

Chudleigh's 21 steps for the 21st century

by Donna Danielli
The Compass

Health care, early education, sustained growth, parliamentary reform, and a competitive electricity market in Ontario were all on the agenda when MPP Ted Chudleigh spoke to Chamber of Commerce members on May 3.

"We are willing to look at every aspect of government business to see if it can be done better, cheaper, and most importantly, if it needs to be done at all," explained Chudleigh. "Growth in the economy and in jobs remains our top priority."

Chudleigh, who has been the elected representative for Halton since 1995, and who is the appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, outlined briefly for Chamber members some of the "21 steps into the 21st century" contained in the April 19 Throne Speech. Discussing the need to pay down Ontario's huge debt load, Chudleigh reminded the audience that "We ended deficit spending and we are only now able to tackle the outstanding debt, a debt largely rolled up by the Peterson Liberals and the Rae New Democrats."

A new policy would allow the

provincial auditor to assess the spending of 70 per cent of provincial funds that are transferred to various funding partners such as municipalities, hospitals, and schools. Under the action plan laid out in the Throne Speech, a competitive electricity market will learn from the mishaps of California's rolling blackouts and will also take notes from the successful deregulation of telephone services.

"Ultimately, government should never compete with the private sector. Using the wider resources of government to provide goods or services is not fair to entrepreneurs nor is it economically sustainable by taxpayers. We must get out of those businesses that we should not operate and sell those assets we should not own."

An aging baby boom population will result in health care consuming 60 percent of the total provincial government budget in five years and is an issue Chudleigh feels must be addressed immediately.

"We are only a hair's breadth away from warehousing our frail and elderly citizens rather than giving them the care they believed

they'd have and that they deserve."

Children as well, will see changes to their education process through a system of "early years" centres and the provision for local boards to have more of a choice of curriculum, such as the phonics method as opposed to "whole language" study.

The majority of the questions following his prepared speech centred around two issues: the CN intermodal and the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB). Chudleigh admitted that "one of the things that came to light is the awesome power the railways have...they won't need re-zoning and they won't pay development taxes." However, he went on to say that he feels the railway will be careful how it proceeds, as a strong sustained protest from the community could result in legislative pressure to change the Railway Act, thus significantly lessening the railway's power.

The GTSB however, is another story. Chudleigh was adamant in his resolve to make the provincial government aware of the dangers of allowing this Toronto-based organization to dictate the planning poli-

cies of the local municipalities.

"Every aspect the GTSB has proposed, I have been against. I remain to be convinced that this is of any benefit to Halton, with the exception of GO Transit." Chudleigh was quick to point out what the reality of life under GTSB governance would be for Halton. Halton has the only viable waste disposal dump in the GTA, a dump which could have a 40-year lifespan servicing only Halton, or a three or four year lifespan servicing the Greater Toronto Area. As well, he feels that having only eight of the 106 votes on the GTSB would leave Halton last for any kind of development, after Mississauga and Brampton.

"We pay about \$135 per home for police services while Toronto pays in excess of \$240. If we amalgamate, these amounts would be averaged and we'd be rewarding irresponsibility. We would be rewarding cities that haven't planned as well as Halton has."

Halton may have a large fight on its hands with the GTSB, but Halton's MPP Ted Chudleigh made it clear it's a fight he intends to make sure Halton wins.



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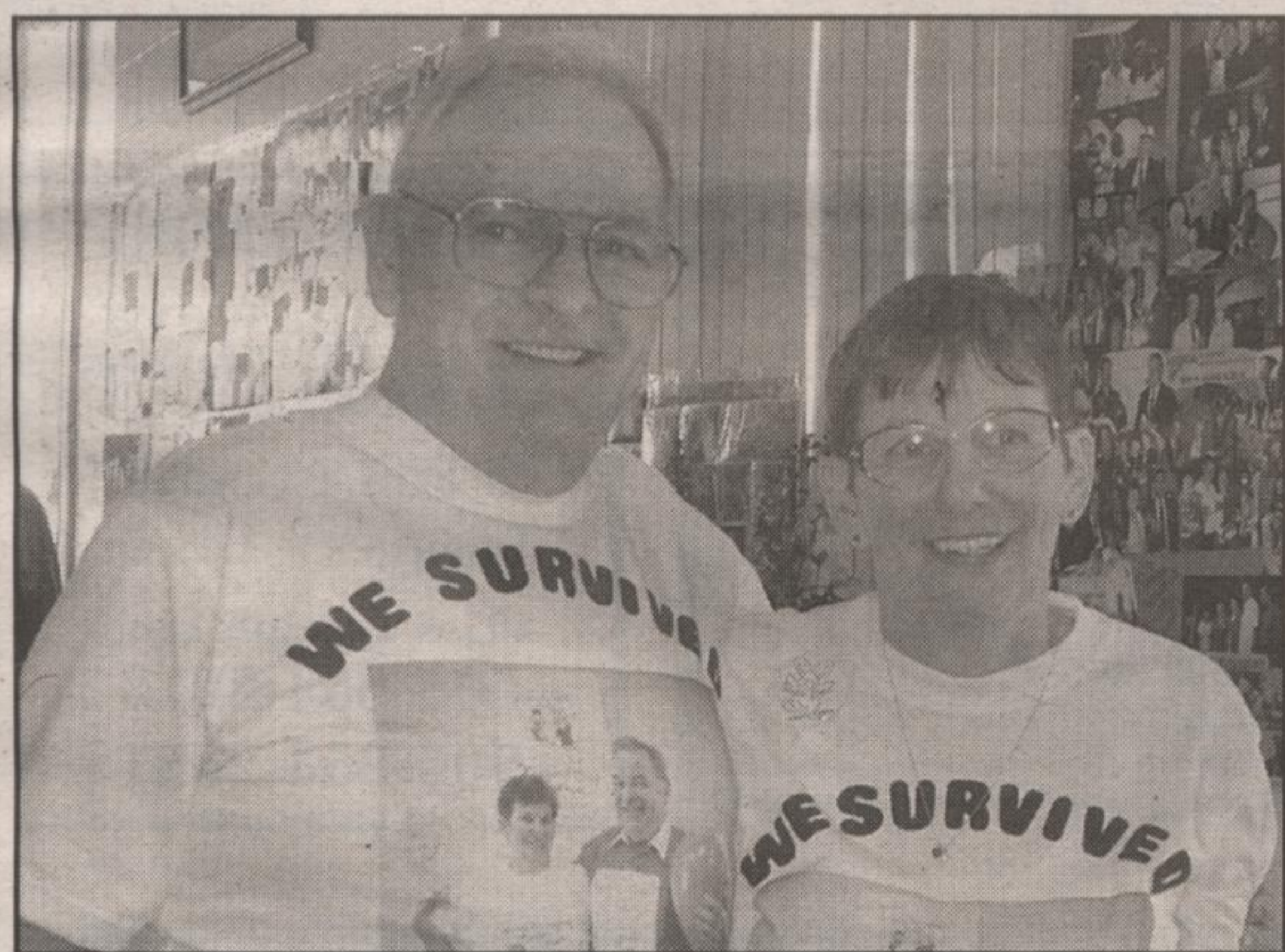
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Rockwood, Ontario

40th Anniversary Celebrations



Norm and Donna Coulter owners of North End Nissan celebrated their 40th anniversary in business with many members of the community at their open house in May.

Photo by Donna Danielli

Kickin' off the new business year



Escarpment Country Kickoff - Country Heritage Park's General Manager Reg Cressman, Lotts and Lots owner Margaret Lott, Halton Region Museum Manager Paul Attack, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Martin and Information Milton's Robert Dallimore showed some smiles at their special event.

Photo by Donna Danielli

Safety on wheels



May's Bike Rodeo was a popular event at Brookville Public School. Some willing participants were (left to right): Officer Paul, Malcolm Eppinger, Jasmine Beaulieu, Julian Coobs, Enc Shallcross Puttock, Jason Earl, and principal Rick Nodwell.

Photo by Michelle Ewing



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