

# OPINION

## Millions wasted, again and again

Although it may be the season of giving, it appears our provincial Liberal government has opted to adopt this philosophy throughout the year.

The only problem is it's using taxpayers' money for its philanthropy. Again.

In his annual report released at the start of last week, Auditor General Jim McCarter revealed that, despite recent expense scandals at eHealth and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., the Liberal government is wasting millions of hard-earned tax dollars. Again.

Among his findings:

- More than \$1.2 billion has been overpaid to people on disability support and welfare. Only minimal effort is made to get the money back and not enough is being done to prevent overpayments in the first place.

- The Ministry of Health is paying excessively-high prices for devices like scooters and home oxygen systems.

- About \$500 million in Provincial fees from alcohol, gaming and registration services could be in jeopardy because they amount to a tax not yet established by legislation.

- Despite a claim in the spring budget that \$45 million in savings had been redirected to hospitals, universities and colleges thanks to a bulk purchasing program called OntarioBuys, in fact only \$337,000 in savings were redistributed. Adding insult to injury: the program cost \$148 million to establish.

Along with wasting taxpayers' money, McCarter found the Province is playing fast and loose with the public's safety as thousands of Ontario bridges haven't been adequately inspected. Some bridges spanning Hwy. 401 haven't been checked in three years.

McCarter urged government staffers to "spend the taxpayers' money like it is their own."

We can't help but wonder why this message needs reinforcing. Again.

Community and Social Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur admitted the government "has a lot to do."

We agree. Again.



**MAKING TRACKS:** Aaron and Katie (nee Locke) Leppington (with Evie and Olivia), Pat and Don Locke, and Shaina (nee Locke) and Craig Hackenbrook visit Waterford Castle in Ireland during a family wedding vacation. Take your community newspaper on your next vacation and send your 'Champion Tracks' photos to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Be sure to include destination information and everyone's names.

## ReadersWrite

E-mail letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

### Another wonderful Santa Claus parade

**DEAR EDITOR:**

Our family is celebrating our 30th anniversary in this great town, and thus we attended our 30th Milton Santa Claus Parade recently.

Once again the group of volunteers who co-ordinated and put this specta-

cle together outdid themselves. It was a wonderful event and the weather couldn't have been better.

Thanks to all of you for helping my family make memories.

**LORI CHAPMAN  
MILTON**

## The view from here

### Past year has just flown by, but been oh so memorable

It's hard to believe that a year has already passed since I became a mother.

Recently my son turned one, and I'm sure most parents would agree that it's a bitter-sweet milestone to celebrate. How did time go so fast? How could this little person who I just gave birth to already be sitting there tearing the gift wrap off presents and eating birthday cake?

As I look back over the past year, I'm amazed at the life-changing journey that my husband and I have been on. Suddenly our entire lives and schedules revolve around the tiniest person in the household. But I've loved every minute of it.

Now, instead of going to the movies or

hanging out with friends, we watch 'In The Night Garden' and attend nursery rhyme programs. Dinner conversation often turns to poop diapers, and our evening entertainment consists of our son exploring the house and getting into mischief.

I never thought I'd be so excited to watch someone learn how to roll over, sit up, feed himself, clap, crawl and say 'Mama' and 'Dada.' Each of those moments is imprinted in my mind forever, and I'm so glad that I was there for all of them.



Melanie Hennessey

Since becoming a mother, I've also learned a lot about myself. I never knew I could function on such small amounts of sleep, hold a 25-pound baby in my arms for half of the night because he didn't feel well, or love somebody so much that it hurts.

And I don't think I truly knew what it meant to multi-task until I tried to do things with a baby in tow. I learned how to do everything from eating entire meals while nursing or holding a newborn to applying make-up while singing for my son's entertainment.

• see MOTHERHOOD on page A7

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