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Queen's Park Report

Noel Duignan MPP **Halton North**

The fall sitting wrapped up late on Dec. 10 and the Legislature has been prorogued until the spring. Our second session was a productive one in spite of these difficult

The people of Ontario and the government are dealing with the most severe recession since the

We are not alone - economic activity has slowed through out the industrial world. Global pressures have dramatically affected the structure of Ontario's economy. Although there are signs of improvement, economic recovery will be gradual.

Our provincial government has



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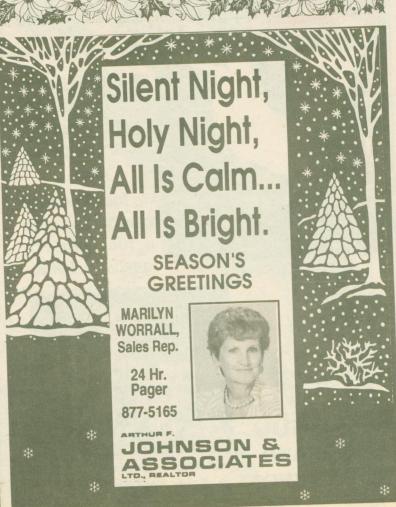
From All The Staff At

North Star

55 Main St. S. Georgetown

Drycleaners 877-0469







responded by fighting the recession, by creating and protecting jobs for people, by directing investment and encouraging private sector investment in the economy, by increasing it commitment to worker training and by maintaining human services, while at the same time controlling the provincial deficit.

We aimed our 1992 budget toward creating and supporting jobs, maintaining public services for people, and controlling the

Focusing on jobs, services and controlling the deficit reflects the concerns that you and others in Ontario have made clear and also responds responsibly to the government's tough financial situation. The length and depth of the current recession have cut government revenues at the same time as people are in greater need for services such as social assistance.

Part of our government's response t this financial squeeze has been aggressive internal costcutting measures. And it's working. For every dollar of new revenue raised this year, we've found four dollars of cost reductions inside government.

Health care is the most dramatic example. Over the last 10 years, annual spending in the health field averaged more than 11 per cent. Last year, the government brought that down to less than two percent while at the same time maintaining these essential services. The overall rate of growth in total spending in the 1992 budget — 4.2 per cent is the lowest in 39 years. Excluding public debt interest, operating spending will grow only by 2.8 per cent this year.

The April budget also announced the jobsOntario Funds:

- The \$1.1-billion jobsOntario Training Fund will support job creation and training for Ontarians who are receiving social assistance or who have exhausted their unemployment insurance eligibility. In addition, 20,000 new, subsidized child care spaces will be created to meet the needs of participants, many of whom are single mothers.

Contrary to recent media reports, hich are based on results for the first three months alone, the Fund is moving aggressively.

Recent statistics from Halton Region, the area broker, show 56 employers registered with the program and 30 positions filled. Meetings were underway for another 95 positions. Those figures were from Dec. 11 and they change weekly. For more information call 878-8113 or 853-0501 and ask for extension 6171.

— The jobsOntario Capital Fund will invest \$2.3-billion over five years on capital investments like public transit, environmental projects and roads to support Ontario's transition to a more productive

The program has committed \$1.3-million toward job creation and economic renewal here in Halton North. Five projects announced last month will create the equivalent of one year's construction work for 22 people.