

# UPDATE

## FROM QUEEN'S PARK



SPRING 2009

### Bailey Celebrates 1 Year as MPP for Sarnia-Lambton

It has been just over one year since I was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton. It has been a busy and exciting year for me as I work on your behalf at Queen's Park.

Among those issues that I am concerned with are the following: the LANXESS downsizing by one unit, Shell not constructing their new refinery in St. Clair Township, Suncor deferring construction of its expansion to its ethanol plant, and most recently the announced closure of UBE. All in all, 2009 will be a tough time for many in our community.

There have also been many positive developments that have happened since I took office. The new hospital in Sarnia is now more than 30% completed. CEE Hospital in Petrolia has the new Pat Mailloux Cataract Clinic and Greenfield Energy recently opened a new energy centre.

Since the election, I have spoken with many farmers in Lambton County who feel the farm safety net system is leaving them behind. Cattle and Hog producers are going through tough times as commodity prices drop. Government assistance to these producers does not seem to be going to farmers who really need it, but instead to ones who retired from farming years ago.

Sarnia-Lambton is comprised of the Municipalities of Sarnia, the Village of Point Edward, St. Clair Township, Plympton-Wyoming, Enniskillen, Oil Springs and Petrolia. I have been working with our municipalities to make sure they receive infrastructure money from the province when they need it so municipal services may be improved for our residents. I still believe the Province needs to change the way it delivers infrastructure funding to something that is more predictable.

As it stands, municipalities have to wait to see if they will get any infrastructure money thus they have no way to plan budgets and projects. It would be like planning your household budget assuming that you will win the lottery. This is something the Government needs to fix right away.

Recently, property owners of Sarnia-Lambton received statements from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) that told them the estimated value of their properties. (This figure is what the municipality will use to determine your property taxes). The Provincial Government needs to do another assessment to better reflect the actual value of properties, given the economic realities of today. This would not have been such a problem had the McGuinty Government not cynically frozen assessments until just after the election in 2007. By assessing housing prices as of January 1 2008, they ensured the value of your property is now assessed at the height of a very hot housing market.

The Premier even said assessments are unrealistic. He needs to send the assessors back into the field and do a more realistic assessment.

Over the next couple of years I will be working hard on your behalf to make sure your issues are heard at Queen's Park. Please contact me with any questions or concerns and I will be glad to assist.

Thank you.

*Bob Bailey*



**Bob Bailey, MPP**  
**Sarnia-Lambton**

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# Bailey Wants Action to Save the Lambton Generating Station

The McGuinty Government remains committed to shutting down the Lambton Generating Station in 2014, throwing over 400 people out of work and negatively impacting many tradesmen. The McGuinty Government is doing this knowing that there will not be enough electricity generated by other sources to replace it on the grid. This decision not only affects the economy of Sarnia-Lambton but it directly jeopardizes our energy supply as a Province.

We have also seen a dramatic drop in the assessed value of the Generating Station which will have a huge negative

impact on the budget of St. Clair Township and force an increase in the tax rate for the citizens of St. Clair Township.

There have been some early successes with burning alternative fuels at the Generating Station that may offer some hope, but decisions need to be made now to keep the Station open and viable.

I have met with the Power Workers Union and the Management of the Generating Station and I will do everything possible to convince the McGuinty Government that it needs to keep the Generating Station open.

## How Can We Help You ?

If you have any Provincial matters you would like addressed please contact our constituency office located at 836 Upper Canada Drive.

Area's of assistance offered through our office:

- Health Care
- Education
- Seniors' Issues
- Family Responsibility Office
- OSAP
- Ontario Birth Certificates
- Drivers Licences
- Disabilities Issues
- ODSP-Ontario Disability Support
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
- Transportation
- Supportive Housing

We also provide scrolls for birthdays (80 years and older), anniversaries (40 years and older) and other milestones.

**Phone Number: 519-337-0051**  
**Email: [bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org](mailto:bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org)**

## Changes Coming to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

Despite promises to not raise taxes, late last year the Government introduced a major new tax on small businesses in the construction sector when they passed a bill that changes the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). In Bill 119 the Government mandated WSIB coverage for every employee in the Construction Sector. On average this would mean an \$11,000 a year new tax on small construction companies. This was a historic change that dramatically expanded the number of people covered by the WSIB.

Independent Operators, who were previously exempted, will now be covered by the WSIB. As well, the original legislation called for all Executive Officers in construction companies to be covered by the WSIB.

However, as a result of the work that we did in opposition the Government has changed the law to allow executive officers to be removed from the WSIB. Essentially the Government has given themselves the authority to define what an Executive Officer is and we will be watching closely to make sure that they follow through on this commitment.

I also continue to push for a "Named Insured" system at the WSIB, so that we know exactly who is covered and who is not. If the McGuinty Government were serious about wiping out fraudulent claims at the WSIB they would move on this suggestion. If we know who is covered by OHIP there is no reason why we cannot know who is covered by the WSIB.

# Working for you!



Please cut along dotted lines and mail (postage is paid)

## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?



Please take a few minutes to let me know what actions you think the Government should be taking to fix the economy. Then, cut out the questionnaire and mail it back to me. If you need more space please email your response to [bob.baileyc@pc.ola.org](mailto:bob.baileyc@pc.ola.org). You can also go to [www.bobbaileympp.com](http://www.bobbaileympp.com) and complete our online survey. Thank you!

1. What steps should the Government of Ontario immediately take to fix the economy?

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2. What steps should the Government take in the long term to make sure that the economy grows and creates jobs?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E- Mail \_\_\_\_\_

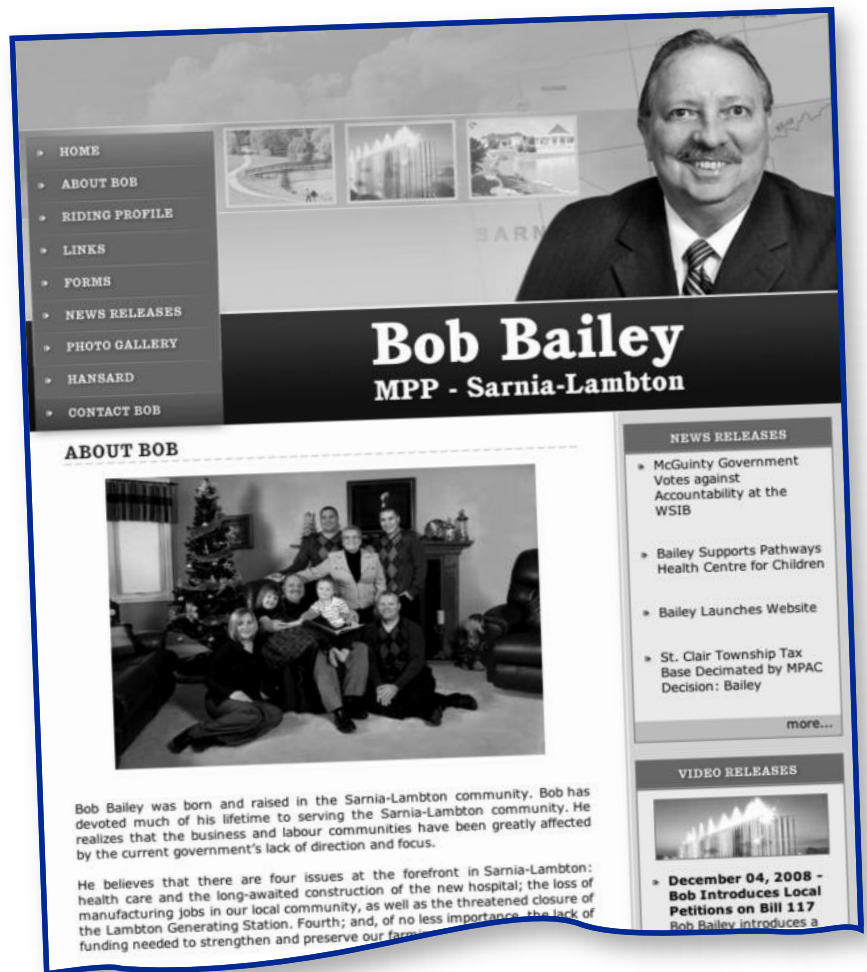
# Bailey Launches Website

I recently launched my new website designed to keep the residents of Sarnia-Lambton up to date on what I am doing as your Member of Provincial Parliament and to allow you better access to useful Government Services.

## ON MY WEBSITE YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ON:

- Obtaining a health card
- How to obtain a birth certificate
- Who to notify to change your address
- Telehealth Ontario's Phone Number
- What to do if an Energy Marketer comes to your door
- How to obtain information regarding WSIB
- How to recommend an outstanding volunteer for Provincial Recognition

You can also contact me with feedback, take part in online surveys and see pictures from around the riding of Sarnia-Lambton and Queen's Park. I look forward to hearing from you!



[www.bobbaileympp.com](http://www.bobbaileympp.com)

**Bob Bailey, MPP**  
Sarnia-Lambton



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