

TAX TOPICS

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT YOUR REFUND

The goods and services tax credit

To offset the effect of paying GST on their purchases, modest and low income families are eligible to receive the refundable GST credit. Revenue Canada makes applying for this credit very easy. Taxpayers simply complete Step 2 of the tax return by answering three short questions. All the calculations and determination of eligibility are done by Revenue Canada.

How much will I get?

The basic GST credit for 1993 is \$199, the same as last year. You may also receive \$199 for your legal or common-law spouse, and \$105 for each child under 19 as of December 31, 1993. If you were not married or living common-law, you may be eligible for an equivalent to spouse credit of \$199 for one of your children instead of the usual \$105. If you are single or separated and made over \$6,456 you may be eligible for an additional credit of 2% of your net income in excess of \$6,456 up to a maximum of \$105. All credits are reduced by 5% of

the excess of family income over the threshold amount of \$25,921.

Note the family income includes your income plus the income of your legal or common-law spouse. Only one spouse may apply for the GST credit, as there is a limit of one claim per family.

When will I get my cheque?

As in prior years, the GST credit applied for on the 1993 return will be paid in four instalments, with the final 1993 payment not being paid until April 1995. If the credit is less than \$100, of course, it is paid in one lump sum.

What if I didn't apply last year?

If you were eligible to receive the GST credit last year but did not apply for it, you can still do so. In fact, you can apply for the GST credit for every year from 1990 on, if you were eligible and neither you nor your spouse have already applied. To do so, you must file a tax return for each of the years and, for 1990 and 1991,

complete the GSTC application form.

The GST credit replaced the federal sales tax credit in 1990. If you were eligible for the federal sales tax credit, but did not apply, you can do so now. You can apply for the federal sales tax credit as far back as 1985.

How do I now if I'm eligible?

In any year you were 19 or older by the end of the tax year, and were resident in Canada, you were probably eligible for the GST credit (or, until 1990, the federal sales tax credit). If your income was too high, the credit (s) may have been reduced or eliminated, and if you were married, your spouse may have applied on your behalf. Otherwise, you should have applied for and received these credits.

If you didn't, you have to file a tax return for each year in order to apply for the credits. You may wish to consult a tax specialist about filing returns for the years you missed.

The implementation of any tax saving strategy is based on your personal financial situation. Professional advice should be obtained before implementing any of the suggestions contained herein.

Elvis Revival a huge hit at Bracky's

By ARLENE BOUWMAN
Special to The Independent/Free Press

The year was 1957. Poodle skirts and bobby socks were all the rage. The boys were wearing flecked gabardine slacks or, if endowed with a rebel spirit, cuffed blue jeans and black leather. Pony tails and crew cuts were hot and everyone listened to Elvis Presley.

If you remember those days, or wish you did, Joe Fergus, live from Las Vegas and playing at Bracky's in the Moore Park Plaza, will take you back in time, spin you through an evening of nostalgia guaranteed to please.

Opening with a mix of fifties' favorites like the Everly Brothers' Bye Bye Love and the Eagles' Tequila Sunrise, Margueritaville and Peaceful Easy Feeling, Fergus builds momentum, preparing the crowd for his "Pelvis Aaron Presley" set.

A polished performer, Fergus' sets are long and breaks are short. The entire act is peppered with the singer's own unique and appropriate brand of humor, designed to keep the show electric and interesting.

After a short intermission, Fergus returns to the stage, dressed in a white studded jump suit and somewhat amusing black wig.

"I just can't help myself," he explains. "Elvis has taken control of my mind and body."

Mixing the romantic Are You Lonesome Tonight and Suspicious Minds with Presley's rock and roll hits Don't Be Cruel, Devil in Disguise and I'm All Shook Up, Fergus soon has the dance floor filled, always the sign of a successful presentation.

Whether playing to a packed room or a small, but appreciative crowd, this entertainer's enthusiasm never fails. Make plans to catch "The Joe Fergus Show" but arrive early as seating is limited.

Fergus appears this weekend, and next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 28, 29, 30 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. While you're there try Bracky's chicken wings, the best in the country. For additional information call 877-1913.

Olympics

The Halton Board of Education hosted its seventh annual Halton Skills Olympics on Saturday, April 23 at T.A. Blakelock High School in Oakville. The Skills Olympics is dedicated to promoting fellowship and friendly competition among students in technological education, as well as raising the awareness of local business and industry of the high quality of technical and problem-solving skills possessed by Halton students.

This year's competition saw approximately 400 secondary and elementary students participating in 25 competitions as well as numerous students involved in the organization and support services associated with the competition.

For the first time approximately 10 elementary students from two Halton Roman Catholic separate schools are competing in the LEGO Challenge and the Bridge Building Competition.

The gold medal winners will have the opportunity to compete in the Ontario Skills Competition at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton on May 16.

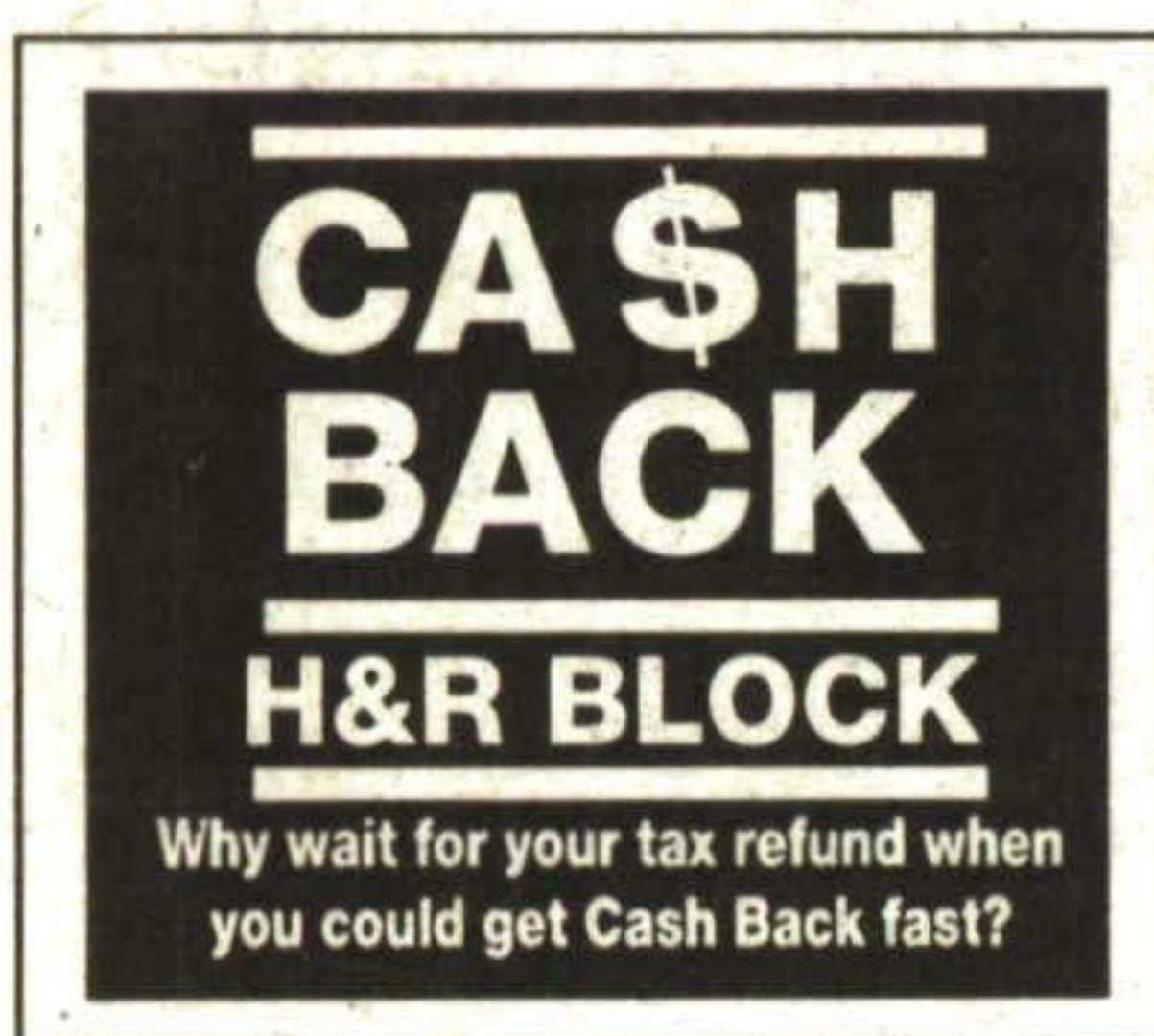
Wellness fair

Kelly Walker, through his music and humor will present strategies for stress management Tuesday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Georgetown District High School. Admission is free and everyone in the community is welcome. Walker focuses his presentation on incorporating change into a health promotion lifestyle.

This is the kick-off for a very extensive wellness fair which will take place on Wednesday for students at the school.

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