

Community

Wilson promises to cash cheque

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The special fund to deal with the massive debt was created three weeks ago when Wilson announced his deficit-fighting budget.

Page admitted, however, that the cheque, representing proceeds from the sale of beer at the chamber barbecue, was little more than a token effort to heighten public awareness of the debt problem.

The 44-year-old lawyer said the chamber had not planned any more special events to raise cash for the debt fund. The barbecue, he added, was "a lot of work for \$1,200."

The Halton Hills cheque was among a half-dozen presented to



DAVID PAGE

Wilson at the conference. A 12-year-old Bradford boy gave the minister \$168 he collected on the sale of toys and other items in a garage sale. Another youngster donated \$176. Wilson said donations to the fund have ranged from \$5 collected from a group of kindergarten-aged children to a \$32,000 cash contribution from an anonymous donor.

Wilson welcomed the donations from children.

"If they feel this is something that's important, then I'm delighted to encourage them to contribute," he told reporters.

While the conference was in progress, the national debt in-

creased by \$22 million, the 75 delegates were told.

But Wilson rejected demands for real cuts in government spending and insisted his program of restraint and management of the economy would bring the deficit under control and down to \$6.5 billion - its lowest level in 20 years - by the 1995-96 fiscal year.

"We have made a significant amount of progress, we're going to continue to make progress and we're going to stop this damn clock from clicking," he predicted.

While he spoke, the clock recorded a \$1.5 million increase in the national debt.

Mixed reaction to Sunday shopping

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tion, municipalities can grant businesses a tourist exemption therefore permitting these

businesses to open Sundays. The Old Hide House in Acton is one such local business that has received a tourist exemption from Halton Region to open Sun-

days.

Mr. Duignan predicted the province will eventually change the legislation giving the province total control over Sunday open-

ings. In this respect the "issue of tourist exemptions will have to be looked at," he said.

Mr. Duignan said he is hopeful the new legislation will make allowances for "genuine" tourist-oriented businesses. He couldn't define the word genuine, but he did say he will try to ensure the Olde Hide House, for instance, would fall under whatever definition is set.

Acton Business Improvement Area Chairman Dan Dolliver wouldn't comment on the court's decision, saying he first had to review it.

The Acton BIA is currently writing a letter to the province stating "the vitality of Acton downtown area would be negatively affected if Sunday shopping was curtailed."

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce General Manager Doug Penrice said Wednesday the chamber has been unable to find a consensus among its membership on the Sunday shopping issue. The Chamber will discuss Wednesday's decision at its next board meeting in April, he said.

The province's Solicitor General, Mike Faran, announced Wednesday police - forces province-wide have been instructed to lay charges against offenders of the RBHA starting this Sunday.

Willow Park residents answer C.V.C.A. 'threat'

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The residents of Norval's Willow Park are calling the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's most recent attempt to accommodate them nothing more than a threat, says the residents' spokesperson, Heather Croft.

The CVCA has decided to issue a three-month extension to the deadline when the residents must vacate the property - from May 15 to Aug. 31 - according to a CVCA press release.

But there are conditions the residents must first agree to before the extension takes effect and it is these conditions the residents adamantly oppose, said Ms. Croft during an interview Wednesday.

"We are planning a course of action to protest the conditions," she added.

One of the conditions requires the residents not to claim any more money than the CVCA has already paid to the residents to help cover their expenses to leave the property.

Ms. Croft says the residents haven't been sufficiently compensated while CVCA General Manager, Vicki Barron, says the authority has been more than fair.

The CVCA covered the estimated depreciated costs of the improvements made to each trailer site, plus the residents' expenses to move their mobile homes to another location, said

Ms. Barron.

Coverage of the moving expenses "is what we consider over and above the necessary compensation, said Ms. Barron.

Ms. Croft says the authority's compensation was based on the assumption that the residents would be able to find a new location. "But we have no place to go," said Ms. Croft. As a result, Ms. Croft said, the residents will file a notice of arbitration to seek more compensation than has been given out, she explained.

Ms. Barron said the CVCA never assumed the residents would find another park for their mobile homes. "We were hopeful but we never assumed anything," added Ms. Barron.

The CVCA initially ordered the residents to vacate the property by Nov. 15, 1989. The authority extended the deadline to May 15, 1991, on the possibility that by that date the residents would have received permission to relocate to a site in Acton. However, the Ontario Municipal Board ruled earlier this year against the move.

The other condition imposed on the Willow Park residents is that they cover the legal costs incurred by the Authority to draw up a new vacancy deadline contract.

Ms. Barron justified this condition saying up to now, taxpayers have been paying for all the costs surrounding the expropriation. "Now we feel the benefit is to the Willow Park residents and not the community as a whole and therefore they should bear the costs."

If the residents don't agree to these conditions, they will be required to leave the park by May 15. If they refuse the CVCA will remove the mobile homes at the owner's expense, according to a letter the CVCA sent to the residents on the deadline extension.

"Just let them try it," threatened Ms. Croft in response to the CVCA's ultimatum.

Meanwhile, Bill Chard, an assistant to North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, said Wednesday the provincial Ministry of Housing will decide soon what it can possibly do to help the residents.

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