

Election won't be called before April 30: Chudleigh

Premier will wait until Legislature resumes to announce election date

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

Halton Tory MPP Ted Chudleigh said Premier Ernie Eves has told him an election won't be called before the Legislature begins April 30, allowing MPPs to debate the 2003 budget.

The \$71 billion budget was announced last week outside the halls of the Legislature, at a private gathering of 250 invited guests at a car-parts business in Brampton.

That decision has been scrutinized by Opposition members and even Oakville Tory MPP and House Speaker Gary Carr for being undemocratic.

But Mr. Chudleigh — parliamentary assistant to Finance Minister Janet Ecker — said the plan was, and always has been, to introduce it in the House, and that will happen.

"I heard it from the Premier's lips," Mr. Chudleigh said about being told the House will sit as expected.

He was asked if his government would call an election before the House sits, thus avoiding a budget debate.

"The budget bill will be introduced in the House and no money can be spent until that bill is passed," he said. "Those things will happen and continue to proceed as normal."

Lots of concern over budget release

He noted he received about two-dozen phone calls from residents concerned about the budget's release at a private meeting.

Calling this year's budget "exciting," Mr. Chudleigh said it's the kind of document that addresses the concerns Ms Ecker heard in consultations prior to the budget announcement.

He said she consulted with more than 600 people and the two overwhelming issues were health care and education.

"That's what we heard loud and clear" Mr. Chudleigh said.

The budget, balanced for the fifth year in a row, includes a \$1.9-billion increase in health spending, to \$28.1 billion this year, and a \$500-million boost in education spending, to \$15.1 billion this year.

Overall, the budget didn't offer Ontarians any major tax cuts or cash for cities. It did offer new tax cuts to seniors and people earning more than \$70,000.

For seniors, that means they will receive a rebate on the educational portion of their municipal tax bill, which will amount to a savings of about \$500 a year.

Also, family caregivers and people with disabilities will get an average \$300 tax credit.

Mr. Chudleigh said an important component to the budget was reaching the 20 per cent income tax cut target that was announced when the government won office in 1999.

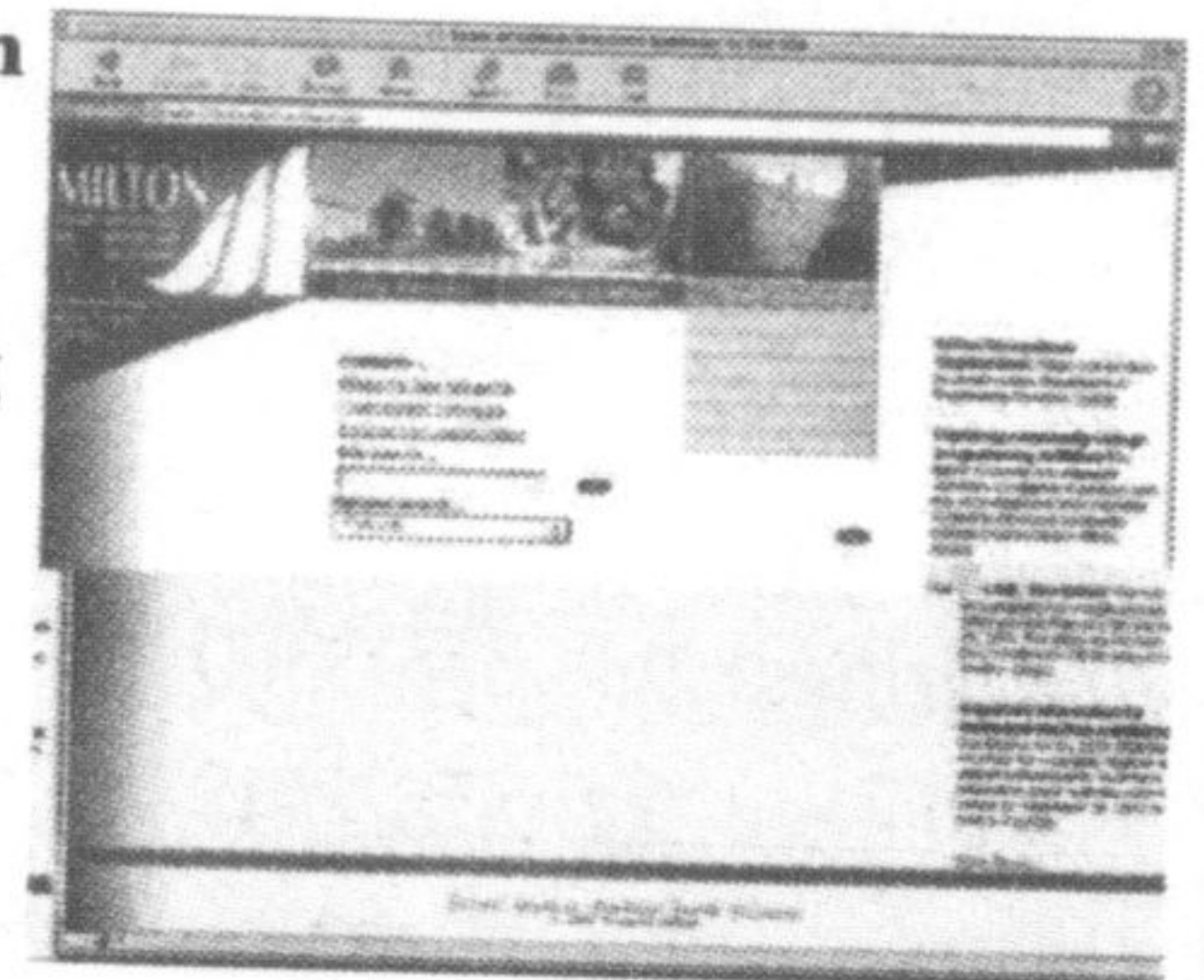
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TALK of the TOWN

A monthly feature from the Town of Milton

Look no further than the Town of Milton website at www.town.milton.on.ca to assist you with locating -

- Facilities to host a social event or meeting
- Parks to stroll through now that spring is here
- Summer camp opportunities for children
- Information on by-laws that may assist you with regards to loitering, animal control, and noise.



The website has been completely refreshed with a contemporary look and user-friendly features to make it easier for site visitors to access a wealth of information. New menus, streamlined navigation, and a handy "Quick Pick" list lead visitors to specific areas of interest on the site. Contact people, specific e-mail addresses and telephone extensions are provided so residents know exactly who to contact to get questions answered quickly.

The site has been partitioned into three specific areas to make it simple for residents and potential businesses to find exactly what they are looking for. In the "Town Services" section, site visitors can peek at upcoming Town Council agendas, review the minutes of previous meetings, read about Town special projects and find out about by-laws and Town departments.

The "Living in Milton" section makes it easier than ever to find detailed information on leisure opportunities. Information on recreation, sports and aquatics programs and community groups is now available in the online Community Services Guide.

For businesses, the "Doing Business" section contains valuable economic development information to ensure potential investors in Milton's future have accurate and detailed information to make informed business decisions.

The launch of the new web design is just the first step in a three year Electronic Services Delivery project. The next phases will introduce new online transaction capabilities that will allow residents to complete online forms, register for recreational activities, and make payments online.

Check the website in the weeks to come for information on National Youth Week, May 3-9. The Milton Mayors' Youth Advisory Council will be planning some special activities to celebrate and encourage youth involvement in the community. Look for details regarding these examples and more -

- Youth challenging local police officers to a Ball Hockey Game
- Youth assisting the Downtown Business Improvement Association with a new mural to be painted on the hoarding at the Milton Bible Church location
- A relationship building workshop "Youth in the Community, Making a Difference"



With Spring comes longer days and additional hours of outdoor activity. The Town is responsible for the enforcement of a wide variety of by-laws, which have been put in place to help ensure a safe and enjoyable community.

Check the website for additional information about the following-

- The Noise By-law which restrains certain nuisances and prohibits certain noises. It regulates the time noise is permitted to occur and what kinds of noise are acceptable
- Loitering in public places is not permitted. This By-law ensures that everyone can enjoy public spaces without interference from others.
- Pet owners should be familiar with the Animal Control By-law which outlines the number of pets allowed, the necessity of protecting your pet through identification programs, and the requirement of all to "stoop & scoop" after your pet, to help keep our community clean.

While on the site, be sure to complete the feedback section. The link is located at the bottom of the home page and your input may help with improvements to better serve all visitors to the site.

Enjoy the new season and remember to stay safely away from rivers, ponds and streams, which may be dangerous for you, your family and your pets.

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