

Simcoe East MPP releases a year-end report.

'Learning period for me'

by Allan McLean, MPP
Simcoe East

It has been a year and eight months since my election to the Ontario Legislature, and I can honestly say this has been a learning period for me.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to outline for you just what I do as a MPP.

It is often suggested that because the Legislature is not in session for all twelve months of the year, the MPPs must have a great deal of free time.

Although this perception is not uncommon, many people are beginning to realize that their elected representatives do work full time at their jobs. I'd like, if I may, to quote the late Don O'Hearn, who served some 40 years as a reporter at Queen's Park. After relating some of the members' duties, he said in an article: "...and don't be cynical about him. Your member is one of the hardest working people in your community."

When the legislature is in session, Parliament meets on a daily basis to debate new legislation or to enact laws. The Ontario Legislature is normally in session from October to December and from Mid-March to the end of June.

While the house is in session, the standing committees also meet on a regular basis, their responsibilities are to review the estimates or budgets of the various ministries and to review legislation before it proceeds for third reading.

Their hours generally correspond to the hours that the Legislature is in session, although there are many occasions on which these committees continue past the Legislature's normal hours.

As a backbencher, I sit on two of the standing committees, and I can honestly tell you that hours of preparation are needed to serve effectively on these committees. Often a great volume of material has to be read in order to be properly prepared.

I might also point out that the media sometimes comment on the fact that there are few members in the main chamber of the Legislature while it is sitting. In fact, this is quite in order. In many cases this is because the members are attending committee meetings or attending to other duties related to their jobs.

While the legislature is sitting, members are also expected to attend their caucus meetings on a regular basis in order to discuss what position their parties will take on a particular issue. In the meantime, a good member cannot ignore his responsibility to his constituents. These include arranging appointments for individuals or municipal delegations with ministers; briefing the minister prior to their arrival, and many, many other functions. Personally, I find this aspect of my job as a politician most rewarding.

But action is being taken by Queen's Park.

For example, in the spring provincial budget we saw work on important public works stepped up so that jobs would be available during the current slowdown. In addition, these works will ensure our communities have the services to attract new business and investment.

Take a look around the area, and you will see the province helping out with significant local projects.

In Port McNicoll we see a new community hall finished, work begun on a new library, as well as water and sewage works. Repairs just approved last week.

Then there is participation in a \$2 million water and sewage project in Victoria Harbour, new water lines and street paving in Waubesaushene.

In Midland we see participation in downtown revitalization to the tune of over \$600 thousand.

In Coldwater, road work has resulted in a new high speed highway entrance to the community and a four-lane highway from 93 to the community and tenders will soon be called for extension of the lanes to Waubesaushene.

Then in Medonte Township we see a commitment of \$100 thousand for improving the Ingram sideroad over the next three years. In Tay we see a new bridge and extra funds available for community works.

New elevators for disabled in Coldwater and Orillia Legions. Supplementary for Orillia, Mara, Rama which were substantial. Tender open today for Oro Line Nine plus several other projects.

But the province does not stop there.

We have been working with business and industry. For example, the Ontario government

has co-operated with other levels of government to keep open plants that are operating below capacity. We are providing wage supplements to these operations so that men will be kept on the line, rather than laid off.

And then there is retraining and skill training. Part of the problem facing governments and business these days is that as well as facing the challenge of an economic slowdown, we must react to rapid technological change. Microtechnology, robotics, biotechnology and all sorts of "ologies and isms" are bursting on the scene every day.

Last year the Ontario Government spent \$8 million on skill training programs in our community colleges. This year we are continuing our commitment to skill training, and have joined in a national skill training program to further improve the many opportunities young people, and experienced workers, enjoy in learning new trades.

I must mention the Orillia waterfront development. This development will be an impressive draw for the Huronia Tourist district, and as Midland waterfront develops more tourist dollars will come to the area.

This year's statistics for Huronia show that, despite the poor weather this summer, tourism was up during June, July and August. Surveys of local tourist homes, hotels and motels show occupancy at 78.1 per cent for this summer - two per cent higher than last year's figures.

The majority of visitors to our area remain tourists from the "Golden Triangle" - from Toronto, Oshawa, Whitby and Hamilton.

If tourism in Huronia is to be increased, we must further encourage our fellow Ontarians to come north and enjoy the many splendid tourist facilities and scenic vistas our area has to offer.

While the province is working on building up these strengths, none of us at Queen's Park are ignoring the seriousness of our current situation.

The statistics speak for themselves. Corporate profits, for example, have declined dramatically. In 1981, these profits declined 10.5 per cent. During the first three months of 1982 they fell an astonishing 50.1 per cent.


Classified

HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

OPPORTUNITIES OF A LIFETIME

Start thinking about yourself and about the thing you would like to be doing.

For more information, see your Military Career Counsellor at the Mobile Recruitment Centre, 9 Dec. 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. 525 Dominion Ave., Midland 526-2224

There's No Life Like  THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES 96

Research Assistant

Required immediately

The successful candidate will have proven ability and relevant experience in the following areas:

- Knowledge and experience with young adults and their employment difficulties.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- Wide range of local, social, educational and business contacts.
- Problem solving abilities.

This is a contract position with a termination date in February 1983. Annual salary \$20,000 - 22,000 per annum.

Respond to Box 609A, Midland, Ontario.

Closing date for applications is December 6, 1982 3 P.M.

95,96

COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

MONSTER BINGO

Thursday, December 2
Legion Hall, St. Vincent St., Barrie

Biggest Bingo ever held in Barrie Legion Hall. Full card Jackpot, \$1,800. 2 special, \$150. each; 15 games, total prize \$400. Don Special and hidden number games continued from previous week. Bonanza, min. \$150. 2,000 most go prizes. 36 cards \$8.00 (4 different colours). Extra cards 2 for 2. Next proceeds go to the Arthritis Society.

94,96

AUCTION SALES

Turkey Bingo, Wyevalde Orange Hall, Fri., Dec. 10, 8 p.m. All welcome. Sponsored by Wyevalde LOL and LOBA. W96, W98

Meat slicer, cocktail bar and assorted toys and Christmas decorations. Brent Mall No. 21., Auctioneer. 96,97

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dance Elmvalde Community Hall 8:00 till 2:00, Dec. 31, 1982. Live band, refreshments, buffet \$12 per person. Contact John ... 322-1260. Tickets now on sale, live band. Live band 'Aaharg'. 88 WTF

Free skating party sponsored by the Elmvalde and District Lions Club and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 22 Elmvalde, will be held at the Elmvalde Arena on Sunday, Dec. 12, 1982, from 2-4 p.m. Santa Claus will attend and hand out treats. W96, W98

AUCTION SALES

Liquidation Auction, Dec. 4, 1982, 10:30 a.m. Wasaga Inn Restaurant, Hwy 26, 2 miles north of Stayner. 6,000 sq. ft., assorted sizes restaurant equipment. Large gas range, 6 burners, 2 ovens, 2 commercial dishwashers, MDM 500. Walk-in Cooler complete, charcoal gas grill. 96,97

NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND/OR CLAIMANTS

All persons having claims against the Estate of Marjorie Edith Gray, late of the Village of Port McNicoll, in the County of Simcoe, Proprietress, deceased, who died on or about the 14th day of August, 1982, are required to file the same with the undersigned solicitors on or before the 31st day of December, 1982, after which date the assets may be distributed among those persons entitled thereto, having regard only to those claims which have been filed.

DATED at Midland, Ontario, this 26th day of November, A.D., 1982.

HACKER, GIGNAC, RICE Barristers and Solicitors 226 King Street, P.O. Box 518 Midland, Ontario L4R 4L3 Solicitors for the Estate of Marjorie Edith Gray. 96,98,100.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All persons having claims against the Estate of Edna Ruby Cormier, late of R.R. No. 1, Victoria Harbour, in the County of Simcoe, Homemaker, deceased, who died on or about the 19th day of September, 1982, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned solicitors on or before the 29th day of December, 1982, after which date the aforementioned Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED at Midland, Ontario, this 19th day of November, 1982.

Symons & Grise, Barristers & Solicitors, P.O. Box 71, 525 Elizabeth Street, Midland, Ontario L4R 4K6 Solicitors for the Estate of Edna Ruby Cormier 94,96,98

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All persons having claims against the Estate of Ella Mae Corbett, late of the Town of Midland, in the County of Simcoe, Retired Weaver, Widow, deceased, who died on or about the 25th day of August, 1982 are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned solicitors on or before the 31st day of December, 1982 after which date the aforementioned Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED at Midland, Ontario, this 29th day of November, 1982.

Symons & Grise, Barristers & Solicitors, P.O. Box 71, 525 Elizabeth Street, Midland, Ontario L4R 4K6 Solicitors for the Estate of Ella Mae Corbett 96,98,100.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND/OR CLAIMANTS

All persons having claims of any kind whatsoever against the estate of Harold Nash, late of the Village of Elmvalde, in the County of Simcoe, Retired Clerk, who died on or about the 10th day of September, 1982, are required to file the same with the undersigned solicitors on or before the 3rd day of December, 1982, after which date the assets may be distributed among those persons entitled thereto, having regard only to those claims which have been filed.

Dated at Midland, Ontario, this 2nd day of November, A.D. 1982.

TESKEY, HEACOCK, & FERGUSON, Barristers and Solicitors, 361 King Street, Midland, Ontario. Solicitors for the estate of Harold Nash 92,94,96.

NOTICE

Village of Victoria Harbour

Applications will be received by the undersigned to fill a vacancy on the Victoria Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. Application forms may be obtained at the Municipal Office during regular business hours. Please submit applications on or before December 13, 1982.

Don L. Cadeau, Fire Chief, Village of Victoria Harbour, P.O. Box 40, Victoria Harbour, Ont. 96