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False alarm on funding cut, says angry MPP Chudleigh

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Ted Chudleigh is irate over a communication breakdown regarding deaf student funding — one that's got nothing to do with speech to sign language translation.

The Halton North MPP stressed that despite responsibility shuffling in the Ontario government, there was never any decision made to withdraw money from deaf student educational coffers.

Fears were that the cost of attending Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and the National Technical Institute for Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, N.Y. — the only two centres offering university programs in sign language in North America — would no longer be fully covered the province.

"The funds were just transferred, never cut. It really upsets me that these students were given information that was incomplete or dead wrong," slammed Mr. Chudleigh.

"I'm not sure who's to blame for this bad information, but I intend to find out."

He and Education Minister Dave Johnson dispelled rumours of funding cuts during a recent meeting with teachers and students of E.C. Drury School for the Deaf's Academic Continuing Education

(ACE) program.

During the 45-minute discussion ACE members learned that full funding will be grandfathered for students currently enrolled at Gallaudet and NTID.

Students entering either U.S. school this fall can apply for an Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) loan up to \$9,350 (depending on their family's income) while the balance of student expenses will be covered by a provincial bursary.

Ministry of Education research analyst Barry McCartan — one of the chief players behind the recent funding shifts — said students who receive OSAP loans in excess of \$7,000 are also eligible for the province's forgiveness incentive program.

"For example, if a student borrows the full \$9,350, he or she would get a \$2,350 non refundable allowance," explained Mr. McCartan, of the Ontario Student Opportunity Grant Program.

"Basically it's an incentive for students who make a serious financial commitment



Ted Chudleigh

to their education."

Mr. McCartan said fears of funding cuts may have stemmed from the elimination of the Vocational Rehabilitative Services (VRS) program, which previously saw to the post-secondary financial needs of Ontario deaf students.

VRS' \$4.8 million budget, he said, was simply transferred to the Ministry of Education and Training and all of its past clients remain eligible for funding.

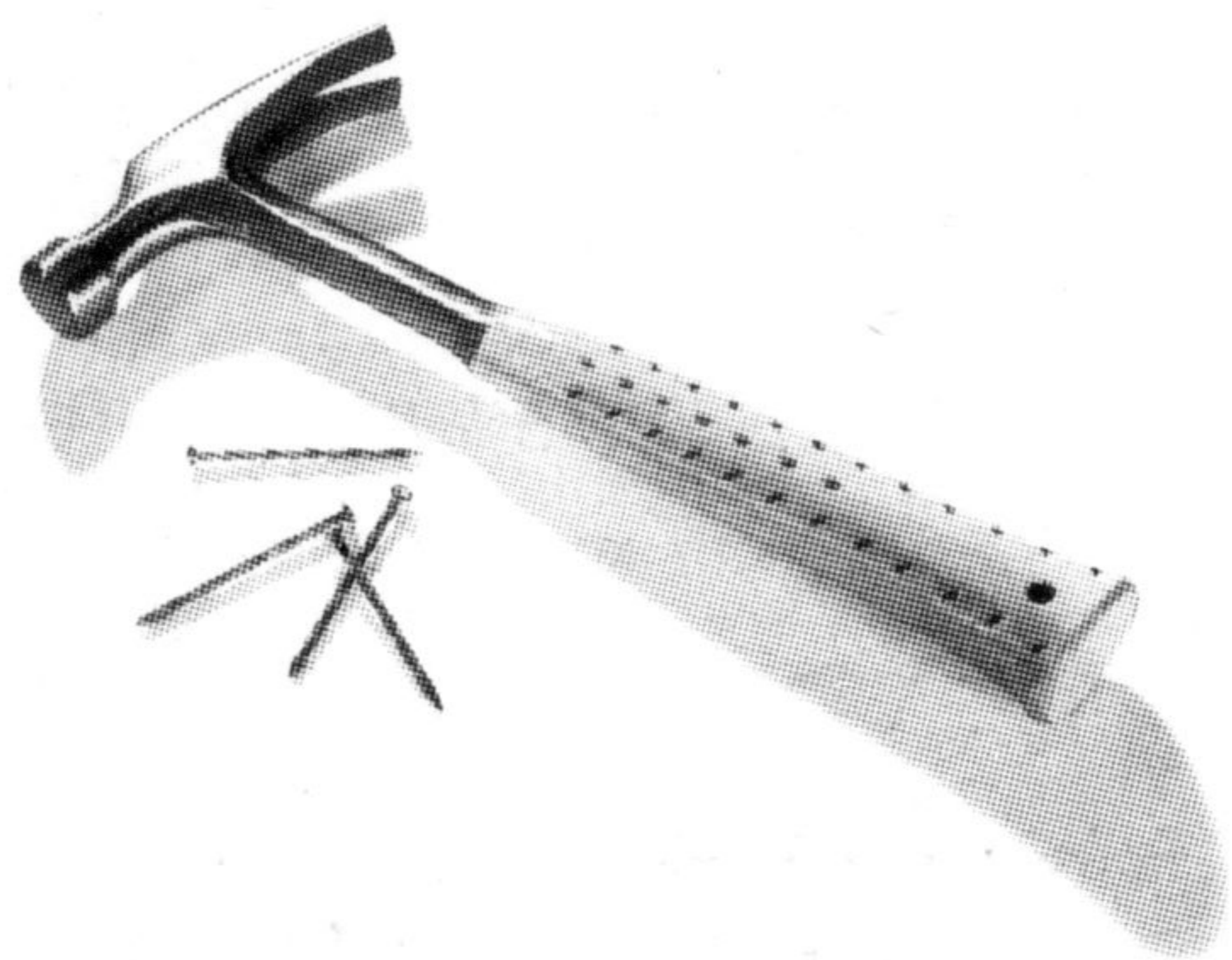
U.S. bound deaf students from E.C. Drury held a victory party last week upon learning their concerns had been allayed.

Dale Sharpe, 21, said he would have tried to finance his education through other avenues but that the money might have quickly dried up.

During his recent trip to E.C. Drury, Mr. Johnson also stressed that living expenses for out-of-town students enrolled in ACE will continue to be covered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Teachers and students of the ACE program said they were quite appreciative of the amount of time the education minister allocated for the meeting and how Mr. Chudleigh arranged it at such short notice.

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The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the Liquor Licence Act:

Application for Additional Facilities

Charley Fitzwhiskey's Tap and Eatery
55 Ontario Street North, Milton (outdoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **May 29, 1998**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person.

Note:

The AGCO gives the applicant details of any objections.

Submissions to be sent to:

Licensing and Registration Department
Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
20 Dundas St. W, 7th Floor,
Toronto ON M5G 2N6
Fax: (416)326-5555
E-mail at licensing@agco.on.ca

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