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## From Ernie's Desk

April 2026

Hello,

MPPs are back at Queen's Park as we kick off a busy spring legislative session. Right off the bat, our government proposed Ontario's 2026 Budget, titled *A Plan to Protect Ontario*. It's a prudent and pragmatic fiscal plan for our province, where we outlined our proposal to continue building the most competitive, resilient, and self-reliant economy in the G7. You can read more about that below.

After a long and snowy winter, it's great to have spring in the air and Easter upon us. Please consider supporting our local flower growers by picking some up for the holiday.

Have a very blessed Good Friday and happy Easter.

Thank you,  
Ernie Hardeman  
MPP Oxford

### How Can My Office Help You?

- Birth Certificates
- Commissioner of Oaths
- Congratulatory Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office
  - MTO
- OHIP and ServiceOntario
  - OW / ODSP / WSIB
- Any Other Provincial Matters

## Trending Questions

### Q: I'm a senior who has had their Class G driver's licence suspended for medical reasons. What can I do next?

**A:** Losing your driver's licence can feel like losing a piece of your independence, and it's completely understandable if you are feeling frustrated or upset. At the same time, these decisions are made with safety in mind, both for you and for others on the road.

Your primary care provider has the legal responsibility to report medical concerns that may affect your ability to drive safely. If this happens, you will have received a letter from the Ministry of Transportation explaining the decision and outlining next steps. This may include providing more medical information, completing additional assessments, or attending a Functional Assessment Centre to evaluate your driving abilities.

While this process can feel overwhelming, it's important to know that there are some pathways forward. In some cases, you may be eligible to apply for the Vision Waiver Program. You may also be asked to complete further testing or training before having your licence reinstated. This can be a great opportunity to refresh your skills and get some practice by taking a few driver's education classes.

Reach out to your family and loved ones to see if they can help support you through it. If you'd like some more details on what the steps are and what you can do, click the button below.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

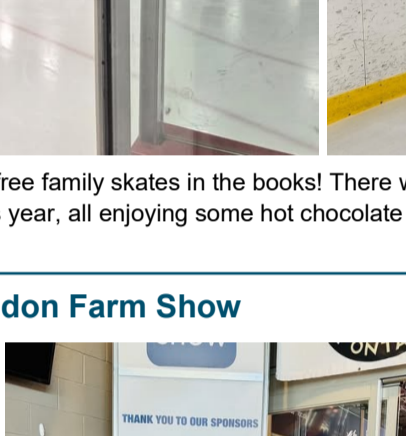
## What I've Been Up To

### March Free Family Skates



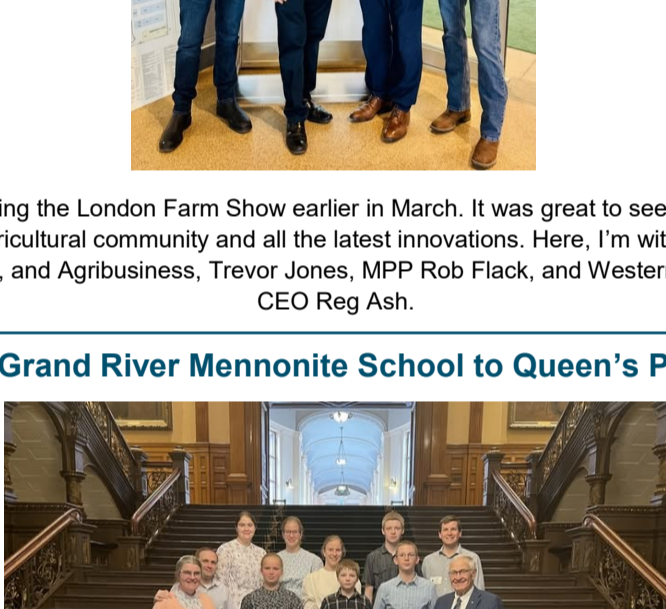
Another successful round of free family skates in the books! There was a great bunch of skaters at Norwich and Embro this year, all enjoying some hot chocolate and cookies after the ice.

### Stopping by the London Farm Show



I enjoyed attending the London Farm Show earlier in March. It was great to see so many people from the agricultural community and all the latest innovations. Here, I'm with Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness, Trevor Jones, MPP Rob Flack, and Western Fair Association CEO Reg Ash.

### Welcoming Grand River Mennonite School to Queen's Park



It was a pleasure to welcome Grand River Mennonite School to Queen's Park to learn how politics works in our province. I always enjoy seeing the next generation learn about our government.

## Government Highlights

### A Plan to Protect Ontario



On March 26, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the *2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario*. In the midst of tariffs and economic uncertainty, it furthers our government's plan to attract jobs and investment, lower costs for workers and businesses, keep life affordable for families and individuals, and make targeted investments in key public services if it is passed by the Legislature. Highlights include:

- Removing the full 13 per cent of the HST for all eligible buyers of new homes up to \$1 million for a maximum rebate of \$130,000, with the amount being maintained for new homes up to \$1.5 million.
- Proposing to cut the small business corporate income tax rate by over 30 per cent
- Expanding Ontario's investment in the Primary Care Action Plan to \$3.4 billion, furthering the province's plan to connect everyone in Ontario to primary care.
- Improving student achievement by creating the Classroom Supplies Fund for elementary school teachers that provides access to \$750 annually to reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

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### Welcoming a \$3.2 Million Manufacturing Investment in Oxford



Our government is creating the conditions for a strong, stable, and resilient economy that can weather any storm. The Straw Boss company is expanding their Mount Elgin facility with the help of \$483,136 in funding through the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund, creating more good paying local jobs!

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

### Increasing Local Emergency Preparedness in Oxford

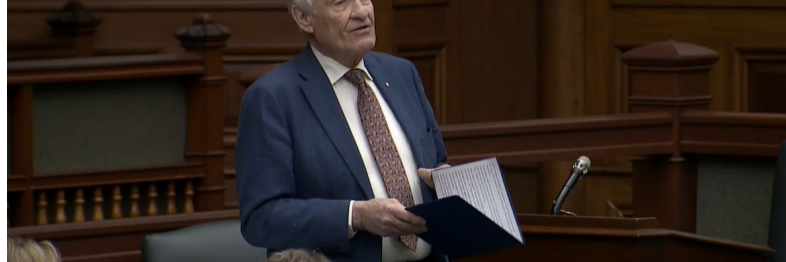


Ensuring our communities are prepared for emergencies is very important. That's why our government is investing \$50,000 in South-West Oxford and \$36,500 in East-Zorra Tavistock to purchase needed emergency equipment, helping them respond quickly and effectively when it matters most.

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## In The House

### Members' Statement: The Mighty Men of Zorra



In my first Members' Statement of the session, I rose to talk about a victory that helped put Zorra and Oxford on the map. It was highlighted, by Thistle Theatre's recent production called *The Mighty Men of Zorra*, where a group of farmers from Embro won the 1893 Tug-of-War World Championship against all odds.

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

If you have comments you'd like to share, please send me an email at [ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org)