

# 'Start of the Art' Show to benefit Rose Cherry's Home

By ANN KORNUA

On September 17th, the Milton Mall will feature a kid's art show created by kids to benefit families at the Rose Cherry Home. Andrea Markusich is spearheading the project where a group of children, ages 1-11 will get messy, have fun, and create works of art to be auctioned off in a silent auction. Even children at the Rose Cherry home are getting into the fun and creating works of art themselves to raise funds for the charity home. "We are asking the children to fill in the blank when they paint," Andrea explained. "They have to answer I LOVE \_\_\_\_! Then paint that."

Andrea loves art and as a mother of three children herself feels that children everywhere should be able to express themselves freely and without restraint. "When I was in high school," Andrea explained, "my friend told me she brought home a painting she made for her father. It was a row of flowers, but instead of each flower being a different colour, the blooms were all green and the stands were all a different colour. Her dad said her painting was all wrong and when I heard the story I thought how structured everything was, even art for children. I just think art should be one of those things where you should be able to freely self-express yourself."

Andrea's Start of the Art show will

help raise funds for the Rose Cherry Home, the children's hospice and respite center located in the Niagara Escarpment in Milton. The Rose Cherry home is tucked away back in the woods amid nature's tranquility. Andrea explained, "I talked to a few moms in my neighbourhood to get them to volunteer their kids for the Art exhibition." Next Saturday, masterpieces will be created in one messy and creative afternoon at a studio house where the children will gather. The paintings could be as simple as baby footprints and hand paintings, and as complex as the child's personal interpretation of what they love. "What they love could be something as simple as mom and dad or animals. It's up to the children to express what they love and to translate that onto the canvas and paper we provide for them," Andrea explains.

On September 17th, the artwork will be on display at the Milton Mall in a silent auction from 11:30 to 4pm on the Saturday. Most of the work will be acrylic on canvas, donated from Loomis and Tolls and Benjamin Moore. Some of these pieces are small, but some are massive. Local supporters such as the Harrop Art Gallery and the Ivy Gate Décor have donated the frames for the children's artwork.

## Queen's Park Report

Ted Chudleigh, MPP Halton

### The current run up of gas prices shows no sign of abating.

High gas prices have already had a negative impact on our economy, but it will take a while for the full wrath of these impacts to be felt. Some analysts are predicting \$1.50 a litre within six months. By then we'll be feeling it everyday.

Winter demand for heating oil and months of high fuel prices will force other prices to rise, reflecting high transportation costs throughout the economy. Ontario's auto sector will have to undertake a major rethink of products.

What can the government do? Well there are three taxes imposed on fuel in Ontario. Provincial tax in Ontario is 14.7 cents per litre and goes into government coffers which fund health care, education and other provincial programs. A federal excise tax of 10 cents per litre also goes into federal revenues and is used for federally funded programs.

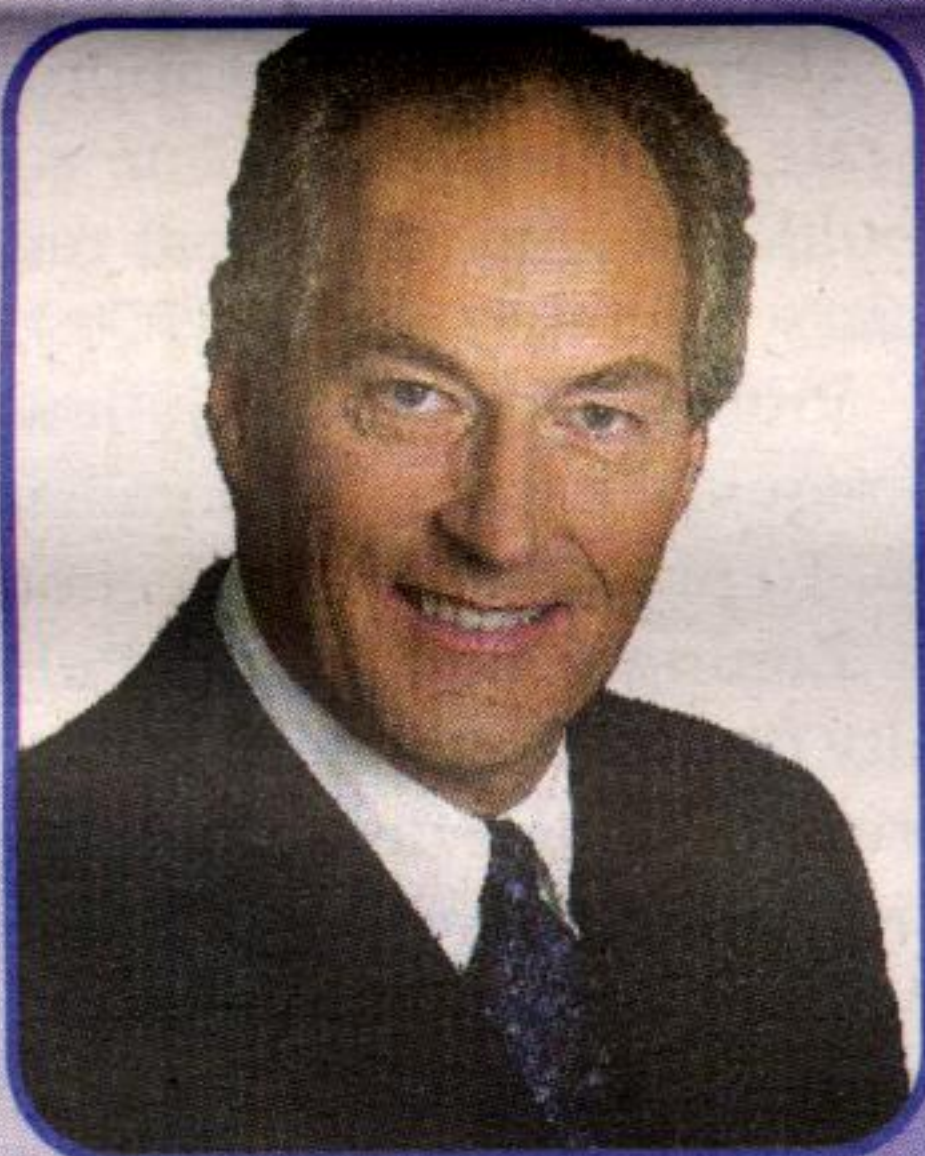
The third tax is GST. The Goods and Services Tax is seven percent and is added to the price of gas to produce the price displayed at the pump. The GST provides two opportunities to give consumers a break.

First, the GST is charged on the actual cost of the gas and on the fixed federal and provincial taxes. Charging tax on tax is gouging and fundamentally wrong. Premier McGuinty has to do more than just talk to the Prime Minister and get this fixed. Second, as the price of gas rises, the GST rises with it. So gas that is 53.5 cents a litre has 3.5 cents of GST on it while \$1.07 per litre gas has seven cents of GST attached to it.

Governments need to know how much revenue they will collect. Collecting GST on the fluctuating price of gas makes that more difficult. The federal government should tax gas at a flat per litre rate only. That ensures they can better predict how much revenue they will reap and consumers can be protected from rapidly escalating prices.

The federal excise tax was originally instituted by the Liberals as a conservation measure, in other words, artificially boosting the price of gas to force people to use less. It was increased by Mr. Martin when he was Finance Minister to help reduce the deficit, which no longer exists.

With the federal government some \$9 billion in annual surplus surely they can afford to make the GST adjustments and even make a small reduction to federal excise tax, especially since these changes will cushion our economy, and help to sustain future tax revenues.



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