

Comment

Gritting our teeth

Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara acknowledges his promise-breaking budget has cost his party some "political capital" but insisted a day after clubbing Ontarians with a \$9-billion tax hike (over four years), his fiscal plan was "inspired."

We have other words for it, but none we can print in a community newspaper. We also hope Ontario voters have a long memory, four years hence and remember how the Liberals knowingly lied to the electorate.

What frustrates us most about this Grit tax-grab that hits every income level and penalizes every person whether five years old or 85, is not that the Liberals lied to the public in last fall's election, but that they seem so damned proud about doing so.

Last fall Premier Dalton McGuinty signed the Taxpayer Protection and Balanced Budget Act vowing, "I will not raise taxes or implement new taxes without the consent of Ontario voters." Six months later he has done both, guaran-

teeing three years of deficits and reintroducing the very health-care premiums a Liberal government eliminated 15 years ago.

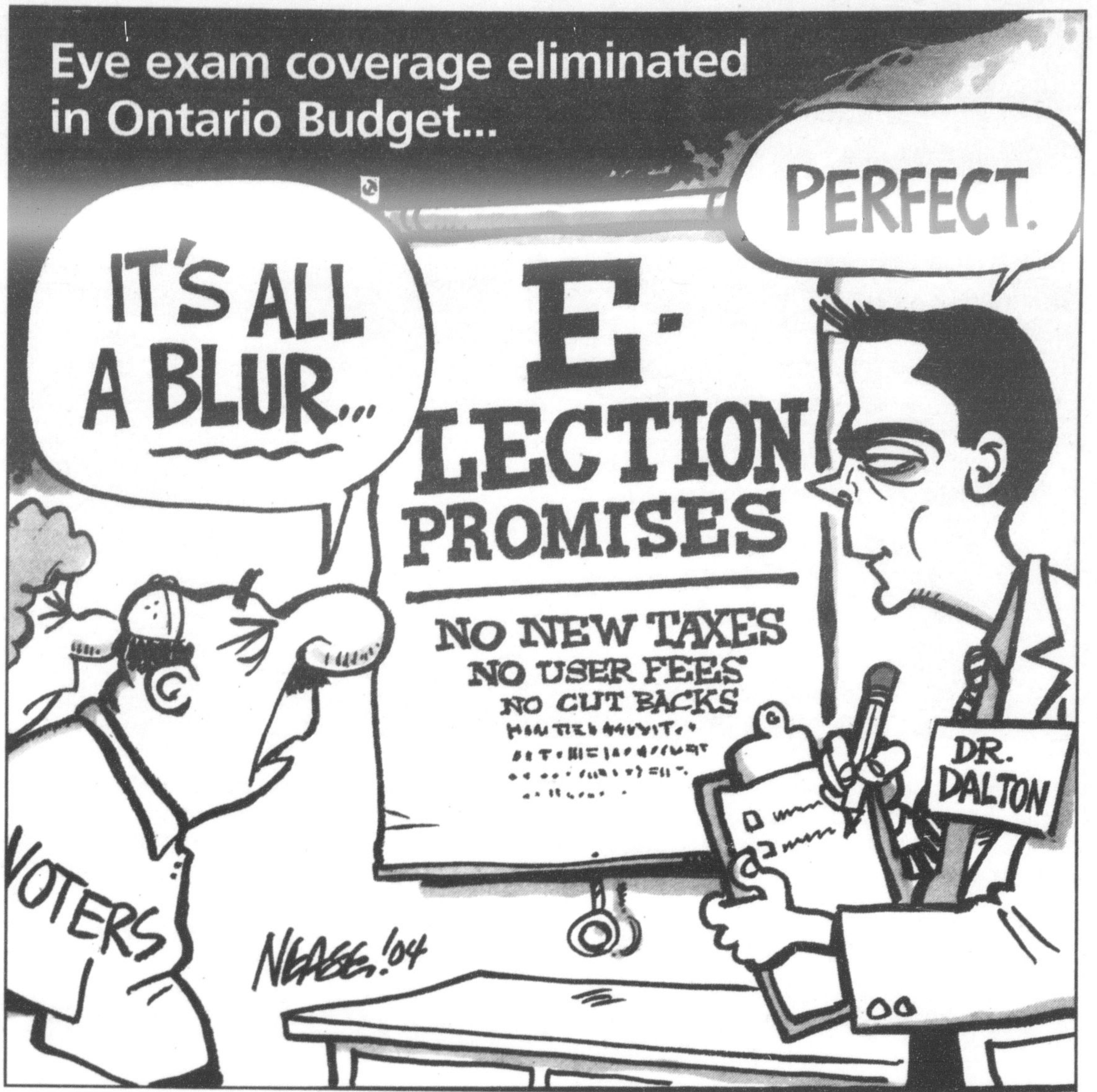
Under the Act, McGuinty pledged to hold a referendum if he hiked taxes, but last Tuesday announced he will gut the Act so he won't have to hold the referendum. What gall!

Today, under the Liberals' new Ontario, residents will pay more for chiropractic care, eye exams, driver's licences, physiotherapy, alcohol... the list seems endless.

And for this we have Liberal promises to invest this money in education and health care, to help cities with transit costs, to aid the disabled and create day-care spaces.

Promises, promises and more promises.

We have seen how this government handles promises and, forgive us for saying so, but we will believe it when we see it.



Our Readers Write

Milton's development concerning: reader

(The following letter was addressed to members of town council, and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

As a long-time Milton resident, I'm deeply concerned about the route we're taking regarding our new housing developments.

Responsible and attractive new housing must include:

- curved streets;
- room for greenery and colour, including lawns big enough for trees and gardens, boulevards, small parkettes, walkways lined with plantings and small group plantings at intersections and

curves in roads;

- varying elevation in roads, driveways, raised gardens, berms and small playing areas;

- variety in size and design of the houses, as well as lot shapes.

These basic essentials must be incorporated into our next phase of development.

Let's make Milton a town of visual beauty — a town that will stand out proudly as different from our neighbours, a showpiece community where living is a pleasure.

Betsy Horn
Milton

Reader says he's concerned by outlook for tax increases due to Milton's growth

Dear Editor:

For years we heard that Milton's growth would pay for itself. Recently we've been hearing from the Town and Region how growth is good for us.

This message just had to mean that something was up. Turns out it was about taxes.

Milton has just released a consultant's report entitled Long-Term Fiscal Impact Assessment of Growth. It takes into account increased development charges, an

incremental developer fee of \$2,000 per unit, assumptions on industrial growth, and use of slots revenue.

And still it concludes that the average increase in Milton taxes between 2004 and 2021 will be 4.7 per cent per year. Yikes.

Meanwhile at the Region, lawyers for developers are lining up to contest large increases in Region development charges.

No doubt there will be further tax increase projections from the

Region as it struggles to pay for growth-related transportation, water and sewage costs.

Current Milton residents, especially rural folks, had better learn to drive through the coming gridlock so they can get their money's worth from all those new Milton facilities.

It makes you wonder what ever happened to the politicians who set us on a high-growth path years ago and told us it would pay for itself.

Gary Ellis
Milton

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Reader agrees that civil servants' pay is too high

Dear Editor:

I couldn't agree more with Al Lisk's recent letter to the editor regarding civil servants earning more than \$100,000 per year.

It seems the more you pay them the less work you get out of them. What is it, exactly that they do to earn

such a generous salary?

With all the new residents in Milton, why do taxes need to be increased, instead of decreased?

I'll give you three guesses.

A. Galioto
Milton

E-mail all your letters to the editor to miltoneid@haltonsearch.com.

Pud

by Steve Nease

