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Parliament suspended

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Canada's Governor General has given Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party a seven-week reprieve — time for them to prepare a budget that's expected to include a stimulus package for the economy.

Upon Harper's request, Governor General Michaëlle Jean agreed yesterday to suspend the current legislative session of Parliament until January 26, allowing Harper to escape a confidence vote Monday evening that he would have certainly lost.

This past Monday, the Liberals and NDP announced they had formed a coalition to take power from Harper's Conservatives and that the alliance would be supported in confidence votes by the Bloc Québécois for at least 18 months.

Halton Conservative MP Lisa Raitt said she hopes the delay gives all the parties time to work together ahead of the scheduled January 27 budget. "For me, it's always been about making sure everybody's voice is heard and that we work together collectively regardless of our political stripes."

Halton Federal Liberal Association president Steve Savage warned: "The economy is not waiting for Canadian politics to settle itself down."

Savage doubted whether the cooling off period would stop the Liberals and NDP, assisted by the Bloc, from voting down the Conservatives when Parliament begins its new session.

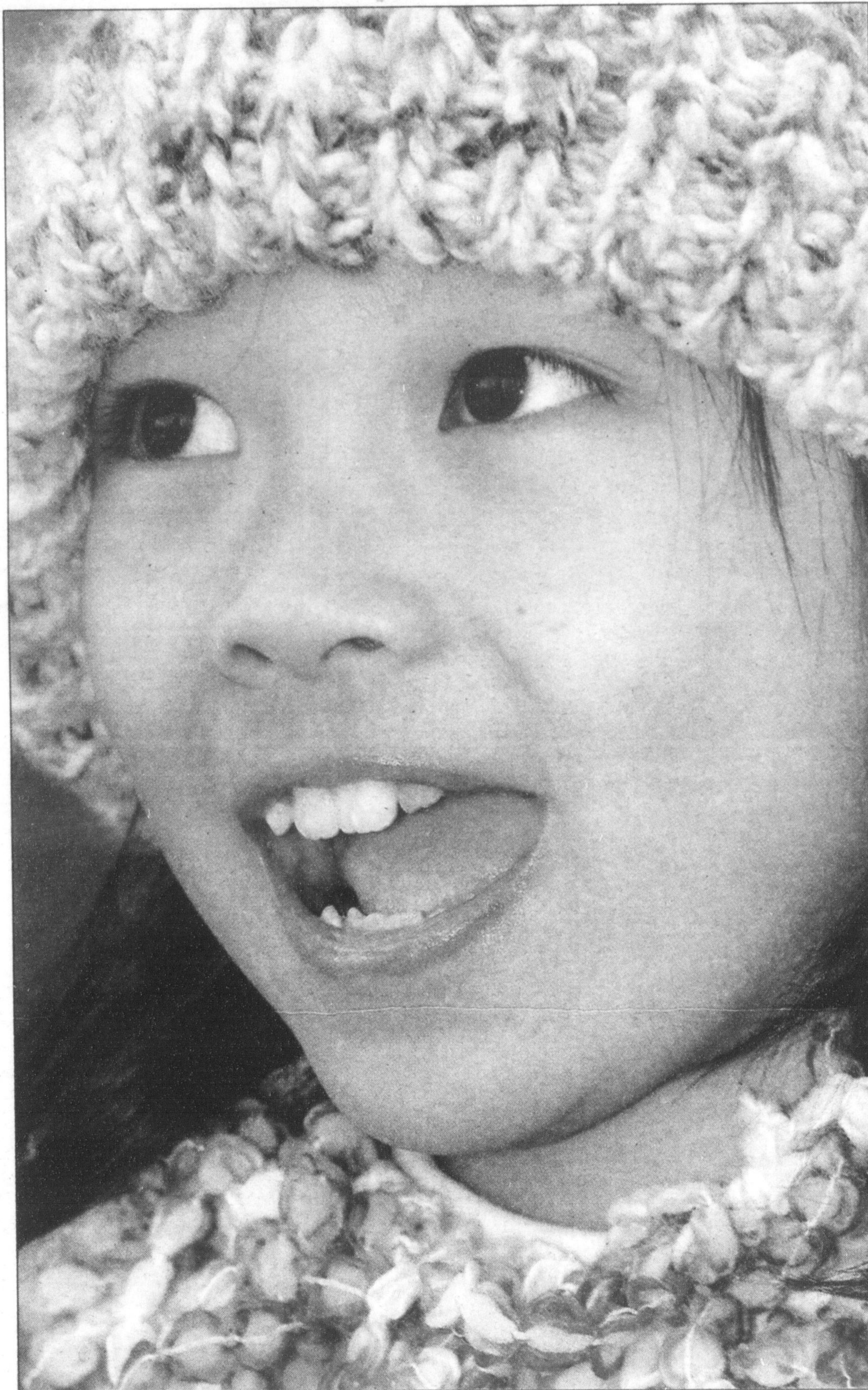
"I think (the Liberals) could back down...if we saw a complete reversal of the typical Stephen Harper — one who acts like a minority leader and engages other parties," Savage said.

It will probably take more than that. Both the Liberals and NDP have criticized the Conservatives as ignoring the downward spiral of the Canadian economy since an economic update announced by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty late last week.

In the economic update, Flaherty announced a \$350 million equity injection into Export Development Canada and the same amount into the Business Development Bank of Canada.

Those funds are woefully short of helping Canadian business struggling in a liquidity crisis, according to the opposition, who said a true stimu-

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: The Milton DBIA held its third annual Caroller's Cup on the steps of Knox Presbyterian Church Saturday. Here, Evlyn Sun, 8, of Hitherfield Preparatory School performs 'Do You Hear What I Hear' with her fellow choir singers. The school went on to win the carolling competition.

Glass wall to cost \$1 million

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Town of Milton is paying close to \$1 million to import and install a two-storey high structural glass wall from England as the crowning achievement to its \$24 million Town Hall expansion, the *Champion* has learned.

And as the current expansion winds down, the Town is now in the midst of planning the second phase — a \$23 million addition to the top of Town Hall in 2015 to cope with the demands of the growing municipality.

"This is just another kick," Milton resident Bob Beyette complained of the imported glass wall. "With what's going on in the world

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