

Infrastructure, Library receive funding for improvements, innovation

By **ROB PAUL**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Canada and Ontario have announced 30 investments in community and recreation projects in central Ontario including six projects in Dufferin-Caledon as part of the Investing in Canada plan.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones was part of the virtual announcement last week for the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada plan that was hosted in the Town of Grand Valley.

Joining Jones for the joint funding announcement was London West MP Kate Young on behalf of Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues and MP for Simcoe North Jill Dunlop, and Grand Valley Mayor Steve Soloman.

The Government of Canada is investing over \$11.3 million in these projects through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada plan. The Government of Ontario is providing more than \$9 million, while municipalities are investing over \$7.1 million in their respective projects.

The six projects receiving funding in Dufferin-Caledon are Caledon Public Library for space renovation and creation of innovation lab with \$121,872 in Federal funding and \$101,500 in Provincial funding; Mayfield Rec Complex for pool repairs, upgrades, shower change rooms, and to replace the main lobby with \$203,100 in Federal funding, \$169,233 in Provincial funding, and \$135,417 in Municipal funding; Trailway bridges in Caledon to rehabilitate four bridges and improve safety with \$240,000 in Federal funding, \$199,980 in provincial funding, and \$160,020 in municipal funding; Centre Dufferin Rec Complex in Shelburne for a roof replacement with \$285,625 in Federal funding, \$237,164 in Provincial funding, and \$189,774 in Municipal funding; Mono Tennis Club for the construction of two accessible tennis courts at the Mono Centre with \$206,800 in Federal funding, \$172,316 in Provincial funding, and \$137,884 in Municipal funding; and Grand Valley & District Community Centre to replace the arena floor and upgrade the equipment and accessible change rooms with \$1,147,500 in Federal funding, \$956,154 in Provincial funding, and \$765,096 in Municipal funding.

"I'm pleased Dufferin-Caledon has received funding for six projects throughout the riding," said MP Kyle Seeback. "This support will be critical to mitigate the terrible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community and will surely help to stimulate economic activity, while improving the quality of life for all residents."

Through the Investing in Canada plan, the Federal government is investing more than \$180 billion over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes, and Canada's rural and northern communities. Across Ontario, the Government of Canada has invested more than \$8.3 billion in over 2,865 infrastructure projects.

"This investment from both the Federal and Provincial government will benefit all residents in a number of communities across Ontario," Jones said. "The six projects in Dufferin-Caledon include many needed upgrades to our community recreation facilities."

"These improvements will continue to support our ability to remain both active and healthy. Recreational and cultural opportunities impact our daily lives, be it on the trails, in the library, swimming, or playing tennis, hockey and lacrosse. These improvements, repairs and upgrades to our community facilities and trails helps everyone to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle."

Across the Province and over the next ten years, Ontario is investing approximately \$320 million, and Canada is investing approximately \$407 million under the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

This stream supports the construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing facilities that improve community infrastructure (e.g., community centres, libraries), and support upgrades to recreational venues (e.g., arenas, recreational spaces) and cultural spaces (e.g., theatres, museums).

Ontario is investing over \$10.2 billion under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to improve public transit; community, culture and recreation; green, and rural and northern community, and other priority infrastructure.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted, investments in the health and wellness of Ontarians are more critical than ever, said Jones. The 2021 budget builds on record investments made in response to the global pandemic, bringing total investments to \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect our economy. Ontario's COVID-19 action plan now totals \$51 billion.

Supporting cultural and recreational infrastructure projects like the one's we're celebrating today helps to protect our communities, making them stronger, healthier, and safer as we're released from the grasp of this COVID pandemic. I'm delighted that 23 communities will benefit from our joint investments with our Federal partners. We're rebuilding the economy and creating healthy and safe communities across Ontario through our Federal-Provincial partnership.