

Osler appoints
New president
P2



BBOT relocates
To 36 Queen E
P2



Minister Clement
talks budget
P3



PMH, trade
and HST
P4



President's Viewpoint PMH, International Trade, Convention Centre- there is much going on in Brampton

I'd like to start this month's column with congratulations to Linda Jeffrey, who became Minister of Natural Resources last month. Linda has been a strong supporter of and hard worker for Brampton for a long time, and deserves this recognition. This is great news for all of us.

As I reflect on the things going on at the Board of Trade this month, several are worth commenting on. So instead of an article focused on one issue, this month I'd like to give you a variety of updates.

PMH Redevelopment – There is some urgency around getting the local share funding in place to move ahead with the redevelopment of the Peel Memorial Hospital site. We have had several meetings on this topic over the past few months, and time is running out for Brampton to commit to funding their local share of the cost.

In our favour is a commitment from the Province, and we are in the Provincial five- year capital forecast. Working against us is the fact that we recently got a new hospital, and many other communities are also competing for limited dollars. So, to ensure we get the Provincial money to proceed, the City of Brampton must commit to 10% of the cost. If they don't, we may be passed over by the Province.

We have met with the City on this issue and they are working on a solution. We believe there are a number of options the city could explore to raise this money and we are confident the City will do this in the most cost-effective manner, while mitigating the effect on Brampton taxpayers. Many of the other municipalities already have



their local share commitments in place, so if we don't act quickly, we may lose the opportunity to move ahead on our badly needed second Health Care Facility. If you see people wearing a blue "Friends of Peel Memorial - More than a Hospital" button you will know they are supporting this initiative. Please join us as we work together to make this project happen.

International Trade – By the time you read this, our new International Trade committee will have met twice. This is an exciting opportunity to develop and enhance Brampton's trade relationships. We are, of course, already doing a lot of business with the USA, but what about the rest of the world? Let's see what we can do to improve two-way trade. Some people have commented that this initiative is about organizing a Trade Mission to India or China. That is incorrect. We are working on identifying what can be done to increase two-way trade between Brampton and various areas around the world, and then planning the best way to get that going with our partners.

Business Person of the Year – We are very proud that Doug Munro of Maritime Ontario is our Business Person of the Year for 2010. Ever since the announcement was made, I have been told many stories about what a wonderful man he is, and all the

accomplishments he and his company have realized. Please join us on March 25th to honor him at a dinner hosted by the BBoT.

South West Quadrant Renewal – I have heard many comments and read a lot of press on this topic. We lobbied in favour of the project last year. The deadline for submissions was February 11 and we look forward to hearing the results of the review of these submissions. Brampton needs a strong downtown core in order to become more successful as a well-balanced City. This project, along with the PMH redevelopment and the Hotel/Convention centre projects will bring much needed stimulus and new jobs to a City that was particularly hard hit by the economic downturn of the last 18 months. Until now, we have been a city very reliant on manufacturing, transportation and logistics. The opportunities provided by these projects would bring new kinds of jobs to our City. If you want to find out more, please come to our Policy and Government Relations committee meetings.

Hotel and Convention Centre – as mentioned above, we have a need for new types of investment in order to make our City's economy more robust and balanced. Here is a quote from the City of Brampton website "Brampton currently ranks as Canada's 11th largest city, yet we do not have a venue in our downtown core in which to host conferences or large gatherings. As a growing tourist destination, downtown Brampton needs increased capacity to host regional, national and international events, such as major

conferences and conventions". For example, at the Brampton Board of Trade we could work to host the Ontario and/or Canadian Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. That would be a wonderful opportunity for us and our City.

HST – The Harmonized Sales Tax is coming. We have heard much on this topic at the Board of Trade. We had a recent visit from Tim Hudak, leader of the opposition for Ontario. He asked us about our thoughts on the topic, and told us what his party is doing. We passed along the concerns we have heard from many of our members who are apprehensive about the impact of this new tax on their businesses. We have sent a letter to the Premier, requesting a reduction of 1% (down to 12 from the 13 it is proposed to be). We have considered holding more information sessions and perhaps having someone from one of our many accounting firm members come in to update you on the issues. Would you benefit from this? Please let us know.

And finally, I wanted to mention how excited we all are that Canada is host to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. I have been watching the opening ceremonies and some of the first events on TV while crafting this article. It is my hope that when you read this, Canada will have achieved much success both in terms of medals, and as a place where all visitors who came to Canada for the experience were more than satisfied.

I am interested in your opinion. You can reach me by email at president@bramptonbot.com