

It's harvest time in Ontario

Despite Premier Dalton McGuinty harvesting our incomes for more taxes, I'm not going to let the Pinocchio Premier ruin a great autumn season.

This year's harvests are respectable. A cool, wet summer has given way to a glorious autumn, extending the growing season, and finally giving farmers a rare break.

Harvest time is traditionally our time to give thanks for the bounty we enjoy.

Generations of Ontarians have worked hard to build our farms, our manufacturing, our small businesses, our infrastructure and the institutions that provide the glue to hold it all together.

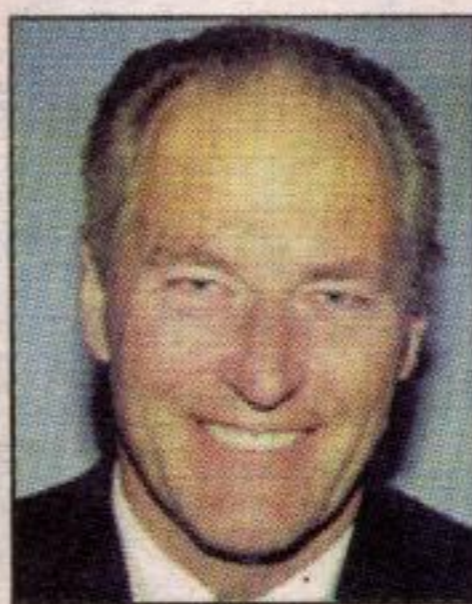
New Ontarians are adding their skills and experiences to our way of life and are enriching our society. At Thanksgiving, we can celebrate all that we've achieved, being thankful for the roof over our head and the bounty on our table.

We still have battles to fight. Hospital funding in Halton is not matching our growth rates. Infrastructure is falling behind. Halton residents are paying millions in new taxes for improvements in these areas and are not seeing tangible results. These battles remain to be waged.

The Ontario Legislature will reconvene shortly and I will bring these concerns to my colleagues and make the government aware. Some of these battles we will win and others we will simply try again to win another day.

I am very concerned that there is no stable funding base for the purchase of environmentally sensitive land, much of it in the Niagara Escarpment. I will be attempt-

QUEEN'S PARK REPORT



Ted Chudleigh

ing to get the current government to create a single, stable program out of its current hodge-podge of programs. This program will ensure that sensitive lands that come up for sale can be purchased and enjoyed by all Ontarians.

Hospital funding could become an issue. Despite millions in new taxes and a massive, although long overdue transfer from the federal government, hospital funding is not keeping pace with growth in Halton. We've dodged one bullet on the closure of obstetrics at Georgetown Hospital and now we must keep the pressure on to ensure there is no further attempt to erode our local health services.

At Thanksgiving we can bemoan our current government but be thankful that we live in a civil society that accedes to the wishes of the electorate, encourages alternative ideas and accomplishes it all without fear of persecution.

Indeed, I'm thankful I live in Ontario. To you and yours I extend best wishes for this harvest time. May you reap your reward for your effort of this past year.

—Ted Chudleigh is the MPP for Halton

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