

Chamber president says budget good, but too late

By JANET BAINE
Michael Wilson's 1991 budget has come years too late, David Page, president of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce said. "It's too bad this budget wasn't handed down in the spring of '86 or '87," he said in a phone interview Wednesday. The economy was booming and it was the right time

to pull in the reins on government spending and cut the size of the deficit. Had Wilson cut back significantly then, he would have a smaller deficit and more alternatives open to him now, Page said.

Still, Page thinks the federal government is heading in the right direction with this budget. Wilson announced he would cut spending

by \$1.2 billion in what he called a "belt-tightening" budget.

"Our public debt is forecast to reach \$400 billion by mid-year — about \$15,000 for every man, woman and child in Canada," Wilson said in his speech. "The interest alone on the debt will eat up more than \$43 billion next year, more than we spend on old age security, unemployment insurance and family allowances combined."

He plans to keep the deficit at \$30.5 billion for the next two years, which is \$2 billion more than he predicted in his last budget. He predicted the deficit will fall to \$24 billion in 1992-93 and only \$6.5 billion by 1995-96.

In 1991, 27 cents of every dollar spent by the federal government is going to pay interest on the deficit, which has been a major concern of the Chamber of Commerce for a number of years.

Page said the usual method of propping up an ailing economy is to increase spending to stimulate job creation. There is no precedent to see if this new approach will work.

"The federal government is looking for industry to beat the recession rather than using government as a tool for this next six months to one year," he said. "All of us are going to be poorer in '91 than in '90, but I'm optimistic and I think (the economy) will start to turn around by mid-summer."

Wilson is counting on lower interest rates to help turn the economy around, and Page agrees with this approach.

"There will be changes in the economy because of the decrease in interest rates. Business people have a feeling of expectation that things are not going to get better. They'll be optimistic, and when business people are optimistic, there is investment and that's what creates jobs," he said.

Wilson has been at the helm of Canada's spending for seven years, and five of them were when Canada's booming economy was one of the best performing in the world. But then the downturn began, late in 1989. "I don't think the budget is going to have any positive or negative impact on the local economy. It's very much a hold the line budget," Page said.

Middle class Canadians are the real winners since they won't have to deal with any new tax increases, aside from increased Unemployment Insurance premiums and a higher tax on cigarettes.

The loser is the provinces. "We'll have to see what the Ontario treasurer will do. The budget is more severe than even he feared," he said. Transfer payments remain frozen.

"There's one thing that's unfortunate," he said. "That our dollar is still as high as it is," since it discourages other countries from buying Canadian products. But Page said there is nothing the federal budget can do to change this, since it can only be corrected by changing monetary policy.

Even with the budget controls, government spending will increase 6.9 per cent in 1991-92, to \$159 billion from \$151 billion in 1990-91.

Spending increases include:
- \$600 million to pay for the war in the Persian Gulf;
- \$1.3 billion for farmers in difficulty;
- \$1.6 billion for the elderly
- \$3 billion for the growing number of unemployed.

The government predicts the interest rate will fall to 9.5 per cent in 1991 and 9 per cent in 1992. Inflation will be 5.6 per cent in 1991 and only 3.2 per cent in 1992.

MP Garth Turner planned to hold a post-budget breakfast Friday at 8 a.m. Local business people would be given the opportunity to hear analysis of the budget.

Cops seize marijuana

Halton Regional Police have seized almost 900 marijuana plants — with an estimated street value of \$300,000 — from a Halton Hills residence.

The plants "in various stages of growth" were seized from a residence and adjoining building on the Tenth Line north of Steeles Ave., last Friday.

According to a spokesman for the Regional Criminal Investigation Bureau, "a quantity of electrical equipment used to cultivate the marijuana, (including) high intensity grow lights, electrical transformers and thermometers."

During the 4:15 p.m. search, police also seized "a quantity of

literature on the growing of marijuana."

While only the plants' buds and leaves would be dried and sold on the streets, with the stocks and roots still attached, the plants weighed more than 76 kilograms (168 pounds).

The suspect in the case was not home at the time of the police search, but he went to Halton Regional Police Headquarters in Oakville — accompanied by his lawyer — at about 10 a.m. Wednesday.

A 36-year-old Norval man has been charged with cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. He is to appear in Milton court April 9.

Police and fire beat

Serious injuries

A 28 year old Brampton man suffered serious but not life threatening injuries in an two vehicle accident Wednesday.

According to police, a 1987 Chevrolet pickup truck was westbound on Steeles Ave. near the Ninth Line, when it crossed into the eastbound lane and struck a 1982 Ford tow truck head-on.

The Brampton man, who was the driver of the pickup, was trapped in the wreckage of the vehicle and Milton firefighters had to use the jaws of life to extricate him.

The man was rushed to Credit Valley Hospital and later transferred to Sunnybrook Medical Centre in serious condition.

The driver of the town truck was not injured and the investigation into the accident continues.

Man exposes himself

Police in Georgetown believe a case in which a man exposed himself to a pair of 15-year-old girls is an isolated incident.

At about 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, the girls were walking along Guelph St., toward Georgetown District High School.

In the area of Edward St., someone whistled at them. The pair noticed a man standing in an alley with his pants open.

The suspect is described as a male, white in his mid-30s with dark hair and a medium build. At the time of the incident he was wearing blue jeans, and a blue shirt.

Anyone with information about the incident or the suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-668-5151 or Detective Sergeant Mike Eacrett at 878-5511 ext. 415.

Tool theft foiled

A bystander and the principal at McKenzie Smith School, Acton may have foiled a theft attempt Monday. According to police, a utility van was parked in front of the school as the

owner worked inside. At about 10:40 a.m., a passerby noticed two male youths enter the van and removed some tools — among them a pair of cordless drills worth an estimated \$700. The bystander, a Toronto resident, then went into the school to find out if the pair were working in the school also. When told they were not, he and the principal gave chase. When the suspects realized they were being followed they dropped most of the tools and fled. The investigation continues.

More tools taken

Tools worth about \$200 were removed from Acton High School sometime Tuesday night. According to police, a filled tool box was taken from the school and thrown over a rear fence. The culprits then removed the tools including wrenches and screwdrivers, then fled the scene.

\$3,000 damage

An overloaded extension cord is the suspected cause of a small fire that occurred in the bedroom of a Hawkes Pl. home in Georgetown Thursday morning, according to the Fire Department. Firefighters discovered an extension cord, hooked to three appliances, lying underneath a laundry basket. The fire was contained to the bedroom, but caused approximately \$3,000 damage. No injuries were reported.

Truck fire

A 1983 Mazda pickup truck received approximately \$1,000 damage after a small fire ignited in its engine while the vehicle was parked at a Guelph St. residence in Georgetown Saturday morning. A mechanical/electrical failure is to blame for the small blaze. No injuries were reported.

Chimney fire

Firefighters were called to a Main St. north home in Acton Wednesday afternoon after a small fire began in the chimney, according to the Fire Department.



FOOD NEWS Making You Shop Smarter • Cook With Ease • Eat Right

CASH YOUR COUPONS NOW

EFFECTIVE MARCH 4 TO MARCH 10

TRYING OUR BEST TO PLEASE YOU EVERYDAY!

<p>ASTRO YOGURT 175g cup</p> <p>2/98¢ with coupon 69¢ without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>	<p>PRIMO PASTA 900g pkg.</p> <p>79¢ with coupon Reg. \$1.29 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>
<p>SEALTEST SOUR CREAM 500g tub</p> <p>\$1.39 with coupon \$1.99 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p> <p><i>This is no sour note.</i></p>	<p>PRIMO PASTA SAUCE 28 oz. tin</p> <p>89¢ with coupon \$1.39 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>
<p>IGA BUTTER 1 lb. pkg.</p> <p>\$2.59 with coupon \$3.19 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p> <p><i>Try the real thing!</i></p>	<p>VALLEY FARM FRENCH FRIES 1 kg bag</p> <p>59¢ with coupon 99¢ without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p> <p><i>This Spud's for You.</i></p>
<p>CHRISTIE COOKIES <small>Chips Ahoy, Oreo Chocolate Covered, Oreo, Pirates, Favourites or Coffee Breaks</small></p> <p>1.99 350-450g pkg. SAVE \$1.90</p>	<p>OLD SOUTH ORANGE JUICE 12.5 fl. oz. tin</p> <p>SAVE 80¢ .99 <small>frozen, concentrated, Asst. varieties</small></p>
<p>SEAWAVE PINK SALMON 7.5-oz. tin</p> <p>SAVE 50¢ .99 <small>flaked or chunk light</small></p>	<p>IGA MACARONI & CHEESE DINNER 225 g boxes</p> <p>4/1.00 LESS THAN 1/2 PRICE</p>
<p>MAPLE LODGE CHICKEN WIENERS</p> <p>99¢ with coupon \$1.49 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>	<p>MAPLE LODGE CHICKEN WIENERS</p> <p>99¢ with coupon \$1.49 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>
<p>GREENCARE BATHROOM TISSUE <small>Let's all work towards the Environment</small></p> <p>1.99 8 roll with coupon \$2.99 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>	<p>KELLOGG'S SPECIAL K 475 g box</p> <p>2.99 with coupon Feature Price without coupon 3.99 <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>
<p>LEAN GROUND BEEF</p> <p>1.69 lb. 3.73 kg SAVE 1.10 LB.</p>	<p>FRESH! PEACHES, PLUMS OR NECTARINES <small>Product of Chile, No. 1 Grade</small></p> <p>2.18 kg SAVE 1.00 LB. .99 lb.</p>
<p>STOREMADE SAUSAGE Mild, Hot, Suicide</p> <p>1.99 lb. 4.39 kg <i>Add a little spice to your meal!</i></p>	<p>P.E.I. POTATOES</p> <p>10 lb. bag 1.29 with coupon 1.99 without coupon <small>Mon., Mar. 4 to Sun., Mar. 10 While Supplies Last</small></p>

HALTON HILLS IGA
Guelph St., Georgetown
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-9, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-6
We reserve the right to limit quantities. All savings are based on our regular prices.