

Ground-Breaking in Bradford!

The site of the new Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre and Public Library/Cultural Centre was off-limits, as the contractor's crews continued to move earth, in preparation for the start of construction – so the official groundbreaking ceremony took place across the road, at the Canadian Tire Store, and in front of the fencing on Holland St. West.

Among those joining Town representatives in donning hard hats and picking up gilded shovels were MP for York-Simcoe Peter Van Loan, and MPP Julia Munro – representing the federal and provincial governments, partners in the infrastructure funding that has launched the Town on a binge of construction.

The \$45 million Leisure Centre and \$16.17 million Library have received over \$23 million in grant funding from the federal-provincial partnership, allowing both to proceed – including the library, “which we actually hadn’t envisioned taking place for several years,” said Town Manager Jay Currier.

There were words of praise for all involved.

“We are following an economic action plan that is working,” said MP Van Loan, praising the “fairly
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Breaking ground for a new BWG Leisure Centre and Public Library

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significant funding” that will “go a long way toward significantly improving the quality of life for the young families who come here.... This is a great day for everyone in the community.”

MPP Munro praised the ground-breaking as a “demonstration, first of all, of the co-operation of all levels of government in funding this project.”

Library Board Chair Gary Lamb thanked all levels of government, “and past library boards... for doing their homework. The groundwork was done.”

“This is a wonderful and historic day for our town,” said Mayor Doug White. “It’s a team effort. Council had the vision. We wanted to build a complete community.”

He praised the province and federal government for their support, “our great staff who have been working for months... to move this forward. And to



the wonderful residents of this community – you deserve this!”

He added, “Today our Town is taking a giant leap into the future.”

White noted that the Town had only 2 weeks to pull together the Library application, to meet the deadline – but was able to “pull the

trigger very quickly,” because of all the background work carried out by the Library Board and Town staff, and in particular the efforts of Deputy Mayor Dennis Roughley, in working on Part 2 of the library project – the redevelopment of the old 12,000 sq. ft. building as a family health centre.

Currier noted that the projects were the product of “four years of working on the financing and other components.” And while the October 3 ground-breaking is an historic and significant event, “about 2 years from now, we’ll be having a much bigger event – marking the Opening.”

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PROJECT UNDER WAY

MPP Julia Munro (from left), Bradford Mayor Doug White and MP Peter Van Loan break ground for the new leisure centre, library and cultural centre in Bradford Saturday.