



POINTTS

Former cops
turn into
ticket busters
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opening for
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VOLUME 132, NUMBER 14

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31, 1990

40 CENTS

44 PAGES

GO riders angered by parking fines

By ROB KELLY

There is good news and bad news for Milton GO train commuters fed up with finding \$25 tickets on their windshields when they come home from a hard day's work in Toronto.

The good news is there will soon be more parking at Milton's crowded Main Street GO station. The bad news is GO officials will keep ticketing people parked illegally — both before and after the new spaces become available.

GO Transit's actions to date have angered some Milton commuters, who say they have been slapped with as many as three \$25 violations recently for parking their cars in the only available spaces at Milton's station — spaces they admit are often marked with 'no parking' signs.

But at least some commuters feel GO should ease up on traffic enforcement until more spaces become available.

Commuter Wendy Roberts said GO parking officers advised some people to either arrive earlier or drive east to the Meadowvale station.

"These are rather shortsighted and ineffective solutions to a problem that is only going to get worse as more and more people are encouraged to travel by GO," she said.

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GST an easy sell: Jelinek

By NORMAN NELSON

As the controversial Goods and Services Tax (GST) inches closer to reality, Oakville-Milton MP Otto Jelinek is ever more resolute in its defence.

"I'm not here to sell the GST because I believe the GST will sell itself," he told a group of Milton business people last Thursday afternoon.

The special meeting was held jointly by Milton's Chamber of Commerce and Canada's Ministry of Revenue to explain the ins and outs of the new tax system, scheduled to come into effect New Year's Day.

Mr. Jelinek, who as Canada's Revenue Minister is actually the top Tory responsible for implementing the tax, gave a rousing but brief address before rushing off to his next stop. A couple of ministry experts were then left to deal with the particulars.

He said his ministry has addressed more than 2,000 such meetings and, indeed, the speeches appear well rehearsed. The themes are similar to a previous presentation in Oakville back in the spring.

He painted the Tories as political martyrs for having the courage to fix an archaic tax system that numerous royal commissions throughout the years have all recommended be scrapped.

He called the present system, where a comparatively high Federal Sales Tax (FST) is saddled on the shoulders of a few manufacturers, an albatross dragging down Canada's productivity.

He painted the GST as the only viable option to collect the \$18.5 billion that the FST currently brings in.

What else could the Tories do; he asked — raise income taxes \$18.5 billion, increase corporate taxes \$18.5 billion... or simply increase the deficit by \$18.5 billion? The rhetorical answer, of course, was "no".

What the Tories are doing, he assured, is adopting a modern 'value added' tax system that is in place in almost 50 countries.

• see OTTO on page 2

Kids carve out some winners

Pumpkin carving contests were the order of the day on Saturday when Milton Mall and the Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) encouraged Jack-o-lantern designers. At left, Christine McFadden, 10, adds an earring to her creation at the mall. Two contests were held at the mall with a total of 40 carvers participating. Winners of the noon event were Matthew Hackenbrook, 10; Chris Oxford, 11; and Kelly-Ann Martin, 9. The 1 p.m. event was won by Michelle Harris, 6; Katie Copus, 8; and Nicola Kidd, 9. The downtown farmers' market was the location of a morning contest co-sponsored by the DBIA and The Champion. Ron Melec (below) poses with his winning creation at right and another winning entry at left that was carved by Trevor Lawington and Andrew Silcock. Other contest winners were Jaime Martin, Andy and Katie Copus and Michael Cragg. Jack-o-lanterns will be burning around town tonight to light the way for trick-or-treaters. As well as seeking goodies, some children will be collecting for UNICEF so keep some small change as well as treats by the door.

Photos by John Warren



Bank passes bogus bill

Usually matching up with a lucky number published in a newspaper brings dreams of riches, but not for one Milton woman.

"She had just read a warning from police in last Wednesday's Champion about counterfeit \$50 bills surfacing in the area when she decided to take a closer look at a bill she had received from a local bank.

Sure enough, said Halton Regional Police Sergeant Frank Phillips, it was a fake.

She promptly returned the illegal tender to the bank and police were notified. In defence of the bank, which he preferred not to name, Sgt. Phillips said the money was a "very, very good likeness."

Acting on a Crime Stopper tip, Halton Regional Police seized \$15,000 worth of counterfeit \$50 bills during a raid on a Carlisle residence last week. Two occupants were charged.

Sgt. Phillips, however, warned residents to continue to be on the lookout as some of the bogus bills are still in circulation.

The lucky, er, unlucky serial number is EFH8267642.