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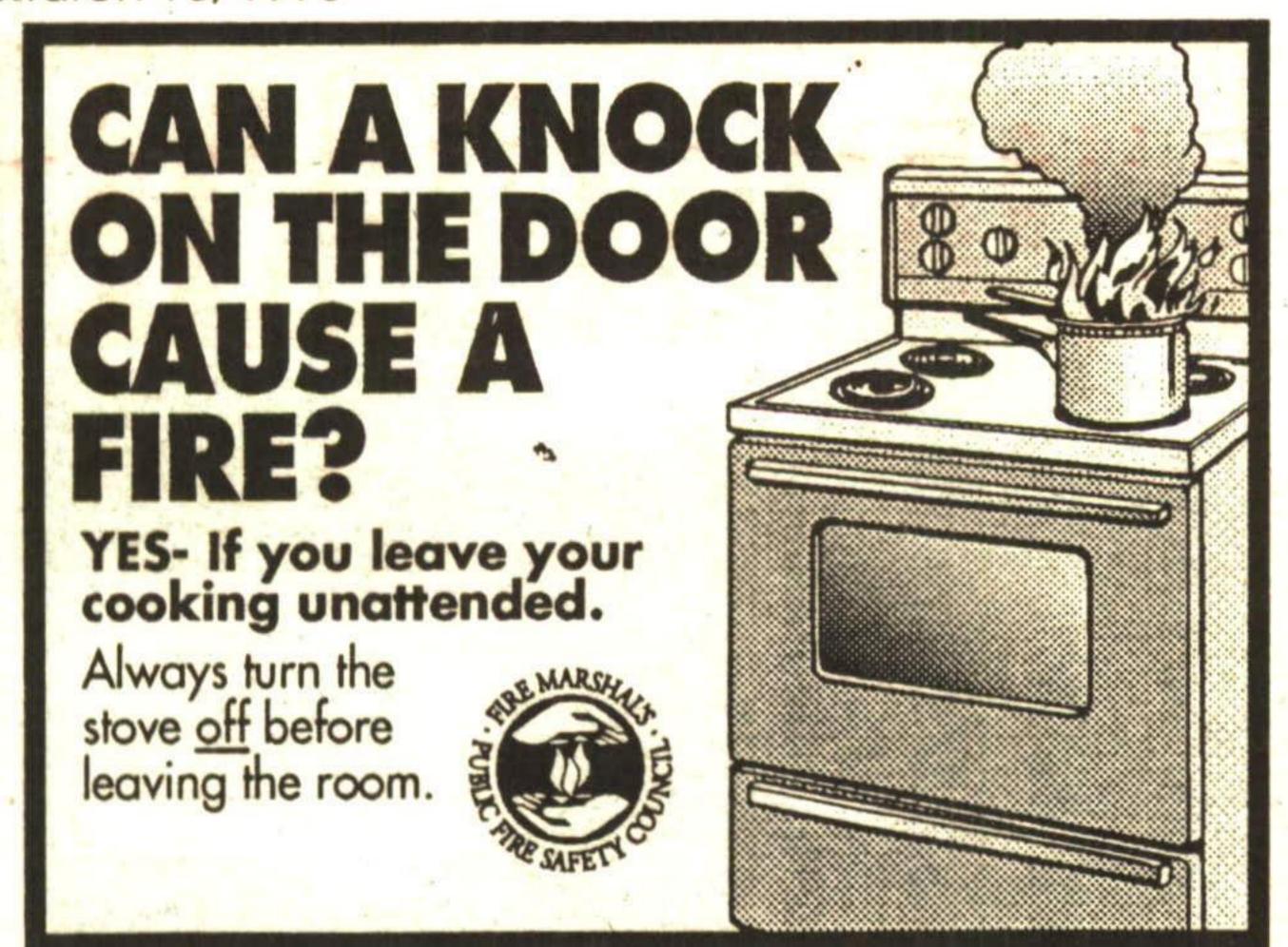
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MP reacts to federal budget

By JANET BAINE

Staff writer

The 1996 federal hold-the-line budget didn't have many changes outlined in it, but it should keep the financial markets happy, said MP Julian Reed.

"What I'm looking forward to is economic renewal through the spring. And I'm really anxious to see some hammers driving nails into lumber and some action," Reed

The budget "sends a solid message to money markets in particular that we're getting our fiscal house in order," and the result should be lower interest rates which will save the government money in servicing the debt.

"Each time the interest rates drop a point, it costs \$1.5 billion less to service the debt," he said.

He said he received a few hundred suggestions and concerns from people who had their own ideas on what should be in the budget and this information was passed on to Finance Minister Paul Martin. Last year he received thousands, with many being on a proposal to tax dental plans.

This year the biggest concern was the gas tax, which remains the same, while many people felt the government was moving too slowly to eliminate the deficit and others felt it was moving too fast.

Reed's only disappointment with his government's budget is that there has not been more progress on the GST, but he said the provinces, in particular Ontario and Alberta, are holding up the process of consolidating it into one tax.

Fundraiser for Lynn in April

About 420 people gave a blood sample at the clinic for former Georgetown resident Lynn Anthony Bozec in Brampton last Sunday.

Lynn, who is battling nonlymphoma Hodgkins myelodysplastic syndrome, is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.

Lynn's husband Alan said the turnout at the clinic was good considering the wintry weather conditions that day.

"We would like to thank everybody for coming out," said Alan. "We would appreciate any

(donations) help anyone can give." He and his wife are optimistic they will find a bone marrow match

among the samples from Sunday and are expecting results back by the end of the week.

Only about \$8,700 was raised in donations for Lynn, and the cost of testing the blood was about \$21,000 (\$50 per person).

Alan is hoping money raised at a North Park fundraiser Secondary School in Brampton Saturday, April 13 will cover the shortfall.

The Carleton Show Band and a special guest will perform at the fundraiser. The evening will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and there will be a cash bar.

For more information or tickets call Alan at (519) 940-9386.



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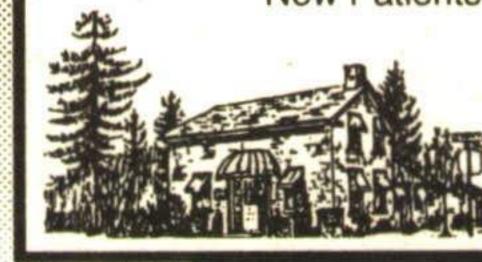
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