

MP Julian Reed pleased with new Liberal budget

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Julian Reed thinks people in Halton Hills have a lot to be happy about in the 1994 federal budget.

There are no new taxes, promises to cut government spending and plans to make major reforms to the social system after it has been reviewed.

"There's no decrease in RRSP capability, there's no tax on medical benefits. I have hundreds of letters regarding those two things," Reed said. He also lobbied hard to maintain the \$500,000 business and farm capital gains exemption, and is glad the government has listened to that advice. The \$100,000 personal capital gains exemption, however, is gone.

"I think people also can take some satisfaction that the middle class has been spared the tax increase they had feared," he said. There are no new taxes contained in the budget, which promises to get Canada's \$45.7 billion deficit to \$39.7 billion next year and \$25 billion by 1996-97. Reed said his government has taken a new approach to making projections about the deficit, making the numbers more realistic.

"Every calculation Paul Martin did was on a worst case scenario basis and that is the opposite of what the last government did. They took the most optimistic view," Reed said. "Of course, it is on our head if (Martin) fails to deliver, but he could do even better than the estimates."



JULIAN REED

Reed was particularly pleased with his government's approach to the budget process, since the budget was discussed in the House of Commons prior to being announced and everyone had a chance to comment on it.

In spite of defense spending cuts, Georgetown's new armory will still be opening up this spring, he said.

"It will take on a more active use in the next few years as an emphasis on reserves replaces the bureaucratic redundancy," Reed said. Bases being shut down were established after World War II, and have been "carried along" ever since, when they should have started to eliminate them 25 years ago, he said.

Chamber of Commerce manager Terry Jackson said she spoke to about five members about the budget, and they agreed that it could have been worse.

"Overall, it's a doable budget. I would have liked to see larger cuts to get total expenditures down. Especially cuts to federal civil servants," she said.

"Our responsibility now as a chamber is to make sure we're in good touch with Julian Reed, to make sure he continues to consider our concerns," she said.

Jackson said that the business people are in favor of the deduction for meals, which has been chopped to 50 per cent from 80 per cent. As a taxpayer, she said she was pleased that the government made no changes to RRSP contributions.

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HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Citizen of the Year dinner

The Georgetown Lions Club will be honoring the 1993 Georgetown Citizen of the Year, Lou Darcie, at the awards banquet to be held March 1, at the Lions Hall. If you are interested in attending tickets may be purchased from the Carpet Barn of Barragers Cleaners. Cost of the tickets are \$18 each. Mr. Darcie has been an active volunteer in the Georgetown area for many years and is a most deserving winner. For information or tickets contact Doug Penrice at 873-3377.

Glen committee meets

The Glen Williams Heritage Conservation Design Guidelines Committee is tentatively formed but there is still room for other Glen residents interested in participating. The committee will help Heritage Halton Hills set design guidelines for the village's heritage designation. The formal nomination and election of committee members will be held at a meeting on March 3 at the Glen Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

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Acton's flour power



With more than 170 in attendance, Halton Four Milling Inc. owners Brian and Debbie Dolotowicz were honored by their business peers at North Halton Golf Club as they received the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award Thursday night from Halton

Hills Chamber of Commerce president Bob Malcolmson. The Dolotowicz duo have owned the flour mill for the past 11 years, and were cited for their good business ethics and hard work which has made them an asset to the community. Photo by TED BROWN

Staff cuts at GDMH

It's not official yet — but Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will be cutting back on staffing.

Staff cut proposals were discussed in camera at Thursday's meeting, and negotiations with employee unions are still ongoing.

"The number of hours will decrease by over 10,000 hours. A lot of that will fall on part-time employees, who will have less hours. Some will be covered by social contract days," said Randy Esford, director of human resources.

One to three employees will be laid off, Esford said, but two of those may be taking early retirement. "Non-union employees is a different matter," he said.

"The majority of the changes began in January. Most are known (to staff) and there is no big news breaking. We are trying to minimize the impact on any one individual," said hospital executive director John Oliver.

Hornby residents want support

Several Hornby residents were at the committee meeting Monday seeking support in requesting a hearing on the Equity Composting facility proposed for their area.

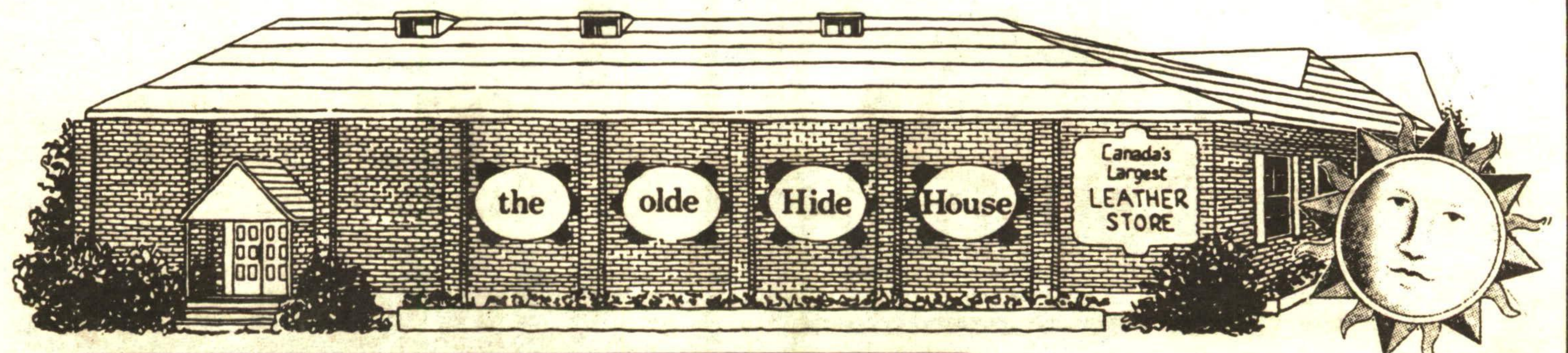
Committee offered instead an opportunity to air their views at a public site plan meeting to be held in the next few weeks.

About 200 signatures from area residents have been collected on a petition outlining their concerns about the facility.

Out With The Old ... In With The New!

Winter Blowout ...
Spring Preview

Stop in for some great end-of-season specials & preview some of our new styles for spring!



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