

Politicians, businessmen

Budget welcomed -- but with caution

"Reasonable" and "cautious" were two adjectives used to describe last week's federal budget.

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce President Dave Kentner called the budget a reasonable one. Finance Minister Michael Wilson's second budget, Mr. Kentner said it will affect his catering business by four to five per cent.

"I'm going to have to raise my prices or make four per cent more profit (by getting more business)," the Chamber president said.

He said he liked the idea the budget touched everybody's income. It puts a three per cent surtax on personal income taxes starting July 1986, in an effort to pare down the federal deficit from \$34.3 billion to \$29.5 billion.

For local businesses, there are some tough punches in the budget, Mr. Kentner said. The government is taking away the three per cent inventory allowance tax deduction. It's a deduction that helps retail shops carry their inventory.

"So now, someone carrying a large inventory, it will cost him more to do so," Mr. Kentner said using Fletcher's Shoes as an example.

Bumping up liquor and cigarette taxes doesn't bother the Chamber president who says he doesn't drink or smoke. "An awful lot of this stuff is aimed at the little guy," Mr. Kentner said. "We're getting to the stage where it's more and more frustrating the incentive and initiative of the small guy."

"I'd give him a 'B' on his budget, but it's not a triple 'A'," he added.

Town treasurer Ray King hasn't yet assessed the impact of the federal budget on the town's



John McDermid Bill Cook

resources, but he anticipates it's going to hit the town's 1986 budget. The one per cent increase in federal sales tax which begins in April will increase the cost of products the town buys.

Mr. King pointed out that can range from mechanical equipment to stationery. The town is currently working on its 1986 budget and expects to finalize it by the end of the month.

Acton Chamber of Commerce President Bill Cook called the budget "cautious", one that's "wait and see". He anticipates the three per cent surtax on personal income taxes will affect consumers' disposable income and will affect the retailers too.

"It will come all the way down the line. People will stop buying and will be making do with what they have," Mr. Cook said.

Instead of going after the middle income taxpayers, the federal government should have cut more of its spending. These taxes will instead encourage Canadians to save up their money instead of spending it. "You're taking away some

disposable income people would have spent," Mr. Cook said.

He said he called the budget "cautious" because the federal government was scared and went after the easy person, the middle class, to tackle its deficit.

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid is "very, very pleased" with his fellow politician's budget. He says it gets the country closer to its goal of deficit reduction "without plunging the country into depression". Mr. McDermid said the Conservatives have taken on the job creation problem with new programs, adding he favors the assistance to older workers announced in the budget.

Halton-Burlington M.P.P. Don Knight said he was sympathetic to the federal government's goal of reducing the deficit but didn't agree with the steps proposed to accomplish it.

"They could have cut back on programs as well as increase taxes," he said. "I think they are putting a larger burden on the small to middle income individuals and families who can least afford it."

Mr. Knight would have liked to see a minimum tax brought in and measures introduced to increase contributions from large corporations.

By taking away money from the middle class, he's afraid the government will create a slow down in consumer spending and hence in economic activity.

For Ontario, the budget is anticipated to create a shortfall of \$80 million in revenue, Mr. Knight said. For example, while the province stands to make an extra \$25 million through the one per cent increase in

federal sales tax, it loses on the taxation of dividend incomes. In his budget, Mr. Wilson lifted a 12.5 per cent tax charged on dividends paid by small business.

However, this loss will have a "negligible impact", the M.P.P. said.

10 Acton homes

Ten semi-detached homes are slated to go up on the corner of Acton's Greenore Crescent and Kingham Road, should councillors approve entering into a development agreement with developer D.M. Consultants Limited.

The development was reviewed and recommended for approval by the town's planning department in 1982. In October 1983, the Ontario Municipal Board approved a change in the zoning which would allow the semi-detached homes.

Now, the developer has found a purchaser to construct the units and wants to finalize the agreement. Councillors make their decision at their Tuesday night council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT



The Herald is pleased to announce the hiring of advertising sales representative Pam Lowes. She started her new duties Feb. 24.

Raised in Paris, Ontario, Ms. Lowes is a graduate of the Seneca College design arts diploma program. She has over two years of newspaper sales experience, having worked at the Simcoe Reformer, a daily newspaper affiliated with the Herald.



Marilyn Hughes poses with son Bill Drake, 16. Mrs. Hughes took over running the Terra Cotta General Store Saturday, and has plans to expand to include a tea room. (Herald photo)

New challenge of running general store

TERRA COTTA — There will be a new face greeting patrons of the Terra Cotta General Store.

Marilyn Hughes took over running the store Saturday which has been operating in Terra Cotta since 1899. That makes the store one of the longest existing businesses in the Terra Cotta community.

Mrs. Hughes said running such a business is something she has always wanted to do.

"I'm doing this mainly for the challenge," Mrs. Hughes said Saturday. "I've always wanted to run my own business."

Mrs. Hughes and her family have been residents of Terra Cotta the past 7 1/2 years and have lived in the Georgetown area since 1969. Prior to that, the Hughes family lived in Scotland, then immigrated to Toronto in 1967 where they lived for two years before moving to Georgetown.

Upon moving to the area Mrs. Hughes has held a number of jobs, including working for Varian for seven years in the marketing department. Mrs. Hughes is also the treasurer for the Terra Cotta Community Hall, and has been a trustee the past four years.

Mrs. Hughes said plans are being made to expand the General Store to include a tea room. Those plans should become a reality before the Victoria Day weekend in May.

The General Store, as well as having grocery products, also has a post office. The post office has puppets

Speak to me

Students in Georgetown and Acton who are 15 years and under can enter the Optimist Public Speaking Contest. The topic is "Optimism - A Way of Life".

Each speech must be under four minutes or over five minutes. Each school is entitled to send one boy and one girl.

The contest will take place March 25 at the Optimist Hall on Highway 7. Invitations and entry forms have been sent to the schools in Halton Hills.

Names should be forwarded to Mr. Ramautarsingh at the High School (877-6966), by March 17.

Bake sale

There will be an Opti-Mrs Bake sale March 15 at Zellers from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be lots of good home baking, pies, cakes and muffins. Proceeds will be used for community projects.

Bowl-a-thon

Your chance to bowl with town councillors, the police, or your minister is coming. Now is the time to register for the Georgetown Knights of Columbus Council 6026 First Annual Bowl-a-thon. The day for bowling is April 27.

All money collected goes to the Georgetown Drug Abuse Committee. For more information about pledge sheets and registration call 877-7154 or 877-1453.

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