

# Parliament Hill - "explosive, confusing, disturbing"



**On The Hill**  
With  
Garth Turner

It was an explosive, confusing, disturbing week on Parliament Hill. As I write this, the story is still unfolding and when I walk into the House of Commons in a few moments, the drama will begin again.

Michael Wilson's federal budget was somehow leaked in advance to the press, and since then absolutely nothing has been normal. That has been the biggest story in Canada over the last few days and I think you have a right to know where I stand on things.

First, on Wilson: Should he resign?

Based on what we know now, I don't think so. It appears somebody stole a secret budget document and then gave it to the media. At this point I just don't see how that points a finger of guilt at Wilson.

Besides, what could be accomplished by losing the man who knows more about our finances than anyone else; who is Mr. Credibility to world markets? I

have sometimes opposed Wilson in the past, but I honestly don't know of anyone here who could do the job better right now.

Second, the budget itself: Did it go far enough? Or too far?

Frankly I have to tell you that running an annual shortfall, or deficit, of \$30.5 billion is still too much. After all the tax hikes and spending cuts we remain horribly indebted. In fact, our national debt will rise to well over \$400 billion within the next 30 months.

So I still sorry for Canada, and for the future.

If anything, this budget proved to me that the debt problem is so massive that the government is running out of options. The interest on the debt this year will cost us almost \$30 billion - and we can't pay it!

I hate higher taxes and regret the kind of spending cuts the feds feel bound to make. But the reality is we're still sinking in the quicksand of debt.

There isn't the space in this column to give you chapter and verse on what Wilson's trying to do. Yes, all of us are going to pay more and receive less. I understand that, and I understand in the short term why it's necessary. No country can raise its national mortgage by \$30 billion every year and expect to maintain a middle class.

But, surely, there have to be alternatives.

Now the budget's arrived, I'm going to pursue the idea of Debt Freedom Bonds. I know if Canadians loaned money to refinance the debt at lower rates that the deficit could be helped. If this was combined with rules forcing the feds to have balanced budgets, we'd be a lot better off.

These are rough times, and a lot of people still question the need for this kind of action. I'd like to do my part in explaining the country's position, and Wilson's response to it. I also want to listen to your comments and suggestions.

If you want a complete copy of the federal budget, then please contact my riding office in Georgetown. Call (416) 877-4673, or toll-free at 1-800-668-4322.

And if you want to learn a lot more about the budget proposals, then join me for an informational breakfast meeting, this coming Friday (May 5).

I'll be at the North Halton Golf Club in Georgetown, starting at 7:30 a.m., along with the chairman of the Halton-Peel Taxation Committee and a budget expert from Ottawa. To cover the cost of the room and the food, admission will be \$10 a person. Please call the office (1-800-668-4322) to reserve a seat.

Finally, I urge you to stay in touch. Only by telling me your thoughts can I bring the real message to Ottawa.

These are days of big decisions here, and I think politicians should be guided by the people - not the other way around.

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## Wilson-Troup tie the knot

**NORVAL**-Congratulations to David and Maureen (Troup) Wilson, who were married on March 18 at Jordon Station United Church, Jordon Station, Ontario.

Maureen is the only daughter of Douglas and Heather Troup of Jordon Station and David is the son of Anne Wilson and the late Earl Wilson of RR1 Norval.

Prior to their wedding, the young couple were feted at several shower presentations. A community shower was held at Norval United Church on Jan. 22, when Marilyn Smith and Kay Wilson hosted the afternoon. Around 50 ladies attended, and the bride met many of her future neighbors.

Mrs. Henry Troup of Beamsville, aunt of the bride, hosted the Culp family shower March 5 when 25 people braved an ice storm to attend.

The Wilson shower was hosted by Ethel Wilson of RR3 Georgetown, and her daughter Joanne Addison for 30 relatives and neighbors. All three showers were miscellaneous.

Miss Edie Duncan and Mrs. Jean Wismer, both of Jordon Station, held an open house at the farmer's home for 100 Troup

family members and neighbors, when they honored the couple and met David. A China tea pot in the couple's pattern was presented as was a money-tree.

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- 1/2 c. margarine
- 3/4 c. honey
- 1 egg
- 1 3/4 c. all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 c. applesauce

Cream together margarine, honey and eggs. Mix dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture alternately with applesauce. Spoon into greased muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 20-25 minutes.



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