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Sales tax lift has been of help locally

by Paul Nolan

When Provincial Finance Minister Frank Miller handed down his predictable budget in May, the effect it was to have upon the economy of Ontario seemed equally predictable.

One aspect of the legislation that has affected many residents of Acton has been the exemption of household furniture articles from the greedy grasp of provincial

sales tax. The move, announced on the heels of the Marc Lalonde federal budget, was designed to compliment an awakening economy. To this end, any purchase of furniture after May 10 and before August 8 was to be free of the usual seven per cent taxation.

The move was, and is, a good one, according to John Brison, general manager of Hide House furniture sales and Briston Fine Furniture.

"Economically speaking, I think it's a good idea. Areas that have been depressed over the recession will be positively affected, so in order to stimulate consumer spending I was happy to see it."

Brison added that the influence he has seen upon furniture sales has been an expected one; an initial, enthusiastic impact followed by a period of moderate buying. He predicts there will be a second purchasing boom towards the end of the three month period as consumers became aware of the deadline.

"After August 8th," explains Brison, "slightly adverse consumer behavior forces are expected. This (furniture) is not an impulse commodity—it's something people plan for."

Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances owner Jake Kuiken recalls a previous budgetary lifting of taxes as being a similar situation.

"Two years ago, there was the same enthusiasm. There was just a tremendous boost. It's dropped off a little, but we expect that. The month of July and the eight days in August will probably pick up again. The consumer enthusiasm should come back."

Kuiken agrees with Brison in his assessment of the economic implications of the tactic. "Manufacturers are dropping like flies, so it should help them," he believes.

Bill Lamberink, of Carpet Corner, is as yet undecided about the effects his business has experienced as a result of provincial tax being abandoned.

"We've been very busy, but I'm not sure if it's because of the taxes of just because we're new," he explains.

Carpet Corner was just moving into its Mill Street location as the tax exemption came into effect, according to Lamberink. For this reason, he isn't really able to weigh scales before and after and come up with a difference. However, he believes the policy has potential.

"For this business it is a good idea; I think it helps. There is occasionally the one (customer) that doesn't know that it's off, but the majority of them know about it."

It appears, then, that Acton furniture buyers, aren't much different than their counterparts in a typical economics textbook; subject to any number of monetary motivations. Apparently we don't mind being labelled "predictable" when it means paying less.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

LANDFILL COMPONENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS BEING USED TO IDENTIFY LANDFILL SITES IN HALTON

The consultants preparing the Regional Municipality of Halton's Landfill Component Environmental Assessment have completed the first stage of their study which evaluated alternative methods for disposing of Halton's Solid Waste. It was determined that the disposal system should be resource recovery based with one component being landfill.

At this stage in the study, the consultants will begin the Site Selection Process to identify potential Landfill Sites in Halton. A number of potential areas will be identified by the Fall and after further detailed studies, a preferred site or sites will be selected.

The search for potential landfill areas involves an initial screening process to identify areas of Halton that are environmentally, socially and economically acceptable. The screening process that the consultants will use and the environmental, social, and economic factors that will be used to select areas, will be available for public review. Residents of Halton that are interested in how the Region's future landfill site(s) will be identified are invited to an Information Centre to discuss the factors to be used in the screening process with the consultants and Region of Halton staff.

Location:
Regional Administration Building
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 1983
Time: 5:00 to 9:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the Information Centre at their convenience during the hours noted above. A report describing the factors to be used in the screening process will be available.

For further information, please contact:

Paul Attack
827-2151 Oakville
878-8113 Halton Hills
639-4540 Burlington

David J. Varley
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Jake Kuiken of Halton Hills Furniture says that "manufacturers are dropping like flies, so the sales tax policy should help."



John Brison, of The Hide House, expects "we will generally see a boom again," in the last weeks before the provincial government sales tax exemption on furniture articles expires.

Car hits girl at crosswalk

A 15-year-old Acton High School student sustained minor injuries after a car struck her at a crosswalk Thursday afternoon.

Police say Sharon Dubil, 15, was riding her bicycle across the crosswalk at Mill St. East and Willow St. at about 3:45 p.m. Thursday.

Douglas Meal, 28, of Limehouse and Natalie Russiani, 17, of Acton were in a collision near the walk, and one of the cars was pushed into the cyclist.

Meal's vehicle sustained \$1,000 damage while Russiani's car received about \$50 damage, Halton Region Police estimate.

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