

Editorial

Brilliant strategy

In its initial budget, the Ontario-governing New Democratic Party saddled Ontario taxpayers with a \$9.7 million deficit. Oh no, Ontario taxpayers won't feel the rabid bite of the taxman immediately, but somewhere down the line the deficit will have to be reduced - if not eliminated completely - and where is the money supposed to come from? Granny Goodwitch? Not likely.

Ontarians will once again have to dig deeper into their already shrinking pockets to bail out this ill-conceived paeon to NDP political propaganda and we will all suffer.

Realizing their golden goose might already be cooked, the NDP is now searching around desperately for scapegoat programs which can be unceremoniously dumped so an edict from Queen's Park can be released along the lines of, "See, we're trying to help out with the deficit too." This cry should be regarded as plaintive - at best.

Is a cap put on civil servants? Not on your tenure, it isn't. Is a freeze put on MPP's wages? Not on your pork barrel, it isn't. Are the extremely wealthy finally forced to pay their fair share of taxes? Not on your political donations, it isn't. Are superfluous and overly-abused social programs reined in? Not on your supposed poor and hungry vote, they aren't.

So how exactly is the NDP government showing us it is not throwing good money after bad?

One example.

In a brilliant display of economic strategy, the NDP has decided to strike where it really counts - at high school students, more specifically, Ontario Scholars.

In suitably grave tones, Education Minister Marion Boyd announced last week the \$100 awarded annually to Ontario Scholars - those graduating students who attain an 80 per cent or better grade average - would be eliminated.

In making the announcement, Education Minister Boyd termed the elimination of the program a "recession cost-cutting measure."

No doubt there will be dancing in the streets as those affected by the recession praise the NDP for this stern cost-cutting measure which will undoubtedly save the Ontario economy.

If Nero did indeed fiddle while Rome burned, then the NDP government is fiddling around with niggly-piggly measures while the Ontario economy is going up in smoke.

Similarly, although \$100 doesn't seem like much, to students, who are finding it increasingly difficult to get summer jobs the loss of that monetary bonus will hurt.

The \$100 award also represented a tangible recognition of academic excellence.

With society in general - and Canadian society in particular - going through a very trying time, students who have persevered - through all sorts of distractions - to attain Ontario Scholar status should be rewarded.

These academic over-achievers represent the future - not only for Ontario, but for Canada - and their achievements are being slighted by a government so mired in partisan political pussy-footing - attempting to satisfy all the self-interest groups within its ranks - its ability to properly run the province has come into serious question.

Rent control blasted

Dear Editor:

The rent control legislation, recently introduced by the NDP (the strongest in Canada) is a "classic" socialist measure. By limiting the annual rent increases to 4.7 per cent or 5.4 per cent the government fools the tenants into believing that they will be protected. However, a tenant, while his family grows or improves its economic condition, has only two choices: either remain forever in the same apartment, or move to a new building.

In the first case, because of the legislation just introduced, he will see his building progressively deteriorate. This is because the owner, no matter how high the municipal tax increases or the required renovation expenses, or the inflation levels, can only increase the rent (after applying to the rent review board) a maximum of another 3 per cent. Why would the owner then upkeep the building?

In the second case, the tenant will have difficulty finding new affordable apartments. Why would investors build new ones, if other forms of investment are more attractive.

I believe that a healthy competition among builders would create more choices for the consumers and lower prices (as for any other commodity). In addition, I would suggest the promotion of ownership through "rent-to-own" programs and alternative very affordable housing, to allow young families to make the first step in home ownership.

Sincerely,
Giuseppe Gori,
Deputy Leader,
Family Coalition
Party of Ontario.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.

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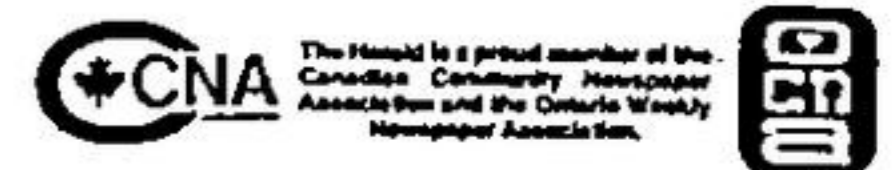
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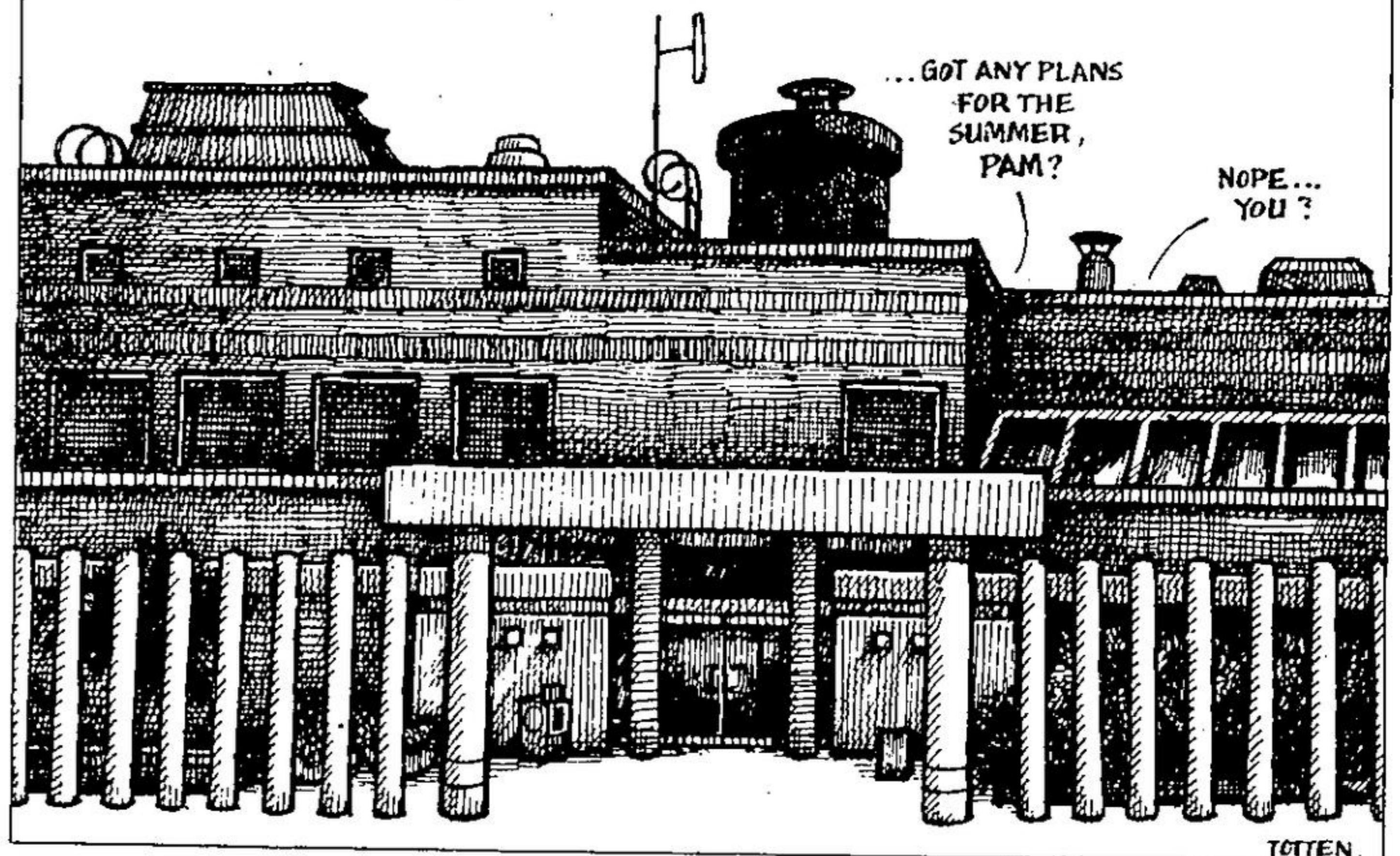
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HEY!! ELECTION FANS! FIND THE CANDIDATES FOR THE FALL ELECTION!!



People's Forum

Obscene phone call upsetting

Dear Sir:

On Saturday, June 8th my 11-year-old son answered the telephone to hear obscene comments which were directed at his mother.

Was that call a crank call? Did it occur because I am a municipal politician? Was it the result of recent press I've received because of my activism in the issues surrounding violence against women and children? I will never know the answer.

As a mother I feel outraged!

After calming my hysterical son and reporting the incident to police, I attempted to turn this very negative experience into a positive one. As my children and I walked together we discussed the issue of abuse and abusers. They expressed their feelings of anger and hatred for the man who made the call and for any man who'd abuse their mother. I explained to them that persons who abuse others have themselves been subject to abuse as children or adults. They now understand that abusers deserve our pity and sympathy because they have been violated in an extreme way. Abusers have, at the very least, been physically and psychologically abused. Many abusers have also been sexually abused and may not even have had their physical and medical needs met.

Our children are lucky. They have two parents who love, care for and support them as individuals. When, as parents, we require help we know where to look for it and obtain it. Our children know their well-being is our prime concern!

The man who called my home is sick. Yes, he needs understanding and help. I hope he reads this letter and recognizes he has a

problem and seeks counselling.

Yours truly,
P.B. Johnston,
Georgetown.

Thanks from the MS Society

Dear Citizens of Halton Hills:

Once again, the Halton Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society's "Carnation Campaign" is over for another year.

At this time, we of the Halton Chapter, along with all those who live with this challenging illness and their care-givers, wish to extend to one and all, a heartfelt "thank you" for the participation and response of many.

To the Halton Hills Herald newspaper, in particular Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot for her time and personal interest toward an excellent article the week of the campaign. It afforded you the reader a better understanding of the illness and its symptoms along with an explanation of where the proceeds are designated, which is toward support services and to ongoing research.

To the "numerous" volunteers - without whom we could not func-

tion, for their response of caring, energy and enthusiasm, words cannot express adequately our appreciation.

To Industry, Businesses and their Staff, once again, thank you for your orders.

To the various Mall and outlets, for enabling our volunteers access to your premises.

Last, but never the least to "you" the General Public for your ongoing concern and generosity. Once again you have touched the lives of many, improving the quality of life and giving hope toward the answer that will one day be found and when it is, it will be the result of the fact that the life of each of us "touches" that of another.

Once again thank you Halton Hills, for "Wearing a Carnation."

Theresa Goodale,
Public Relations Director,
Halton Multiple
Sclerosis Society.

Well-orchestrated song

Editor's Note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Turner,

Reference your column in the May 29th issue of the Herald.

Seems to me the various levels of government are indeed "singing the same song". Some civil servants at Queen's Park

are getting an \$11,000 increase in salary at this time. Didn't the Federal MP's take a nice 11 per cent, less than six months ago? So who sang the first verse in this song of yours? Sounds well-orchestrated to me.

Yours truly,
Gillian Baker,
Erin.