

# Long time before Phase 2 reforms

There is a decided impression developing around Ottawa, and probably in many other parts of the country, that it might be a long time before we see Phase Two of the government's tax-reform package.

That's the phase that would introduce a new national sales tax, a plan designed to offset - and more - the revenue lost through the personal tax cuts in Phase One. If we ever see it, we can be fairly certain it won't be until after another election.

It doesn't require an undue amount of cynicism to suggest that politics is a consideration in the timing and content of this so-called tax reform. You must admit, it isn't often that a reform package has come in two installments - the first, by a curious coincidence, offers the good news, and the second, for which there is no firm date, will contain the bad.

The breathing space between the two gives the government a glorious opportunity to talk about, and perhaps even fight an election with, the first. According to Finance Minister Michael Wilson, these changes will knock 50,000 low income earners right off the tax rolls.

The fact that many will soon earn their way back on is, of course, not overly emphasized. Neither is the fact that many extremely high income earners will also get a tax break. The main thrust, and it's factual, is that the majority of tax-



## Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

payees will pay less than they now do.

Phase Two will obviously adversely affect these reductions, but Canadians are not holding their breath for its implementation.

**FIGHT PROMISED**  
Both the Liberals and New Democrats have promised one untold battle if Mr. Wilson goes ahead with his proposed Phase Two. And although he has talked about three options, it's the common view that he has his mind set on one national sales tax that would be integrated with existing provincial sales taxes, where they apply.

A sales tax at the retail level would bring in far more revenue than the present 12 per cent federal tax imposed at the manufacturers' level. One background paper prepared by the finance department suggests that an eight per cent tax at the retail level, and applying to services as well as goods, would generate far more than the present tax.

The background papers, along with comments from the minister, suggest fairly strongly that the tax

would apply to food - probably with tax credits for low-income earners. But after what the minister went through with his aborted attempt to partially deindex old age pensions, it's not difficult to imagine what uproar might follow any attempt to tax groceries.

Even if tax credits went a long way toward neutralizing the effects, such a tax would provide opposition parties with stinging election material. "This is going to be a money machine like no other tax we've seen in the recent history of Canada," predicted the New Democrat's Michael Cassidy.

Liberal Leader John Turner has called it an "incredible money grab". Mr. Wilson is still talking with his provincial counterparts about an integrated sales tax, but the idea is reported to be getting a cool reception from Alberta, where there is no sales tax, and from Quebec, where they would prefer to look after themselves in this respect.

**OTHER INCREASES**  
Meanwhile, the government, which still wants to lower the annual budgetary deficit, has to raise new monies to offset the personal tax decreases.

Beginning Jan. 1 - before anyone feels the effects of other tax savings, Ottawa will be imposing a 10 per cent sales tax on most telecommunications services - except basic individual telephone services - that is expected to bring in a whopping

\$70 million. There will also be higher taxes on paint and wallpaper. And, on some other products, the tax will apply to the wholesale price rather than the manufacturers' price.

There will also be changes made in collection procedures which will bring in additional money.

In other words, the federal treasury is not about to go broke while waiting for the other shoe to fall - that is, Phase Two.

And perhaps it never will fall. Had the government not had politics in the back of its mind, the whole tax-reform package could have been presented in one white paper. After all, the whole purpose of a white paper is to encourage discussion. Traditionally, they don't represent a government's irrevocable position.

What we got in Phase One was, in effect, a budget - detailed tax changes, complete with implementation dates.

And what we are going to get before Phase Two, I suspect, is a long delay.

One thing is certain, neither Mr. Wilson nor Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will want to go into an election campaign in which opposition parties can talk of taxes on baby foods and white canes.

No amount of explanation about tax credits can counter that.

## An olive branch

The Georgetown hospital board should open up its meetings to the public.

Debates Friday evening at the annual general meeting and a vote by the membership the same night proves there is ample reason to make the move.

The hospital is no longer serving an apathetic public. Quite obviously, people want to know more about the hospital which treats their families and friends.

A vote at the annual meeting tallied 107 ballots in favor of open meetings, compared to 98 against. Though the vote was close, the board of directors does have a mandate from the membership to change its ways.

The issue of open meetings was also mentioned at last year's annual general meeting which proves this is an ongoing concern of many residents.

A community support group has been defeated in an effort to put their own members on the hospital board. All four of their candidates were defeated but all of the hospital board nominees were elected.

Now is a time to offer an olive branch to the support group and others. Public input can be fulfilling and bring back the trust some people may have lost in the institution over the past months.

Rather than speak about equality, the Constitution or the public's right to know, we prefer to argue that open meetings are necessary to bring back the public's trust.

The board has to show it is not so indifferent to the feelings, the questions, the concerns of the community. This is more of a perceived problem than an actual one. Why? There is no working public relations mechanism in place to help the people see what exactly the board does.

Rather than polarize the community, the board should seek this opportunity to communicate with the public. After all, the directors of the hospital are not only administrators looking after staff and financial concerns. They are entrusted with expressing the needs and wants of a diverse town.

Opening up board meetings will deflect criticisms and make allies out of enemies. Keeping the doors closed will only serve to fan the fires of discontent.

## Nay to horses

We feel sad the heritage horse park corporation couldn't utilize the Scotsdale Farm property.

Friday, the corporation announced it would cease planning for a heritage horse park on the 540-acre site near Ballinafad.

It's one of the prettiest areas in all of Halton Hills and certainly deserving of something special.

When Stewart and Letty Bennett bequeathed their property to the people of Ontario they wanted the land to be developed in a manner keeping with the spirit of its natural beauty.

The horse park members felt any number of events and programs they would run could damage or upset the tranquil, beautiful and undisturbed rural setting.

On one hand, we have to be thankful that this organization had the compassion and the understanding to back down from its original proposal. It takes a certain amount of strength and courage to admit a wrong - especially when the horse park committee lobbied so hard and so long for a horse park.

But it's sad that a low-profile, limited use horse park couldn't have been viable. We thought the idea was grand. It was a concept which would have given Halton Hills another site for tourists to visit. It would have invited a higher profile for the community for those unfamiliar with what Halton Hills has to offer. But most of all, the horse park seemed like a nice, unassuming, natural transition for Scotsdale, passing from private hands to the public's.

## No stone left unturned



### Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Well, the big Georgetown hospital board meeting of the year, the only open meeting by the board, is over.

If you haven't got enough from our coverage up to this point, read on, because there's a host of observations still left to write about.

For example, -Unfortunately, when there is such an issue-laden annual general meeting, the less-interesting, but no less important - facts get pushed aside.

For instance, financial statements. Besides a public relations problem, the hospital's deficit increased from \$195,679 in 1986 to \$257,191 in 1987. That surely paves the way for some hefty fund-raising projects ahead for the hospital in the coming year. On a positive side, the institution's operation revenue increased from \$553,192 to \$666,003 in 1987. But costs have risen in such areas as linen and housekeeping, physical plant operation and administrative cost.

The board assured members that if they want a breakdown of a \$287,362 expenditure listed as "other" it will be made available.

-The issue of open board meetings came up also at last year's board meeting. At that time the reply was that people could put their concerns in writing and could attend the meeting only for the portion which concerned them.

-There were no nominations last year for board candidates other than those nominated by board members presently serving at the time.

-The losing candidates with to make it perfectly clear they were not one-issue candidates. For a long time they have had concerns about the hospital, said one of the candidates, Donna Robin. The Dr. Ford case was just one of the issues in their platform. Actually, each of the four defeated candidates had speeches prepared outlining their position. However, the board chairman didn't ask anyone to address the audience about their platform.

-What were the major changes at the hospital last year? Certainly the granting of chronic care beds stands among the most notable. For another, Mark Rochon, the new executive director was hired and began his duties in February. Unfortunately he came at a time when the hospital was being turned inside out over the Dr. Ford case. But the board is lucky to have him. There has been several improvements from a public relations standpoint since he took over.

-How did the hospital board get each of its nominated members voted in? It wasn't just coincidence. Reminiscent of a political rally or a delegate's meeting, each side had its supporters gathered together for the meeting. In the middle of the meeting room front and centre were the supporters of the current board of directors. At the back and the sides were members of the Dr. Ford support group and those wanting open meetings.

The Dr. Ford group members weren't the only ones to do their homework and plan for the meeting.

-As a credit to the board, the meeting was well organized, almost to deliberate; well planned to keep people calm and relaxed. There were breaks for stretching, lots of refreshments and a delay in answering of questions (while everyone stretched) to avoid any unprepared answers.



## A look back at GDHS by Ken Duncan

**JUNE 1967**  
Charlie Biehn and Jane McNally will represent GDHS at the Ontario Athletic Camp this summer. Both students get to join over 700 other students by placing in the top 3rd of grade 11 academically and having an above average mark in physical education.

**SEPTEMBER 1967**  
GDHS Football team opened its season on a low note. They lost their first home opener in 3 years, 12-0 to Guelph Collegiate. This loss could be a sign of this to come for the Rebels let's hope not.

**OCTOBER 1967**  
The GDHS Football team absorbed their 2nd of the season to the defending champs of John F. Ross in Guelph. With a 26-7 loss the Rebels have yet to win this season.

The Harlem Diplomat's Canada's version of the Harlem Globe Trotters will play the GDHS faculty all-stars later this month.

**NOVEMBER 1967**  
The Harlem Diplomats tied the GDHS All-Stars in knots by winning 54-36. The exhibition was arranged by the athletic department and brought in \$212 for extra curricular activities expenses.

**DECEMBER 1967**  
The GDHS Band will perform at Christmas special. The band led by Mr. Ivan Long will perform Christmas carols, spirituals and a few popular songs.

**APRIL 1977**  
Glen O'Connor a grade 13 student has been selected to represent the Georgetown Rotary Club in Ottawa for the "Adventure in Citizenship" Program.

**MAY 1977**  
Rebelette gymnasts did very well at OFESA Julie Burns was first all-around and Patty Barber was third all-around.

GDHS Rebels Track and Field team won the home invitational meet by taking 4 of 6 divisions.

**JUNE 1977**  
The GDHS senior math team finished second in the Peel-Halton's and 37 out of 267 school's across Ontario.

Ian Clark won his second All-Ontario title in Track and Field by breaking his own record in the middle boys 1500 metres with a 4:10.3.

**SEPTEMBER 1977**  
The Local Council of Women will be sluding the rumors of GDHS students going to local hotels to drink (a liquid lunch).

Rebels did well at the Aurora round-the-lake cross country meet with 2 team victories led by Ian Clark and Arnold Braket.

**OCTOBER 1977**  
Paul McGee and Suzanne DeGroot are producing for the first time in GDHS history a play entitled "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". The play will star Peter Clark, Sandy Smith, Eddy Thatcher and Bruce Clark.  
Bill Magnuson was awarded valedictorian as 508 graduated from GDHS.

**NOVEMBER 1977**  
GDHS will send 36 students to University of Waterloo campus Friday as guests of the science faculty.

The Rebel football season ended with a 19-6 loss to O.T.H.S. the only touchdown was scored by quarterback John Pritchard on a one yard cany.

**DECEMBER 1977**  
14 GDHS students performed for about 350 children from Holy Cross, Wrigglesworth and St. Francis of Assisi Schools with a Christmas play.

## Citizens' forum

### Not impressed with meeting

Dear Sir,

I have been asked for my views on the Annual Meeting of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Corporation in a nutshell. I was not impressed with the meeting in any way other than the discipline exhibited by Dr. Ford's supporters.

The presentation on the situation of Dr. Ford could possibly be considered a convincing argument for the unintelligent. There were no new facts, there were gaping holes, and it bordered on slander, inferring that Dr. Ford was not doing anything right, but failing to provide facts about when and why he was wrong.

The time-lines in Judge Langdon's "thumb-nail sketch" were very interesting. With the various requests of Dr. Ford, there was a deadline in each case for the requested replies to be returned? Should the Board of Directors not have demonstrated a standard of appeal on the restriction of privileges, and eleven months to complete their own hearing? It should be recalled that Dr. Ford was, and continues to be a very busy doctor. Perhaps physicians who have four or five practices with no evenings have time for these extra matters, but Dr. Ford has a seven day, 24 hour practice.

The reference to the Tissue and Audit Committee did not state what the committee is concerned with or looks for. An invidious impression was left that something was wrong. The presenter should not have stated this unless he was prepared to back up his statements with facts at that time to the very group he was trying to educate.

Dr. Ford has never publicly

downgraded, ridiculed, or attacked the hospital, hospital staff, or "private businessmen" who are his colleagues. This so-called educator of the captive audience at the hospital corporation meeting attempted to build a one-sided case against a doctor without stating facts. This downgraded his reputation to those who were unintelligent enough to be swayed by such factless arguments. It reminded me of a case in Jerusalem two thousand years ago, when Jesus was crucified on the basis of innuendo.

If Dr. Ford's practice of medicine is as bad as the Board of Directors has insinuated, I am shocked at their allowing so-called patient care to slip for four long years. Remember, they brought the subject up. How many other doctors are practising substandard medicine, and how long has this been going on? Perhaps the Board's competence should also be reviewed for allowing this so-called erosion of patient care to continue for such a long time?

Near the end of Judge Langdon's half hour diatribe, he decided, in a startling display of tactlessness, to give us a lesson on what type of person should not be on the Board of Directors. In my view, this is beneath his dignity as a man of the bench. He referred to single issue candidates who "will promote rather than heal dissection". With greatness, he spoke of single issue candidates implying quality of care. He cast aspersions upon those persons who are supporters of Dr. Ford who were running as candidates, and by extension, he cast aspersions on Dr. Ford, who simply wishes to

practice medicine.

For the first time in 15 years, there were more candidates than positions, in contrast to a few years ago, when people had to be recruited in order to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. As an exercise in democracy, the election of members to the board left a great deal to be desired. Why was no candidate allowed to speak upon nomination? Why was no candidate permitted to have scrutineers, contrary to democracy? Why were the candidates not permitted to know the number of votes cast, nor the number of votes they received, nor the number of spoiled ballots - all contrary to democracy as practiced in Canada?

It is worth noting that the aims of Dr. Ford's supporters and the Board of Directors are in the final analysis the same. Both sides are looking for, and working towards an effective community hospital, worthy of the confidence of both present and future citizens of our town. As a member of a group consisting of over five hundred individuals, I know that this is the goal of Dr. Ford's supporters.

On June 25, 1987, there was a golden opportunity for the Board of Directors of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital to be open and democratic. There was never a question of patient or physician confidentiality. There was no litigation involved. Clearly the Board of Directors fumbled the ball.

Sincerely,  
Paul McDougall  
Georgetown, Ontario

### In your opinion

Question: "What do you like most about being a Kinsmen or Kinette?"

## What's best being a Kinsman?



DONNA KRAUSE:

"There are several. It's one big family, we have a lot of fun, work together for the community."



RON MATHESON:

"I've been a Kinsmen for about four years and I get a lot of enjoyment out of it. That's a real hard question."



EILEEN McELLAN:

"Putting back into the community all those things that I got out of it. It takes so little of my time and the rewards and friendships last a lifetime."



BRUCE GOUGEON:

"What I like most is the fellowship that exists among all of the members in this club."



RAMSAY BARR:

"Being able to put something back into the community."