

# THE REVIEW

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## 'Its raining money' say Lemieux and Lalonde

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**HAWKESBURY** – The federal and provincial governments have announced more than \$6 billion in infrastructure funding for Ontario in 2009 and Glengarry-Prescott-Russell is seeing a large share of the money.

On February 13, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MP Pierre Lemieux and Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MPP Jean-Marc Lalonde announced the region's Building Canada infrastructure funding at Hawkesbury's waste water treatment plant.

"Let me start by saying what a great day for Glengarry Prescott-Russell. Although the sky is clear, to me it is raining – raining money here in Glengarry-Prescott-Russell," said Lemieux.



The Conservative MP announced that Glengarry-Prescott-Russell would be eligible for \$34 million in combined funding from the provincial and federal governments, provided the municipalities provide an equal share. Under Building Canada, municipalities must also cover the difference if projects go over budget.

Lalonde said that 244 projects had been approved across Ontario under Building Canada's Communities Component, which applies to communities of less than 100,000 people.

In Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, the funding will apply to Vankleek Hill's Champlain Pump Station, the Riceville Bridge, the Russell sewage system, the clean-up of Forest Park and other projects focused on water, sewage and transportation.

However, the Wendover water treatment plant and Maxville's municipal water project were not approved.

Lalonde said there was still hope for these projects, but the Building Canada had put an emphasis on work that could be started within six months.

Lemieux added the Conservative government has announced a new \$4 billion infrastructure stimulus fund that applies to projects that can be completed within the next two years and there will also be a second intake of Building Canada later in 2009, which is another chance for those communities left out this time.

"I would advise them to try again and they must continue to keep pushing their projects forward, there is more infrastructure funding to come," said Lemieux.

## **Prescott-Russell among province's top recipients of infrastructure money**

Hawkesbury's water treatment plant is the most expensive project approved and Lalonde said the spending would create jobs in difficult economic times, as well as answer a pressing demand in the community.

Under Building Canada, Hawkesbury will receive a conditional investment of \$11,882,988 from the federal government and \$11,882,988 from the provincial government; the municipality will need to invest one third to access the funds, for a total investment of \$34,680,820 into the project.

"With these funds, we are fulfilling our obligation to provide a better quality of life for residents. The repair of the wastewater treatment facility will lead to a safer water treatment for the community. I congratulate Mayor Jeanne Charlebois and council for their exceptional work on this file," said Lemieux.

Charlebois, said she was delighted at the news of the funding and the Russell Mayor Ken Hill also praised the funding as a matter of public safety.

"This was great news for us and for the residents of Russell it was welcome news. This is all part of a safe drinking water and sewage system and this is exactly what we needed," he said.

While Lemieux is Conservative and Lalonde is Liberal, both men showed no signs of partisanship as they announced the funding.

"Today should remind all of us that to get things done, we must work together. In this current economic climate, it's imperative that there be less red tape and we create jobs for Ontarians. And I would like to highlight that I, as the federal MP and Jean- Marc Lalonde, as the provincial MPP, work closely together and it is that cooperation that allows us to accomplish so much for the people of our riding," said Lemieux.

Lalonde agreed, later saying, "The cooperation between Mr. Lemieux and myself could not be better at this time."