



The Corporation of the Municipality of  
**Central Elgin**

Attention News Editors

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2009

**Port Stanley Harbour Divestiture**  
**Mayor Hofhuis says municipality protected**  
**against existing environmental liabilities**

CENTRAL ELGIN, ON — Mayor Sylvia Hofhuis today assured Central Elgin taxpayers they will not be left with an environmental burden if the municipality assumes ownership of Port Stanley Harbour. She said any divestiture agreement Central Elgin signs with Transport Canada will ensure that the liability for all pre-existing environmental challenges for uses planned in the divestiture agreement remains Transport Canada's responsibility.

Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Joe Preston said that while the ownership and operation would pass to Central Elgin, Transport Canada has agreed it remains responsible for any pre-existing environment issues.

"We know Port Stanley Harbour has contamination issues but it is important to understand these issues are no different than most other facilities that had commercial operations," said Mayor Hofhuis. "Contrary to some of the reports recently, the science here is well known and has been dealt with successfully in dozens of other sites"

She said that several studies are ongoing as part of an Environmental Risk Assessment that will be completed and approved by the Ontario Ministry of Environment well before any divestiture agreement is finalized.



Central Elgin is committed to the divestiture process and has hired experts in all fields to protect the interests of the Municipality and its citizens. When all studies are complete, an informed decision will be made," Mayor Hofhuis said.

For more information contact:  
Mayor Sylvia Hofhuis at 519-782-3541

