



# DOWNEY DIGEST

ISSUE 21 • SEPTEMBER 2022



## **A NOTE FROM DOUG**

Over the past few weeks, our community and the broader provincial community has been subject to a time of great change. During a seasons where the focus is commonly on the return to school and a return to normal, the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has lead to a series of incredible days where nations were bound by grief and reflection, and many of us spent time glued to our tv screens, watching as history unfolded in front of us.

Throughout this issue, I hope to acknowledge and honour the Queen, while also focusing on our immediate future, and return to normalcy both in life and in the classrooms across the riding.

# HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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Over the last few weeks, our province, our nation, and the entirety of the Commonwealth have gathered to celebrate the life of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen reigned for 70 years, celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in June. Those celebrations, along with the recent more mournful acknowledgement of her passing, have called to memory all the ways Her Majesty served both our nation and our local communities during her reign.

During her time as our monarch, Queen Elizabeth II made 22 visits to Canada, with 14 visits to Ontario alone. During her first visit in 1957, the Queen and her husband, Prince Philip, made their first official visit as the Queen of Canada. During that time, they spent four days in Ottawa and the Queen became the first reigning sovereign to open Parliament.

Her Majesty next returned in 1959, and spent forty five days touring across all of Canada, including a stop to open the St-Lawrence seaway. She then visited in 1964, with stops along her eight day tour in Ottawa, Charlottetown, and Quebec City. Most notably, Her Majesty attended the Centenary of the Confederation Conferences.

The Queen visited our province again in 1967, twice in 1973, again in 1977, 1982, 1984, 1990, 1992, 1997, 2002, and most recently in 2010, where she joined Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill.



It feels truly impossible to quantify the loss of the Queen, both as an individual and a nation. Few of us can remember a time before this past week where chorus' of 'God Save the King' rang out. The life and legacy of Elizabeth II has permeated throughout our nation, our daily way of life, and our social consciousness on an unprecedented level.

As the coming days bring new changes, we look back fondly on the close of the second great Elizabethan era, and welcome in the reign of our new monarch, King Charles III. May he serve both our nation and the Commonwealth with the same care and steady hand as his mother did before him.

God save the King.



# NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

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On September 30, Ontario will recognize Orange Shirt Day. On this day, people all across Ontario and our nation will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children, and survivors of the residential school system.

To mark the second National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, we are encouraging all people to take time to learn about the legacy of the Indian residential school system and support greater understanding of the importance of working towards meaningful reconciliation.

## ONTARIO INVESTING IN VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

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The province of Ontario is investing almost \$1.8m to help 20 police services across the province expand video surveillance systems, including \$50,000 for the Barrie Police Service.

This funding will help our local police service protect the downtown core and make it a safer place for businesses and families to enjoy.



# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL WITH A PLAN TO CATCH UP



After two years of disruptions, the province has released its plan for students to catch up, including:

- Getting kids back to class on time in September, with a full school experience, including extra curriculars like clubs, band and field trips
- Expanding tutoring supports to fill in gaps in learning
- Teaching students the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow

- More money to build schools and help improve education
- Helping students with their mental health with expanded supports

Ontario's *Plan to Catch Up* is supported by historic funding. For the 2022-23 school year, the province will continue to support the learning recovery journey of all students, including those disproportionately affected by learning disruptions.

