

Oshawa Waterfront Action Committee

Media Release

For Immediate Release

September 2/2008

Larry Ladd and Dave Smith of the Oshawa Waterfront Action Committee today welcomed the Federal Government's long awaited release of the Crombie report on the future of Oshawa's waterfront. Smith notes that, at only 8 pages long, the report is succinct and to the point – control over the harbour and adjacent lands belongs in the hands of the local community.

While Smith and Ladd welcomed the release of the Crombie report, they were surprised at the Federal Government's apparent unwillingness or inability to get in there and get the job done. They note that Oshawa's Member of Parliament, Dr. Colin Carrie, has chosen to carry on with business as usual at the waterfront hoping to pacify the electorate by posturing that *"Our government is pleased to deliver for the people of Oshawa. Our community deserves a clean, green, vibrant mixed-use waterfront and I am pleased that today, this is now becoming a reality."*

Smith and Ladd are hopeful that the 8 page Crombie Report will serve to set a direction for action on Oshawa's waterfront but are skeptical of the Federal Government's intentions. Says Ladd, *"Despite Crombie's recommendations, The Federal Government appears to be committed to business as usual at Oshawa's waterfront – just more of the same old, same old."*

Of most immediate concern to Smith and Ladd is the future of the Gifford Farm property lying between the harbour on the west and Oshawa's Second Marsh on the East. As it stands, FarmTech Energy would, with huge Federal Government subsidies, plan on constructing a heavy industrial ethanol distillery on this important piece of Oshawa's waterfront.

Smith and Ladd note Crombie has recognized the importance of the Gifford Farm as *"...a valuable physical barrier separating, and, in effect, containing the industrial activities of the Port of Oshawa to the west from the environmentally sensitive marshlands to the east, know as the Second Marsh."*

Say Smith and Ladd, *"If the Federal Government is serious about making good on Colin Carrie's platitudes, it will immediately put a halt to any plans to Federally fund FarmTech Energy's ethanol plant on Oshawa's waterfront."*