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## Legislature was busy during fall session

## By Noel Duignan **Halton North MPP**

It has been an extremely busy and productive fall sitting for the Legislative Assembly and many of my government's proposed legislation and initiatives have made great progress.

I am especially excited about my private member's bill, "An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act in respect of the Niagara Escarpment", which has been referred to the Administration of Justice

Committee for public hearings and clause by clause consideration. Bill 62's intent is to prohibit all further waste management systems and waste disposal sites within the Niagara Escarpment Plan area. This Act will directly and positively affect the constituency of Halton North by destroying any attempt to put a landfill site in the Acton Quarry or other quarries in the area.

I pledged to the citizens of Halton North that I would



Queens's

Park Report

**Noel Duignan** 

endeavor to protect our community's most natural asset, the Niagara Escarpment, and I am pleased that my private member's bill has reached the Administration of Justice Committee.

Following committee approval, Bill 62 will reach its third and final reading in the legislature before awaiting royal assent by the Lieutenant Governor when it becomes a legal Act. If you would like more information on Bill 62 or would like to make a presentation at the public hearings, please contact my community office in Milton at 878-1729.

Another important milestone reached in the past week includes the successful Third Reading of the Employment Equity Act. My colleague, Elaine Ziemba, the Minister of Citizenship, has worked tirelessly to balance the concerns of busi-

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ness, labor and the designated groups to develop a bill that is fair and practical. Employment Equity will mean that workplaces will be required, over time, to reflect the makeup of the population in the census area to which the workplaces belong. Employment Equity is designed to make sure that Ontario makes use of our most valuable resource, our people.

Finally, an innovative program which will be of interest to many Halton North residents was recently announced by Agriculture and Food Minister Elmer Buchanan

Ontario's Rural Loan Pool Program will improve farmers' access to credit and encourage rural residents to invest in their communities. Under this program, rural residents will be able to invest in Agricultural Guaranteed Investment Certificates, which will be eligible for RRSP classifica-

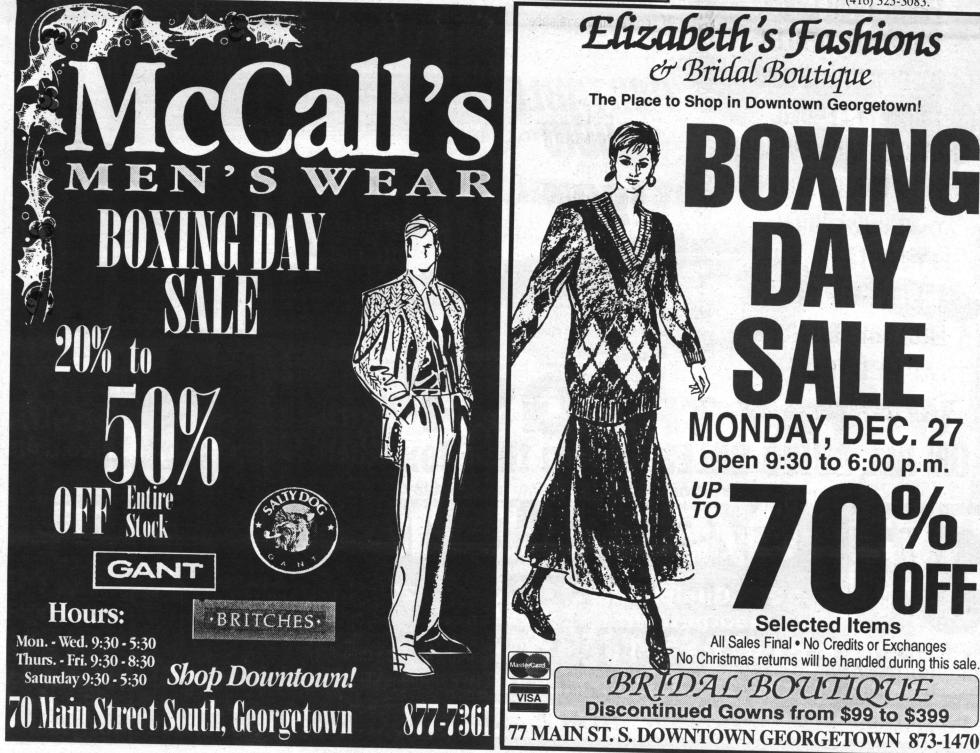
Money from these certificates will be "pooled" by the eligible financial institutions. Funds will then be used within communities to make loans to farmers and other residents for agriculture or agriculture-related financing. This program is the final component of the ministry's Agricultural Investment Strategy, which offers farmers the stability of long-term tools for farm financing. For more information, call Bill Mantel, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, at (416) 325-3083.



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