

It's easier to milk the taxpayers

No wonder Treasurer Bob Nixon isn't in the dairy cow business anymore.

He's found something a lot easier to milk - the taxpayer.

Although he likes to be known as Thrifty Bob, you sure wouldn't know it from his budget.

It is being described as the biggest tax grab in Ontario history. If it isn't, it is close.

If calculated annually, the increases mean \$1.3 billion in additional revenue.

But that ignores the second year hike of one per cent in the personal income tax (in addition to another one per cent the first year), which should push the tax grab closer to \$1.5 billion.

The personal income tax hikes are to offset about 75 per cent of the reductions that would otherwise result from the announced changes in the federal tax structure.

But the key revenue change is the bumping of the retail sales tax to eight per cent from seven. That alone is worth almost \$1 billion.

The tax increase is only a symptom of the real Liberal scandal - the continued escalation in their spending.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson  
Thomson News Service

ding.

IT'S MORE

The budget claims spending increases of only 8.6 per cent (to \$38.4 billion from \$35.4 billion).

But that's over the actual spending from last year. The "proposed spending" figure is 10.3 per cent higher than the amount the Liberals proposed in the 1987 budget.

Again, that tax hike exceeds the growth in the economy. And it means that Grit spending will have grown about 10 per cent per year all four years they've been in power.

This assumes, of course, that the projected spending figures actually act as a ceiling on spending rather than, as has happened in the first three Liberal budgets, as a floor to be exceeded during the year.

It is to pay for this increase in

spending that the Liberals have gone for such dramatic tax increases.

Their revenues would have grown more than eight per cent without any tax increase (at a time when inflation is less than five per cent).

Nixon didn't make any apologies for it.

"We are investing in both the public and private sectors to keep Ontario dynamic, compassionate and competitive."

"The budget builds on our record of responding to legitimate community needs for quality health, excellence in education, social assistance and affordable housing," he said.

Interestingly, however, the Treasurer shows some sensitivity to the charge that the Grits have let spending get out of control.

A chart showing per capita provincial expenditures is emphasized in the budget document. It shows Ontario's spending is still below the average per capita spending of the 10 provinces (Ontario climbs to seventh from eighth in rank).

RESPONSIBILITY

Nixon repeated the claim that the government is operating "within a

framework of fiscal responsibility," which means only that it keeps its revenues high enough to pay for most of its spending.

And that's why the tax raid was needed.

Other charts in the budget point out how borrowing continues to decline, and how the debt burden has fallen from a peak of 16 per cent of provincial gross domestic product in 1983 to less than 16 per cent this year.

And the percentage of annual revenue required to pay interest on the public debt has dropped from 12.4 to 11.2 per cent during the Liberal years.

But those good news figures are a consequence of boom times, of a milk cow fed the sweetest of summer grasses.

Winter must come eventually. Even Nixon warns in the budget that if "health care costs continue to escalate at rates experienced in the recent past, other social and economic priorities will be placed at risk."

So when do you put the halter on spending, Farmer Bob?

Caught in a mess

Halton Hills council finds itself in the grasp of a dilemma faced by many other municipalities - what to do with landowners who don't have the community pride to keep their properties up to acceptable standards?

Every village, town, and city has its share of unsightly residences. In Halton Hills, where community pride is abundantly evident, these eyesores are glaring, in so much as they're the exception to the rule.

Where larger cities may have particular sections where poverty is rampant, and thus unkept properties are the rule, Halton Hills has only intermittent pockets.

But this doesn't make them any less disgusting for those who must put up with them on a day-to-day basis, or for those who merely drive through the community and draw their conclusions of Halton Hills by what they see.

The problem lies in the fact that many unsightly properties are owned by people who don't have to put up with the mess on a daily basis - absentee landlords.

Taking money from the community through their ownership of property is first, and foremost, in their minds.

For the municipality to arbitrarily force absentee landlords to clean up properties is a long, drawn out process.

And by the time satisfaction is gained, there are five more cases to deal with.

With an issue like Sunday shopping, the provincial government seems content to allow municipalities to tend their own house.

But when it comes to cleaning that house, local governments are left with their hands tied.

Give from the heart

Volunteers are the backbone of Canada's blood program. Of all the aspects of the Blood Program, the most important is the procurement of blood - and people are the resource which make this service possible.

Volunteers - especially those who give blood, but also those who assist in the running of the clinics - are the backbone of the Canadian Red Cross Society's Program. They give generously of their time and energy to ensure that the gift of life is always available to those who need it.

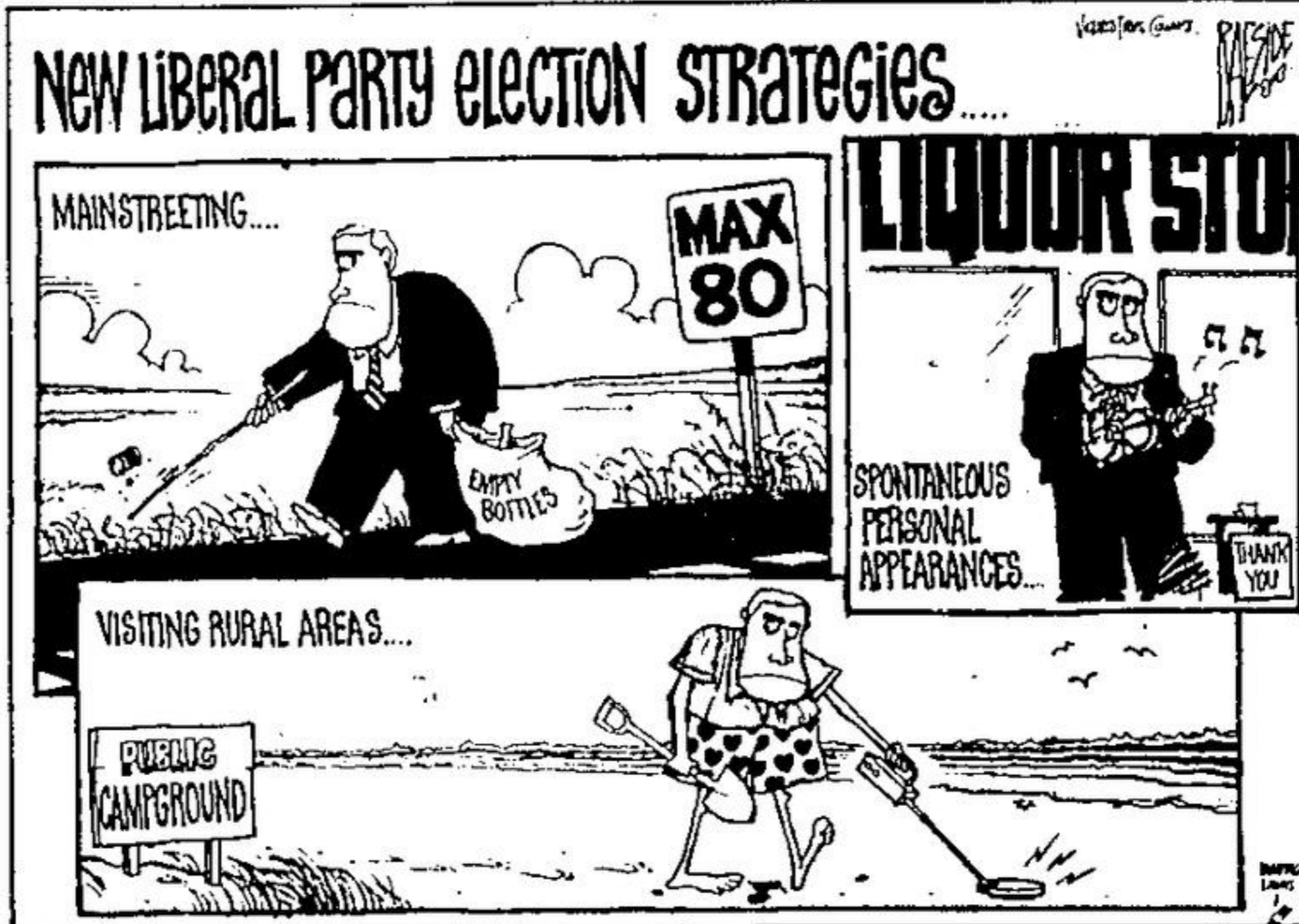
These dedicated volunteers come from all walks of life - schools, service clubs, fraternal organizations, and churches. Some may have no group affiliation. Business firms, government departments, and other organizations also help by supplying space for clinics and by giving employees time off to donate blood.

Blood donor recruitment is organized by Red Cross Divisions in every province. Division and branches share the responsibilities of organizing each blood donor clinic, or providing volunteer help, of recruiting the many donors needed, and of providing refreshments to donors.

Every day in this country about 6,000 units of blood or blood products are transfused. Though science continues to find ways to improve the use of blood, nothing can replace the caring people at the heart of the whole process - The Volunteer Blood Donors. Their generosity has made it possible for the Red Cross to supply blood, FREE, to all hospitals in Canada.

Won't you join the long list of volunteers and attend the clinic on Monday, May 9 at Holy Cross Auditorium between the hours of 1:30 and 8:30 p.m.

-from your local Red Cross



Citizens' forum

It's time to wake up and look

Dear People of Georgetown;

Please wake up! Our water is about to be polluted by big business and no one seems to care. Here are some facts on the proposed dumpsite at the Acton Quarry:

1. Georgetown now gets its fresh, clean water from seven wells. There are also thousands of private wells in North Halton.

2. The proposed dumpsite is on a divide. That means that all water runs down from it toward Georgetown. Underground water which feeds Black Creek, the Credit and wells flows from the dumpsite.

3. The quarry is limestone based. Limestone is porous. Water and garbage poisons can seep through to underground streams.

4. Big business, including United Aggregates, Ontario Cement and Ambro Construction are involved in the proposal. If the quarry becomes a dumpsite, they could make millions of dollars. They are suggesting a liner.

5. In Halton we have ongoing earth tremors caused naturally and by blasting. Flash flooding is another problem here. No one can guarantee the effectiveness of a liner. Stouffville's liner leaked.

6. The quarry is large enough now to accept garbage for the next 20 years. The same proponents own acres of land in the immediate area.

7. A water treatment plant has been suggested. These do not remove all chemical poisons or carcinogens (cancer causing) from the water.

8. This dump is privately owned and would not come under all the stringent rules municipal dumps do.

9. Garbage from anywhere will come into this dump. Rail tracks conveniently run along the south end of the site.

10. The Ministry of the Environment has turned down this dump twice before. Now government is growing desperate for dumpsites. The proponents have the resources for a long, expensive battle.

Write to our MPP, Walt Elliott, Queen's Park, Ontario. Sign petitions. Get info, or join POWER, the

group opposing the dump (853-1328). There are other dumpsites that are ecologically safer, however, they are in politically sensitive areas.

Let's show Queen's Park that Halton Hills is equally "politically sensitive". We'll fight.

Yours truly,  
Gail Rutherford  
Georgetown

Clearing up confusion

Dear Sir,

Recently, local businesses and organizations have received requests for support from the Cancer Research Society Inc. As a result of many phone calls to our offices, we are writing you to clear up any confusion of misunderstanding that may exist.

The Canadian Cancer Society is not affiliated with, or connected in any way, to the Cancer Research Society Inc., which is a Quebec-based organization.

Prior to 1981, Cancer Research Society Inc.'s fund-raising efforts were confined to the Province of Quebec. But since that time, they have solicited funds all across Canada, although most of their research grants are confined to Quebec.

The main concentration of cancer research in Canada is done through the National Cancer Institute of Canada, with about 98 per cent of their funding provided by the Canadian Cancer Society. As far as we have been able to ascertain, the N.C.I.C. has never received any funding from the Cancer Research Society Inc.

The Canadian Cancer Society, established in 1938, is the national organization which provides assistance to cancer patients in a number of ways including drugs, dressings, and transportation to treatment centres. It is also involved in an extensive public education program. No such services are provided by the Cancer Research Society Inc.

We of the Canadian Cancer Society wish to place this information before you to clear up any confusion between the two organizations.

Yours sincerely,  
Barbara Johnson,  
Public relations chairperson

Must act quickly

Dear Sir,

It would appear that possibly Reclamation Systems Inc. (proponents of Acton dump) has inside information.

Observations by Councillor Pam Sheldon about the berm now surrounding the proposed dumpsite would indicate preparation of the site for something.

Making the area more appealing to the eye (by hiding it) will in no way diminish the effects of pollution that eventually will find its way to local wells. Wells that supply Georgetown and Acton with much-needed water. Unfortunately when these wells become polluted there is no turning back. The Hooker Chemical Co. (New York State) did not intentionally create the Love Canal.

According to Dr. Douglas Hallett this could be the first of a series of dumps. Should we expect a berm around other gravel pits (potential dumpsites) or because this is a private commercial venture, maybe we can expect a competition for business - lower dumping rates, Sunday dumping and 24-hour dumping.

How long before competition and profits outweigh the value of clean drinking water and fresh country air.

Halton Hills is blessed with empty "dumps" and unless we stop this quickly we may find ourselves on the receiving end.

Sincerely,  
Don McQueen,  
RR1, Limehouse

In your opinion

Question: What's the best fishing spot in town? (Asked at the old paper mill dam in Glen Williams).

Got a hot fishing spot?



SCOTT FEREDAY: "It depends what you want to fish for. Norval has a good stream for rainbow trout."



SANDRA DARCY: "This is a good place. This is fun for the kids too."



JENNIFER HAWTHORNE: "Here (at the Norval dam). Because there's lots of fish."



PAULINE KELLY: "Right here. We drove all day to get here. We've been to every fishing hole all day."



RYAN FRANCIS: "This is a good spot for rainbow trout and sunfish. It has lots of deep spots here."

WRITE US

Want to share your feelings on any subject with the community?

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor on any topic and from anyone who has the urge to write.

We only ask that the letters be signed with name, address and phone number in case we must call to check some detail. We will not print unsigned letters nor will we use pseudonyms.

Now all that's left for you to do is pick up the pen! Address your mail to Letter to the Editor, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

Georgetown made a clean sweep in the North Halton music festival for urban schools, winning all seven classes. Winners included Yvonne Sloan, Heather Arnold, Sylvia Ellis, Andrew DeRoer, Leonard Taylor, Jacqueline Shepherd, Mary Jean Tucker, Pamela Turnbull and Paul Marko.

Mrs. W. Sloan was elected president of the Chapel Street home and school association during their annual meeting at the school.

Georgetown was honored by the Canadian Highway Safety Conference with a Special Citation Award for the distinction of having completed 1987 without one fatal traffic accident.

The Georgetown Lions Club won first prize and \$100 at the Region 8 Rally at Credit Valley Golf and Country Club.

15 years ago

Mr. and Mrs. G. Wellington Wilson were honored at an open house and dinner for their 50th wedding anniversary. The celebrants received about 175 guests at the Canadian Legion Hall.

Mayor Bill Smith grinned widely as he snipped the ribbon to officially open the new Fong's Restaurant, while owners Hank and Betty Fong and daughter Jeanie watched.

Danny Shortall and Margie Morton were married in the Knox Church in Acton, with Rev. McKenzie officiating.

Winners of the hidden score in the B group, the women's section of the I.O.D.E. bridge marathon, which started in January, were Mrs. Herbert and Mrs. Muriel Baxter.

10 years ago

Local weather lady Alicia Scott said that 2.69 inches of rain fell during April in 1978 as opposed to 3.16 inches in 1977. An inch of rain distributes 27,000 gallons of water on an acre of land.

Buzz Hargrove was the new administrative assistant for the director of Canadian region of the United Auto Workers. He was the former UAW representative for Brampton, Bramalea, Mississauga and Georgetown.

About 400 supporters acclaimed Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe MP Ross Milne as Liberal candidate for the federal riding of Brampton-Georgetown. A near miss by a wet sponge still leaves Jasper Megelink soaked. Jasper was one of the Knox Presbyterian youths who was behind the scenes at the Youth Carnival.

5 years ago

Rotary Club Bowlsathon winners were honored at the Club's dinner held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. The Rotary-Annes team consisted of Susan Heslop, Kaye Fryer, Millie Couzens, Marie Simpson, Mae Ward and Cathy McGowan.

Acton running star Doreen Uranick smashed three records at the Redmond Track Meet at St. Michael's College.

Fred Howse presented a \$25 certificate to Ron Libbenga of Georgetown for the largest speckled trout caught on opening weekend of the trout season.

Hail and farewell



Editor's notebook

By Mike Turner  
Herald Editor

It seems spring is very often a time for hellos and goodbyes, and this is certainly the case here at the Herald.

In the "hello" department, the news staff is pleased to welcome Paul Svoboda to the fold as Sports Editor.

To answer the first question you probably have - No, Paul is not related to Peter of the Montreal Canadiens. None the less, he shares a keen interest in sports.

Paul was originally born in Midland, but grew up and went to school in Belleville. He attended the University of Toronto for two years, and was a student at Fanshawe College in London, taking physical education courses.



Paul Svoboda

the season in an exhibition match with a Burlington club.

Anyone wishing to meet Paul, or inform him of their sporting activity is welcome to call, or drop into the office.

Otherwise, he'll be very visible pounding the sports beat at local athletic fields, and ball diamonds.

In the "goodbye" department, there seem to be a few more messages to pass along.

Red and Jean Asseltine lit out for the north last weekend, to make their new home in Elliot Lake. Sounds like they scouted out the best fishing spots before deciding on where to settle.

Just a few weeks ago, I was speaking with this year's recipient of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council Award, and Red happened to mention he was even considering getting back into hockey again.

He said he intends to see how things are done up there, and then he'll make a decision.

At any rate, in or out of hockey, Elliot Lake is picking up a couple of pretty good people.

Another goodbye is in order for Donna Kell, who was a Sheridan College co-op student, working at the Herald for the last several months.

Donna did an excellent job, and developed into quite a reporter.

It's not surprising that the Bowmanville Canadian Statesman was quick to scoop her up from this year's field of graduating writers.

We all wish Donna the best of luck as she embarks on what will undoubtedly be a fine career.

And last but not least, one more goodbye is in order.

Mike Bowen takes up a new position this week with the Chatham Daily News, in the accounting department, after a year as the Herald's accountant.

As pencil-pushers go, Mike's a pretty good guy, and again we wish him all the best in the future.

However, he will be subjected to a thorough search Thursday before he leaves, to ensure no paper clips are leaving the office without proper authorization.

Just a final note to JH... Thanks for setting me straight, and I humbly apologize. (It's nice to see there are still people particular about where they put their periods.)