

*Way up there in the sky*

## Kelsey's looking for a sign

By **BRAD REAUME**  
The Champion

Kelsey's Restaurant wants its name up in lights. But a request for an exemption from the town's sign bylaw to allow an illuminated 10 square metre sign on top of a 15.5 metre pole near the Chisholm Drive eatery was deferred for a second time at Monday's town council meeting.

Some councillors consider the proposed high sign unsightly, while Ross McArthur of Pride Signs says the height is necessary to ensure visibility from Highway 401. The town bylaw allows signs to be a maximum of 9.5 metres high.

Kelsey's Restaurant is about to embark on a \$200,000 renovation of the successful Milton enterprise, according to Mr. McArthur. The sign will cost an estimated \$20,000 and is needed to help justify the cost of renovations, he said. A crane was recently brought in and its boom set at the proposed height of the sign.

Milton director of planning Mel Iovio said the staff recommendation to deny the exemption was based on the fact the area has been identified as a gateway to town and such high signs are unsightly.

Yet other companies in the vicinity have ex-

tremely high signs, including McDonalds and Fifth Wheel truck stop. Councillors were concerned that exempting Kelsey's would set a precedent, and the area along Highway 25 south of Highway 401 would eventually sport a forest of high signs like many highway exits in the United States.

"It's too late to be environmentally concerned," said Councillor Brian Penman. "The area is already a strip."

Councillor John Challinor said discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to erect American style restaurant, lodging and service station signs along the highway are expected in the near future.

But, "We don't want to create an area like Dundas Street in Mississauga," said Mr. Challinor. Councillor Art Melanson threw his support to Kelsey's and suggested the restaurant put up the sign first and apply for the bylaw exemption later. He said town council should work with, and support business.

While several councillors pushed for approval of the sign the majority agreed that a more comprehensive report was necessary before they made a decision, and directed staff to produce one as soon as possible.

## Federal budget follows 'steady as we go' course, says MP Brown

By **HOWARD MOZEL**  
Special to The Champion

With last year's "bad news budget" behind it, the federal government this week moved to protect the more vulnerable segments of society, says Bonnie Brown.

The Oakville-Milton MP made her comments last Thursday at a budget seminar she hosted in Oakville.

"There are no tax increases in this budget — not personal, not corporate, not excise," said Ms. Brown. "In fact, there have been no personal tax rate increases in any of our three budgets."

In 1995, Ms. Brown believes, most Canadians were ready for a "solid attack on the debt." This year, with new money in short supply and not wanting to raise taxes, she said Finance Minister Paul Martin moved funds around so that those most in need are not "left behind."

Ms. Brown said the consensus on the budget appears to be a "steady as we go" outlook, with debt reduction right on course. (Without much new in the budget, Thursday's forum was attended by only about 30 people.)

"We are meeting our deficit reduction targets. This budget ensures we will meet our Red Book commitment of reducing the deficit to 3 per cent of GDP, \$32.7 billion, within our first three years in office," said Ms. Brown. "The actions in this budget secure the new target of 2 per cent of GDP, \$17 billion, in 1997-98. This budget also means that within two years the economy will finally be growing faster than the debt."

Main thrusts of the budget include technology, youth assistance, international trade development, a focus on the underground economy and a comprehensive review of business taxes.

New employment opportunities for students are the goal of reallocating \$315 mil-



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— BONNIE BROWN

lion worth of budget savings.

The budget also included a variety of tax assistance measures for retirement savings. For example, the seven year limit on carrying forward unused RRSP contribution room has been eliminated.

Conspicuous in its absence from the budget was any mention of reforming or harmonizing the GST.

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