

Editorial

A budget for the future

On Wednesday, not-so-pink anymore provincial Finance Minister Floyd Laughren tabled the latest NDP budget.

"Woe and betide," cried the unwashed - and washed - hordes of Ontari-ari-ario. "Now we won't be able to afford getting Tinker Belle the cat's claws pruned. The living room's drapes are starting to look like our kids' faces, with the slash marks ruining the ambiance of the decor. At least the kids are covered by OHIP."

Another fiscal somnambulist whined, "Now we won't be able to get that operation for Ralph the dog. I guess we'll have to keep locking him up when we have visitors."

Tough times require tough measures.

Regarding the afore-mentioned, a suggestion. Let Ralph the dog loose on Tinker Belle the cat and both dilemmas will be solved.

The former No Damn Policy bunch has finally taken a stand (one that should have been taken by former Liberal and Progressive Conservative regimes) to cut the fat in Ontario and forcefully give us a come-uppance that could - and should - have been done in more fruitful years when the pain would have been less severe.

The fact our locally-elected provincial representative, Noel Duignan, was unavailable for comment, is neither here nor there - neither it should be pointed out was Duigy, at a time he should have been front and centre to answer questions from the local media. But that's his particular problem.

Federal finance guru Don Mazankowski was quick to condemn the Ontario provincial budget, saying the Canadian economy as a whole will suffer because of the harshness of the NDP tax bite which is estimated will cost taxpayers \$1.6 billion.

Hey Don, chill.

If you and your genius predecessor, Michael Wilson, had been more in tune to financial realities rather than simply currying favor with potential voters, neither Canada nor Ontario would be in such a bind.

John Shadbolt of the Libertarian party writes us a nice letter (that's the one on the top right) taking umbrage at the NDP and its budget.

Thanks for the letter John, but the last we heard, the Libertarian Party's national convention was held in a phone booth and a stranger was asked for a quarter so all the delegates (one) could be rounded up.

The Libertarian Party, like the Family Coalition Party, the Green Party and even "Hey Presto" Manning's Reform party are populist special-interest groups more concerned with their respective followers zeal than either the provincial or national interest.

Like feeder fish, they thrive on leftovers rather than making an effort to do things themselves.

The NDP tax hikes play no favorites. We all get dinged.

Personal income tax will jump three percentage points; the retail sales tax will now cover a variety of other goods and services.

New fees will be applied to snowmobile registration and marriage licences.

A slight "Rae" of sunshine was offered with the revelation that no new taxes will be applied to gas, booze or smokes.

There must be a message there, somewhere.

Don't drive snowmobiles and don't get married.

But drink, smoke and drive to the ends of the province at the same rates as before. Is this a subliminal hint that user fees will soon be implemented for medical care?

Yes, times are tough. But you can't really knock the NDP for taking a tough stance when realistically, this is what is needed to get Ontario's financial house in order.

The adults may not like the budget's immediate impact. But if it works, and gets us out of the fiscal miasma, at least the children can look to the future with some degree of confidence.

Colin Gibson

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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The People's Corner

We are governed by incompetence

To the Editor

The budget that the NDP gave Ontarians Wednesday was a recipe for disaster for people who live and work in Ontario.

People who work and pay taxes are the backbone of the country, and of the province. There has to be some way to make these people feel that they are not getting hosed, because they work.

This is not the case.

Something like 85% of Ontarians will pay higher taxes. Or at least, that is government wisdom.

As a result of the budget, you can bet money on certain things that will happen.

1) More and more people will retire - they will not take it anymore. This will mean less people to tax.

2) The underground economy will grow like crazy.

3) Less work will be undertaken, costing jobs.

4) People from outside the province will look at us and laugh and pull out their investments.

5) More people will despise government, more than they do now. This in the long run makes it more and more difficult for governments to operate.

6) Small retail stores on the front of the taxpayer revolt will be hurt the most, which in turn, hurts manufacturing.

So, what would the Libertarians do, bearing in mind that we have long been against overspending by

government?

The first thing we would do is put a stop to any new civil service hiring. The second thing we would do is stop spending money on 'socialist ideas' that are costing us so dearly.

We do not want or need the legislation the NDP so dearly love; equal pay, equality in the workplace etc. These are great sounding socialist ideals, but destroy our industry with all of the time lost trying to comply - and increase costs.

A priority has to be to put the word back in the Ontario book which everyone understands. The word is 'Reward'. The way it is now, the harder you work the more you reward government, when in fact, you should reward yourself.

The NDP are still carrying on with spending on their idea of heaven, a place where all people will have nothing, the government will have everything.

If this sounds a bit like Russia, well guess what? - it is.

I hope that people in Canada look at the old-line parties and ask themselves, "Are they in the real world?"

The Liberals, under David Peterson overspent by billions. The Tories overspent by billions. The NDP had an orgy of spending when elected and now want us to pay for their incompetence.

Good luck.

John Shadbolt,
Deputy leader, Ontario
Libertarian Party,
Acton

Abuse of power rampant

To the Editor:

I have just read your editorial in my May 19 issue of Halton Hills This Week. Not only do I agree and support you in your coverage and reporting of the Project 80 investigation, I want to compliment you for professionally, openly and accurately stating the deep frustration, disappointment and cynicism many Canadians feel towards our elected representatives.

While most carry out their difficult and demanding duties conscientiously, faithfully and honorably, the fact is some don't.

In fact, anyone who has followed the actions of politicians, worldwide, in recent years, would probably say that those who abuse their powers and positions of public trust appear to be becoming the rule rather than the exception.

I was astounded and horrified to read articles in the May 19 and 20 issues of the Toronto Star indicating that Halton Hills councillors are considering having taxpayers pay Chairman Pomeroy's legal bills. Of course we shouldn't.

As I understand our legal system, if Pomeroy is found innocent of all charges, the court would award him reimbursement for his legal costs.

I would encourage all Halton Hills taxpayers who feel as I do to let their elected representatives know their opinions.

The success and quality of any democratic society depends not only on the support and direction of our elected representatives, but also from the participation and input of society as a whole.

Duane Frerichs,
Georgetown

Know the rules of safe cycling

Now that the warm weather has arrived, people are jumping on their bicycles and pedaling to their heart's content. Increased awareness of health is also influencing people to participate in physical activity. Biking is a pleasant way of enjoying both benefits. Not everyone, however, is aware of bicycle rules which accompany responsible bicycling.

Like motor vehicle drivers, bicycle drivers are covered under the Highway Traffic Act and must stop at all stop signs, yield to traffic at yield signs, on a through highway, from a private road or driveway and to people and vehicles at an intersection.

They must obey all traffic signals and gates and signals at railway crossings.

Cyclists must give proper hand signals when turning right, left or stopping. Bicycles must be driven in the same direction as motor vehicles, on the right hand side, as close to the curb as possible.

Bicycles are not permitted on sidewalks or boulevards.

Although this is stated in Town of Halton Hills by-law 84.1, subsection 2, the action is selectively enforced.

"If the sidewalk is very busy, we will enforce the by-law - for safety reasons," explained consta-

ble Nick Leoni, Village Constable in Georgetown. "We basically consider the danger factor to pedestrians when enforcing it (the by-law)."

Bicycles are required to be equipped with proper lights and reflective material, and with a bell, horn or gong.

No more than one person may ride on a bicycle, unless the bicycle is designed otherwise, and cyclists are forbidden to attach themselves either to another bicycle or another vehicle. While bicycling, riders are required to travel in a single file.

Bicycles which are left unattended must be in an upright position, away from store windows and entrances to buildings.

Although cyclists are not required by law to wear helmets, this

practice greatly reduces the risk of head injuries. For safety reasons, large packages should not be carried on bicycle handles because they may either become entangled in the tires or off-balance the bicycle.

Bicycle drivers are well-advised to lock their bicycles at all times or keep them in the garage.

Enjoy the weather, enjoy the exercise, and cycle safely.

Thanks from Globe

To the Editor:

Globe Productions has recently completed a very successful presentation of "The Mikado" and I thank your organization for the excellent publicity you gave us, both in articles and photographs, as well as the contest you ran for us.

Those of us who work in community theatre greatly appreciate the assistance given by local newspapers.

Maureen Walker
Globe Productions,
Georgetown