

Nipissing Point of View

WINTER/ SPRING 2018



Vic Fedeli MPP



From my Point of View

This newsletter is a great way to showcase what's been happening in the Nipissing region over the last little while. And for the most part, I will be pointing my camera at you and presenting photos that hopefully will capture your interest! Mind you, with my new position in the Legislature, there are a few more personal photos this time than usual.



World Women's Curling Championship

Without question, the biggest regional news so far this year is the smashing success of the World Women's Curling Championship. North Bay was featured on 150 million TV screens worldwide and the event brought \$15 million to the region. The organizers and the 401 volunteers put on a show that will be hard to beat.

New Exhibit at CFB Museum

There was a wonderful new exhibit at the Museum of Aerospace Defence at 22 Wing/CFB North Bay. "Letters from the Heart" focused on war-time letters and an Archives of Ontario exhibit. While that show has moved on, there is more to see at their location at CFB North Bay.



Motor Madness

What an exciting event! The Motor Madness annual car race hosted by the 1st North Bay Scouts was a standing-room only event and included Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and this year, Ventures. The race cars were well-crafted and quite detailed, and the kids were so excited.



Pipes & Drums History

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23 Pipes & Drums band is nearing its 100th anniversary and a member is compiling information for a book and online project. Elizabeth Ashworth, the first female member of the band, needs your help. Please reach out to the Legion if you have material.



PROVINCE-WIDE PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

As a member of the Finance Committee, I travelled across the province to hear the concerns and requests of families and businesses with respect to the 2018 budget.

Here are some quotes the all-Party committee heard:

"We went from a jurisdiction where Ontario actually had cheaper-than-average electricity prices in North America to being the most expensive jurisdiction." – Craig Alexander, Chief Economist, Conference Board of Canada

"62% of our members indicate that they are not confident about the economic outlook of the province. The rising cost of doing business in Ontario is hindering their future growth and prosperity and Ontario's by extension." – Rocco Rossi, President, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

"They really do need to deal with investments in rural infrastructure, in particular, broadband Internet access. Those investments are critical." – Peggy Brekveld, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

"Unfortunately, Ontario's registered nurses feel under attack in their workplaces [and that] the hospitals are overcrowded." – Cathryn Hoy, VP, Ontario Nurses Association.

"There are 684 people waiting to receive beds in a long-term-care facility in North Bay and area. Wait times range from 140 days to 1,481 days. This puts a huge strain on families and their loved ones." – Ann McIntyre, Cassellholme Family Council.

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Mining for Business

The Nipissing region was well-represented at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada annual convention in Toronto.

North Bay has close to 70 mining and machining companies and most of the surrounding communities have shops with expertise that is exported, as well.

The Intruder

Gateway Theatre Guild has been entertaining the Nipissing region since 1948, bringing our community together to create outstanding, award-winning productions. The Intruder, will be running May 30 to June 2 at Widdifield Secondary School in North Bay.



TRILLIUM GRANT Brain Injury Support

A \$248,600 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant for the Brain Injury Association of North Bay was received by their President, Tracey Poole. The funds will be used to introduce a Transitional Support Initiative, helping people with cognitive impairments obtain appropriate incomes.



TRILLIUM GRANT Freestyle Skiing

Multiple Ontario communities benefitted from a \$434,100 province-wide grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to Freestyle Ski Ontario. North Bay Freestyle was one of eight clubs included, and has developed new coaches, judges and officials, as well as new terrain.



Mattawa Roundtable



Many members of Mattawa's business community came out for a breakfast roundtable. While the community has achieved numerous successes, they know they must keep moving forward and these roundtables are where great ideas come from.

Talking Agriculture

It's always a packed house for the East Nipissing/Parry Sound Federation of Agriculture's Annual Farmers' Symposium. There was a lot of discussion on how Northern Ontario can be looked to for more production of meat, dairy, and agricultural products.



Fun for the Kids

The Callander Public Library continues to provide so much enrichment to the community, and nothing is more fun than their annual Kids Fun Activity Day at the Callander Community Centre. Mary, from the Potter's Guild, is showing the kids how to make clay ornaments.



Paramedics and Pancakes

Our office hosted the first 'Paramedics and Pancakes' event. We urged everyone to come out for their spring tune-up by the Nipissing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team. This was followed by a free, fun breakfast of pancakes served up at the Davedi Club.



Maple Syrup Season

Talk about food, fun, and family! The firefighter's breakfast at the East Ferris Carnival was first out of the gate to start the syrup flowing. The full tables and the long line-up give you a sense of just how popular this event is.



250 Clark

Powassan's new municipal building/community centre is located at 250 Clark St. and is filled with activities every day. The fitness centre has 24-hour access, and check out 250Clark.ca for a full schedule of events such as this ball hockey game with the Voodoos.



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Delivering for all of Nipissing

Nipissing First Nation

Don Commanda and his daughters Evelyn Pakinewatik and Nikki Commanda were amongst the artists displaying their work for sale at the 5th Annual Anishnaabe Art Show at Nbisiiing Secondary School. It was a fun-filled day with a variety of music and refreshments.



Carnaval des Compagnons

Carnaval is one of the terrific winter traditions that has endured in Nipissing over the years. This year’s event was the 55th edition. It was great to attend the opening ceremonies held on Main Street in North Bay to celebrate with members of our Francophone community.

Le Carnaval est une des traditions merveilleuses d’hivers qui se passe à Nipissing depuis des années. L’événement de cette année était la 55^{ème} édition. C’était tellement de plaisir d’être présent aux cérémonies d’ouverture sur la rue Main à North Bay pour célébrer avec les membres de notre communauté francophone.



Representing Nipissing

These past few months have provided me the opportunity to put Nipissing’s issues front-and-centre at Queen’s Park through taking on some new responsibilities.

My duties in the Legislature now generally include asking the lead-off questions in Question Period. This is when I can showcase issues through a Northern lens, where they are seen and heard by stakeholders and decision-makers. I have also moved a couple of Opposition Day motions, including one on mental health, which passed with all-party support.

After the recent prorogation, the government delivered a new Throne Speech, where I made certain that our Northern voice is heard. I used many local and area examples in my hour-long lead-off speech. It really was like one big commercial for Northern Ontario and especially for Nipissing.

Most of my days are spent with stakeholder groups, as wide-ranging as forestry companies and pharmacists, miners and doctors, and grocers and steel workers. These are great opportunities to weave specific Northern comments into the conversation, and to determine if there are greater opportunities for the people of Nipissing.

Despite these added responsibilities, I promise the people of Nipissing that the extra time I spend at Queen’s Park is well-spent, and that our Northern priorities are heard and understood by everyone I meet.



Représenter Nipissing

Ces derniers mois m’ont donné l’occasion de mettre les priorités de Nipissing au premier plan à Queen’s Park en prenant de nouvelles responsabilités.

Mes fonctions dans l’Assemblée législative maintenant, consistent à poser les questions préliminaires à la période des questions. C’est à ce moment-là que je peux présenter les préoccupations à travers une lentille pour le nord, où ils sont vus et entendus par les intervenants et ceux qui font les décisions primaires. J’ai également présenté deux motions de la journée de l’opposition, dont une sur la santé mentale, qui a été adoptée avec le soutien de tous les partis.

Après la récente prorogation, le gouvernement a prononcé un nouveau discours du Trône dans lequel je me suis assuré que dans le nord, notre voix soit entendue. J’ai utilisé beaucoup d’exemples locaux et régionaux dans mon discours d’ouverture d’une heure. C’était vraiment une grande publicité pour le nord de l’Ontario et surtout pour Nipissing.

La plupart des journées sont dédiés à des groupes d’intervenants diversifiés tel que, les compagnies forestières et les pharmaciens, les mineurs et les médecins, les épiciers et les métallurgistes. Ce sont d’excellentes occasions d’intégrer des commentaires spécifiques du nord dans la conversation et de déterminer s’il y a de plus grandes possibilités pour les gens de Nipissing.



Malgré ces responsabilités additionnels, je promets aux gens de Nipissing que le temps supplémentaire que je passe à Queen’s Park est bien dépensé, et que les priorités du nord sont entendues et comprises par tous ceux que je rencontre..

CAN THE OMBUDSMAN HELP YOU?

Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé helps Ontarians tackle their problems with the provincial government, as well as with municipalities, universities and school boards. As an independent, impartial body, the Ombudsman’s Office resolves individual public complaints and investigates major systemic problems affecting thousands, or even millions, of people. In the past year, the Office received more than 22,000 complaints about everything from birth certificates, Northern Health Travel Grants, and ODSP, to wide-ranging issues like services for adults with developmental disabilities in crisis and the use of segregation in Ontario jails.

If you have a complaint, call toll-free at 1-800-263-1830, fill out an online complaint form, or email info@ombudsman.on.ca. You can learn more about whether the Ombudsman can help you at www.ombudsman.on.ca



L'OMBUDSMAN PEUT-IL VOUS AIDER?

L’Ombudsman de l’Ontario a pour rôle de promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilisation du secteur public. L’Ombudsman Paul Dubé et son équipe aident les Ontariens à régler leurs problèmes avec le gouvernement provincial, les municipalités, les universités et les conseils scolaires. Indépendant et impartial, l’Ombudsman résout des plaintes individuelles et enquête sur des problèmes systémiques qui touchent des millions de personnes. L’an dernier, son Bureau a reçu plus de 22 000 plaintes sur maints sujets, allant des certificats de naissance aux subventions aux résidents du Nord de l’Ontario pour frais de transport à des fins médicales, jusqu’à des problèmes majeurs comme les services aux adultes ayant une déficience intellectuelle et l’isolement dans les prisons de l’Ontario.

Si vous avez une plainte, appelez sans frais le 1-800-263-1830, remplissez un formulaire en ligne, ou envoyez un courriel à info@ombudsman.on.ca. Pour en savoir plus sur l’aide de l’Ombudsman, www.ombudsman.on.ca

We're Age-Friendly!

Bryan Kimber from the City of North Bay accepts the Ontario Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award. This prestigious award is for creating a welcoming community that enables seniors to live independent, active, and healthy lives. Great work from the City team!



Chamber Champions

So much that happens within the province impacts Nipissing-area businesses. I continue to meet with Patti Carr and Peter Chirico, from the North Bay & Area Chamber of Commerce. Chamber representatives are frequent visitors to my Toronto office, as they can tell me first-hand how various new pieces of legislation will affect the business community, and what changes they want to see, before any Bills are passed.

Students' Council

It was great to meet in Toronto with Madison Mattias, grade 10 student from West Ferris Secondary in North Bay. Maddie was one of 60 students from across the province appointed to the Minister's Student Advisory Council. Everything from school consolidation to First Nations' rights were on the table for discussion. She is a great representative for Northern and Indigenous students!



Leading Women

Three North Bay women received provincial Leading Women awards. Nathalie Rainville-Fournier, Nancy Birtch, and Katharine Strang were nominated by members of the community earlier this year and were presented with the honours in a local ceremony. It's truly wonderful to see the leadership and community contributions of these strong women being recognized provincially. They serve as inspirations to all of us here in Nipissing.

We're Here to Help!

My constituency office is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. You can reach me or my staff with any issue you may have, as we are here to help you. We can help you with your health card, birth certificate, celebratory scrolls, social services, and a multitude of other issues.

Vic Fedeli, MPP, Nipissing

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Pictured from left to right: Clint Thomas (Executive Assistant, Queen's Park), Danica Gendron (Constituency Assistant), Vic Fedeli, Nipissing MPP, Gwen Millard (Constituency Assistant), Andrea Stoppa (Executive Assistant, North Bay).

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