

NDP child care policy called into question

At the expense of children, the Rae government is using socialist philosophy instead of common sense to implement its child care policy.

In an attempt to install a province-wide non-profit child care system, the province recently announced it would allocate \$105 million to support salaries for non-profit child care employees, and to create new non-profit child care centres.

By providing financial support to non-profit child care centres and not showing similar support for privately-run operations, Ontario's New Democratic Party is indirectly eliminating much needed child care spaces.

According to a Regional Social Services staff report, the govern-

ment's initiative will significantly reduce, at least in the short run, the number of available child care spaces in Halton.



Ben's Banter
by
Ben Dummett

The reason being, the additional provincial funding will further widen the existing salary gap bet-

ween non-profit and profit child care centre employees.

The Region, quite rightly so, is concerned child care workers won't work for privately-run centres because of the wage differential.

When this happens, it's the parents and their children dependent on private child care services, who ultimately suffer.

This hardship is exacerbated, realizing the current tough economic times means many two and single parent families are only just surviving.

If any of these people have to give up their job due to a lack of day care spaces, financial disaster will be the probable result.

The provincial government wants to implement a non-profit child care system because some research

shows non-profit centres offer a higher standard of care than privately-run centres.

While this fact is acknowledged in the Regional Social Services report, it is also noted that child care related legislation has a strong bearing on the quality of care offered by either profit or non-profit centres.

In other words, the stronger the legislation, the greater chance both profit and non-profit centres will offer quality care.

* In the report, Region Social Services Commissioner, Bonnie Ewart points out Ontario has strong child care legislation.

However, to her knowledge no study has been undertaken comparing the quality of care offered by profit and non-profit centres,

while accounting for this legislation.

Instead of rushing ahead to implement a province-wide, non-profit day care system, the Rae government should first do a study to determine if private day care centres in Ontario are offering quality service.

If the results show quality care isn't being offered, it would make sense to eliminate privately-run day care operations.

However, to take action before the study is done, shows the province to be interested in spending money only for the sake of spending money.

And in doing so, the government hurts the very people it says it is most interested in helping - lower and middle income families.

Staying on an even keel is cure for recession

Tired of talking recession? Let's talk recovery, and more important how to stay on an even keel after.

The only remarkable feature of our latest recession was its predictability. While politicians and economists were huffing and puffing about the boom of the late 80's they were ignoring the fact that it was fool's gold.

Back in the early 80's many people had discovered the simple fact that the concept of economic growth was as dead as the dodo, and that the economies of the West, having satisfied the basic needs of their citizens were bound for a period of economic stability. Put it simply our economies were moving from a hectic period of growth, to a period of what could be called a "replacement" economy.

The reasons? Rather obvious. With all basic needs satisfied, and with an insignificant demographic growth, there is not much room for "economic

growth". Add aging population (less "needs"), technological development (less waste) and environmental concerns (less consuming) and the picture is complete: no growth, just replacement.



Another View
by
Carlo Testa

A fool's dream? The growth of the GDP/GNP was 5.1 per cent during the 61-70 decade, 4.6 per cent during the seventies, 3.0 per cent in the eighties. It is likely to average 2.0 per cent in the nineties.

Bad? Not at all, a mature economy has no need to grow to satisfy our needs, it only needs to kick happily along. After all, we really do not want more than three cars or one house per family. (The fact that some families do not have a house or three cars is not due to a shortage of houses or cars, but to a misdistribution of the same. There is no shortage of houses today, there is a shortage of income!).

Again you do not believe it? Alright, look at Switzerland, a mature economy with an average growth during the past 30 years of 2.7 per cent and none of our social problems.

Where did things go wrong? In two areas: speculation in the private sector and mismanagement in the public one. And here is where a new approach is badly needed.

Take wages. During the "good" years we had wage set-

lements of 10 to 15 per cent. Some fools even granted themselves wage increases of 30 per cent!

Great, five years later we have 1.5 million people on the dole. Stock prices skyrocketed - with no relation to the value of the issuer. With the huge "paper" profits made, people pushed real estate prices in the stratosphere. Four years later: a depressed real estate market, a recession! Surprised? It would have been surprising if that kind of nonsense would have continued!

So what to do, now that a recovery is just around the corner? Government has to come to grips with reality, understand the concept of a "replacement" economy and tell us the new rules. Start with wage increases. Nobody can afford wage increases of more than a couple of percentage points. Sure the opportunity will be there for higher increases... and the unemploy-

ment office three-five years later. Mindless speculation (stocks, real estate) must be curbed, with draconian taxes if needed.

Investment in productive ventures encouraged, not through grants, but through tax credits. The gambling factor eliminated from interest rates - gambling is for the race track not the economic arena. You see, we are grown-up, we cannot continue to behave like kids. We have all it takes to maintain a very good life and to include the poor in it. After all we have managed to carry some one million unemployed through a recession!

But we do not need to offer a good life at the cost of snatching it away again three or four years later. Our economy will grow again, slowly and modestly. Our job is to avoid the ridiculous fiascos of any the previous growth cycles: the human cost is too high.

People's Forum

Landfill site could devastate the escarpment

Editor's note: The following letter was filed with the Herald for publication.

Dear Mrs. Grier:

I am writing to you in reference to the RSI application to operate a landfill site at the Acton Quarry. I must oppose this ven-

ture for several reasons:

I have been involved with the Bruce Trail Association as a volunteer member for the last fifteen years. I hiked the Trail end to end in 1987 to measure it and record comments on the Trail condition and best route. I fell in love with the Niagara Escarpment that summer because I became so intimately acquainted with it. The Trail passes many active quarries along its route and, in several cases, traverses old quarries slowly regenerating back in the landscape. Humans have had an inevitable impact on the Escarpment: limestone literally supports us in most of our daily activities. A quarry, once it has fulfilled its economic role, can become a haven for wildlife and a source of recreation for people in a rapidly expan-

ding urban area: filling such an important potential wildlife and recreational resource with garbage is not acceptable!

I have been a resident of Georgetown for even longer than my association with the Trail. I find a sense of community here that does not exist in other centres where I have lived. The water we drink in Georgetown is drawn from wells dotting the Escarpment to the north and west of town. A hydrological analysis shows that the flow of the water in our aquifer is down hill from...you guessed it...Acton!

I don't care what assurances the RSI proponents give, eventually there will be contamination to the aquifer if a landfill develops in the Acton Quarry. I have seen and heard too many

horror stories not to believe this. (I am an environmental science teacher and keep an eye open for the latest failures of supposedly perfect disposal techniques.) The Credit River east of Georgetown is being polluted by chemicals leaching from the old town dump. Do we have to further abuse our water shed?

Please consider my concerns

when you are evaluating the RSI proposal and please remember that the fragile Niagara Escarpment, a World Biosphere Reserve, needs all the TLC that we can give it so that our children will be able to enjoy it too!

Yours sincerely,
Chris Walker

Trail Development Coordinator
Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Sabres supported

To the Editor,
With reference to your article "Does Acton want a Junior 'C' Hockey Team?" in the Herald, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1992. The answer to the trivial pursuit is YES - affirmative. The Sabres won 4-0 vs. Bradford Bulls on Friday, Jan. 10, 1992 with a great shut-out for Greg Powell, who must have been one happy camper as well as his team buddies whose strategy paid off. Great stuff, guys!

Sure, Acton needs more enthusiastic fans with spirit to cheer the Sabres on because upon

observing their practices everyone works hard with their motivational skills and skating drills. These young adults show enthusiasm in practice, work hard and deserve recognition from the Acton residents who can support in response to our Junior "C" hockey team. Go ahead-make their day! To coin a phrase, "It's worth the skate to Acton". Go for it Acton Junior "C" Sabres! Good luck for the present and future games on your schedule.

A Sabre Hockey Fan
and "Ace Cheerleader"
Virginia Lessard

Christmas Toy Drive

To the Editor,
Now that the holidays are behind us, I can reflect back on the pre-Christmas Toy Drive. Whenever I think about this project, I am reminded of all of the people who contributed generously to make it all possible. As a direct result of these donations, 147 children in this community received Christmas packages.

The Toy Drive project involved many people and organizations. Some were involved with collecting funds or toys, some participated in the preparation of the packages and others assisted in

distribution and delivery. In no particular order, they include:

Norma Firth and the Lioness Club; Finn Poulstrup and Johnson And Associates; Neil Cotton and the students at G.D.H.S.; Mina Melvin and Neilsons; Hallmark Cards; Knox Ladies Auxiliary; Millie Adams; Elliott Custom Brokers; The Georgetown Firefighters; The Salvation Army; The Centennial School carollers; The Men and Women of Kin.

Jack Wallinga
Kinsmen Toy Drive Chairman

Sincere appreciation

Dear Sir:

The Acton Christmas Hamper Committee, consisting of The Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E. and Rotary Club, wish to express our sincere appreciation to the schools, churches, community groups, and individuals who willingly donated cash, food, toys, clothing, and a variety of other useful items to help us accomplish the task of serving needy families at Christmas.

Again, as in previous years, the response from the community was tremendous, enabling us to make Christmas a little bit brighter for many families. The generosity of the citizens of Halton Hills speaks volumes to us of their concern and goodwill towards those in need.

A big Thank you is also in order for the Good Neighbours of Georgetown and the Rockwood Lioness for giving oversight to the effort in their respective towns. Our combined efforts resulted in approximately 270 families being served in the Halton Hills area.

We salute the people of Halton Hills for allowing us to serve others in this way.

Sincerely,
Wade Budgett, Captain
Corps Officer
The Salvation Army

Thank you Garth

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

Dear Garth:

Thank you for your Halton-Peel Constituency Survey. Would you be so kind as to complete my Halton-Peel MP Survey by answering the following questions with Yes, No, this is a problem of the public's perception, or this indicates a need to educate the public.

A. Should constituents have the right to recall MP's who do not represent them.

B. Should the electorate have the right to initiate referenda binding on the government.

C. Should Parliament be restored to its position of supremacy over the Supreme Court of Canada.

D. Are you glad you voted for the GST and do you really believe

it should be extended to cover food.

E. Do you agree that now the only growth in Canada is in unemployment, bankruptcy, crime, government debt, the need for welfare and food banks, child poverty, phony refugees, and taxation.

F. Do you agree that you are a member of the first government in Canadian history that is incompetent, corrupt and unrepresentative of the people, all at the same time.

When completed would you please include this Survey in your long-awaited Canada Book.

Yours truly,
Ray Kathwaroon.

P.S. I hope that in future your supporters will identify themselves when they make their abusive calls.