

# HAC taking on bid to 'equalize' licence fees

Continued from page A1  
Obviously, the concerns expressed in our submission had no impact whatsoever.

What concerns us particularly, is a statement by Mr. Miller in his latest letter of Feb. 9 that the new ad valorem fuel tax structure "will assist in shoring up the tax revenue base which is essential in view of the inescapable escalating costs on government

expenditures attributable to inflation".

Does this mean that the provincial treasurer is imposing on the motorist-consumer the responsibility for carrying a substantial portion of total government expenditure and not only those related to highway and road expenditures?

In the provincial tax study carried out by ONL Clubs in Ontario in 1980, it was clearly

demonstrated that the motorist was already paying 26 per cent more than the maximum fair share principle enunciated by the Smith Commission in the mid-1960s. This is contrary to a commitment to us by your government did not expect individuals, or groups of individuals, to contribute more than their fair share of the total tax load.

Our proposal to the Treasurer of the \$10 flat fee was not an absurd one or offered facetiously. It had a basis and a precedent. The precedent is the \$10 flat fee granted to Northern motorists in recognition of the financial cost of operating motor vehicles.

Ontario has approximately 3,850,000 passenger cars. Our latest study showed that the government collected approximately \$160 million in licence

fees from these vehicles. Our calculations on the break down of the current licence fee structure of \$30 for 4 cylinders, \$45 for 6 cylinders and \$60 for 8 cylinders (and \$80 for the extra large 8 cylinders) produces an average of \$47 per automobile.

Depending on the flat fee adopted in 1983, the following revenues would result:

At \$10	\$ 38 million
At \$20	\$ 76 million
At \$30	\$114 million
At \$48	\$182 million

We must recognize, as no doubt the Treasurer has already done, that as more and more people move to the

smaller cylinder cars, the average income per vehicle between the current fee structure and the proposed \$48 proposal would increase. For example, people currently paying \$30 for a 4 cylinder would increase to \$48. This percentage of the total vehicle population is expected to increase in the near future, thus resulting in increased licence fees paid by motorists.

Significant to our proposal are the following facts dealing with the ad valorem gas tax principle currently in effect: Fuel tax paid by the private motorist in the fiscal year 1978-79 totalled \$660,900,000.

Estimated fuel tax revenues for the fiscal year 1981-82 total \$958 million.

Forecast fuel tax revenues for 1985 - \$2 billion plus. With this as a background, I am sure it's appropriate to propose to a substantially lower flat fee for motor vehicle licence fees as a measure of offsetting the very heavy increases in taxes collected by the provincial government from the ad valorem fuel tax. It also seems most appropriate that there be a recon-

stitution of provincial revenues from the private motorist, rather than attempting to treat each form of revenue as a separate source of taxation.

What I am attempting to show is that our proposal is not a flippant or a naive proposal but one which recognizes that large portions of the burden, and a very heavy inflationary burden at that, is being placed on the motorist-consumers of Ontario, for general government expenditures. This is evident in the second last paragraph of Mr. Miller's letter to us of Feb. 9.

No other commodity or service has had such a rapid escalation in price, including such a heavy increase in the total burden of taxation paid by motorists, through federal and provincial tax policies.

Surely it is appropriate that the motorist-consumers of Ontario should look to its provincial government for relief, even though part of the responsibility is that of the federal government. The 3,800,000 private car owners represent a very substantial percentage of wage earners in Ontario, many of whom are

suffering economically through layoff, unemployment and, all of course, suffering very keenly from inflation.

In the past, you have been receptive to submissions that are realistic and rational. It is our sincere hope that you will use your good office to address this issue so as to provide the citizens of Ontario with the perception that your government is sincerely concerned, as often quoted, of the problems of inflation and its effect on the consumers of Ontario.

Sincerely yours,  
Hamilton Automobile Club,  
Alfred U. Oakie.

Executive Vice-President and General Manager

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## Letters to the Editor

### Baptist Church appreciates series but dislikes story's 'modernist' tag



Two actresses, Suzon Demers (right) and Louise Nolan of Theatre de la Gargouille, had about 40 French Canadians laughing in the first-ever French play on the John Elliott Theatre stage March 8. The two performers in "Le Defant" were there for Georgetown's French Week.

To the editor of The Herald: We would like to commend The Herald for publishing the series on the various churches in our area. They have been interesting and informative. We also appreciate Bob

Olivier's column on church news and events, and trust that it will continue. However, there were a few points in the article on Mountainview Baptist Church two weeks ago that we would like

to clarify. The title "Modernist" has unfortunate connotations and we do not feel it applies to our church. It implies that we do not believe the Bible in all its fullness.

We are an Evangelical church of believers serving Christ in this community. Our church is debt-free and well supported by its members. Some of the statements made were misunderstood by the reporter, perhaps due to lack of time given to those she interviewed.

Perhaps this will clear up some of the confusion and questions being asked. This is not written to discredit the reporter and we hope this will be taken in the spirit it is meant, and not just for the sake of criticism.

Yours truly,  
The Deacon's Board  
Mountainview Baptist Church.

### French Week culturally rewarding - Merci beaucoup!

To the editor of The Herald:

We, the undersigned, are pleased to report that our French Week was a great success.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your dedication and hard work which we are sure was the major contributing factor to our success.

Both the editorial and advertising departments worked beyond the call of duty to ensure that all materials were properly edited. Your coverage of our events was greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for helping us to make the week of March 7 to 13 not only a cultural rewarding week for the francophone community but also helping to give the English-speaking population a chance to share in our wonderful cultural heritage.

Our hearts were greatly warmed by the special efforts of your staff and our dignitaries who endeavored to communicate with us in our language.

Yours truly,  
A.P.I. de l'ecole Sacre-Coeur

More letters, pages A6, B1

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