

# Halton feeling gas pains!

## Ottawa is blasted for excessive taxation

With the price of a litre of gasoline at record-high levels – as much as \$1.45 at some area pumps – Halton residents are asking how this happened so quickly after Hurricane Katrina hit last week, and when relief can be expected.

"No other issue comes close to this one when I talk to people on their doorstep," says Garth Turner. "They are angry and frustrated, and I think this is going to have some serious implications when it comes to consumer spending and the economy."

Gas prices in the Halton area are now running as much as 20 cents higher than in nearby American states, when compared in Canadian currency. One recent American visitor found she was paying the equivalent of \$5.05 US a gallon, compared with \$3.39 US just south of the border.

"While Katrina's devastation of the energy industry along the Gulf coast is the catalyst for this increase, Ottawa certainly can take blame for the so-called Canadian premium," says Turner, MP candidate in the coming federal election. "The Liberal government has imposed the GST on top of an excise tax on gasoline, while maintaining a deficit tax long after the deficit is gone."

"As a result, Halton motorists are sending a third of all the money they spending filling up right to Ottawa. It's a huge windfall, and another example of Liberal over-taxation. The federal government's budget surplus – gorged by these gas taxes – is living proof Canadians are being taxed beyond their means."

Turner warns this tax grab could soon hurt consumer spending, impacting the retail sector, as more household income is diverted into basic transportation costs. Soaring energy costs are also likely to make the cost of homeownership significantly higher this winter. Combined with rising mortgage rates, this is not good news at a time when real estate prices have been inflating, making home ownership less affordable.

"A Conservative government would immediately end this double and triple-taxation on gasoline," Turner says. "Owning and operating a car in an area like this is not a luxury – it's a complete necessity. Public transit here is just not developed enough to look after the needs of most families, and when it can cost \$70 or \$80 for a fill-up, this is a real burden on family income. The Liberal government should do the right thing, and end this unfair tax grab."

## MPP Arnott's Bill means parents will not pay

### P.S.T on mandatory booster seats for children

A new Provincial law is now in effect requiring children to be in booster seats while travelling in vehicles if they are under eight years old, or weigh less than 80 pounds, or stand less than 4 feet 9 inches tall.

Parents who must purchase new car booster seats have been given tax relief because of Waterloo-Wellington MPP Ted Arnott's Bill 77. The principle of this Private Member's Bill was adopted as policy by the Provincial Government in its 2005 Budget, and provides for an exemption from the 8 per cent Provincial Sales Tax.

"Parents are compelled by law to buy these new car booster seats and would have been required to pay the 8 per cent Provincial Sales Tax had it not been for my Bill 77," Mr. Arnott stated.

The new law requiring children to be

in booster seats is effective September 1st, the same day the tax exemption came into force according to a notice from the Ministry of Finance Retail Sales Tax Branch.

Mr. Arnott tabled his Bill 77, An Act to Amend the Retail Sales Tax Act, on May 6th 2004 and advocated on the issue in the Legislature on many occasions. He was pleased when the Government adopted the principle of the Bill as Government policy in its 2005 Budget.

The Ministry of Transportation advises that drivers who do not comply with the new booster seat requirements may face two demerit points and a \$110 fine. The Ministry also indicates that taxis, public vehicles, buses, emergency vehicles, vehicles on short-term lease, and those from other jurisdictions are exempt from the new child car seat regulations.

## Halton Region ready to participate in coordinated relief efforts

Continued from page 1

"I'm pleased that the Province has been quick to advise that they will be the lead agency on this issue," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "It's so important during times of emergency, that relief efforts are centrally coordinated so that the appropriate resources can be dispensed as quickly, and as efficiently as possible."

"Halton's Emergency Management staff is in daily contact with the Ministry,"

said Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer. "Our staff is well prepared to assist in whatever way necessary."

Persons wishing to make a financial donation, may do so through The Canadian Red Cross by telephone at 1-800-418-1111 or via their website at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca). An information line to handle general inquiries about the relief efforts has been established by the Province and is operable Monday to Friday, 10 am to 10 pm, at 1-888-886-3998.

# REMEMBER...

You must stop in both directions when you see a school bus with red lights flashing.

Please Remember to observe and obey pedestrian crosswalks!



Protect Our Children...

# DRIVE SAFELY



# Brian's

Auto Repairs & Tire Centre  
For all Your Auto Needs!

390 Ontario St. N., Unit # 1, Milton

HRS: Mon. - Thurs. 7-6

Fri. 7-5:30, Sat. 8-12

(Except long weekends)

# 875-1522



## How to Get More Home for Your Money

MILTON - A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that homebuyers make when moving to a larger home.

Unlike the experience of buying a first home, when you're looking to move-up, and already own a home, there are certain factors that can complicate the situation. It's very important for you to understand these issues before you list your home for sale.

Not only is there the issue of financing to consider, but you also have to sell your present home at exactly the right time in order to avoid either the financial burden of owning two homes or, just as bad, the dilemma of having no place to live during the gap between closings.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "6 Inside Strategies to Avoid Trade-Up Mistakes".

These six strategies will help you make informed choices before you put your home on the market in anticipation of moving to a larger home.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-877-617-1275 and enter ID# 4004. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call NOW to find out what you need to know to make your move up to a larger home worry-free and without complications.

[www.halton10questions.com](http://www.halton10questions.com)

## INDUSTRY WARNING: Selling Your Home Will Cost You Thousands Too Much if You're Not Aware of These 9 Critical Steps

MILTON - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers most home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-877-617-1275 and enter ID# 4000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

[www.halton6buyer mistakes.com](http://www.halton6buyer mistakes.com)