

Wednesday, July 3, 1991

NDP budget defended

Cont'd from Page 1

tough decisions if the deficit is to be decreased and eventually eliminated in the future.

The New Democratic Party government has said the \$9.7 billion deficit will be eliminated by 1997.

To ensure this happens, said Mr. Christopherson, the government is in the process of establishing a treasury board.

He called the board an "expenditure watch-dog" which will ensure controls are applied to government expenditure:

When the NDP took power it found spending on health care was open-ended with no controls over the system to ensure value for the dollar, said Mr. Christopherson.

Several audience members challenged Mr. Duignan to justify why the government didn't impose a cap on public sector salaries. As one person said, "public sector employees are the only people making money."

Mr. Duignan agreed a cap should have been imposed, and said, "when I voiced my opinion it didn't sit well with some of my colleagues."

However, he went on to say \$8 billion of the \$9.7 billion deficit will be spent to maintain existing government services; a fact some people don't always realize, said Mr. Duignan.

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Manager Doug Penrice objected to government cabinet ministers driving to Queen's Park in chauffeured limosines while at the same time passing legislation to tax cars in relation to the amount of gas they use.

"It appears to be a situation of don't do as I do, do as I say," he said.

Mr. Duignan agreed, saying he'd like to see more politicians driving around in much smaller cars. People should also realize some cabinet ministers use public transportation or a bicycle to travel around their towns, he said.

Several chamber members urged the government to harmonize the provincial sales tax with the federal government's Goods and Services Tax. "Quebec's done it why hasn't Ontario?" they asked.

Fire calls

Routine Matters handled

Halton Hills Firefighters responded to three calls within the last week starting with a compost fire Thursday afternoon on Mill Pond Drive in Georgetown. The fire was started by sparks from garbage that was burning in a drum. No damage was caused by this fire.

On Monday afternoon, firefighters responded to a call at McKenzie-Smith Middle School in Acton. Upon arrival, they discovered a garbage bin fire. There was no damage.

Their final call came Monday night at the corner of Delrex and Mountainview (Becker's) where a furnace motor had caught fire. While there was no damage, the fire created a lot of smoke in the basement.



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