

Tory calls for action to boost Ontario economy

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Ontario economy is on the wrong track right now and something needs to be done to change it.

That was one of the key messages Ontario Progressive Conservative (PC) leader John Tory delivered Thursday evening at a fundraising dinner for the Halton PC Association held at Country Heritage Park.

Tory was critical of the McGuinty government, saying he thinks the Liberal policies are taking a situation that's difficult — the economy — and "making it worse."

"If businesses don't have the confidence to come here, we won't have the economy we need," he said. "They (businesses) are looking for consistency from government."

He went on to list several facts that show how the province's economy is taking a downturn. For example, he said Ontario:

- Had the slowest rate of economic growth in all of Canada last year.
- Had the slowest rate of private sector job creation in the country for 2007

• Has the highest rate of taxation on new business investment in Canada and the United States

He also noted that for the first time in 30 years, Ontario's unemployment rate is above the national average. "There's no excuse for being at the bottom of so many lists."

The opposition leader said that all means it's more important than ever for PCs to stand up for what they believe in to get the economy back on the right course.

"Competitive taxes are a must," he emphasized, noting that nothing but good can come from leaving people and businesses with as much of their own money as possible.

"The taxpayers need that money. Businesses need that money," he said.

He went on to call for disciplined government spending and a "balanced regulatory regime." "We can't have businesses so tied up in paperwork that they can't get anything done."

Tory also said there's a need for five and 10-year plans for how the provincial government funds local municipalities.

"Municipalities have no idea how to plan for how much money they get from the Province," he said, referring to the fact municipalities often don't know until the last minute

how much funding they're going to receive from the provincial government.

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh was also in attendance and gave a brief talk in which he vowed to ensure the voices of farmers are heard at Queen's Park and that local residents receive accessible health care, among other things.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.

Drug, weapon charges laid in raid

A Court Street home was raided Friday and dozens of drug and weapon charges were laid against five Milton residents.

Earlier this month, Halton Regional Police's Drug and Morality Bureau started an investigation into a suspected street level drug dealer in town.

At about 4 p.m. Friday, a man was arrested by drug officers shortly after a meeting was observed between two men, police said.

A quantity of cocaine was seized.

A short time later, a second man was arrested by officers from the Integrated Guns and Gangs Unit.

Quantities of cocaine, marijuana, oxycodone and a prohibited knife were seized.

Shortly after 6 p.m., two more people — a man and a woman — were arrested in connection with the investigation, and undisclosed amounts of marijuana, LSD and oxycodone were seized.

At the same time, police searched a Court Street home where a fifth person, a male, was arrested.

Police seized a sawed-off shotgun, a spring-loaded steel baton (a prohibited weapon), ammunition, oxycodone and marijuana.

Det. Sgt. Al Albano said the investigation required many officers to carry out.

He couldn't give a street value or a quantity for the drugs seized.

Two 28-year-old Court Street men and a 27-year-old Kingsway Place man have each been charged with various counts of unauthorized possession of a

prohibited weapon, careless storage of a firearm, possession of a prohibited weapon knowing its possession is unauthorized, contravention of the storage regulations and careless storage of ammunition.

One of the Court Street men also faces three counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and trafficking of a controlled substance

The other Court Street resident faces charges of possession of a controlled substance.

And the Kingsway Place resident faces additional charges of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

All three men were scheduled to appear in bail court yesterday morning.

A 26-year-old Maplewood Crescent

woman is facing two counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

She'll appear in court June 3.

And a 48-year-old Elmwood Crescent man has been charged with possession of a controlled substance. He'll make a court appearance May 20.

BE A DESIGNATED DRIVER

Join the many people who agree not to drink alcoholic beverages...and to drive everyone in their group home safely.

PEGGY'S
DISTINCTIVE LADIES FASHIONS
MORNING MADNESS SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

8 AM - 10 AM 30% OFF ENTIRE STOCK
10 AM - 12 PM 20% OFF ENTIRE STOCK

Discounts Apply to Regular Priced Merchandise • NO Extensions on Time Limits
ASSORTED SPRING FASHIONS UP TO 60% OFF
ALL SALES FINAL Milton Mall • 905-878-1414

FABRICLAND

BUY 1
AT OUR REGULAR PRICE
GET
2 FREE
ON SELECTED MERCHANDISE

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Buy 1 full metre or unit of selected merchandise at Fabricland's regular price and get the next 2 metres or units **FREE!** Sale in effect til April 28-May 13, 2008, on selected merchandise while quantities last. Most items available in all stores. Look for the red sale tags. No special orders.

Entire In-Store Stock!
SIMPLICITY PATTERNS
now 2.49 each
Offer valid April 28-May 4 /08, in-stock only. Not valid with any other discounts.

547 Main St. E. **MILTON** 878-0931

We believe... in helping. Anyone. Anywhere.

PLEASE GIVE 905-875-1022

ASTHMA

IF YOU ARE 12 AND OVER, AND HAVE A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, YOU COULD PARTICIPATE IN A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY WITH AN INVESTIGATIONAL INHALED MEDICATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:
DR. A. S. CHEEMA/ALPHA MEDICAL RESEARCH IN MISSISSAUGA (CAWTHRA/DUNDAS)
@ 905-566-1200

You will be reimbursed for your time and expenses.