

FORT ERIE: State of Our Economy...REVISED!!!



Good people of Fort Erie, as you may be aware, on April 30, 2012 the Province of Ontario closed the OLG Slots at Fort Erie Race Track. Not only did this throw more than 200 people out of work, but also induced the loss of 85 more jobs at the Fort Erie Race Track tied directly to supporting the Slots operation.

Further, the Province retracted the long-standing revenue sharing program with Ontario Race Tracks, which means, they have effectively closed the Fort Erie Race Track, and this will be the last season for thoroughbred racing in Fort Erie. This is in addition to the implementation of Provincial policies that are hindering growth opportunities and our future prosperity, including; Provincially Significant Wetlands policy which sterilizes our industrial land potential along the QEW and restrictions on our ability to expand our Urban Service Boundaries where we need to accommodate development demand.

My Council and senior staff have been working with our Economic Development & Tourism Corporation on major development projects and we have two very significant investments that can happen, and happen quickly, if the Province would finally make Fort Erie a priority. Both the Canadian Motor Speedway and the Miller's Creek/NPC Marina projects would have significant regional, provincial and federal economic impacts.

Our Fort Erie EDTC has utilized the Provincial economic modeling and forecasting protocols (TREIM) to demonstrate how horrendous this callous decision to close the OLG Slots and the Fort Erie Race Track will be on our community, but also, to show the positive economic impacts of our planning and requests to the Province of Ontario in support of the two new projects.

We need everyone's support if we are to succeed in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Douglas Martin - Mayor

A Message to Constituents from Mayor Doug Martin

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLOSURE OF OLG SLOTS AT FORT ERIE & FORT ERIE RACE TRACK

	2013	5 YEARS
CLOSURE OF OLG SLOTS AT FORT ERIE RACE TRACK		
Econo-Negative Impact(s)*	-\$56,305,054	-\$281,525,270
214 jobs lost (+ 115 indirect jobs lost)		
CLOSURE OF THE FORT ERIE RACE TRACK		
Econo-Negative Impact(s)*	-\$73,790,274	-\$368,951,370
265 jobs lost (+ 557 indirect jobs lost)		
TOTAL ECONO-NEGATIVE IMPACT(S)*		
479 jobs lost (+ 672 indirect jobs lost)	-\$130,095,328	-\$650,476,640

* As determined using the Ontario Ministry of Tourism TREIM Economic Impact Model.

Our Solutions – A 4 Part Plan

1 PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE CANADIAN MOTOR SPEEDWAY PROJECT
It is estimated that \$50 million worth of off-site infrastructure services would be required, predominantly highway and interchange improvements, as a Provincial requirement for this development. It will be necessary for the Province to undertake these improvements in support of the \$210 million private on-site investment.

The Town would also seek focused and dedicated Support at the Regional Director's level at the Ministry of Transportation to co-ordinate any highway improvements necessary for the development and implementation of a traffic management plan.

	2013	5 YEARS
CANADIAN MOTOR SPEEDWAY		
One Time Economic Impact - Capital Development*		
1,156 jobs (direct, indirect & induced)	\$235,099,512	\$235,099,512
Annual Economic Impact - Annual Visitation/Spending*		
3,193 jobs (direct, indirect & induced)	\$369,800,339	\$1,849,001,695
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT(S)*	\$604,899,851	\$2,084,101,207
4,349 jobs (direct, indirect & induced)		

2 PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE MILLER CREEK MARINA/NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
The entire project has also been frustrated by the restructuring and governance issues at the Commission.

The Town of Fort Erie seeks Provincial assistance to work with the Niagara Parks Commission to allow this project to move forward. The Town requests that the Province work with the Niagara Parks Commission to receive an Order in Council that will allow the developer to move forward with the Miller's Creek Marina project.

	2013	5 YEARS
MILLER'S CREEK/NPC MARINA		
One Time Economic Impact - Capital Development*		
1,169 jobs (direct, indirect & induced)	\$235,985,614	\$235,985,614
Annual Economic Impact - Annual Visitation/Spending*		
210 jobs (direct, indirect & induced)	\$36,614,176	\$183,070,880
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT(S)*	\$272,599,790	\$419,056,494
1,379 jobs (direct, indirect & induced)		

3 DESIGNATE THE AREA ALONG THE QEW FROM SOUTH NIAGARA FALLS THROUGH FORT ERIE AS PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYMENT LANDS
The Town of Fort Erie seeks that the lands along the QEW from Fort Erie to Niagara Falls zoned industrial (within the economic gateway zone) be designated as "Provincially Significant Employment Lands".

Currently, much of these lands are designated PSWs and while the Town respects the Province's and municipality's environmental responsibilities, the effect of the PSW designation essentially sterilizes the best opportunities the Town of Fort Erie and the City of Niagara Falls has for siting new industry and business. The Province has recognized this area as a gateway economic corridor in its Growth Plan.

4 CREATION OF A "FORT ERIE RESILIENCE FUND"
The loss of slots and the loss of the horse racing track in 2013 will have a major economic impact on Fort Erie not just in job losses but also in revenue losses to the Town and businesses in town and the region. These losses will impact the ability of the Town to invest and provide the tools necessary to capitalize on the development opportunities previously noted as well as new initiatives.

We would support Minister Duguid's (MEDI) initiative, Bill 11, respecting establishment of development funds in order to promote regional economic development.

The Town would respectfully request that the Province commit resources in the amount of \$2 million per year for a five year period to support the necessary economic development studies, strategies, infrastructure investment for business parks for the industrial zone and increase our competitiveness on land costs and development that are necessary in the first 2 to 3 years. In subsequent years, three through five, the Town would use the funds predominantly to market and attract business and industry necessary to both replace and rebuild our economic base to a sustainable level of growth.

Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation

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