

COMMENT

**'Quote
unquote'**

'While this is encouraging, we know that there is always room for growth.'
— HCDSB Director Paula Dawson... see story pg. 10

The way we were



A grand history

The Beaumont House in Glen Williams was once home to Sam Beaumont, who owned the Beaumont Knitting Mill located further along Main Street in Glen Williams.

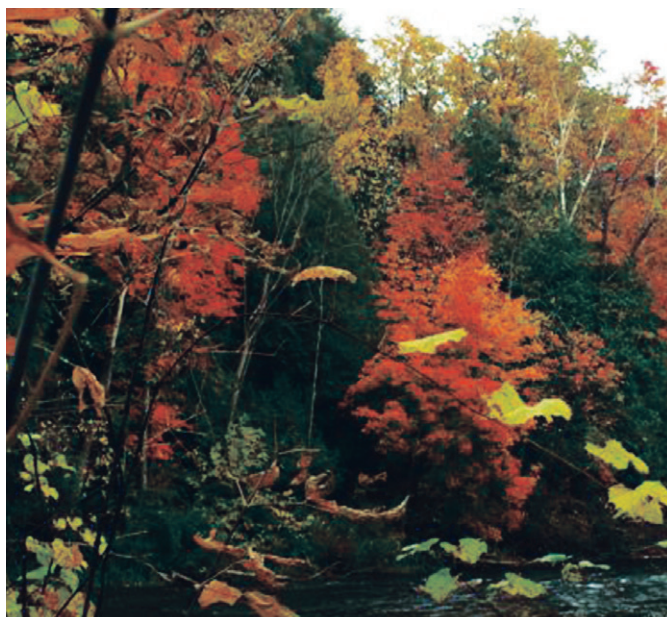
From our readers

AUTUMN'S GLORY

Marinus Pater sent in this photo of Halton Hills in all its fall glory. Pater is an amateur nature photographer. He is retired from de Havilland Aircraft Company and lives in Halton Hills.

Got a photo you want to share?

email cgamble@theifp.ca



MaRS more Liberal red ink

If you've heard of MaRS in the news media recently, you likely thought at first that they were talking about Earth's neighbour, the red planet.

After reading this, you will wish it was so.

In actual fact, it was most likely a reference to the latest Liberal spending boondoggle, and more Liberal red ink.

MaRS stands for Medical and Related Sciences. It started off a few years ago as an interesting idea to create an innovation cluster in downtown Toronto, where scientific research might lead to new discoveries that could be marketed commercially.

Not content with the initial success of MaRS, the Liberal Government decided to build MaRS "phase 2," supported by a \$224 million loan from Infrastructure Ontario, a provincial crown agency.

That led to the construction of a 20-storey office tower across the road from Queen's Park, which now stands almost 70 per cent empty.

Because it can't attract enough tenants to fill its vacant space, MaRS has defaulted on its loan to the province.

The government wants to spend \$65 million of our money to buy out their U.S.-based real estate partner, so they can reduce the rents and attract tenants.

At the same time, another arm of the government, the Ministry of Research and Innovation, has begun paying the interest on the MaRS loan. The cost to taxpayers: \$450,000 a month.

Recently, it came to light that the government deliberately changed the rules in 2010 to allow for the MaRS loan. Previously, Infrastructure Ontario loans were intended primarily to be

a source of financing for much needed municipal infrastructure projects.

And despite our efforts at committee hearings in recent days, the government is stonewalling and refusing to disclose relevant documentation related to Infrastructure Ontario's loan to MaRS.

Most troubling of all, the minister responsible for MaRS refuses to divulge the upper limit of what the government is prepared to pay going forward into the MaRS money pit.

When it comes to MaRS, the sky may be the limit.

After eHealth, the cancelled gas plants and the Ornge air ambulance debacles, has the Liberal government not learned a thing?

On Oct. 20, the Ontario Legislature resumed sitting in this, the first session of the 41st Provincial Parliament.

While the recall of the Legislature was later this fall than usual, it's worth noting that the House sat for several weeks during the summer after the June 12 provincial election.

As our Party's Critic to the Minister of Economic Development, Infrastructure and Employment, and as one of the Legislature's assistant Speakers, I expect to be kept very busy. However, as always, the concerns of the people of Wellington-Halton Hills must come first.

One of our outstanding community leaders, Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson, announced recently that after 14 years on Town Council, she would not be seeking re-election on Oct. 27.

— Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills



TED ARNOTT

Visit our showroom
BuyWise
WINDOWS & DOORS
• your window & door professionals •
341 Guelph St., Unit 3 Georgetown
905.873.0236
www.buy-wise.ca info@buy-wise.ca
• awarded readers choice 22 times •

HEATING COOLING BOILERS RADIANT HEAT GAS LINES WATER HEATERS
905-877-3100
Brooks Heating & Air
Don't be left in the Cold
Install a new Furnace & AC now
for only \$119/month* and
don't pay until Spring 2015
*price based OAC
WWW.BROOKS HEATING AND AIR.CA

Speedy Glass
We handle all insurance work.
• Truck Accessories • Upholstery
• Heavy Equipment Glass
• Window Tinting
354 Guelph Street, Georgetown
905-873-1655