

Queen's Park Report

by jim snow m.l.a.

The Ontario Legislature adjourned for summer recess on Friday, June 29 after 119 sitting days, including 47 night sessions, and thus set a record for the longest session in the history of the Ontario Parliament.

Royal Assent was given to 108 bills, 77 of these were Government bills and 31 Private Bills. The Government replied to approximately 2,000 questions in the House which is double the number in the past session. Some 35 hours were also spent debating Private Members' Bills and resolutions.

As one Toronto newspaper Queen's Park reporter summed up the Session, "It's been a fruitful session, a session of solid accomplishment rather than show-piece goodies." Legislative accomplishments so far this Session, which will resume sittings on Sept. 30, include the following highlight items:

BUDGET
The Hon. Charles McNaughton, in bringing down his balanced budget this year, also brought in a white paper promising basic overhauling of taxes and the increase of the Provincial portion of elementary and secondary school education costs from the present 45 per cent to 60 per cent over three years.

MEDICARE
Agreement has been entered into with the Federal Government on terms favorable to Ontario to enter the Federal Medicare scheme on October 1, 1969 and legislation has been passed to implement this.

HOUSING
The Ontario Housing Corporation has been proceeding with an expanded program of housing with two projects either underway now or to start in the very near future in the Halton East Riding. These include 24 Senior Citizen Units in Georgetown for which the contract has been awarded. A study of Senior Citizen requirements in the Town of Milton has now been approved and 36 Senior Citizen units will be built in Milton. A second program is now to get underway in the Town of Oakville which will include 32 Senior Citizen units and another group of approximately 30 family units.

EXPROPRIATIONS
A greatly improved expropriation act to provide more cash, better protection and a closer relationship to market value and also compensation for business loss, has been passed. The new act also calls for stronger proof of the need for expropriation before such action proceeds.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
Two major steps have been taken in the Regional Government program this year. The new amalgamated municipality at the Lakehead and the new Niagara Region government have been approved and will become active on Jan. 1, 1970. The Halton and Peel area regional government is still under study and the Minister of Municipal Affairs has made a tentative proposal. This proposal is now being studied and considered by a local committee of the Reeves of all Municipalities in Halton County as well as a financial study being carried on by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Further meetings between local officials and the Department will be held on this matter in the near future.

ASSESSMENT
Starting Jan. 1, 1970, all Real Estate assessment will be carried out by the Provincial Assessment Department. In this take-over of Assessment, all local assessors will become employees of the Provincial Assessment Department and the overall result will be a uniform property assessment throughout the Province.

LIQUOR
During the current session progressive changes were made in the liquor laws, extending the closing hours of all licensed establishments to a uniform, 1:00 a.m., and changing the hours for the serving of alcoholic beverages with meals on Sundays. Approval was also given for the issuance of liquor licenses to Veterans and Social Clubs and the licensing of outdoor facilities. The requirements for a signature on purchase slips at retail stores has been eliminated and the first self-service liquor store has been established.

COMPENSATION
Much improved compensation has been provided for people disabled by job accidents through the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board and compensation is now available for the first time for innocent victims of crime.

MOTORISTS
Major revisions were made to the Highway Traffic Act including a new crackdown on offending motorists and heavier fines for highway offences. Also stricter anti-pollution controls are implemented on new model motor vehicles.

POLLUTION
Legislation has been implemented merging almost all anti-pollution programs under one Department. These include both air and water pollution and will now come under the Department of Energy and Resources Management which formerly controlled only water pollution. A new Minister, the Hon. George Kerr, Q.C. M.P.P. for Halton West has been appointed as Minister of the Department and has already announced an expanded program for the control of both air and water pollution.

POLICE
Amendments have been made to the Police Act which will include an end to the power of local police forces to say when and how they should use firearms and other equipment. Regulatory power on the use of this equipment including wire-tapping equipment, will now be under the control of the Ontario Police Commission and the Attorney-General.

TRANSPORTATION
Changes have been made in the Highways grant regulations which will now give larger municipal road and subway grants from the Provincial Government to municipalities.

CIVIL RIGHTS
The Civil Rights Code has been strengthened again this Session and larger fines for breaches of the Human Rights Code will be implemented. An end has been brought to jail terms for failure to

pay civil debts in minor courts and new appeal rights against government appointed boards are available.

LEGAL AID
An amendment to the Legal Aid Act will implement stiffer scrutiny of legal aid applicants and applications as well as a closer watch on participating lawyers.

MUNICIPAL
Prime Minister John Roberts has announced a series of "Municipality of Tomorrow" conferences to improve communications between Queen's Park and local governments.

One of these conferences will be held on August 14 at the Riviera Club in Norval, in the north end of my riding and will include all municipal councillors and officials from the counties of Halton, Peel, Wellington and Dufferin. Government officials at this conference as well as the Private Members from this area will include Hon. Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Charles MacNaughton, Provincial Treasurer, Hon. George Kerr, Minister of Energy & Resources Management and Hon. William Davis, Minister of Education as well as Hon. John Roberts, Prime Minister.

These are only a few of the highlights of the second session of Ontario's 28th Parliament which began Nov. 19, 1968 and recessed for summer on June 27. Parliament will resume on September 30 and the current session will not likely be completed until just prior to Christmas.

Just before the recessing of the Session the Hon. John Roberts named a Select Committee of the Legislature headed by the member for Victoria-Haliburton, Glenn Hodgson, M.P.P., to complete a thorough study of house rules and procedures during the summer months and report back Oct. 1, 1969. This committee will no doubt bring in many recommendations for consideration by the house, for ways and means to streamline our procedures in Parliament. The 13 member, all party committee, will have unusual powers for such a committee. It has already hired two consultants and a secretary and will be able to require the production of papers and documents, subpoena witnesses and take testimony under oath.

As the Session is now in recess I will not be reporting in my weekly column during the summer but will be reporting to my constituents all items of local interest through the press on an intermittent basis. My weekly reports will resume when Parliament again goes into Session in late September.

Ford family has reunion plan to compile history

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson
The annual Ford reunion was held at Boyne Centre on Sunday July 13 when about 50 descendants of the late Andrew Ford and his wife Mary Featherston gathered for a get together and noon buffet. The committee Mr. and Mrs. Don Joyce and Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Ford were in charge and the sports committee Mrs. R. Ford, Pat Ford and Mrs. Roy Bousfield held an interesting program of games, races and contests for young and old. Prizes were given to the lady with birthday nearest July 13, Mrs. L. Wilson and gent, Stanley Smoke; and the youngest was Lorraine, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ford, Burlington. Coming the longest distance were Mr. and Mrs. Terry Ford from Ottawa. Terry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ford of Edmonton, and in September Terry and his wife will be attending Western University at London. Terry will be majoring in Economics, Barbara in languages. Both are graduates of Edmontown University with their B.A. and will be working for their M.A. A reunion is planned for next year and the committee is Mr. and Mrs. A. Ford and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ford and family.

All were pleased to welcome guests from a distance Mrs. Emmerson Ford, Oakville, Mr. and Mrs. L. Wilson Shelburne, and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Ford, Ottawa.

Local members Brenda Hillman, John Patterson and Cecil Patterson of Halton 4-H Club attended the Tuesday evening meeting at the home of the Bennett's, Walker Line, enjoying the judging.

David, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Ford of Edmontown called on relatives in this area recently.

Mrs. Tom Snow and family attended the annual Snow reunion held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Snow, M.P.P., at Hornby on Sunday July 13.

Nearly one hundred persons gathered for the noon meal.

Clarence Snow of Ballinacraig, president welcomed the clan to the get-together and called on Edward Snow to say grace, and all enjoyed a bountiful meal served smorgasbord style. A brief business meeting followed with Mr. Snow president and Mrs. Archie Gates secretary-treasurer in charge.

Prizes were given to Abbie Anderson of Milton and Mrs. R. Huggins of Mount Forest, the eldest gentleman and lady present. All senior members received a souvenir pin for the occasion. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Luxton Barry of Markdale was the youngest member attending. A two minute silence was held in memory of the deceased members. Unable to be present and much missed were senior members Mrs. Isabel McDowell of London, Mrs. Emma Barry of Markdale, Mrs. Sam Snow of Acton and Mr. and Mrs. Massey Moffat of Ottawa.

A family history is being prepared by Mrs. Ethel Dodds of Mount Forest. Each family of the Snow clan is asked to send pictures and information to Mrs. Dodds.

Sports and swimming was enjoyed and thanks was given to Jim and Barbara and family for their hospitality. The hosts kindly extended an invitation and offered their home for next year's reunion, this was to be decided at a later date.

Guests were present from Toronto, Oakville, Burlington, Erin, Mount Forest, Georgetown, Hespeler, Milton and district.

Congratulations and all good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Peacock and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ruddell (nee Susan Smith) of Milton. Both young couples were married on Saturday, July 12.

Friends are sorry to learn that Staff Curtis is under doctor's care at his home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mrs. C. K. Jarvis is holidaying in Chicago with her brother Roy Peacock and family.

Julie Snow entertained at her home at a going away party for Ann Milligan. The girls were members of their class at Percy Merry School, and all had fun swimming in the pool and later a barbecue.

Joe Willnott Jr. arranged a going away party for Drew Milligan. About 15 young people, all school friends gathered at the Milligan home on Tuesday evening July 9 for a surprise party. Swimming and dancing were enjoyed followed by hot dogs, pop and other treats.

Dr. and Mrs. Will Milligan and family moved on Monday July 14 from their Boyne farm home, and will be residing at Clarkson in their new home.

Drew Milligan left for a 10 day holiday in Algonquin Park on a canoe trip. The party consisted of two leaders from a Toronto group and 10 boys with three canoes started from Gravenhurst for a 300 mile canoe trip through Temagami and will camp out and have fun.

Mr. and Mrs. Denzil Lawrence returned home last week following a six week vacation in Great Britain.

Birthday greetings this week to David Peacock, Edward DeBoer, David Reid, Ronda Ridgway, Harry Crozier, David Hadfield and Tammy Sue Stephenson.

Best wishes and congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brownridge on their wedding anniversary July 15.



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