



Barry Devolin, MP  
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

July 14, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to the replacement of the Oxtongue Lake Narrows Bridge (GWP 93-89-00) and Oxtongue River Bridge (GWP 5550-04-00) in the Township of Algonquin Highlands in the County of Haliburton.

As the local Member of Parliament, I recognize that much of my riding's economy relies on tourism – especially during the summer months. This remains profoundly true for the residents and businesses that operate on and around Oxtongue Lake.

I feel it is essential that a plan be put in place that takes into account the concerns of the people that live and work in that community. I believe this plan needs to be in place before the start of construction and agreed to by the majority in the community.

I feel should an arrangement be done after the fact, the delay with government forms and bureaucracy could mean many in the community may not be able to survive should they be hit with a financial storm as a result of lost business connected to the planned work.

I would like to be clear that I support the intent of the project. I know full well that many of the roads and bridges in this riding are in dire need of repair or replacement and I am told by some of the residents in the Oxtongue Lake area that the scheduled work is needed. We all know the importance of proper transportation that allows people to get to their destination safely and efficiently however, this work is not welcomed if a proper plan is not implemented. I feel it is imperative that all parties involved meet and work on a solution that is acceptable.

I feel it is important for everybody to have strong ties to their community and that barriers impeding that from happening are eliminated.

Sincerely,

Barry Devolin, MP  
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

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