

Ontario
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

JERRY J. OUELLETTE, M.P.P.

August 5, 2004

John Panter
VOCO (Voices of Central Ontario)
P.O. Box 877
Fenelon Falls, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Panter:

On Tuesday August 3rd 2004, representatives of VOCO and the “**Red Casket Relay**” stopped by my constituency office and spent some time informing my staff as well as residents of Oshawa of their intentions.

I would like to briefly comment on this issue.

In November 2002, responding to the challenge of restructuring within the City of Kawartha Lakes, the Honourable Chris Hodgson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced a special advisory team to develop a concise, non-binding question that would bring closure to the debate over amalgamation.

Acting on the recommendations of the advisory team, Minister Hodgson enacted regulation that would provide the residents and taxpayers of the City of Kawartha Lakes an opportunity to express their input during the municipal election on November 10, 2003.

In response to the question, the people of the City of Kawartha Lakes voted in favour of de-amalgamation and a return to their former municipal governing structure.

Following this referendum, newly elected Premier Dalton McGuinty stated that he believed in local democracy and ensured the citizens that his government would respect their decision to de-amalgamate.

Suddenly, on February 19, 2004, the McGuinty government announced that it would not honour the results of the vote which had been authorized by the Province.

I agree that this has been an insult to the democratic process and it has been this type of disrespect and arrogance to the people of Ontario that has characterized the McGuinty government since it took office in October, 2003. Recently, Premier McGuinty has explained that by not honouring his commitments that he is looking out for the best interests of all Ontarians, and is doing what is right for them. This type of attitude does indeed spell trouble for our democratic system.

I commend you for your efforts in raising the profile of this issue and I will continue to work along with my caucus colleagues to urge the government to reconsider its decision, and to honour the wishes of the local citizens of Kawartha Lakes.

Yours Sincerely,

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP
Oshawa