

Dean Allison MP
Niagara West-Glanbrook

Sophia Aggelonitis, M.P.P.
Hamilton Mountain

News Release

For Immediate Release

FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR FIRST BARRIER-FREE PARK IN ONTARIO

Hamilton, Ontario, June 30, 2009 — Residents of Ontario will soon have access to the first purpose-built, barrier-free park in Ontario according to an announcement today by Dean Allison, Member of Parliament for Niagara West-Glanbrook and Sophia Aggelonitis, Member of Provincial Parliament for Hamilton Mountain.

This funding is intended to provide stimulus to the local economy through investments that will spur construction activity related to recreational infrastructure. Creating barrier-free recreational facilities will also encourage higher levels of participation in physical activity and community building.

“Today’s announcement will mean building can begin on Marydale Park, a recreational facility that is designed to be independently used by anyone, whether able-bodied or disabled,” said MP Dean Allison. “As Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, it’s very exciting for me that we will be able to create much needed jobs while constructing a barrier-free recreational facility for the residents of Niagara West – Glanbrook.”

Under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program in Ontario (RInC Ontario) and Recreation Ontario (Ontario REC) the federal and provincial governments will each provide \$1 million to assist with the construction for a total of \$2 million. Projects under this program must be ‘shovel ready’ and it is anticipated that the shovels will go in the ground in the next few weeks to make this dream become a reality for the Catholic Youth Organization who has been the major proponent for the project.

"Marydale Park will ensure that everyone in Hamilton -- regardless of age, background, or ability -- has a place where they can play, relax, and enjoy the natural beauty of our city," said Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP for Hamilton Mountain.

Her enthusiasm was echoed by another area MPP, the Hon. Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale. "I applaud Marydale Park for its intentions to create a facility

that is inclusive and accessible to so many in our community and beyond, who up to now have not had opportunity to experience an outdoor ability centre." said McMeekin.

Newly elected Leader of the Opposition, Tim Hudak, MPP for Niagara West-Glanbrook, was also delighted with the announcement. "This is good news for all area residents, and shows what can happen when governments work together towards a common purpose," said an enthusiastic Hudak.

Tony DeLuca is Chair of the Volunteer Campaign Committee for Marydale Park. "We've received fantastic news today," gushed DeLuca. We're shovel ready and will begin our work to build Marydale Park immediately. It will be a place for everyone."

Projects were selected on the basis of merit and construction readiness. A list of approved projects will be available on July 6, 2009, at www.rinc-on.ca.

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Contact:

Jennifer Turner
S.A. Communications
Office of Dean Allison, MP
Niagara West - Glanbrook
T: 905-353-7864

or

Emma Reilly
Legislative Assistant
Office of Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP
Hamilton Mountain
T: 416-258-9463