

# Town of Milton Recreation Open House

PHOTOS AND SOTRY BY ANN KORNUA



Marion Detlor sits by her watercolour paintings, promoting the painting classes.

On Wednesday, September 14th at Milton's Seniors Activity Centre there were displays of the activities and classes offered this year by the Town's recreational services for adults. It was a chance for the public to meet and greet the course instructors. Programs such as painting, dancing, garden design and even a photography course were offered.



Registration is still open for winter courses so check the Milton Recreation guide for details.

Al Clark displays his wood working talents for the Wood Carving classes.

# Apology

The Halton Compass would like to apologize for an error that appeared in Mayor Rick Bonnette's column last week. Retiring CAO Bob Austin began working for the Town of Halton Hills in 1974, not 1994 as reported. Happy Retirement Bob and thanks for 30 great years.

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# House Notes

BY GARY CARR

## Canada's economy: more income, more jobs, more stability and growth

Since 1993, the economic stewardship provided by Paul Martin and the Liberal government has resulted in higher incomes, low unemployment, low interest rates, and strong economic growth.

### On Income

The average Canadian family is better off today than it was in 1993 after allowing for inflation, the average Canadian family's income was 8 per cent higher in 2003 than in 1993.

The average Canadian family's after-tax income was 11 per cent higher in 2003 than in 1993, again after adjusting for inflation.

These numbers represent real gains in the take home pay of Canadians.

This compares to a 16 per cent decline in the average family's after-tax inflation-adjusted income from 1980 to 1993, an era that was almost entirely under Conservative stewardship.

The recent gains in family income have been helped by the biggest single tax cut in the history of Canada, which, between 2001 and 2006, will have put \$100 billion back into the pockets of Canadians.

In 2005 we provided even more tax relief to middle and modest income earners by increasing the threshold of tax-free income to \$10,000 - removing 860,000 taxpayers, including 240,000 seniors, from the tax rolls.

We also raised annual RRSP contribution limits to \$22,000, enhancing tax relief as well as increased equity and personal financial security.

### On Jobs

Since 1993, unemployment has dropped from over 11 per cent to less than 7 per cent. In that time, more than 3 million new jobs have been created.

This unprecedented surge in job creation, coupled with steadily rising incomes, means many of these new jobs are full-time and high-paying.

Thanks to the actions of this Liberal

government, the Canada Pension Plan was rescued from a projected collapse and now sits on solid financial footing for generations to come.

As well, Budget 2005 included a \$2.7 billion increase over five years to the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors.

### On Stability and Growth

Since 1993 the Liberal government has consistently met our inflation targets. Short-term interest rates have fallen substantially and are holding steady at about 2 per cent - their lowest levels in more than 40 years.

Low inflation has kept mortgage rates down, allowing a record number of Canadians to buy homes.

Home ownership rates, stagnant at 62 per cent through the 1980s and early 1990s, have been steadily on the rise from 63.6 per cent in 1996 to 67.1 per cent today.

From 1996 to 2001, Canada gained 750,000 new-owner households. Since then, thanks to consistently low mortgage rates, close to 500,000 more Canadians and their families have become new home-owners.

The Liberal government has accomplished all this while achieving eight consecutive budget surpluses-the longest unbroken string of surpluses since Confederation.

These surpluses have enabled us to pay more than \$60 billion on the national debt, saving taxpayers more than \$3 billion every year in interest payments.

Under the Conservatives the National Debt almost doubled. Paul Martin had to come in and clean up the mess left by Brian Mulroney and the Conservatives.

If you have any questions or comments on any issue please feel free to email me at carrg@parl.gc.ca or call me at (905)693-0166. I look forward to hearing from you.



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