



**John Wilkinson, MPP**  
Perth – Wellington

## **NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ**

**For Immediate Release**  
**December 15, 2009**

### **WILKINSON ANNOUNCES \$54,600 FOR ST. MARYS PUBLIC LIBRARY** *Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant to Enhance Communication*

**Stratford**—St. Marys Public Library will benefit from a \$54,600 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant over ten months to connect their library to the Perth County Information Network, John Wilkinson, MPP, Perth-Wellington announced today.

“I am delighted that St. Marys Public Library has received this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and I am proud of their partnership with Perth County Information Network,” stated Wilkinson. “Community partnerships enhance and strengthen our rural communities. The ability to access greater amounts of information at our local library through cutting edge technology will benefit everyone they so ably serve.”

“St. Marys Public Library is extremely grateful for this Ontario Trillium grant,” said Terri Pope, CEO. “Our users will enjoy many enhancements because of this collaboration. They will have direct access to a much larger and diverse collection. This opportunity allows us to partner with Stratford, Perth East and West Perth enabling all of us to provide a level of service comparable to larger systems.”

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario and strengthens the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. The Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province and continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org).

“Working together, we make things better,” stated Wilkinson.

-30-

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#### **Notes:**

The first library in St. Marys was opened in 1857 and belonged to the local Mechanics Institute, an international organization created to provide the means for self-education for factory, office and shop workers. However, the St. Marys branch had no permanent home and had to rent space where it could. An annual fee of \$1 was charged.



In 1904, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation offered the town a grant of \$10,000 for the construction of a library building if the municipal government agreed to spend one tenth of that amount annually to maintain it. After much discussion, the town accepted the grant and the library where it still stands today opened on August 17, 1905. Miss Lottie King was hired as librarian.