

## Report from Queen's Park

# Provincial budget has good news

By JULIAN REED  
M.P.P. Halton-Burlington

### PROVINCIAL BUDGET

Of course, the big news this week was the Provincial Budget brought down on the 22nd April. Ontario pensioners will receive an extra \$75 million from the Province this year to offset property and sales taxes and supplement low incomes. Pensioners who pay property taxes or rent will get a grant of up to \$500. Those receiving the guaranteed annual income supplement will receive up to an extra \$10 a month, and all pensioners receiving OAS will get a \$50 annual grant to offset sales tax payments.

There is also a \$50 million incentive package for small business: a 5 per cent discount in the price of wine, liquor and beer bought by licensed establishments, and the payment to retail sales tax collectors goes up to \$1,000 a year. Also in the Budget were a provincial subsidy of 25 per cent of mining exploration expenses, \$3 million in tax exemptions for machines used in research and development, and \$14 million in tax incentives for energy conservation. Farmers are to receive \$1.5 million in sales tax rebates for grain drying equipment, there is \$125 million for the Employment Development Fund and the flat \$100 capital tax is now extended to

corporations with capital between \$100,000 and \$1 million.

Total expenditures are estimated at \$17.121 billion and revenue at \$16.172 billion, giving rise to a deficit of \$949 million.

The Liberal Party has introduced a motion of non-confidence in the provincial government, condemning it for not providing immediate relief to homeowners, farmers and small businessmen staggering under high interest rates.

### GRANTS TO PULP AND PAPER COMPANIES

A pulp and paper company controlled by one of Canada's largest holding companies has been given \$38 million by the provincial and federal governments to help modernize two of its plants. Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd., a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Investments Ltd. will receive \$25.3 million from Ontario's Employment Development Fund and \$12.7 million from the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion as part of a series of grants to pulp and paper corporations.

Liberal Leader Stuart Smith has protested that the money

should be given to small companies struggling to survive under the weight of rising interest rates. "At least the money could be loaned instead of given to prosperous companies."

### LIBERAL INTEREST PROPOSAL

The Ontario Liberal Party has urged the government to put \$100 million into an emergency fund to help needy homeowners, small businesses and farmers cope with soaring interest rates. The proposal is for a nine-month long emergency interest relief program, to provide cash grants to eligible borrowers to reduce the threat of mortgage foreclosures and bankruptcies. A base interest rate of 12 per cent would be set and subsidies provided to cover some of the difference between that rate and the actual interest rates charged by banks and trust companies. Homeowners with, for example, a family income of less than \$20,000 would be eligible for a grant to cover 75 per cent of the cost of interest payments higher than 12 per cent. Those with a family income of 27,500 would qualify for 50 per cent of mortgage interest payments higher than 12 per cent. Those with a family income of more than \$37,000 would not qualify for a grant. There are two limitations: grants would

apply to only the first \$40,000 of a mortgage and the maximum grant would be \$150 per month. The small business and farm grants are also based on the 12 per cent base interest rate.

### FIRE INQUIRY

Liberals have charged that the Conservatives and New Democrats have combined to stonewall a legislative inquiry into the government's handling of the fatal fire involving seven young forestry workers last summer at Geraldton. The ministry investigation and an Ontario Provincial Police probe into the tragedy both concluded human error on the part of ministry fire technicians was the likely cause of the accident.

### HYDRO EXPORT PROPOSAL

A proposal by Ontario Hydro to export up to 1,000 megawatts of power to the North-eastern United States through a cable under Lake Erie will be reviewed under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. Critics of the scheme have suggested that increased production at Hydro's Nanticoke generating station will increase sulphur dioxide, which could, in turn, worsen Ontario's acid rain problem. In this connection, a just completed study for Ontario Hydro by Professor Harold

Harvey of the University of Toronto found that half of Ontario's 250,000 lakes are being killed by acid rain. The lakes in most danger are those around Kenora, in Quetico Park, around Thunder Bay, the North shore of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, many lakes in the Parry Sound area, and

Haliburton.

Liberal Justice Critic Margaret Campbell continues to pursue with the Attorney-General the subject of abused wives. She complained that police intervention in domestic disputes provides the woman with only temporary help and drew from the A.G. an assurance that he would modify police college manuals which now tell police to calm the parties and then leave.

### WIFE ABUSE

the area west of Dorset in the



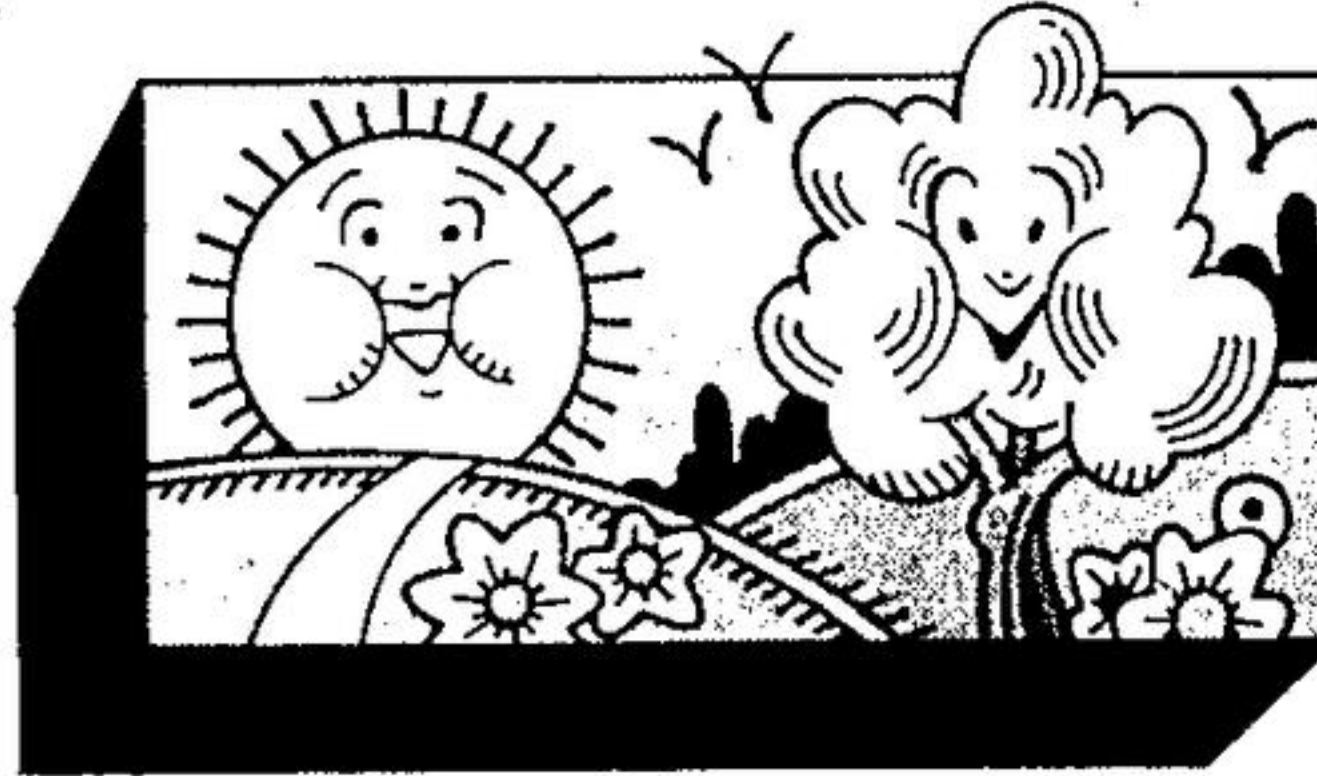
**Hélène's**

Beautiful Collection of  
**SUMMER DRESSES**  
has just arrived  
Sizes 8 - 18  
**FROM \$89.00**

Come In Early For The Best Selection!

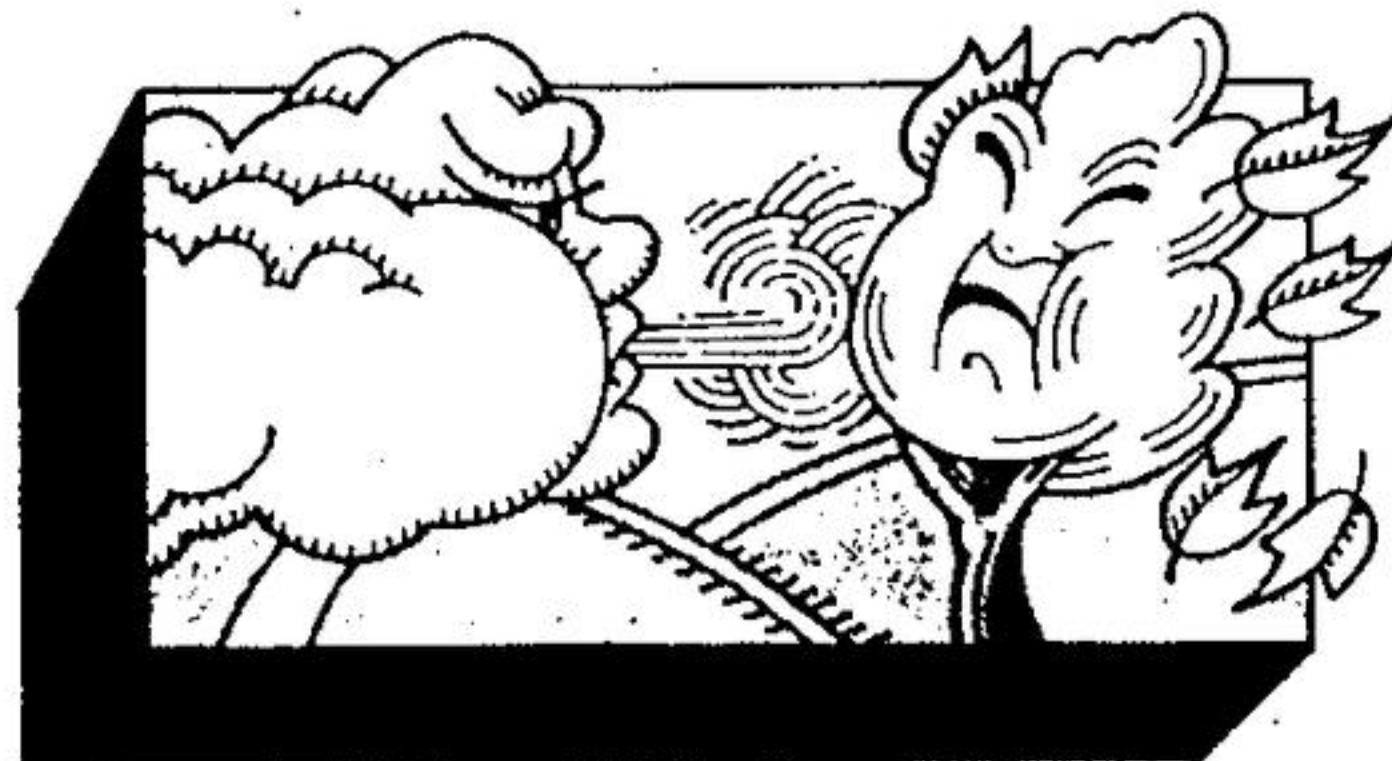
HOURS:  
MON. to THURS. & SAT. 9:30-5:30; FRI. 9:30-9:00

**Hélène's** 824-4510  
IN THE RED BRICK HOUSE  
170 Woolwich (Corner of Baker) — Guelph, Ontario



# Why put in a new gas furnace now, when Summer's almost here?

# Because you won't pay for it until October, when Winter's almost here.



For starters, natural gas is clean, cheaper than oil\* and secure in supply. So even if your furnace isn't on its last legs, it could really pay you to go all the way to a clean-burning, warm and friendly gas furnace.

If you sign up no later than June

30 and we install your furnace and humidifier by August 15, you won't pay a cent for it till October, 1980, if you have an approved credit rating.

And we'll throw in a 10% discount on a built-in electronic air cleaner.

So come on. Call Union Gas right

away. Then you can spend a nice hot summer contemplating a nice warm winter.

\*Based on a seven city average for house heating oil and natural gas costs as of April 1, 1980.

What can warm and friendly gas do for you today?

**UNION GAS**