

The way we were



Credit River ice jam

Natural disasters are not new occurrences in Halton Hills, as seen in this image of flooding on the Credit River near Ninth Line in February 1965.

Photo courtesy: Esqueing Historical Society Content: Heritage Halton Hills

From our readers

PICTURE THIS

When Chris and Marion Vito of Pauline Street in Georgetown cut away some branches from their magnolia tree, damaged by the ice storm, they decided to try forcing some of them. This was the result.



Got a photo you want to share?

Email: cgamble@theifp.ca.

It's time for an Ontario employment plan

Early in January, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey released a very disappointing jobs report showing that Ontario had sustained a net loss of 39,000 jobs in the month of December.

It would be wrong to read too much into one month's job numbers.

More important is the trend over a longer period of time.

But even looking back a year, it doesn't get any better. Ontario's unemployment rate in December was 7.9 per cent, unchanged from the province's unemployment rate in December 2012, one year ago.

The clear conclusion is this: we have made no meaningful progress on net job creation in 2013 in Ontario.

And with an even longer time horizon considered, it gets worse.

Our Ontario PC Caucus maintains that Ontario's unemployment rate has been higher than the national average every month for seven straight years.

Far too many young people are still unable to find work. Many have finished university or college programs, but can't get their foot in the door into a "career" track job.

Clearly, a new approach is needed to encourage job creation in Ontario.

We need a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy which supports small business and start-ups, new apprenticeships, productivity, innovation, tax relief,

hydro price stability, and red tape reduction.

To be fair, Ontario's unemployment rate for the month of January, released by Statistics Canada on Feb. 7, showed a modest improvement of less than one half of a percentage point. However, a media report stated that fewer people in Ontario were looking for work.

We continue to challenge the Wynne Government to table their jobs plan, and if they can't or won't, we offer them ours.

Some of our municipal government partners, including the Town of Halton Hills, have sought financial assistance from the province for clean up costs in the aftermath of the Christmas ice storm.

I did not hesitate to offer my support, in writing, for the province helping municipalities with their legitimate ice storm clean up costs.

If the Wynne Government ignores our situation, the full cost of the clean up costs will have to be absorbed in municipal budgets. This will do nothing but put upward pressure on property taxes.

We call upon the government to do the right thing, just as we did in the days after the ice storm: neighbour helped neighbour.

I can be reached at 1-800-265-2366 or online at www.tedarnott-mpp.com.

— Wellington-Halton Hills MPP
Ted Arnott



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