

**MEDIA RELEASE - December 21, 2009****NEW BILLBOARD SYMBOLIZES COLLEGE COMMITMENT  
TO BUILDING NEW OTTAWA VALLEY CAMPUS**

Algonquin College is proudly displaying its intentions to build a new Ottawa Valley Campus along Pembroke's picturesque waterfront. The College has constructed a large billboard at the future site of its new campus that confirms its plan to have the new building open to students by the fall of 2012.

The 20 by 12 foot sign was officially unveiled today with the help of some former Board of Governor representatives for the Pembroke Campus, including Del O'Brien and Jayne Brophy, both of whom sat as College Governors for six years. For a portion of his tenure on the board, O'Brien held the position of Chairman. Brophy is an alumnus of the Pembroke Campus, and holds the distinction of being the only woman to represent the Pembroke Campus on the board.

Campus Dean, Karen Davies, says having strong representation at the Board of Governors of a very large college is critical to the success of any regional campus. "For more than 40 years our Campus Governors have protected the interests of our campus by ensuring the voice of our constituent groups was heard. That representation allowed the Pembroke Campus to grow and prosper, ultimately leading to the strong commitment by the College to build a new campus, and so we thank all of our past governors for the role they have played in shaping our future" says Davies.

The first Board member to represent the Pembroke Campus was Donald F. Runge, who served in the late 1960's and early 1970's as the College was establishing itself in Pembroke. Dr. Joesph Foohey also played a key role as a governor when the Nursing program was transferred from the former Lorrain School of Nursing to Algonquin College in the mid 1970's.

During their time on the Board, Governors O'Brien and Brophy were advocates for a new campus to serve the Upper Ottawa Valley and were active in the development of a campus relocation plan in the late 1990's. That work helped plant the seed for the Renaissance Square project, the name given to the current plans to build a new college campus adjacent to Pembroke's historic downtown.

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Other past governors included: Maurice Sullivan, Donald Fraser, Newton Prager, George Johnson, Bill Skorenky, Mike Keller and current Governor, Fred Blackstein, who will complete his sixth year on the board in 2010. College governors are appointed for three year terms, and may not serve for more than six consecutive years on the board.

Construction on the new Pembroke Campus is scheduled to begin in April of 2011, with the building open by September of 2012. The \$36-million project was unanimously approved by the College Board of Governors in November of 2008, which committed to building the campus with or without government funding. When open, the new campus will house more than 1,000 full-time students annually.

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**For more information, contact**

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Former Algonquin College Board of Governor Pembroke Campus representatives Del O'Brien (Left) and Jayne Brophy (Right) were on hand with Campus Dean, Karen Davies (Centre) for the official unveiling of a large billboard that has been constructed at the future site of the new Algonquin College campus along Pembroke's waterfront.