

# Opinion

## Government = taxes, taxes

By TERRY O'SHAUGHNESSY

If countries were judged on their ability to create government waste and inefficiency, Canada would surely find itself ranked number one. If it weren't for the peculiar Canadian consent to multiple levels of government, and the accompanying mountain of taxation which supports it, hordes of bureaucrats would be faced with the dubious prospect of turning in their briefcases and hitting the unemployment line. The question is: if Canadians were to take a long hard look at the accumulated taxes they pay every year to support their mushrooming governments, would they willingly continue to sustain the most questionable "make-work" scheme ever devised?

Former Auditor General, Kenneth Dye, doesn't think so. In a recent speech, Dye was harsh in his criticism of the massive duplication of effort and money that has been wasted by bureaucratic bloat: "... there is a lack of awareness of the significant amounts of tax paid to the governments in our land. Many in Canada would point to Ottawa as the big taxing government without realizing how much tax is paid to provincial and municipal governments. And many don't think of the huge amounts of provincial and federal consumption taxes they are paying when buying gasoline, cigarettes or liquor and wine. If the average Canadian clearly understood that they work about half their life for government, keeping only roughly half of what they earn for themselves, I think they would pay more attention to what is happening to their family pocketbook."

Words of wisdom, Mr. Dye. It's no secret Canadians are perhaps the most governed people in the world. The United States, for example, has one member of Congress for every 575,000 people, while in Canada, there is one MP for every 88,000 citizens - Canada has cornered the market on government, several provincial and territorial governments, and countless municipal and regional governments are employed to "look after" a mere 26 million or so citizens is absurd - not to mention obscenely expensive. Dye also refuses to mince words: "There are literally tens of thousands of citizens elected to govern us one way or another, with hundreds of thousands employed by these government entities to deliver the services we Canadians have asked our elected officials to provide. Why pay for all of this? You do!" The former Auditor General goes on to suggest that government spending at all levels has been rising faster than the income produced in this country, and that, even after adjusting for inflation, governments at all levels have more than doubled the amount they spend.

Of course, elected officials these days respond to any criticism of over-spending with their stock answer, delivered in that selfless tone, stating that if Canadians insist on comprehensive health care or better education, well, they simply have to pay for it. But no one is suggesting that health care services shouldn't be paid for, or that better education and job training is not a necessity. It's the government waste and unaccounted-for spending that sticks in the collective throat of the taxpayer. And as governments turn more and more to personal income and consumption taxes as a means of raising revenues - as Dye suggests - Canadians will continue to hand over increasing amounts of hard-earned money to various levels of government.

Where does that leave the average Canadian and his or her picked-over pocketbook? Dye says simply that taxpayers must demand accountability from the public sector and insist upon explanations of spending hikes or budget variations. Make politicians uncomfortable until they answer your questions, he says, as he reminds us of a point we sometimes forget: it's our money.

CFIB Feature Service



ITEM - METRO BEACHES CLOSE AGAIN THIS YEAR  
DUE TO HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS..

### Our Readers Write

## North Halton Pro Life is now separate, independent group

Dear Editor:

North Halton Pro Life Association (NHPLA), formerly a branch of the Halton Pro-Life Association is now (as of April 1991) an independent fully autonomous organization.

We will have our own constitution drawn up and have it legalized so that we will be authorized to issue receipts to our supporters for income tax purposes.

Our mandate is to educate the general public of the region of north Halton on all the pro life issues. Members of school groups, church groups, men's and ladies' groups etc. wishing to obtain educational material or speakers should contact North Halton Pro Life by mail at the address below or phone 854-2318.

We therefore appeal to our pro life friends in the north Halton area for your continued support.

Those of you who have already sent in your annual \$10 membership fee to Halton Pro Life for 1991 can consider yourselves members in good standing with North Halton Pro Life. For those who have not we would appreciate it if you would forward your membership fee or donations or both to the address below.

Until we become legally incorporated into a

recognized educational organization receipts will be issued by the Halton Pro Life Association of Burlington. This is expected to continue until early 1992.

For the benefit of those who are not already aware of the structure of the Pro-Life Movement it is divided into three classifications, that is there are three arms to the Pro-Life Movement.

1. Political - such as Campaign Life Coalition which works directly on the political level.

2. Educational - Organizations such as North Halton Pro Life, Hamilton Right to Life, are educational groups. All the Pro-Life educational groups in Canada come under the umbrella organization "Alliance For Life."

3. Counselling - Groups involved in providing counselling and support (financial and moral) for those in crisis pregnancy situations come under this group.

In anticipation of your continued support we are forever thankful.

Yours in support of life,  
Grace Steenhof,  
North Halton Pro-Life Association  
Box 23011, Milton,  
Ontario L9T 5B4

Halton Hills

# WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

KEN BELLAMY  
Publisher

211 ARMSTRONG AVE., L7G 4X5  
GEORGETOWN, ONT. (416) 873-0301

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Saturday at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Erin-Hillsburgh Echo, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Echo-Review, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate.

In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at the wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content to Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press Week End is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

Price: Store copies 50¢ each; subscription \$19 per year by carrier; \$52 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

EDITORIAL - 1-800-268-8719  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Robin Inscoc  
EDITOR: Cynthia Gamble,  
Staff Writers: Paul Dorsey, Stuart Johnston, Janet Baine.  
Photography: Ted Brown

BUSINESS OFFICE - 1-800-268-8719  
Manager: Jean Shewell  
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Sherry Mitchell, Bev Nelissen

ADVERTISING - 1-800-268-8719  
Director of Advertising: Lorne Beechener  
Advertising Manager: Penny Karas  
Display Sales: Charmaine Letts, Tammy Salt  
Telemarketing: Jeanette Cox  
Real Estate Sales: Kathy Toth  
National Representative: Dal Browne 493-1300

CLASSIFIED - 1-800-268-8719  
Manager: Carol Hall  
Staff: Barb Izzio, Ariene Bellamy

DISTRIBUTION/CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS - 1-800-268-8719  
TORONTO LINE - 798-7950  
Manager: Nancy Geissler, Mark Esposito  
Staff: Jean Brander