Royal Canadian Legion members Irving Kennedy, Donna Wilson & Red Larson were on hand with Carol to receive an Ontario Trillium grant to upgrade their historic building.

## Distance Grants

There will be \$ 27 million over three years for Distance Grants to assist postsecondary students from rural and remote area with travel costs.

## Community Offices Contact Info:

49 Albert Street  
Clinton, ON N0M 1L0

Hours: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday  
Fax: **519-482-3149**

Tel: **519-482-5630**  
Toll Free: **1-800-668-9320**

322 Lambton Street  
Kincardine, ON N2Z 1Y9

Hours: 8:30-4:30 Tuesday, Thursday  
Fax: **519-396-3011**

Tel: **519-396-3007**  
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