

# MPP: Tories will not renege on tax cuts

By BRAD REAUME

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Reports that the provincial government will renege on its promised tax cut are simply not true, according to Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh.

"The tax cut will be instituted in the way it was laid out in the common sense revolution," said Chudleigh. "On top of the tax cut

there is a health tax levy, which claws back money from those making more than \$50,000 per year. The health tax levy is on page six of the Common Sense Revolution. The tax cut is on page five."

Chudleigh said press accounts have indicated the rich are getting a bigger tax break than lower income Ontarians. However the percentages are the same, he said. He added that the rich pay more so they will get more back. The health tax levy clawback increases as income increases.

"If you want to punish success then you reward failure," said Chudleigh. "I don't think that's all that reasonable."

Chudleigh blamed the public confusion on the difficulty of communicating a complex idea through a 30-second sound bite. In addition the opposition, he said, is spending much of their energy trying to get the government to back away from campaign promises.

Chudleigh said the government

has not shifted off its plan at all. He cited health care and education spending, saying the government pledged to uphold spending amounts in each area, but didn't say the use of the money would not be changed.

"We have to move money around. Health care is a mess. We are not going to stand for the status quo," he said. "Education is a disaster. To suggest it be left alone is irresponsible. Teachers aren't happy, parents aren't happy, taxpayers aren't happy and students are dropping out."

Chudleigh said members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) have been complaining about changes to the status quo because they like the status quo.

Discussion of Bill 26, which lays out legislative changes the government sees as necessary to institute the whole of the common sense revolution, will continue after the holidays. It will likely become law late this month.

## Police Blotter

### Car totalled

A 1991 Pontiac was totalled on Wednesday at 3:20 a.m., police said. The car was heading north on Tenth Line when it hit a snow drift and the driver lost control. The vehicle veered across the southbound lane and flipped over in the ditch. The driver, a Terra Cotta resident, was not injured and there were no charges due to the weather conditions.

### Car fire

An employee working at Standard Products on Guelph St. went out to warm up his car Thursday morning and when he returned at 8:13 a.m. his car was on fire. Co-workers partially extinguished the flames and the Halton Hills Fire Department finished putting out the fire. Damage to the 1988 Plymouth Reliant was \$3,000, the fire department said.

## Tough budget times ahead

Halton Hills council will have an even tougher time during upcoming budget deliberations due to the fact provincial funding cuts to the town are about 14 per cent higher than expected.

Town treasurer Andy Koopmans said the town received official notice from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs last week it would receive 37 per cent less, about \$880,000, in grant

money from the province this year over last.

The town was expecting about a \$550,000 reduction. More cuts are expected in future years.

"The province is going to force all municipalities to look at their services and how they provide them," said Koopmans.

Budget deliberations begin Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. where council will work its way through the 1996 capital budget.

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