

At Queen's Park

- by MPP Ted Chudleigh



The period between sittings of the legislature is a time for reflection. It's a time to consider new policy, review specific details of current policy and take the pulse of the public.

While all those activities are in full swing, Premier Mike Harris is calling for the federal government to provide a 20 per cent tax cut, saying it will create 2.2 million new jobs. In addition to helping press for tax cuts, this winter I've become involved in the government's Gasoline Pricing Task Force and will visit several communities in Northern Ontario to gain a local perspective on the great Lakes Heritage Coastline project.

The Great Lakes Heritage Coastline project is part of Ontario's Living Legacy, a move to create hundreds of new provincial parks and protected areas. The coastline essentially covers the north shore of Lake Huron and Lake Superior from near Parry Sound all the way across to the U.S. border west of Thunder Bay.

The project should help to unify the parks and protected areas as well as set some guidelines for development and help promote the tourism industry in the area. I will travel all along the shores of these two Great Lakes over the next few months to gain local input, explain the government's goals to community leaders, and try to mould the project to what is needed and what is wanted.

Mind you, I'd much rather be visiting these areas in the spring or summer.

In between these consultation sessions in the north I will attend meetings with interested parties regarding gasoline pricing in Ontario. I'm one of four MPPs who are members of the Gasoline Pricing Task Force. The task force has organized a series of consultations with government representative, community leaders and various industry interests including refiners,

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Continued from Page 6

...mous conclusion therefore seems to refute one of the main arguments of opponents to the introduction in the United States of compulsory measures (to reduce greenhouse gases)."

If the science is sound, why aren't Canadian governments and industries taking stronger measures to address this issue? Good question, especially when Emergency Preparedness Canada recently concluded that: "As a coastal and northern country, and as a renewable resource producer in the forestry, agriculture and fisheries sector, Canada is more vulnerable than most to damage from climate change." Climate science may not be perfect - no science is - but it's the best we have. Isn't it time government and industry started taking it seriously?

retailers, independents and the buying public. The task force has already met with Liberal MP Dan McTeague, who has been lobbying his own government for changes to the Competition Act to loosen the hold of major refiners on the industry.

While the Premier waits for the report of the task force, he has been lobbying the federal government for a 20 per cent federal income tax cut. Premier Harris has asked members of the Ontario government to lobby individual federal Liberal MPs to support his call for an income tax cut in the next federal budget.

Budget announcements should be very interesting this spring. Finance Minister Ernie Eaves will announce Ontario's balanced budget, following through on a promise made in 1995, and taxpayers will eagerly await hoped for tax cuts in the federal budget.

Information on legislation, constituency service, and Halton's history is all on my web site at www.tedchudleigh.com.

EWAG active in Rockwood

It's amazing to find people in our community who do not realize that EWAG (East Wellington Advisory Group) is here in Rockwood. It is nice to hear folks pleasantly surprised when they find us and are pleased that we offer so many services to the community. Our thrift store has a great selection of gently used clothing and this month we offer our famous "Stuff It" sale. Come in and stuff a grocery bag for only \$5!

If you are interested in Tai Chi then you will want to sign up for the 12-week session starting Thursday Feb. 10 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$50 for non-seniors and \$45 for seniors. For more information please call Lynn at 856-2113. Please register before Feb. 4.

If you would like your hearing tested for a hearing aid, Acoustic Hearing Aid Services are willing to come out to the EWAG office to do free testing. A date has not yet been set for this service, but if you are interested, please call Lynn at the EWAG office.

Don't forget to contact Sue here at EWAG for information on any of our Tot-Time activities. Tot-Time runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-12:00. The Toy Lending Library operates on

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:30 and on Tuesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. The very popular "Let's Play" program is starting up again on Feb. 14 until March 27. For more information please contact Sue at 856-2113 or 833-9696.

The Seniors Day Program is up and running in Rockwood and had a very successful first day in January. There is still space available in the program for those of you interested. The day includes door pickup, a hot lunch, outings for the month of February, crafts, etc. all for only \$9. There is space on the EWAG'N van for those of you interested in just the outing. For the month of February, there are two outings planned. On Feb. 11 the outing will be to Eramosa Public Library for an afternoon of folk music with Sharon Van Manen. The bus leaves from Squires Lodge at 1:30 p.m. and the cost of the outing is free. On Feb. 25, the bus leaves Squires Lodge at 1:30 for a shopping trip to Stone Road Mall. Cost is \$4 and space is limited. To reserve a spot for the outings, please call Lynn.

Join the Euchre gang for a

special Valentine afternoon at 1 p.m. on Feb. 10 at the office here. All are welcome to join us for a only a loonie and that

includes coffee, tea and goodies. Regular euchre and bingo alternate every Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m.

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