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Turner trashes NDP budget

Monday's provincial budget will likely have the effect of prolonging the recession, halting the decline of interest rates and ensuring higher taxes, according to Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner.

Turner pointed out that this budget:

- Raises taxes by more than \$1 billion a year
- Dramatically increases government spending
- Gives Ontario a \$9.7 billion deficit this year - the highest in the province's history.

Turner said the spending binge by Queen's Park will likely fuel inflation, having the effect of raising interest rates and thereby making the current recession longer and perhaps deeper.

"It's ironic that while the Treasurer claims to be helping

unemployed workers," Turner said, "this kind of revisionist economics will likely throw more people out of work."

"Meanwhile, by pledging higher wages to public sector employees, flooding more money into pay equity and refusing to impose discipline on civil service salaries, the government has condemned Ontarians to many years of guaranteed tax increases."

Turner said the budget had the effect of reversing years of spending cuts and service reductions at the federal level. "This is not the way that our indebted country is going to climb out of its troubles," Turner said. "This is the irresponsible work of a political party that has found its way into the cookie jar."

Duignan defends NDP budget

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Ontario's operating deficit had to increase from \$3 million to \$9 million if the province is to recover from the current recession, said North Halton MPP Noel Duignan Tuesday in defense of his government's budget announced Monday.

The government decided to fight the recession instead of the deficit, said Noel Duignan. Mr. Duignan predicted the budget will speed up the economic recovery, which he expects to happen sometime this summer. He warned however, economic recovery will be slow.

Although the provincial deficit will triple as a result of Monday's budget announcement, Mr. Duignan is confident his government will be able to eliminate its deficit within seven years. It will be easier for the provincial government to eliminate its deficit than that of the federal government, because the province only pays 12.3 cents of every dollar towards interest on the deficit while the federal government pays over 30 cents of every dollar on interest on its deficit, he said.

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Sod turning ceremony

St. John's United Church in Georgetown held a sod turning ceremony at the rear of their building on Sunday to kick off the addition and renovations being done to it later this summer. Getting the first digs in are Elizabeth Crawford, Reverend Nancy Knox and Scott Allison. (Herald photo)

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Fatal motorcycle mishap takes two local lives

A fatal motorcycle mishap that occurred early Sunday morning at the intersection of 4th Line and No. 17 Sideroad has claimed the lives of two young Halton Hills men.

Scott Anthony O'Quinn of



Scott O'Quinn

Louisa Street in Norval and Gordon Shirreffs of Erin Street in Glen Williams, a student at Georgetown and District High School, both 19-years-of-age, were killed when the motorcycle they were riding left the roadway and struck a large boulder. Both riders were thrown from the motorcycle and died of massive internal injuries at the scene, according to police.

Constable Doug MacIntosh of the Halton Regional Police traffic bureau said the accident occurred some time in the early morning hours of Sunday and was discovered by riders on horseback at 11:40 a.m. Sunday.

Both men had attended a birthday party in Georgetown the night before, said Gordon's former-girlfriend, Kristiana Curry, who also attended the party.

Ms. Curry, who went out with Shirreffs for two-and-a-half years, said he was a very caring person. "He always thought about other people and was always doing things for others."

She said Shirreffs, a Pte. First Class, was very active in the Lorne Scots militia in

Georgetown and had planned on continuing serving the country through the militia.

Aside from the militia and his school work, (he was working towards completing his Grade 12 diploma at GDHS), Gordon was on the school's rugby team.

Ms. Curry said she and Gordon spent a lot of time together at the party Saturday night remembering old times together. "We had so much fun together. We got along so well and we knew each other so well," she said. "I still have all the letters he wrote me."

"At the party, we talked about our feelings and admitted we still had deep feelings for each other," she said. "I'm glad we had a chance to talk but there are still so many things I want to say to him. Now I can't."

Ms. Curry went to the Shirreff's home Sunday night to be with his family whom she said Gordon was very close to.

Mr. O'Quinn said his son Scott was always a very good boy. "I told him a couple of weeks ago how proud I was of him for being so responsible, especially about drinking," he said. "He drank very little and if he was going to

be drinking, he would always stay over at the person's place and tell us about it."

Along with being responsible, Scott was also a popular boy, said his father. "He always had lots of friends, he was a really friendly boy."

O'Quinn attended E.C. Drury High School in Milton and he graduated in 1989. He worked at Uptown Collision and had recently been laid off. He was working towards his automotive painter apprenticeship.

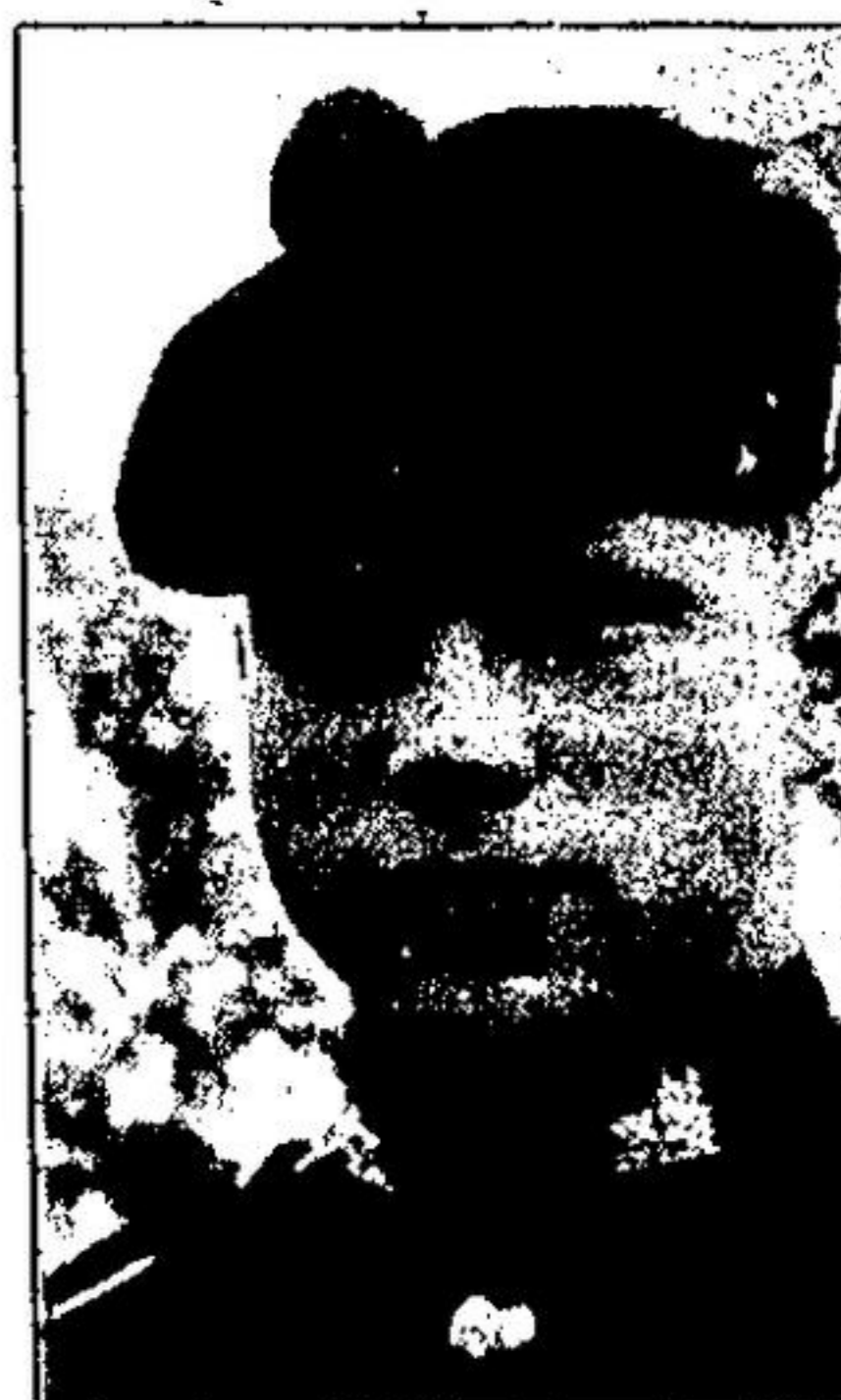
"Cars and motorcycles were his life," said O'Quinn. "Ever since he was 12-years-old, he's been fixing up motorcycles and things. He had just bought this latest motorcycle two weeks ago."

Mr. O'Quinn said his boy will "be greatly missed by everyone."

Funeral services for O'Quinn will be held at J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home today (Wednesday) from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. A Christian burial mass will be held at Holy Cross Church Thursday at 10:30 a.m. with interment at Greenwood Cemetery.

Shirreffs funeral service will be held today (Wednesday). Interment will be at Glen Williams cemetery.

The accident is still being investigated by the Regional Traffic Bureau.



Gordon Shirreffs